A Guide to Using CDex

Introduction

Welcome. This guide aims to help you get the most out of CDex, a high-quality and convenient audio CD ripper for Windows.

Keep in mind this guide is rather rough at present but will be updated as time allows.

Note: The current focus is on encoding to MP3. Later revisions will see a modularized approach which will cover superior formats such as Ogg Vorbis and MPC.

In keeping with CDex's philosophy, this guide focuses on providing inexperienced users with a strategy that is straightforward and easy to deploy. In other words, if an overly laborious tweak will give you a theoretical, insignificant increase in quality, I will not advocate that approach.

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Things to get

You need to download and save the following:

1. CDex 1.51, from the CDex download page.

2. LAME 3.90.3 stable bundle *[lame-3.90.3.zip]* from the <u>Rarewares</u> <u>MP3 page</u>.
3. **For Windows NT/2000/XP only**: Nero's ASPI manager, <u>wnaspi32.dll</u> [skip this if Adaptec's ASPI layer is successfully installed]
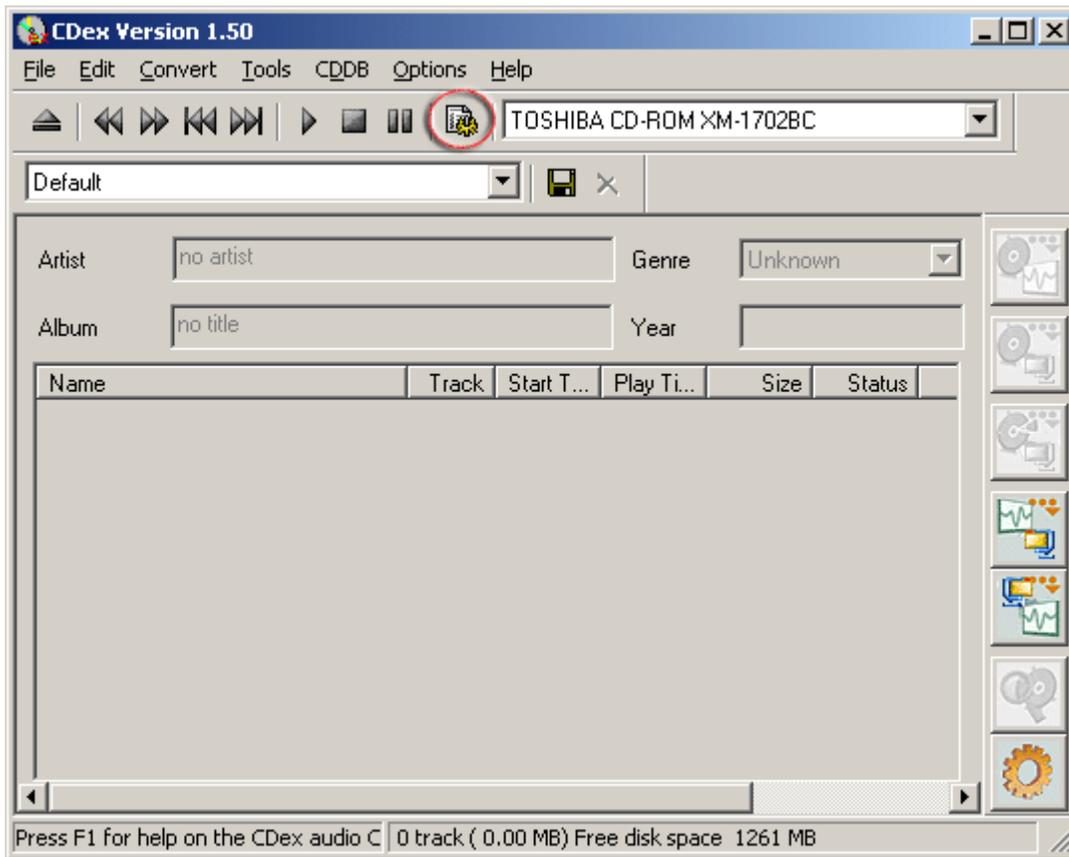
Things to do

