ClassicRip Manual

ClassicRip is a front end designed to automate a convenient way to rip 'classical' music from Audio CDs. As well as controlling the ripping process it generates 'timing' files useful when ripping a multi-movement work as a single track. It also lets you choose between two different ripping methods.

The latest versions of ClassicRip and ripframes is 0.60i: note that earlier versions had bugs which prevented them working correctly on some machines.

ClassicRip itself doesn't rip the tracks. It simply sets things up so that either cdparanoia or ripframes can perform the actual ripping.

The details in this manual are for ClassicRip when used with the WIMP front-end.

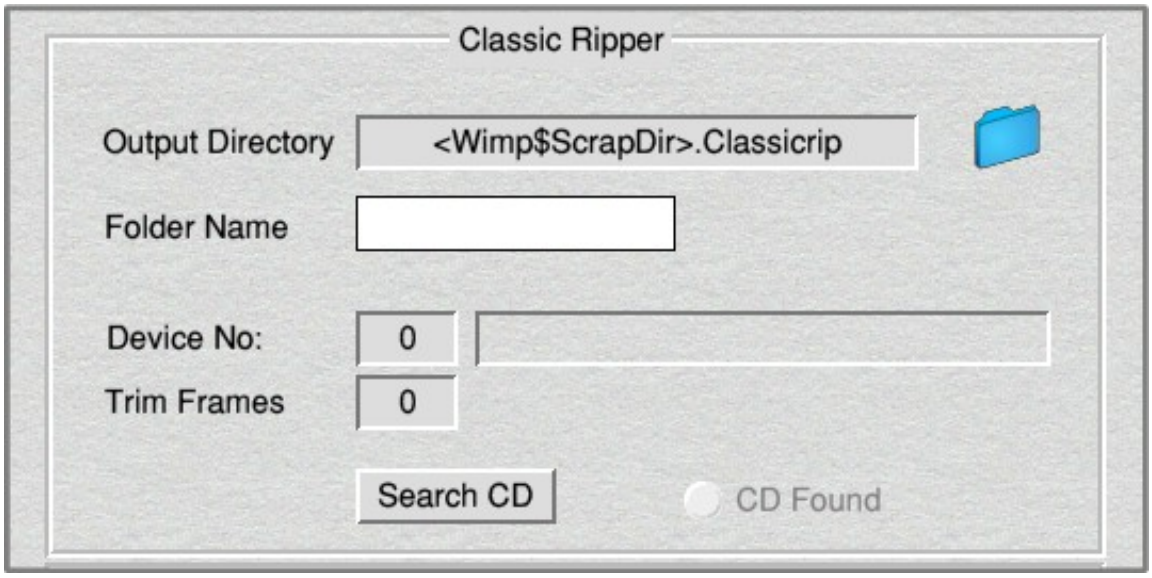
Installation

Copy the application to a suitable directory.

Use

Run the application in the usual way.

Left-clicking on the iconbar icon will open the display window, initially showing the details it has read from a 'Choices' file: this file holds settings for 'Output Directory', 'Device No', and 'Trim Frames'.

