

# Removable media

In current Linux versions, removable media are handled by HAL (hardware abstraction layer, not the Space Odyssey kind) and no longer through automount.

Users of desktop environments like Gnome and KDE, should just be able to mount any type of removable media through their desktop (e.g. cdrom, dvd, usb stick, usb digital camera). In Gnome:

```
Open the "Computer" window
Double-click on the device you want to mount
Most types of media even get mounted automatically when inserted
```

In KDE:

```
Right-click on the device icon for the device you want to mount
Select "mount" from the menu
Now click on the device icon to access it in Dolphin (the KDE file
manager)
```

For access to removable media from outside the desktop, users can mount the devices themselves. You can use the command `pmount /dev/cdrom` to get the cdrom mounted. The mount points end up under `/media` and usually get the 'name' of the cd as their mountpoint name. Device names are usually `/dev/cdrom`, `/dev/dvdwriter` for optical drives; `/dev/fd0` for the floppy drive and `/dev/sd??` for usb drives (but note: `/dev/sd*` might also be an internal harddisk, in which case you won't have permission to mount it).

To unmount, use `pumount /dev/devicename`

## Useful commands

For cdroms and dvds, you can use the command `mountcd` and `umountcd` instead. Those commands should take care of most of the peculiarities mentioned here, and `mountcd` will print the location of the mounted media for you. However, if your machine has multiple cd/dvd drives, it is hard to predict which one these commands will operate on.

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