Chapter 1

Getting Acquainted with Easy Media Creator 7

In This Chapter

▶ Getting familiar with the Easy Media Creator Home

▶ Overview of the Applications you can launch from Home

▶ A quick look at the Tools you can use at Home

▶ Exploring the Utilities available to you from Home

*F*irst things first: Before you can use your newly installed Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 to go off and create a copy of your favorite Norah Jones audio CD or to burn a DVD of the family's most recent outing in the Adirondacks, you're going to need to know your way around the program. As you're about to discover, there's very little that Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 can't do when it comes to dealing with all the many types of digital media that are apt to come your way.

Better yet, not only is this baby versatile but it's as good as its name. The Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 offers you consistently easy ways to complete all of your media projects — from ripping, arranging, and burning your own copies of your favorite CDs to finally organizing and tagging those gazillions of digital photos you've dumped into nondescript folders all over your computer's hard disk.

The only catch (oh, there's always a catch) is that in order for the Easy Media Creator to be as multitalented as it is, the good engineers at Roxio had to carve the program up into dozens of different little specialized programs and utilities that taken in at once can be a bit overwhelming (to say the least). This is where Chapter 1 comes in: Here you not only get a much needed overview of the many individual and specialized components now at your fingertips but a good feel for the Easy Media Creator Home that ties them all together. Once you get your bearings in this all important hub, you're ready to see what this program can really do by looking at each of the individual components.

Welcome to the Easy Media Creator Home

At the time you install the Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 on your computer's hard disk, the Windows Installer automatically puts a Roxio Easy Media Creator Home shortcut on the Windows desktop. To open the Easy Media Creator Home, you simply locate this shortcut icon (shown in the left margin of this paragraph) and double-click it.

Figure 1-1 shows the Easy Media Creator Home window that appears after you double-click this desktop shortcut. As you can see in this figure, the Home window that forms the hub of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 is divided into four distinct areas, each of which is labeled. Here's the lowdown on each of these areas:
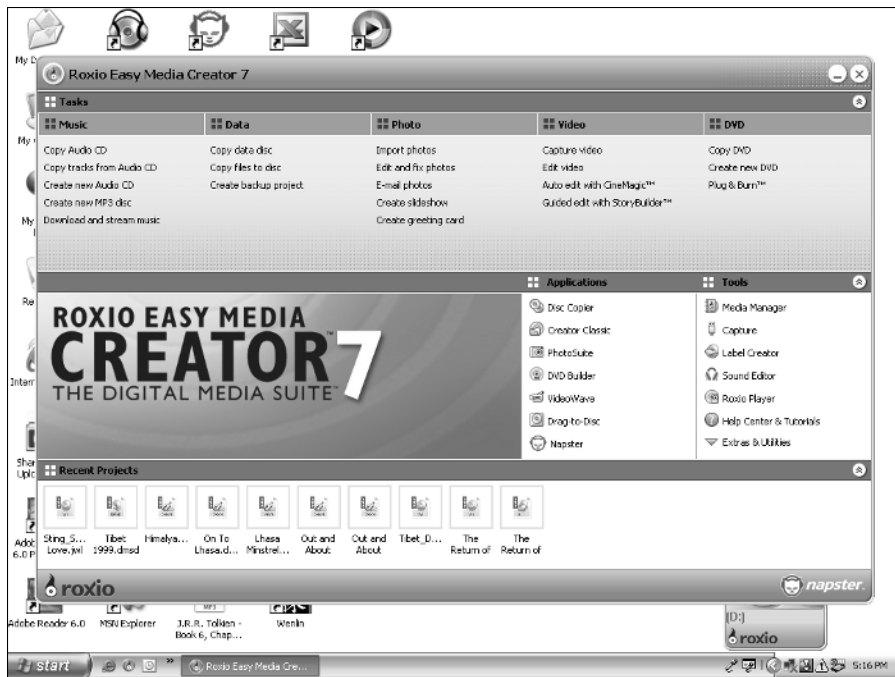
✔ **Tasks:** This area, divided into the subsections: Music, Data, Photo, Video, and DVD, enables you to launch a particular Easy Media Creator program or tool by clicking the task you want to accomplish such as Copy Audio CD or Capture Video

✔ **Applications:** Lists all the programs that you can launch to accomplish the many things listed in the Tasks section

✔ **Tools:** Lists all the special tools and utilities that are available to you in the Easy Media Creator 7 suite

✔ **Recent Projects:** Contains a chronological list of any of the audio or video projects that you've been working on (this area is blank when you first open the Easy Media Creator Home window)

Note that you can condense parts of the Easy Media Creator Home window by hiding the display of any of its three horizontal bands (the Applications and Tools sections are lumped together as part of the horizontal band that contains the full product name: Roxio Easy Media Creator 7, The Digital Media Suite). You do this by clicking the any of the three buttons with the two upward-pointing arrowheads (one on top of the other) that appear at the far right of each band. When you click one of these buttons, the detailed information beneath its band is hidden and the button changes to one with two downward-pointing arrowheads (which you can click to expand the section and redisplay its details).