1. Install CDex 1.51.
2. Extract *lame_enc.dll* from the LAME 3.90.3 stable bundle *[lame-3.90.3.zip]* into the CDex directory, overwriting the existing version.
3. **For Windows NT/2000/XP only**: Copy Nero's ASPI manager, *wnaspi32.dll*, to your CDex directory [do **NOT** do this if Adaptec's ASPI layer is successfully installed.]
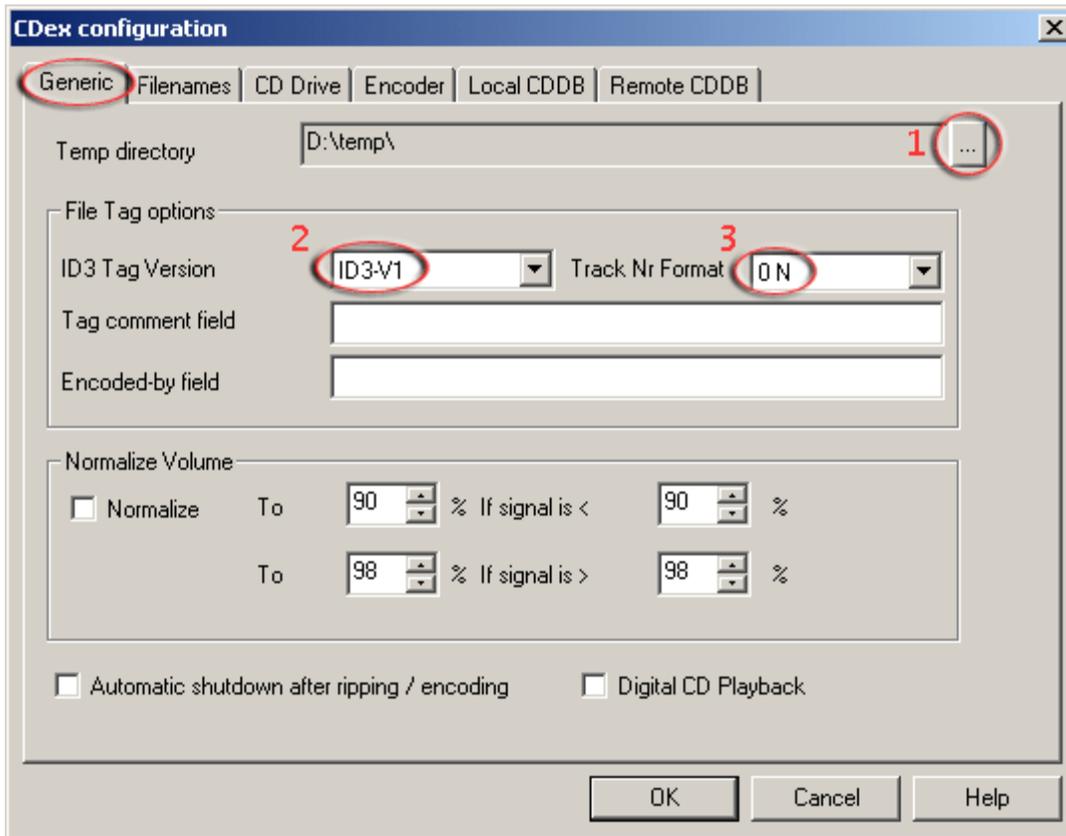
Main window

Fire up CDex. You should be presented with the above window.