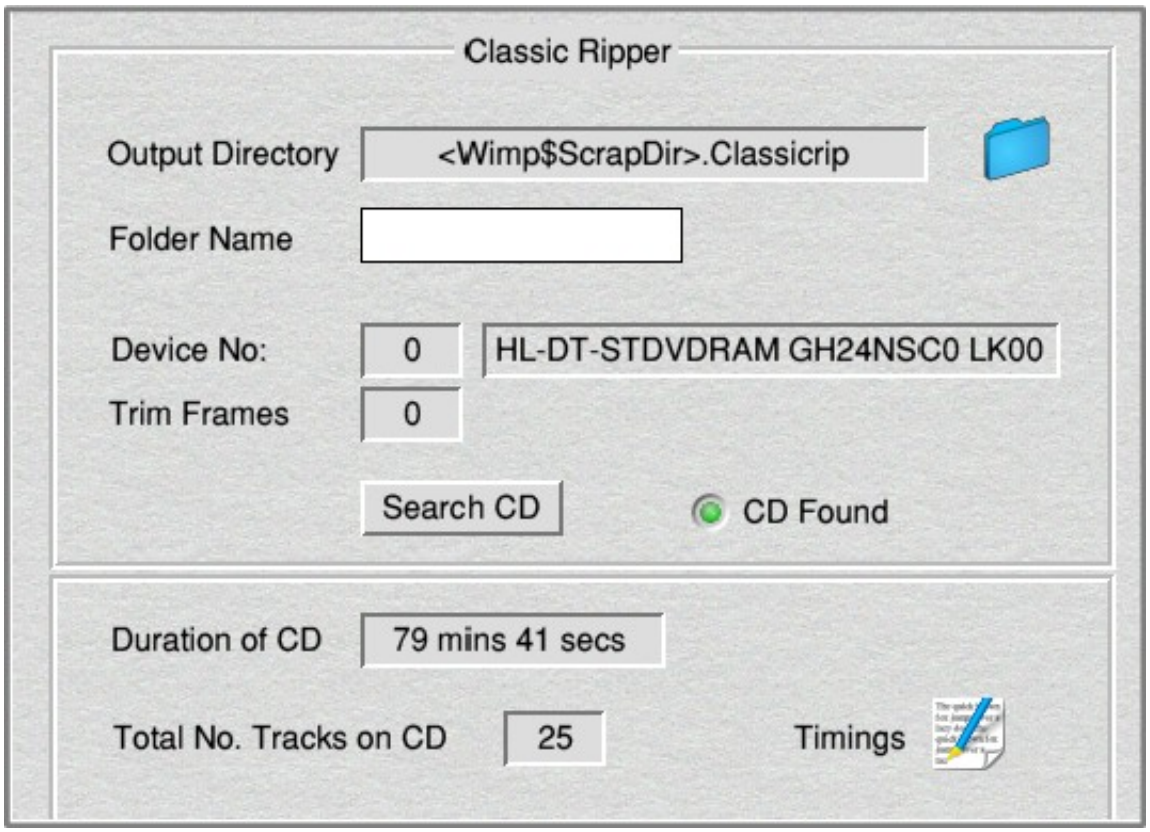


To change the 'Output Directory', either drag the blue folder to the desired location or drag a directory to the 'Output Directory' box. To create a separate individual directory to hold the ripped files, enter a suitable name in the 'Folder Name' box. For example, if you are ripping a disc of compositions by Bach you could type "Bach" (without the quote marks!) as the folder name.

Note: the initial default 'Output' directory is a Scrap directory, which is deleted when the app is closed down. A more suitable location for the created WAV files should always be chosen and can be saved as the default by clicking on 'Save Settings'.

The 'Device No' and 'Trim Frames' values can be changed manually.

Clicking on the 'Search CD' button will scan the selected drive, adding the device name (next to the device no.), and if a CD is found, will display the number of tracks and the duration of the CD.



Selecting Tracks
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Tracks can be selected in several ways.

1. Tracks can either be saved as one continuous track or as separate tracks. Ticking 'Save as Separate Files' will save any combination as separate files.

2. Ticking 'All Tracks' will select all the tracks as one continuous track (eg 1-8) unless 'Save as Separate Files' is also ticked.

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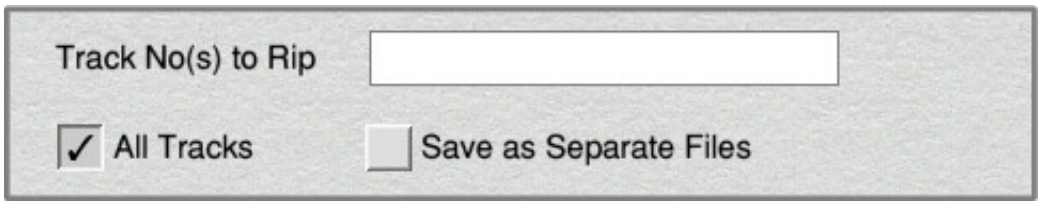
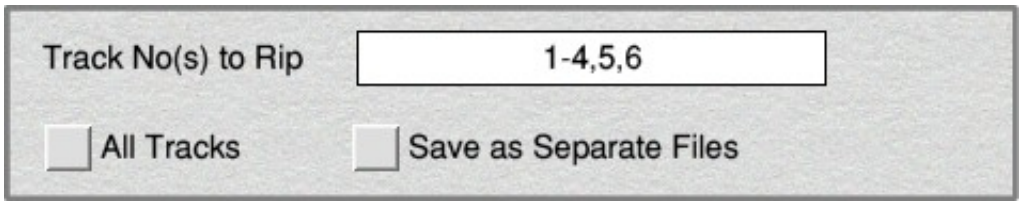
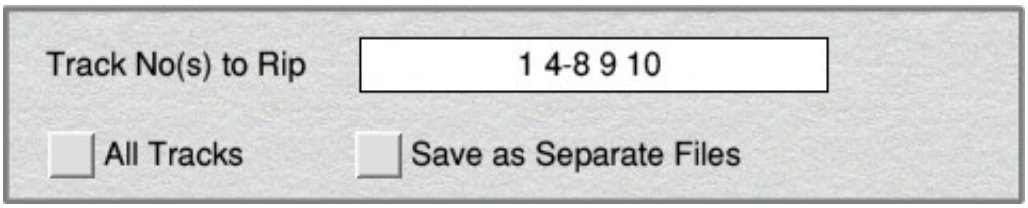


3. To select individual tracks or combinations of tracks, enter the required track numbers in the 'Track No(s) to Rip' box, separating them with either a comma or a space.
For example: '1-4,5-8' or '1,3 4 6' or '1-4,5,6'.