If you really want to make it easy to open the Easy Media Creator Home, you can add this Home shortcut to the Windows Quick Launch toolbar by dragging its icon to this bar and dropping it at the place on this toolbar that immediately follows the Start button on the Windows taskbar.

Figure 1-1:
The Easy Media Creator Home offers a hub tying together the program's many components.

If you're like me and are apt to become a really serious user of Easy Media Creator, you may also want to fix the Easy Media Creator Home option on the Windows Start menu. To do this, you follow these steps:

1. **Double-click the Easy Media Creator Home shortcut on the desktop.**

   If you don't have an Easy Media Creator Home shortcut on your desktop, you can click the Start button on the Windows taskbar, mouse over the All Programs option on the Start menu, the Roxio option on the All Programs menu, and then click Roxio Easy Media Creator Home option on the Roxio submenu.

   The Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 Home shown in Figure 1-1 then opens.

2. **Click the Start button on the Windows taskbar to open the Start menu.**

   The Roxio Easy Media Creator Home option now appears on the left side of the Windows Start menu.

3. **Right-click the Roxio Easy Media Creator Home option to open its shortcut menu and then click the Pin to Start Menu option on this menu.**

As soon as you click the Pin to Start Menu option, Windows moves the Roxio Easy Media Creator Home option to the upper area of the left side of the Start

menu (under such Start menu stalwarts as the Internet Explorer and Outlook Express). If you later decide that you don't need this option to be a permanent part of the Start menu, you can remove it by right-clicking the option and then clicking the Unpin from Start Menu option on its shortcut menu.

Attending to the Tasks at Hand

The Tasks section at the top of the Roxio Easy Media Creator Home window (see Figure 1-1) divides the many things that you routinely want to accomplish with the program into five distinct task areas: Music, Data, Photo, Video, and DVD. Each task area contains a list of the most common tasks associated with that area and each task listing is a hyperlink (just on a Web page).

Clicking the link associated with a particular task opens the appropriate application for accomplishing that task. The beauty of the Tasks section in the Home window is that you don't have to give a second thought as to which Easy Media Creator application to use in order to get done the project you have in mind.

The only problem is that the tasks displayed in each of the five task areas represent only the most common things that you can do with Roxio Easy Media Creator 7. Although you can rely on the Tasks section for most of your media projects, be aware that not everything that you may need to do with the program is listed here. Therefore, you will not want to ignore totally the options listed in the Application and Tools areas.

My suggestion is that when you first start using the program, concentrate on using the items listed in the Tasks section of the Easy Media Creator Home window to get your work done. That way, as your experience with the program grows, you'll naturally become familiar with which applications are associated with which types of media tasks. In no time at all, especially with the help of the information in this book, you'll pick up on which application or tool to launch in order to complete a particular media project.

Acclimating to the Many Applications

The applications listed in the Application area of the Easy Media Creator Home window form the core of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 program. As you see in the center section of the window shown in Figure 1-1, this list includes these seven: Disc Copier, Creator Classic, PhotoSuite, DVD Builder, VideoWave, Drag-to-Disc, and Napster. Although this area of the window refers to them as applications (a technical term for a program that enables
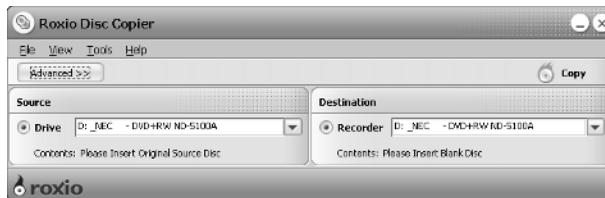
the user to create certain types of documents saved in individual file formats), you will find that the program and documentation also refers to these guys as "components" because they are just parts of the whole Media Suite. A good example of this is when you click an Applications link such as Creator Classic, an alert box appears with the following message: "Please wait . . . Loading component."

The following seven sections give you a brief introduction to each of the components that you can load by clicking its Applications link in the Easy Media Creator Home. Use this information to get a quick overview of the capabilities and functions of each of Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 applications.

Copying discs with Disc Copier

As the name says, Disc Copier is the application you use when you need to make a copy of an unprotected CD or DVD. When you click the Disc Copier link in the Applications area in the Easy Media Creator Home window, the program opens the window shown in Figure 1-2. Or, I should say, this window opens after you dismiss an alert dialog box reminding you that you should use the Disc Copier component only to make copies of digital media for which you have the clear legal right to make copies. Knowing that none of you would ever do anything like that, you can click the Don't Show Me This Again check box before you click OK to close this alert dialog box (for once and all).