Now either press **F4** or the above button circled in red. This will bring up CDex's configuration dialog. Click on the *Generic* tab.
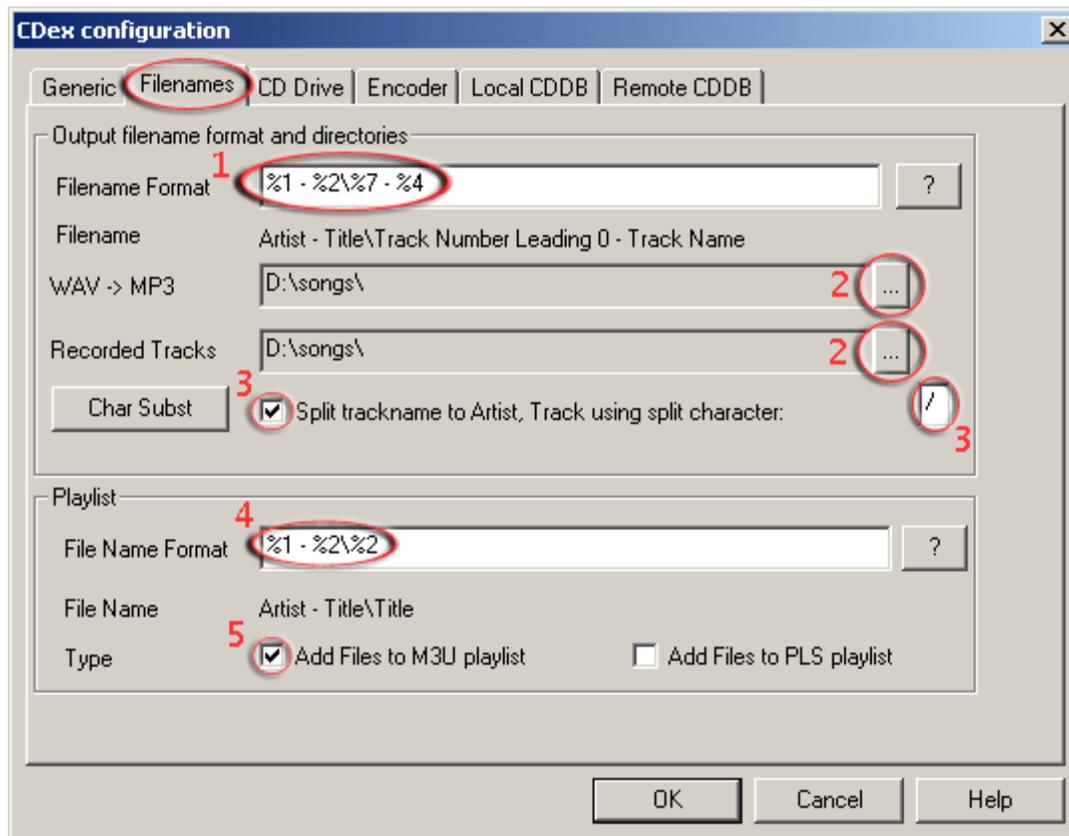
Generic settings

1. **Temp directory**: This has to be on a drive or partition that has the most amount of free space. Click on the circled button and select a folder [such as *D:\temp*]

2. **ID3 Tag version**: I strongly recommend you stick with *ID3-V1*, unless you have CDs with very long track and/or artist names, in which case you may want *ID3-V1 & ID3-V2*, available further down the list.

3. **Track number format**: select *0 N* here.

