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1. Introduction

The PX-708A is a device, which you can use to read, write and rewrite CDs and DVDs. The device is an internal type ATAPI model, which means it cannot be connected externally, but should be fitted inside your PC and connected to your motherboard via an E-IDE cable.



Most PCs use the E-IDE (*Enhanced Integrated Device Electronics*) interface to communicate with the hard disk. ATAPI (*AT Attachment Packet Interface*) is part of this interface and consists of a set of instructions, which enables the PC to communicate with more recent devices such as CD-R/RW drives and DVD readers.



1.1 Contents of the package

The PX-708A is supplied with the following parts and accessories:







PX-708A

Screws (4) Eject pin

E-IDE cable



Quick Install Guide



Pinnacle Studio

Video Editing and Authoring software*





- Manual
- CD/DVD Utility Software (PlexTools Professional)
- CD/DVD recording Software: Nero + InCD*
- DVD Player Software: CyberLink PowerDVD*



Warranty card

* Only in retail box



1.2 System requirements

To install the PX-708A and to guarantee stable operation, your system must meet the following minimum requirements:

- IBM/AT-compatible PC with a 700 MHz processor or faster
- 128 MB of RAM
- Windows 98SE, Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows XP installed
- A free 5.25 inch bay for fitting the PX-708A
- A free E-IDE (ATAPI) connector
- 800 MB 1 GB of free hard disk space

1.3 About DVD technology

DVD (Digital Versatile Disc, Digital Video Disc) is an optical storage technology that is expected to replace the CD over the next few years.

Today, DVDs are most widely used as a digital video storage medium. One DVD (single-sided, single-layered) can hold over 2 hours of high-quality digital video, 8 digital audio tracks (e.g. for multiple languages) and up to 32 subtitle tracks.

When it comes to storing computer data, up to 15.9 GB can be stored on a single DVD (dual-sided, dual-layered). The most common DVD format (single-sided, single-layered) holds about 4.37 GB.



1.4 CD and DVD reading, writing and rewriting speeds

CD

The maximum data transfer rate for the first CD readers was at 1x speed (*single speed*), which corresponds to 150 KB per second.

The PX-708A features the following maximum speeds for CD reading, writing and rewriting:

- Read: 40x speed
- Write: 40x speed
- Rewrite: 24x speed

You can calculate the maximum transfer speed of your device by multiplying the specified figures by 150 KB/s.

DVD+R/RW

For DVD devices, *single speed* corresponds to 1.321 MB/s, which means that a single speed DVD reader is roughly 9 times as fast as a single speed CD reader.

The PX-708A features the following maximum speeds for DVD reading, and for DVD+R/RW writing and rewriting:

- Read: 12x speed
- Write: 8x speed
- Rewrite: 4x speed

You can calculate the maximum transfer speed of your device by multiplying the specified figures by 1.321 MB/s.



DVD-R/RW

The PX-708A features the following maximum speeds for DVD reading, and for DVD-R/RW writing and rewriting:

- Read: 12x speed
- Write: 4x speed
- Rewrite: 2x speed

You can calculate the maximum transfer speed of your device by multiplying the specified figures by 1.321 MB/s.

1.5 CD and DVD types for writing and rewriting

CD-R

CD-R discs can only be written to once in full. However you can write to one CD over several sessions. Consult your software manual for more information on writing to CDs over multiple sessions.

CD-RW

CD-RW discs are rewritable. This means that data that is stored on a CD-RW can be erased and replaced with new data. High quality CD-RW media can be rewritten thousands of times.

The maximum rewriting speed depends on the type of media being used. There are several RW standards:

- Normal Speed (NS-CD-RW) can be rewritten at speeds up to 4x
- High Speed (HS-CD-RW) can be rewritten at speeds between 4x and 10x
- Ultra Speed (US-CD-RW) can be rewritten at speeds between 8x and 24x





DVD+R and **DVD-R**

At this point, there are two different formats writing DVDs, called DVD-R and DVD+R. The PX-708A can read and write DVDs in both formats, but notice that the maximum writing speed is two times higher in DVD+R than in DVD-R.