or



Ripping Tracks
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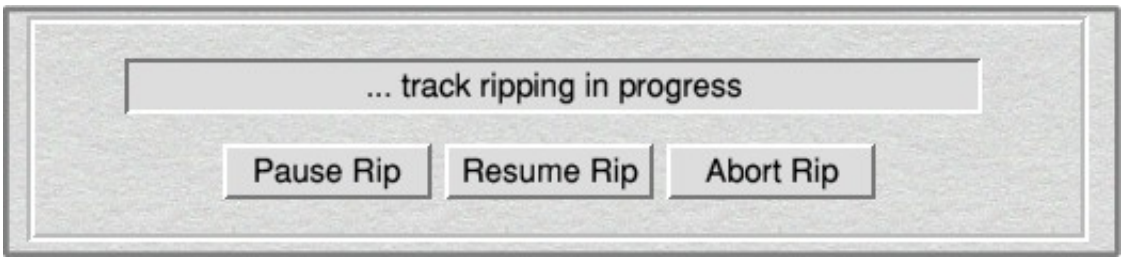
CAUTION: You should ensure that there is sufficient free space on the selected destination drive. A CDROM may contain up to 800Mb data. This is particularly important if you are ripping files to the RAM disc, as these are generally set to much lower values.

Tracks can be ripped using either 'CDparanoia' or 'Ripframes'. See comments below on the advantages for each. Simply click on the appropriate button to start the ripping process. This may take some time, and, although this process is done via a task window, the desktop remains (to a degree) usable.



The ripping process will continue unabated unless either the 'Pause Rip' or 'Abort Rip' buttons are clicked on. If the rip has been 'paused' then it can be resumed (from the point where it was paused) by clicking on the 'Resume Rip' button.

When the ripping has finished, the directory holding the ripped files will be opened on screen.

Trim Frames:
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The 'trim frames' value should be 0 unless you find you have a reason to alter it. Some discs/drives may declare they contain a given number of frames, but in practice the optical drive finds it is unable to read the last frame (or few frames) from the disc. If this happens you will see a read error at the end of the ripping process at the end of the last track on the CD. To prevent this you can alter the value. e.g. changing the last line of the settings file from '0' to '1' will cause the ripping to omit the last frame on the CD. Changing it to, '2' will omit the last two frames. This shortens the ripped file's duration but avoids this kind of error.

Settings
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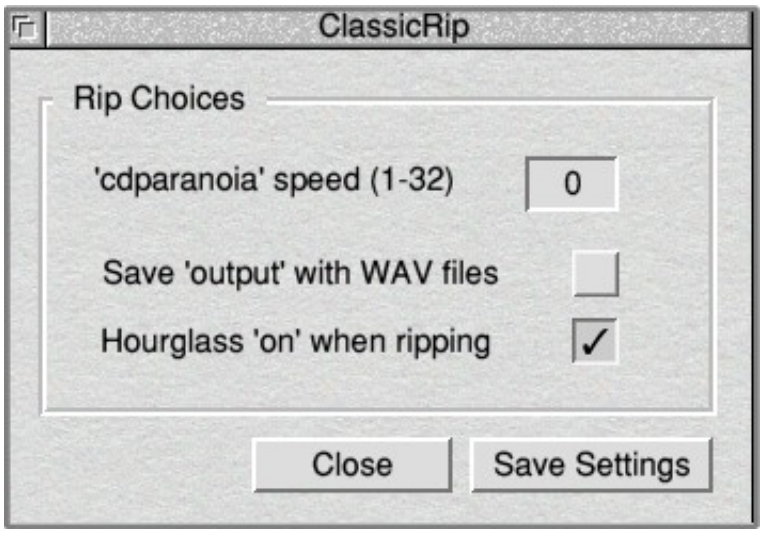
To change the start-up settings, set the 'Output Directory', 'Device No' and 'Trim Frames' fields to the required values and click on the 'Save Settings' button.

Some additional settings can be made via the 'Choices' window (opened by clicking on 'Choices' in the iconbar menu).



Information Files
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Track timings can be accessed by clicking on the 'Timings' icon.
Also available from the iconbar menu are 'CDinfo' (which lists information about the CD drive and the CD itself), and TWoutput (which lists details of the ripping process once completed).

Important note:
The 'Timings' and 'TWoutput' files are stored in the same directory as the created WAV files. All other files are in a scrap directory, and this directory is deleted when Classic Rip is closed down (ie by clicking on 'Quit' in the iconbar menu).

ripframes and cdparanoia
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CDparanoia is a RISC OS port of a widely used cross-platform ripper. The big advantage of cdpranoia is that it does a lot of checking to try and ensure the audio data is read reliably. This is very useful if you are trying to read audio from a 'difficult' disc or using a poor optical drive. However it means the ripping process is slower than would be necessary given a good CD in a good drive.

Ripframes is a much simpler ripper. It rips successive chunks of audio from the disc which overlap by one frame. It then checks their alignment by comparing the 'tail' of each rip to the 'start' of the next. This can mean it will rip in less than half the time that cdparanoia requires. It will report at the end of a rip any 'misalignments' it noticed between chunks. Ideally there should be *no* such misalignments, so it should give a report of '0' for this. If it reports more than zero misaligmnents, use cdparanoia!
However even giving '0' misalignments it may still miss problems that cdparanoia detects and fixes. So use some judgement over which method to choose. And if in doubt try ripping the same set of tracks both ways, and then compare the results!

Credits:
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'ClassicRip' & 'ripframes' are by Jim Leserf. The WIMP front-end is courtesy of Terry Kelly.