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Kodak Photo CD: Session Format, Compression, and QuickTime

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TOPIC -----

I understand that the existing CD-ROM drives are single session. Is Kodak's service of putting slides on CD going to be single, multiple, or both session format? Secondly, will the images be compressed using Kodak's compression? If so, will we get a new QuickTime compression INIT?

DISCUSSION -----

Kodak's Photo CD incorporates the Orange book specification. This is the multisession specification. However, it's possible to have a "single multisession" or one session while using the Orange book specification. In other words, if the first session of a multisession CD fills the entire CD, it will be considered a single session, while still providing all the appropriate disc information to comply with the multisession specification. There just won't be a second session on the disc.

The AppleCD SC Plus and the AppleCD 150 both read the first session of a multisession CD. If the first session fills the entire disc, then these two Apple drives will be able to read the entire disc. The first CD-ROM drive from Apple, the AppleCD SC, won't be able to read a Kodak Photo CD.

Kodak will be using their own lossless compression technique. The compression 'codec' (CCompressor-DECompressor) will be supplied in a new release of QuickTime. The details of how the Photo CD codec will be supplied haven't been stated yet. It's possible to create a codec that doesn't require a new version of the QuickTime extension. However, as with the codecs that ship with the current version of QuickTime, they can be incorporated directly into the QuickTime extension itself. Since this is possible, it's unclear how the Photo CD codec will be shipped.

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