DVD+RW and DVD-RW

Also for rewriting DVDs, two different formats (DVD-RW and DVD+RW) are in use. Again, the PX-708A can read and rewrite DVDs in both formats, but notice that the maximum rewriting speed is two times higher in DVD+RW than in DVD-RW.





Compatibility with various CD and DVD application technologies

The PX-708A is compatible with the technologies listed here. Remember also that, depending on the manufacturing quality and the software used, some CDs and DVDs cannot be written to.

	CD			DVD				
Туре	Write	ReWrite	Read	Play	Write	ReWrite	Read	Play
CD-DA (Audio CD)	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
CD-ROM (Mode 1)	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
CD-ROM + CD-DA(Mixed Mode)	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
CD-ROM XA (Mode 2, Form 1/Form 2)	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	x
CD-I	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Photo-CD	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Video-CD	✓	✓	✓	x	×	×	x	x
CD Extra (CD Plus)	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×
CD Text	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×
Multisession	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	×	×	x
DVD-ROM	×	×	×	×	1	✓	✓	×
DVD-Video	×	×	×	×	√	✓	✓	✓
DVD+VR	×	×	x	×	×	✓	✓	~
DVD-VR	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓	~





1.6 Buffer Underrun Proof Technology

Storage media, like CD-Rs, sometimes get damaged during the recording process, due to a phenomenon called *a buffer underrun.* To solve this problem, Plextor has fitted the PX-708A with a *Buffer Underrun Proof Technology*.

Buffer Underrun Errors

During CD/DVD recording, a constant flow of data should be sent from the computer to the recording device and the transfer rate should match the recording speed of the CD/DVD. However, as most operating systems are not designed for real-time processing of large amounts of data, the data flow speed is often unstable. To overcome this problem, the recording device temporarily stores the transferred data in a buffer and sends them to the CD/DVD at a constant speed.

However, this solution only works as long as the buffer does not run out of data. If this happens, the recording process is halted at a random point, resulting in errors on the CD/DVD that will probably render it unusable. This type of error is called *a buffer underrun error*.

Buffer Underrun Proof Technology

The PX-708A is equipped with a Buffer Underrun Proof Technology protecting storage media against this type of error.

The PX-708A continuously checks the status of the data buffer. As soon as a risk of a *buffer underrun* is detected, the recording process is suspended at a suitable point. The drive continues prompting the computer for data, in order to refill the data buffer. As soon as the buffer's situation returns to normal, the drive restarts the recording process. The new data is correctly appended to the data already present on the CD/DVD.

1.7 PoweRec

Low quality media (CDs and DVDs) are very often the source of disc errors during high-speed recording. The PoweRec technology checks the quality of the media and automatically selects the optimum (maximum) writing speed, giving the highest quality result.

To obtain maximum writing speed, you can disable the PoweRec option using the software that is supplied with the PX-708A.



1.8 VariRec

With the VariRec technology, the user can select some settings, to obtain a more personalised sound tone. This VariRec technology only works at 4x and 8x CD-DA Recording on CD-R discs.

1.9 Precautionary measures

To gain maximum, long-term benefit of the PX-708A you should take the following precautionary measures:

- Keep the packaging for the device. If you ever have to return your device to Plextor, you can reuse the original
 protective packaging.
- Install and use the device as specified in this manual.
- Do not use the device in places with a high level of humidity, excessive dust or poor ventilation.
- Do not place the device in direct sunlight or close to heating appliances.
- Do not place the device close to appliances, which consume a lot of electricity (microwave ovens, hair dryers, toasters, ...).
- Do not place the device close to radio or TV sets; it may interfere with their reception.
- Do not place heavy objects on the device or on discs.
- Do not open the enclosure for your device.
- Never switch off the power while your device is working.
- Never place damaged CDs or DVDs in the device.
- Make sure that no fluids or foreign objects get into the device.
- Maintain your device and your discs as specified in "Maintenance" on page 26.