Figure 1-2:
Disc Copier
makes it
easy to copy
audio or
data CDs
and DVDs.

You can use Disc Copier to copy an audio or data CD or DVD (usually one that you've created with Roxio's DVD Builder, since almost every single commercial movie on DVD that you rent or purchase is copy-protected and can't be copied with Disc Copier). As you can see in Figure 1-2, all you need to do to copy one of these discs is to specify the source and destination drive. The great thing is, if your situation is like mine and you have only one CD or DVD drive on your computer system, you can still use Disc Copier to copy your audio, data, or video discs (refer to Chapters 3 and 5 for steps with concrete examples of how you use Disc Copier to copy audio and data CDs).
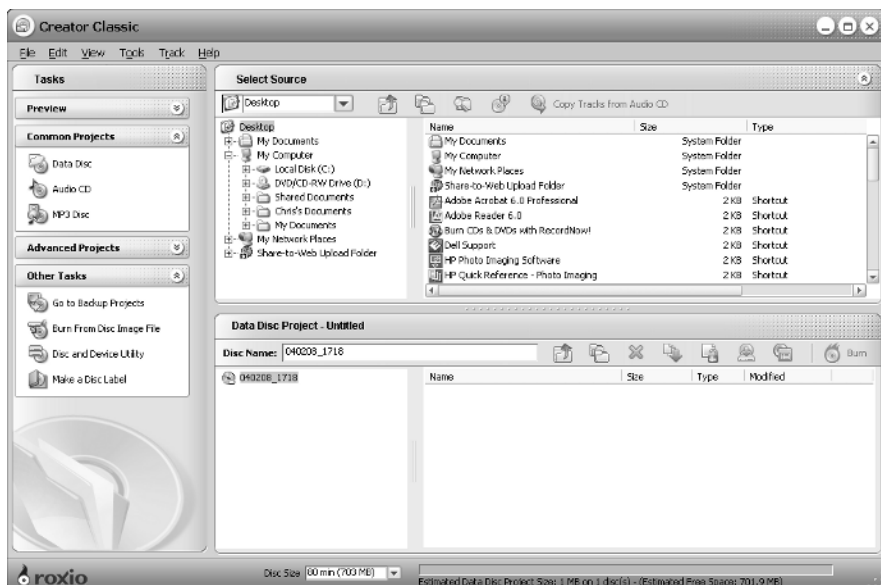
The comforts of Creator Classic

Creator Classic is the application you use primarily to assemble and burn your audio and data CDs. Figure 1-3 shows you the window that opens when you click the Creator Classic link in the Applications area of the Easy Media Creator Home. As you can see in this figure, the Creator Classic window is divided into three major areas:

✔ **Tasks** where you select the type of disc to burn to CD (Data Disc, Audio, or MP3 Disc) and where you can indicate what type of CD to create (Enhanced, Mixed-Mode, or Bootable)

✔ **Select Source** where you locate and select the files you want to copy to data or audio CD

✔ **Data Disc Project** which displays the name of your project as well as all the files you've added for burning onto the CD

Whereas you can use Disc Copier to make a copy of an existing audio or data CD or DVD, you use Creator Classic to actually put together and burn your own audio CDs or data CDs or DVDs. You use Creator Classic when you want to make backups or archive data files on your disk. You can also use Creator Classic to burn audio CDs that you can play in your computer's CD or DVD drive or in any standard CD player that you have handy. If you have audio tracks saved on your hard disk in the more-and-more popular MP3 audio file format, you can also burn them as an MP3 disc that you can play in most CD computer drives. See Chapters 3, 5, and 6 for specific information and examples on using Creator Classic to assemble and burn audio and data CDs.
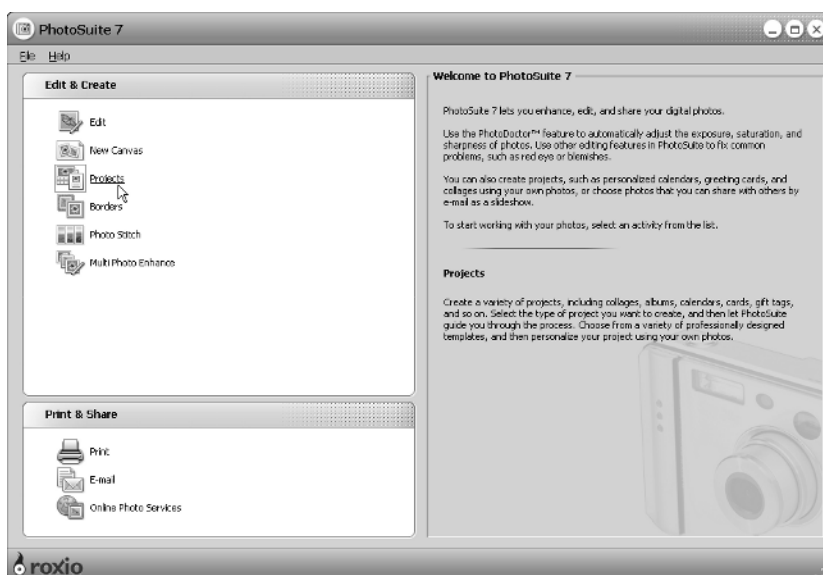

Figure 1-3:
Use Creator Classic to backup or archive data on CD or assemble and burn your own audio CDs.

