



Lite-On eTDU108 External Slim 8x DVD-ROM Drive

Ian Marks finds a fantastic NAS device, if you put in a bit of work

Given the popularity of external optical drives, you'd think that the netbook makers might come up with some way to incorporate a mechanism into their products. But while they ponder that, the likes of Lite-On make inherently useful gear like its charismatically named eTDU108.

When I first received this from Lite-On, I was concerned that the contents of the box had taken an entirely different path, as it was so light. To my amazement, the 300g drive was inside, and it's a remarkably tiny unit not much larger than the discs it must read.

That last word in the previous sentence is critical, because as

this is just a DVD-ROM, there be no burning here. However, for the installing of applications, playing of DVD movies and the like, it's fine for what it is. The other limitation is the speed, but it reads most single-layer DVD media at 8x and dual layer at 6x, which isn't too shabby. CD speed is 24x, for those who fancy ripping their audio collection on the way to work.

What it reminded me strongly of was one of those early CD Walkmans, as it has a flip-up lid for you to place the disc inside. A nice touch that Lite-On gave this unit was a neat storage system for the cable, which tucks into a channel on the underside of the





drive. The cable isn't very long (maybe 20cm at a stretch), but it's enough to connect it and, with its integrated home, much less likely to get lost. It also doesn't require any external power pack or a second juice-stealing USB connection, keeping down the techno-clutter.

If I have a concern about this product, it's that to keep weight to a minimum, Lite-On constructed it almost entirely from plastic. That immediately makes me wonder how much abuse it might handle when used on the move, or on international business.

There isn't too much more to mention about this other than it's very competitively priced compared with other slim external drives, and it comes in either black or white colouring. The Lite-On eTDU108 isn't especially clever, unique or remarkable in any way. However, it does deliver the sort of functionality that anyone with a netbook might find remarkably useful, and it delivers it without clearing out your bank account for once.

mm *Ian Marks*

Details

Price: £23.48 (Dabs)
Manufacturer: Lite-On
Website: www.Lite-Onit.eu/en/products
Required spec: USB 2.0 port

Ratings

Quality: ★★★★★☆☆☆
Value: ★★★★★☆☆☆

Inexpensive DVD-ROM for use with computers that have none

OVERALL
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