2. Installation

Follow the steps set out below to simply and safely install your device.

2.1 Before installing your device

- Switch off your PC and any peripheral equipment and remove the plugs from the wall socket.
- Discharge any static electricity from your PC by touching the enclosure. Do this to the peripheral equipment too.
- Undo the cables, which are still connected to the PC. Make sure that when you come to reconnect you still know which cables belong where.

2.2 MASTER/SLAVE setting

A PC is usually fitted with two E-IDE connectors, which are designated as a primary and secondary connector. These connectors consist of 40 pins (divided into two rows) and are located on your motherboard or on a separate card, which is located on your motherboard.





A maximum of two devices can be connected to each of the two connectors using a 40 pin flat ribbon cable. You can therefore connect a total of four E-IDE devices to your PC.



Generally speaking, a hard disk is connected to the primary connector and a CD-ROM device to the secondary connector. The devices, which are connected to the E-IDE connectors, should be correctly set up so that the computer is able to distinguish between them. This setting is called the MASTER/SLAVE setting and it is usually modified using a jumper switch on the back of the device.



?

A jumper switch consists of two metal pins across which a metal cover can be placed. By placing the cover across the two pins, the pins are interconnected and the current bridge circuit is closed.



The hard disk is usually installed as the MASTER to the primary connector. If you now wish to connect a second device to the same connector (and therefore to the same cable), this device must be set up as the SLAVE. It is strongly recommended that you set up your CD-R/RW device as the MASTER and connect it to the secondary connector. If necessary you can connect a second device to this cable as a SLAVE, but we advise against this as it can affect the performance of your CD-R/RW.

Use a pair of long nose pliers to adjust the jumper switch at the back of your device. By default, the jumper switch is set as the MASTER.

MASTER setting

Place the cover over the two right-hand pins.





SLAVE setting

Place the cover over the two second right-hand pins.



CSEL (Cable Select) setting

If you use this setting, the MASTER/SLAVE setting is made automatically. If another device is connected to the same connector, this also has to be set up to *Cable Select*. Moreover, you must ensure that you use an E-IDE cable, which supports *Cable Select*. Place the cover over the two second left-hand pins to select this option.





2.3 Mounting and connecting the device

Step 1: Remove the cover from your computer.

In most instances the system case is secured with screws at the rear. Sometimes screws are also located on the side or the bottom. Use a crosshead screwdriver to loosen the screws. Make sure that when doing this you only undo the screws securing the cover. Then slide or lift the cover off your PC.



Some covers should be opened using push buttons on the side.



Step 2: Remove the front plate from a free 5.25 inch bay.

The front plates are usually secured by means of a click system. For further details consult your PC manual.



Step 3: Place the device into the free 5.25 inch bay.

Slide the device into the front of the bay.

If you notice that there isn't much space left at the rear to work in, then first of all connect the cables as specified in the next steps and then slide the device fully into the bay.





Step 4: Connect the 40-pin E-IDE cable to the rear of the CD-R/RW device.

Two E-IDE connectors are located on the cable. Although you are not obliged to do so, we advise you to connect the device to the end of the cable. The ribbon cable also has a red line on it. Make sure that the red line is located at pin 1 (on the right-hand side).



Step 5: Connect the audio cables.

If your PC is fitted with a sound card, you can relay the sound that your CD-R/RW device produces to your sound card via the supplied 4-pin analog audio cable. Connect one end of the cable to your sound card. Connect the other end to your CD-R/RW device. For further details consult the manual for your sound card.





If your sound card supports digital sound and is fitted with an SPDIF connector, you can also connect your CD-R/RW device to it here. To do this use the 2-pin SPDIF cable, which is supplied with your sound card. Connect the other end of the cable to your CD-R/RW device.



Step 6: Connect the power cable.

A number of 4-pin power cables consisting of a red, two black and a yellow wire, leave your PC's power supply unit. Connect one of these cables to your device. Because the connector on the power cable has two rounded corners, there is only one way that it will fit into the device.