Picture it in PhotoSuite

PhotoSuite is the application that you use to organize, edit, and share the digital photos that you take. You can use this component to enhance the photos, organize them into albums, use them in creating projects like greeting cards and calendars, as well as easily share them with friends and family. Figure 1-4 shows you the basic PhotoSuite window that appears when you click the PhotoSuite link in Applications area in the Easy Media Creator Home.

Figure 1-4: Use PhotoSuite to correct and enhance digital photos as well as share them with family and friends.

As you can see in this figure, the startup window for PhotoSuite is divided into two panes on the left: Edit & Create and Print & Share. The upper Edit & Create pane contains the common options for editing your digital photos and starting new photo projects. The lower Print & Share pane contains a Print option for printing digital photos that you've saved on your hard disk, an E-mail option for sending photos either as an attachment to an e-mail or right inside the body of the e-mail message. The last option in this pane, Online Photo Services, enables you to post your digital photos to a Web site where others can view them with their Web browsers or to have them printed by a professional photo finisher.

Note that the pane on the right side of the initial PhotoSuite window gives you general information about PhotoSuite 7. This area can also give you a quick description of any option in the Edit & Create and Print & Share panes that you might want to select. To display this descriptive information in the pane on the right, simply position the mouse pointer somewhere over option

in the panes on the left (when you do, not only does this descriptive information appear on the right, but the option becomes underlined, indicating that it contains a link). To initiate a particular option, you simply click its link. When you do so, the layout and menu options in the PhotoSuite window change to suit the task you've selected. See Chapter 8 for detailed information on using all the PhotoSuite options.
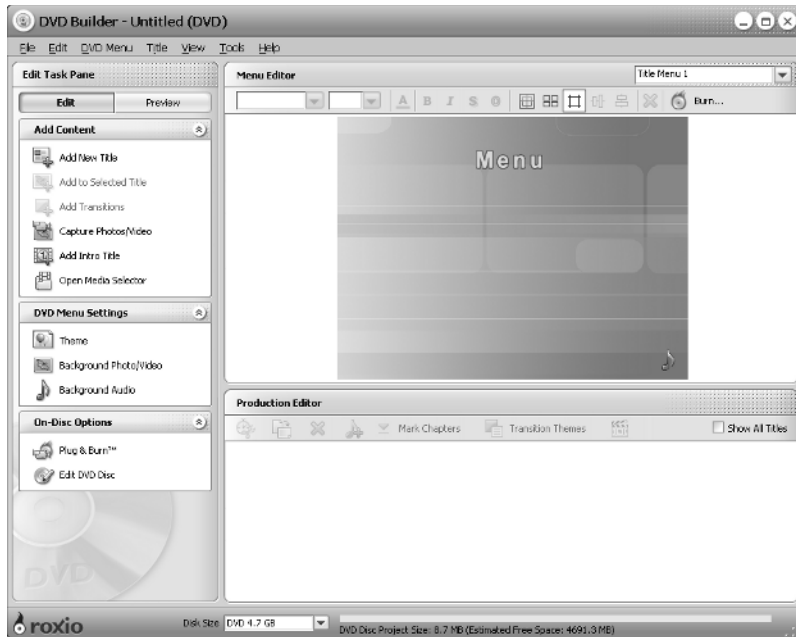
Easy multimedia projects thanks to DVD Builder

The DVD Builder is the application that you use to assemble and burn multimedia projects on DVD. Multimedia projects are those that can combine more than one type of media, including video clips, still photo images, text, and audio tracks. You can use DVD Builder to quickly and easily convert your digital home movies into menu-driven productions that you can play on a computer DVD drive or a standalone DVD player attached to your TV. You can also use DVD Builder to assemble your digital photo collections into slideshows that once burned onto a DVD disc can be played in the selfsame computer DVD drives or standalone DVD players.