Filenames settings
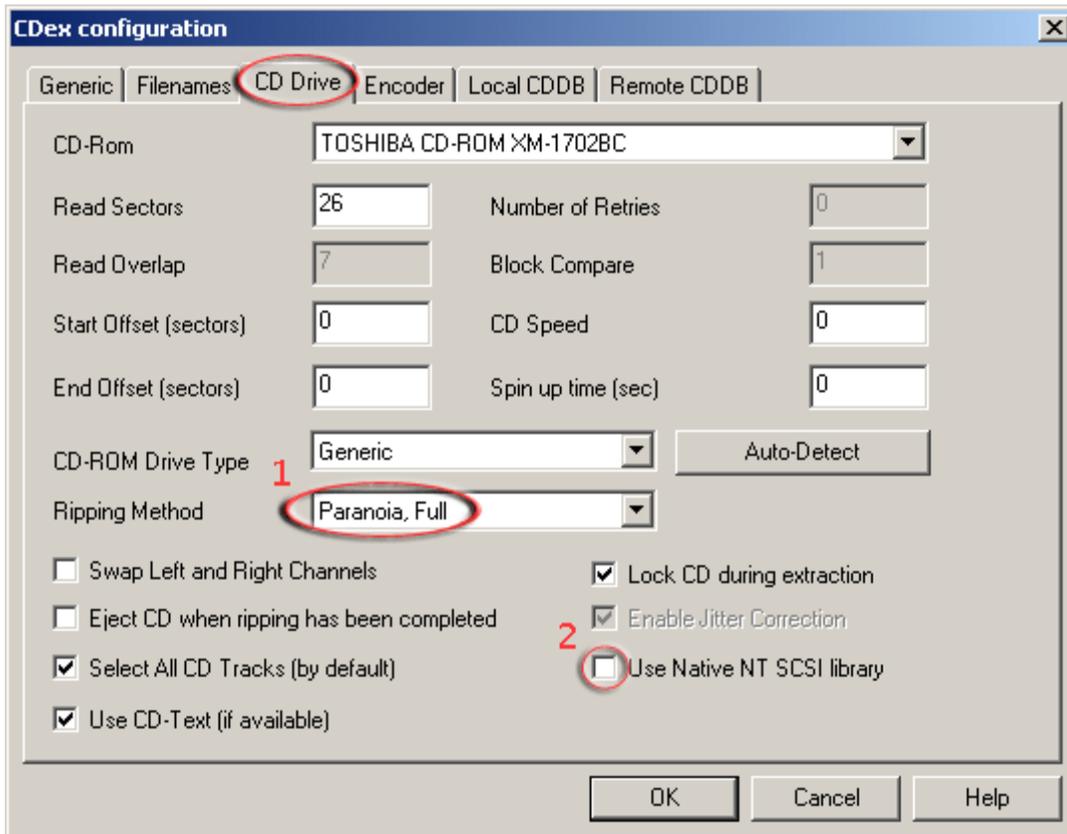

1. **Filename format**: type in **%A - %2\\%7 - %4** [or **%A\\%2\\%7 - %4**.] **Note the screenshot needs updating**.

2. **WAV -> MP3** and **Recorded tracks**: select the folder in which you wish you save your MP3s [for instance, D:\songs].

3. **Split trackname to Artist, Track using split character**: Tick the checkbox. Use **/** as the separator, if it isn't already filled in for you.

4. **File Name format**: Type in **%A - %2\\%2** [or **%A\\%2\\%2**.] **Note the screenshot needs updating**.

5. **Add files to M3U playlist**: Tick the checkbox.
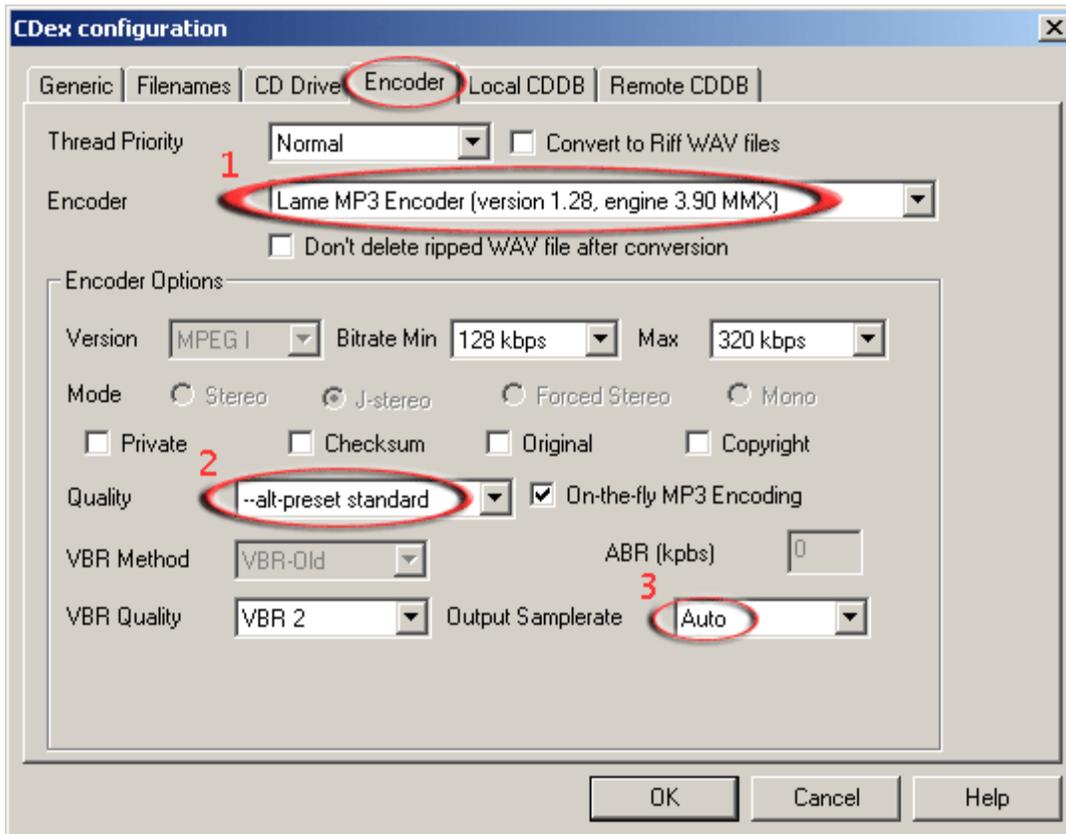
CD Drive settings

1. **Ripping method**: select *Paranoia, Full*.