- Step 7: Secure the device in position using the supplied screws.
- Step 8: Replace the cover on the computer and screw it back into position.



Step 9: Reconnect all cables, plug in the plugs into the wall socket and switch the computer on.



2.4 Installing the software

To make sure you can immediately start using your device, Plextor supplies the following software applications with the PX-708A:

- Ahead Nero: CD/DVD mastering software
- Ahead InCD: Packet writing software
- Pinnacle Studio: Video editing and authoring software
- CyberLink PowerDVD: DVD player software
- PlexTools Professional: CD/DVD Utility software

To install an application, insert the CD into the CD reader (or the PX-708A) on your PC. The installation program will be launched automatically. Refer to the documentation available on the software installation CD to get more information about the installation, setup and use of a particular application.



3. Operation and maintenance

3.1 The control panel

The control panel at the front of the PX-708A consists of the following elements:



1. Disc tray

This disc tray is used to insert discs into the device (see "Loading a disc" on page 22). Press the eject button to open and close the disc tray.

2. Headphone jack (3.5 millimeter)

Stereo mini jack for headphones or powered speakers to listen to your audio CDs.

3. Headphone volume control

You can adjust the volume of your headphone or powered speakers using this dial. This dial does not affect the audio output of your sound card.

4. Disc/Busy indicator

The Disc/Busy indicator lights up green when the device is active.

5. Eject button

Press this button to open or close the disc tray.



6. Emergency eject hole

This opening may only be used to remove a disc if it is no longer possible to remove it in the usual way (using the eject button). To do this use the supplied eject pin (see "Opening the device manually to remove a disc" on page 24).

3.2 Using the disc tray

Loading a disc

Step 1: Press the eject button on the control panel to open the disc tray.



Step 2: Place the disc in the disc tray.





Step 3: Gently press against the front edge of the disc tray or press the eject button again to close the disc tray.



Removing a disc

Step 1: Press the eject button on the control panel to open the disc tray.



Step 2: Hold the disc by its edges and carefully remove it from the disc tray.





Step 3: Gently press against the front edge of the disc tray or press the eject button again to close the disc tray.



Never leave the disc tray open for long periods of time. Dust or dirt, which gets into the device, can cause read or write errors.

Opening the device manually to remove a disc

It can happen that the disc tray cannot be opened in the usual way as a result of a power outage or a mechanical defect. When this is the case follow the steps set out below to manually open the disc tray and remove the inserted disc.

- Step 1: Switch off the power to your PC and remove the plugs from the wall socket.
- Step 2: Push the supplied eject pin into the emergency eject hole until the disc tray clicks open.





Step 3: Carefully continue to slide the disc tray open.



Step 4: Hold the disc by its edges and carefully remove it from the disc tray.



Step 5: Carefully push the disc tray shut.





3.3 Maintenance

Device maintenance

Use a soft, dust-free cloth to maintain your device. Never use water or cleaning products to clean your device. Some solvents may damage the enclosure of your device.

Disc maintenance

You can clean your discs using a commercially available CD/DVD anti-static spray or CD/DVD cleaning kit. Make sure that you do not scratch the discs while cleaning them.

Always handle your discs carefully. CDs and DVDs are sensitive to fingerprints, dust and scratches. Dirty or damaged discs may cause damage to your device and result in read or write errors.



4. Troubleshooting

4.1 Resolving problems yourself

Problems during installation

- Press the eject button to check whether or not the device is getting any power. If this is not the case, then check that the power connector is correctly connected.
- When booting the system check whether the device is identified by the system. If this is not the case, then check
 whether the E-IDE connector is correctly connected and whether the MASTER/SLAVE setting is correct. Also
 check whether the device is connected to the end of the E-IDE cable.
- Make sure that the most recent *bus master drivers* for your IDE controller have been installed. These are normally supplied together with your motherboard or your PC. For further details consult your motherboard or PC manual.
- Check whether DMA (*Direct Memory Access*) has been activated.