Figure 1-5 shows the DVD Builder window that first opens after you click the DVD Builder link in the Applications area in the Easy Media Creator Home (and have indicated what type of DVD project to create). The DVD Builder window is the most complicated of those that you'll run into in Roxio Easy Media Creator 7. As you can see in Figure 1-5, this window is divided into five panes:

- ✔ **Add Content** where you capture video for your DVD project from a video camera attached to your computer or import it from clips or collections already stored on your hard disk

- ✔ **DVD Menu Settings** where you can specify a visual theme for the project's menu screens (including layout and labeling of the menu buttons), select a photo or video to use as the background of all menu screens, or add music or sound effects to play whenever the project's menu screens are displayed on the screen

- ✔ **On-Disc Options** where you can choose to burn your DVD project onto disc or to edit a multimedia presentation previously saved on a DVD disc

- ✔ **Menu Editor** where you can customize the menu buttons or background graphic

- ✔ **Production Editor** where you can edit the content of any one or all of the *titles* (preassembled collections of photos or productions containing video clips, still images, and audio) you've added to the DVD project, including marking *chapters* (points in the title that you can jump to in playback) and selecting transitions between individual video clips and still images

Figure 1-5:
Use DVD Builder to assemble photo slideshows, video clips, and the like into multimedia presenta-tions burned to a DVD disc.

DVD Builder is possibly the most versatile application in the entire Easy Media Creator suite. Because you can combine all types of media (video, still images, text, and audio) as you want, this is the place where you can be really creative. In no time, you'll be creating personalized and professional-looking multimedia projects that you can share with all your friends and family who have access to either a DVD drive in their computers or a standalone DVD player. See Chapters 9, 10, and 11 for details on using the DVD Builder to create your own DVD projects.

Riding the VideoWave

VideoWave is the application that you use to assemble and edit video projects (referred to in the Roxio documentation as *productions*) that can include video clips, still images, and audio. After assembling and editing a production in VideoWave, you can either add it to a DVD project that you're making in DVD Builder or use DVD Builder to burn it onto a DVD disc (see "Easy multimedia projects thanks to DVD Builder" that immediately precedes this section).

Figure 1-6 shows you the VideoWave 7 window that appears when you click the VideoWave link in the Applications list in the Easy Media Creator Home. When you first open the VideoWave window, it is divided into the three major panes shown in this figure:

✔ **Production Preview** where you can preview how your production will play as you create and edit it

✔ **Media Selector - Folders** displaying file folders on your hard disk or network with the media files (audio, video, or still) that you want to add to the production (this pane can also display preassembled media collections, transitions, text styles, overlays, or effects that you can add to a production)

✔ **Production Editor - Storyline** displaying a storyboard view of the video production, showing all the individual video clips and stills with any in-between transitions in the order in which they will play in the final production (this pane can also display the production in a Timeline view which shows the timing of each element in the production along with any audio or narration track that you've added)

Personally, I find that VideoWave interface is one of the easiest and most straightforward for editing video that I've run across. I'm sure that with just a little experience using this beauty, you're going to *love* video editing. If, however, you're a complete newbie to video editing and are the least bit intimidated about producing your own videos, you'll be glad to know that VideoWave includes two new components designed to make video editing nearly foolproof:

✔ **CineMagic** which automatically edits your video production by trimming your video clips and adjusting the tempo of the audio to fit the flow and transitions you use (perfect for making MTV-type videos)

✔ **StoryBuilder** which uses a Wizard-type interface, providing step-by-step guidance through assembling the various elements in your video production

Starting your video-editing career with CineMagic and StoryBuilder is a perfect way to become familiar with the VideoWave interface and its capabilities. From there, you can quickly move on to video editing on your own right using the Storyline and Timeline views. See Chapter 11 for complete details on using all aspects of VideoWave.

You launch VideoWave from the Easy Media Creator Home to create new video productions. You also launch VideoWave directly from within the DVD Builder application when you need to do some advanced editing on a video production created earlier with VideoWave that you've imported into the Video Project you're currently working on or to do similar editing to the contents of a new title that you added to DVD project. Suffice it to say that knowing how to use VideoWave goes a long way in mastering the video end of the Easy Media Creator suite.

Instant data copying thanks to Drag-to-Disc

Drag-to-Disc is one of the neatest yet simplest applications in the Easy Media Creator suite. You can use this nifty program to make CD or DVD backups or archives of data files on your hard disk or network simply by dragging their folder or file icons on the Windows desktop and dropping them on the Drag-to-Disc icon (shown in Figure 1-7). The Drag-to-Disc application is great because it automatically does any formatting for the data CD or DVD as needed to accommodate the files that you add.

To open the Drag-to-Disc icon, you can either click the Drag-to-Disc link in the Applications area of the Easy Media Creator Home or click the Drag-to-Disc icon (shown in the left margin of this paragraph) that appears in the Systems Tray on the right side of the Windows taskbar immediately to the left of the clock. If you click the Drag-to-Disc link when the Drag-to-Disc icon is already displayed on your computer's desktop (something that automatically happens when you first start your computer after installing Roxio Easy Media Creator 7), the Easy Media Creator Home window is automatically minimized to a button on Windows taskbar, displaying the Drag-to-Disc icon on your desktop. For details on making quick data backups and archives with Drag-to-Disc, see Chapter 3.