2. **Use Native NT SCSI library**: <u>**For Windows NT/2000/XP only**</u> un-check the box.

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Encoder settings

1. **Encoder**: select *Lame MP3 Encoder (version 1.32, engine 3.90 MMX)*. <u>**Note the screenshot needs updating**</u>.

2. **Quality**: select *--alt-preset standard*.

3. **Output sample rate**: Select *Auto*. Do <u>**NOT**</u> change anything else.

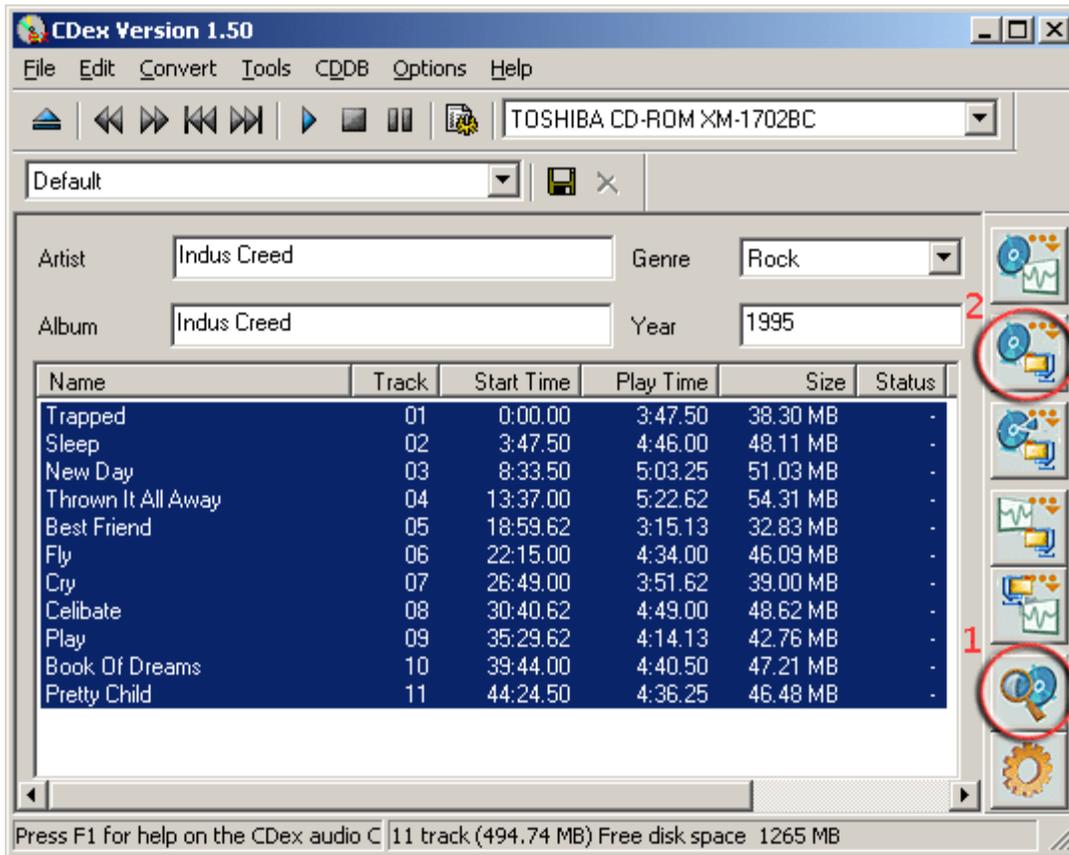<u>Back to top</u>

Remote CDDB settings

1. **Your e-mail address**: Enter an e-mail address. It need not be your real one as long as it follows the **username@domain.com** format.
2. **Timeout (seconds)**: Type in **60**.

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Ripping a CD

1. Insert your CD. If you're connected to the net, press *Remote FreeDB Query*, else enter its details manually.
2. Select all tracks by pressing **Ctrl+A**. Hit **F9** or *Rip to Compressed File*.

Now you're ripping!