Problems when reading a disc

- Press the eject button to check whether or not the device is getting any power. If this is not the case, then check that the power connector is correctly connected.
- Check that the E-IDE connector is correctly connected and that the MASTER/SLAVE setting is correct. Also check whether the device is connected to the end of the E-IDE cable.
- Make sure that the most recent *bus master drivers* for your IDE controller have been installed. These are normally supplied together with your motherboard or your PC. For further details consult your motherboard or PC manual.
- Check whether DMA (*Direct Memory Access*) has been activated.
- Make sure that the disc is placed correctly in the disc tray.
- Check that the disc that you wish to read is not dirty or damaged.



To check which firmware version is installed on your PC, click in Windows on **Start | Settings ... | Control Panel**. Then double-click in the *Control Panel* on **System** and select the **Device Manager** tab. Select the PX-708A in the *CD-ROM* group and click on **Properties.** Then select the **Settings** tab and make a note of the number stated in the *Firmware Revision* field.

Troubleshooting

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Problems when writing a disc

PLEXTOR

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- Press the eject button to check whether or not the device is getting any power. If this is not the case, then check that the power connector is correctly connected.
- Check that the E-IDE connector is correctly connected and that the MASTER/SLAVE setting is correct. Also check whether the device is connected to the end of the E-IDE cable.
- Make sure that the most recent bus master drivers for your IDE controller have been installed. These are
 normally supplied together with your motherboard or your PC. For further details consult your motherboard or
 PC manual.
- Check whether DMA (Direct Memory Access) has been activated.
- Make sure that the disc is placed correctly in the disc tray.
- Check that you have placed the correct type of disc in the disc tray.
- Check that the disc that you wish to write to has not already been written.
- Check that the capacity of your disc has not been exceeded.
- Check that the disc that you wish to write to is not dirty or damaged.
- Check that the most recent firmware version is installed. To do this consult the Plextor website: <u>http://www.plextor.com</u>.

To check which firmware version is installed on your PC, click in Windows on **Start | Settings ... | Control Panel**. Then double-click in the *Control Panel* on **System** and select the **Device Manager** tab. Select the PX-708A in the *CD-ROM* group and click on **Properties**. Then select the **Settings** tab and make a note of the number stated in the *Firmware Revision* field.

- Switch off all other applications.
- Check that your *screensaver* has been switched off.



4.2 Technical support

If you are not able to resolve your problem yourself (see "Resolving problems yourself" on page 27), then contact our technical support department:

Area	Contact
Europe, Middle-East and Africa	Opening hours: 8:00 - 18:00 M-F For local telephone numbers: check www.plextor.be Tel.: +32 2 718 03 99, Fax: +32 2 718 03 90 E-mail: support@plextor.be
U.S.A. and Canada	Opening hours: 6:30 A.M 5:30 P.M., PST, M-F Tel.: +1 510 440 2000, Toll Free (US/Canada): 1 800 886 3935 Fax: +1 510 651 9755 Technical support E-mail: support@plextor.com RMA requests E-mail: rmasupport@plextor.com Sales support E-mail: sales@plextor.com
Japan	Opening hours: 9:30-12:00 13:00-17:00 M-F Tel.: +81 3 3517 8064, Fax: +81 3 3517 8065 E-mail: www.plextor.co.jp/support/spt.html
China	Opening hours: 8:50 - 17:20 M-F Tel.: +86 21 6443 8843, Fax: +86 21 6443 8583 E-mail: webmaster@plextor.com.cn
Asia and Oceania	Opening hours: 9:00 - 17:30 M-F Tel.: +81 3 5214 5591, Fax: +81 3 5214 6660 Technical support E-mail: support@mta.co.jp Sales Inquiry E-mail: sales@mta.co.jp



5. Warranty

5.1 Warranty conditions

Plextor guarantees your PX-708A against all material and manufacturing faults for a warranty period from the date of purchase. During the warranty period Plextor offers free support for faults, which occur assuming normal use of the equipment. In the event that defects are found within the warranty period, Plextor, at its own discretion, shall repair or replace the defective device.