Listening to the rap on Napster

Napster renown as *the* place to go on the Internet to download some cool tracks
is back, this time as one of the most complete online music stores available.
Napster enables you to search for, organize, and sample music tracks in seem-
ingly all genres of music, from Pop, Rock, Jazz, Metal, Hip-Hop, R&B, Soul,
Classical, Opera, to my personal favorite, Disco. Once you've found the album
or track you can't live without, you can purchase it (99 cents a track and $9.95
for an entire album — much less than half the price you'd pay for the album in a
typical music store). You can then burn the tracks you've purchased to an audio
CD for playback in computer CD or DVD drive or standalone CD player or trans-
fer them directly to a standalone MP3 player (such as the Samsung - Napster 20
GB Digital Audio Player so prominently advertised on the Napster Home page).

The Easy Media Creator Home window contains two Napster buttons, one at
the bottom of the Applications area with a link labeled Napster and the other
in the lower-right corner of the Easy Media Creator Home window labeled
napster (in lowercase italic letters). You need Internet access in order to use
either one of these buttons. If you've never installed Napster on your com-
puter, you click the *napster* button at the bottom of the Easy Media Creator
Home window and sign up. After you've installed Napster on your computer,
you can click the Napster link at the bottom of the Applications area to
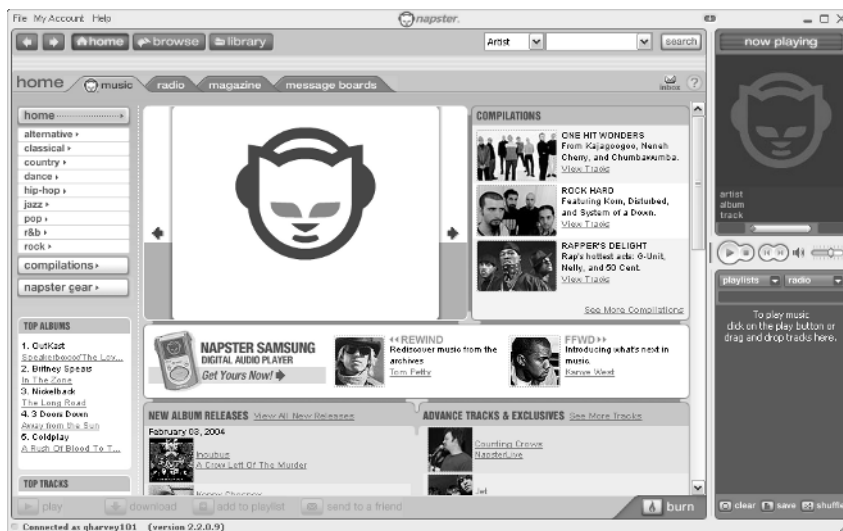launch Napster (which, in turn, connects you to the Napster Web site).

Figure 1-8 shows you the Napster window as it opens when I click the Napster link at the bottom of the Applications area on the Easy Media Creator Home window (your Napster window won't be quite as elaborate until you've started using it to find and sample the music that turns you on). As you can see from this figure, the main pane in the Napster window contains three buttons (Home, Browse, and Library) with the Home button automatically selected. You can also see that Home area contains four tabs (Music, Radio, Magazine, and Message Boards) with Music automatically selected and its options displayed in the main viewing area below. To the immediate right of the main pane with the Music tab information displayed is a Now Playing pane (your Napster window will lack this pane until you start playing around with the Napster radio).

The Napster Home screen enables you to quickly display all sorts of artists and albums for different music presets (Alternative, Classical, Country, Dance, Hip-Hop, and so on) when the Music tab is selected, play a whole playlist of tunes assembled into "radio" stations when the Radio tab is selected, peruse issues of an online music magazine when the Magazine tab is selected, and participate in online threaded chats about various music-related subjects.

WARNING!

You must subscribe to the Napster Premium service in order to have access to the Radio, Magazine, and Message Boards tabs on the Napster Home screen. This subscription service costs $9.99 a month and also entitles you to completely sample and download most of the music available on the entire Napster sites (some artists insist that you purchase their music before you can play their entire track). Just be aware that if you don't opt for joining this Premium service, all of your music sampling on Napster is restricted to 30 seconds of any track!

Figure 1-8: Napster's back and you can use it to listen to and purchase your favorite tunes by launching it directly from the Easy Media Creator Home.

The Napster Browse screen (displayed by clicking the Browse button at the top of the Napster window) enables you to browse through the Napster catalog for the artists and albums that you want to sample and potentially purchase. The Napster Library button (displayed by clicking the Library button) organizes the music that you sample and purchase into convenient folders. From this screen, you can play a track, send it to someone by e-mail, or even burn it directly to an audio CD.

