



## MAKING A CD

The first step is to make a good quality master CD which is best done in a studio or by recording with studio quality equipment. When Aberdeen chorus made the chorus CD we did it in the Beach Ballroom but with someone coming in with all the equipment. The sound engineer can also do various things to the tracks after the recording to alter the effect of the sound – usually adding some slight sort of “echo” sound is good but there are different things that can be done after the event and it should be possible to sit with your sound engineer and listen to the various options and select the final sound.

Once you have all your master tracks you just decide what order you want them on the CD and create a master CD.

This then gets sent to a CD duplication company and you make your CDs. Before that however you have to deal with copyright. You need a mechanical license to permit the CDs to be made for sale to the public. This is done via MCPS (Mechanical Copyright Protection Society) which now comes under the general banner of the PRS – Performing Rights Society.

This is not as complicated as it sounds as there is a special license available for groups making only a small number of copies and it just means going to the website at [www.prsformusic.com](http://www.prsformusic.com) and following the links for MCPS. The instructions are all there and you can just purchase the correct license. This normally has to be done before getting the company to make your copies. The cost varies depending on how many copies you want to make. The maximum under this license is 1000 copies.

The only other thing to consider really is the making of the CD cover – the duplication company usually has guidelines on its website as to the format this has to be in. It does require a little bit of graphic design or desktop publishing knowledge to be able to do this as it may be that you need to use Photoshop or similar to produce the correct format but Aberdeen chorus managed to do both the chorus and quartet one (Vocal Zone). Some CD companies will have design services available but obviously at a cost.

As for selling it – it is quite easy to include a PayPal button on your website to allow you to sell the CDs on the net. Details on the PayPal website. Another option is offering individual tracks for download from the website!