This warranty shall no longer apply if; a) the device is operated or stored under conditions of abnormal operation or maintenance; b) the device is repaired, adapted or modified, unless this repair, adaptation or modification was expressly authorised by Plextor; c) the device was subjected to misuse, neglect, a lightning strike, an electrical fault, incorrect packaging or accident; d) the device was incorrectly installed, or e) the device's serial number is no longer legible or is missing; f) the enclosed warranty card cannot be submitted; g) the defective component is a replacement part, such as the sound recorder, disc tray, etc.

Plextor can under no circumstance be held liable for direct, special or indirect damages, such as, but not limited to, data loss, damage or loss of property or equipment, loss of profit or income, costs for the replacement of goods or expenses or inconvenience caused by an interruption in operation. Under no circumstance shall one be entitled to a sum, which is greater than the purchase price of the device.

If a Plextor product shows signs of a defect during the warranty period, it can be returned to Plextor for repair or exchange. The following options are available to you with respect to this service: **Return for repair** (the returned product is repaired and sent back to you) or **Return for exchange** (the product is exchanged and sent to you). Follow the specified procedure (see "Warranty RMA procedure") for sending back your device to Plextor.

Plextor reserves the right to exchange the returned product if it cannot be repaired within a reasonable period and at an acceptable price. If it is found that a returned drive is no longer under warranty, as set out in the warranty conditions, Plextor reserves the right to invoice the user in respect of all costs for repair and transportation.



6. Spec sheet

Disc	
Recordable CD Format	CD-DA, CD EXTRA, CD-ROM Mode 1, CD-ROM Mode 2, CD-ROM XA, Multisession, Photo CD, VideoCD, CD TEXT, CD+G, UDF, CD-I
Recordable DVD Formats	DVD-ROM, DVD-Video, Multisession, Multiborder, DVD+VR
Recording Disc type	CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, DVD-RW, DVD+R, DVD+RW
CD-R/RW Recording Method	Disc at Once, Track at Once, Session at Once, Multisession, Packet writing, Mount Rainier
DVD-R/RW Recording methods	Disc at Once, Multiborder, Incremental, Restricted Overwriting
DVD+R/RW Recording methods	Sequential Write, Random Access Write, Multisession, Mount Rainier
Interface	Enhanced IDE (ATAPI)
Drive Performance	
Data Transfer rate	DVD Read: 6,750 - 16,200 KB/S (MAX) Write: 6,750 - 10,800 KB/S (MAX) CD Read: 2,550 - 6,000 KB/S (MAX) Write: 6,000 KB/S (MAX)
Burst Mode	PIO Mode 4, Ultra DMA Mode-2 (33 MB/S), DMA-2 (16.6 MB/S)
Access Time	CD < 100 ms DVD < 150 ms
Data Buffer	2 MB
Optical Pick up	Laser: Semiconductor
Slide Mechanism	DC Motor, Gear
Spindle Motor	Brushless Motor
Error Rate	Mode-1: 1 Block/10 ¹² Bits Mode-2: 1 Block/10 ⁹ Bits (Reference)







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Front Panel	
Disc/Busy Indicator	
Disc Loading	Auto, Disc Tray
Headphone jack	Stereo Mini-jack: 0.8 V 32 Ohm
Volume Control	Wheel knob
Rear Panel	
Power Supply	DC +5V 1.5A +12V 2.5A
Power Consumption	16W
Interface Connector	IDE Bus 40 Pin Header Type
Audio Output	Analog Output, SPDIF
Jumper Switches	Master, Slave, CSEL, DMA
Environmental Conditions	
Setting Place	Temperature: 5 - 40°C
	Humidity: 20 - 80% (Non condensing)
Storage Location	Unit Temperature: -40 - 60°C
	Unit Humidity: 20 - 95% (Non condensing)
Dimensions/Weight	
Dimensions (W x H x D)	146 x 41.3 x 190 (mm)
Weight	1.2 kg
Reliability	60,000 POH (duty 12%)