Tools for Every Need

The Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window (see Figure 1-1) contains a list of links to five tools (Media Manager, Capture, Label Creator, Sound Editor, and Roxio Player), along with a link to the entire suite's Help Center and Tutorials. At the bottom of the this list, you find a pop-up button labeled Extras & Utilities, which when clicked displays a menu of seven services and utilities that you can access in using Roxio Easy Media Creator 7.

Clicking any of the five tool links launches a smaller program that performs a specialized function that helps in creating various CD and DVD projects with the applications discussed earlier in this chapter. The Help Center & Tutorial link opens a Help Center window that you can access when you need guidance in using any of the Easy Media Creator Applications and Tools. The remaining sections of this chapter acquaint you with the primary function of each of the program's Tools, the Help Center, and the services and utilities collected on the Extras & Utilities pop-up menu.
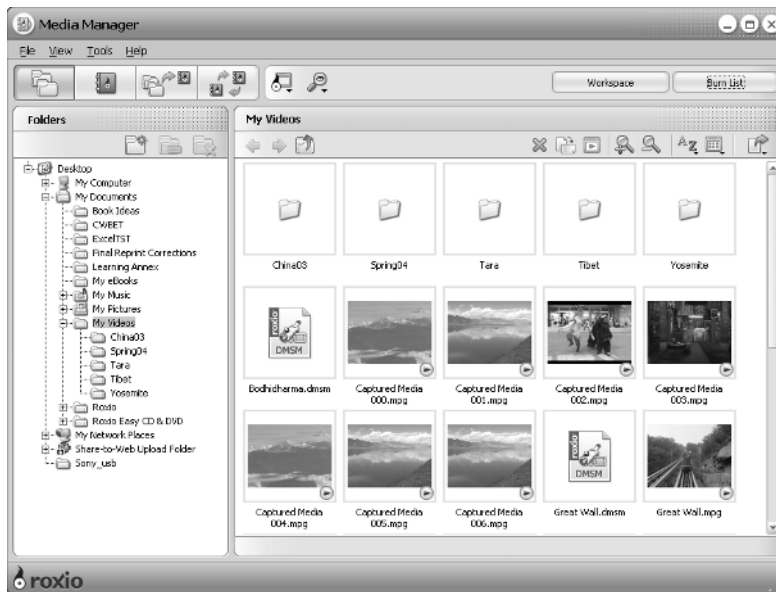
Media Manager at your service

You use the Media Manager to organize the many types of media files (video clips, still images, audio, and video projects) that you use in the CD and DVD projects you create. This handy-dandy little program enables you to keep tabs on particular media files through the use of *collections*, special Easy Media Creator files that associate selected media files together regardless of where these files are actually physically located on your computer system. Because collections reference to the media files you want to associate as a group, you don't have to go through all the trouble of copying or moving the files into a single folder. You can also use the Media Manager to peruse your media files, tag them with keywords for easy searching, as well as backing these files up by burning them onto CD or DVD discs.

Figure 1-9 shows the Media Manager window that appears when you click the Media Manager link in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window. Deceptively simple at first glance, this window is made up of only two panes:

a pane named Folders on the left that enables you to select any drive or folder on your system and a pane with the name of the selected drive or folder on the right that displays all the folders and files that that drive or folder contains. You do the rest of the organizing magic with the buttons at both the top of the Media Manager window and these panes (see Chapter 4 for details).

Figure 1-9: Use the Media Manager tool to organize, view, and search the many types of media files you use in your CD and DVD projects.

Catching up with Capture

As the name suggests, you use the Capture utility to import media files from various devices such as a digital photo camera, video camera, scanner, and microphone that's connected to your computer system. You can also use Capture to import media files from CD or DVD discs (which aren't copy protected and to which you have the right to make copies) loaded into the CD or DVD drive built into your computer.

Figure 1-10 shows the Capture window as it appears when I click the Capture link in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window (your Capture window may differ depending upon the actual devices you have connected to your computer). As you can see, this window shows you all the devices from which you can import media that are currently connected to your computer system in the Detected Devices pane on the left. It then displays descriptive general help information at the top of the Welcome to Capture pane on the right, along with specific help about any of the connected devices when you position the mouse pointer on its link in the Detected Devices pane.

To import media from any of the devices connected to your computer system, you simply click the link associated with the device link in the Detected Devices pane. The layout and the options in the Capture window then change to suit the type of device and the type of media file it supports (see Chapter 10 for details on using Capture to import various types of media files).

Lauding the Label Creator

You use the Label Creator tool to design and print labels for the CD and DVD discs that you burn with the other Roxio Easy Media Creator applications. The Label Creator makes quick work of designing both disc labels and the inserts for their jewel cases. Figure 1-11 shows the Roxio Label Creator window as it first opens. Note that you open this window not only by clicking the Label Creator link in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window but also by clicking a Create Label button in the final dialog box when burning CD and DVD discs (see Chapters 5 and 12 for details).

The Label Creator window is divided into two panes: Tasks on the left and Layout on the Right. The Tasks pane contains all of the tools you commonly need to do the layout and add the content for your disc labels and jewel case inserts. The Layout pane previews the contents of your disc label or jewel

case insert (the front and back printed cards that go inside the clear plastic case that holds the disc), while at the same time enabling you to edit these contents. For detailed information on using the Roxio Label Creator to design and print labels for any of your CD or DVD discs, see Chapter 9.

Saying Hello to Sound Editor

You can use the Sound Editor tool to record audio from audio devices connected to your computer (including analog sources such as cassettes and LP records). You can then use its features to edit or enhance the audio recording and convert to any of the supported digital audio file formats, including MP3, WAV, OGG, and WMA (see Chapter 2 to find out what in the world all these acronyms stand for).

Figure 1-12 shows you the Sound Editor window that appears when you click the Sound Editor link in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window after opening an MP3 audio file for editing. As you can see in this figure, the Sound Editor interface represents the audio file graphically with a sort of waveform readout (reminiscent of a snapshot of an oscilloscope display). This waveform displays the relative amplitude of the sound for the left and right channels (marked L and R) of the audio file.

Figure 1-11: Label Creator enables you to design and print disc labels and jewel case inserts for all the CD and DVD projects you create.
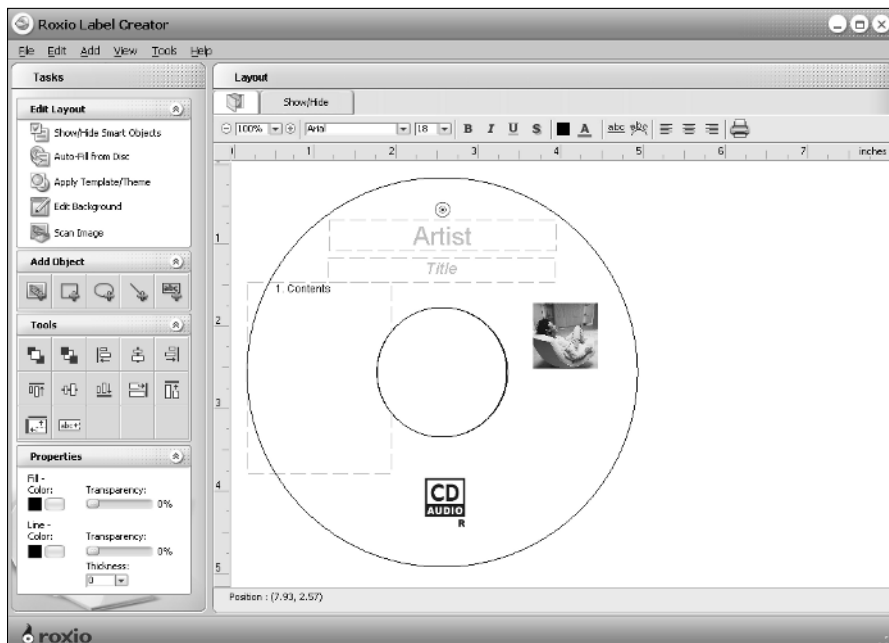
Figure 1-12:
Use Sound
Editor to
record and
edit audio
for the CD
and DVD
projects you
create.

You can then use the controls at the bottom of the Sound Editor to playback all of or any part of the audio track. You can also use the zoom controls located immediately above the waveform display to magnify portions of the audio's waveform display or zoom out on it so that more of the entire track is shown in the Sound Editor. See Chapter 5 for details on using the Sound Editor to record and edit the audio files that you burn to CD or use in your DVD projects.

Playback with the Roxio Player

You can use the Roxio Player to playback video CDs or DVDs discs that you create with the Roxio Easy Media Creator suite or video projects that you've saved on your hard disk. This tool is particularly useful for previewing a video CD or DVD disc that you've burned with your equipment before distributing it to others for viewing on their equipment.

Figure 1-13 shows you the Roxio Player window after launching it by clicking the Roxio Player link in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window and loading a DVD movie that I created with the Roxio DVD Builder application. Note that this simple window is composed of two parts: a display area above where the video plays and a band at the bottom that contains all the controls for playing the video.

To play a video CD or DVD that you've created, you follow these steps:

1. **Start the Roxio Player by clicking the Start button on the Windows taskbar, positioning the mouse pointer over All Programs on the Start menu, then over Roxio on the All Programs Menu, and then click Roxio Player on the Roxio submenu.**

    You can also start the Roxio Player from the Easy Media Creator Home window by clicking the Roxio Player link in the Tools area.
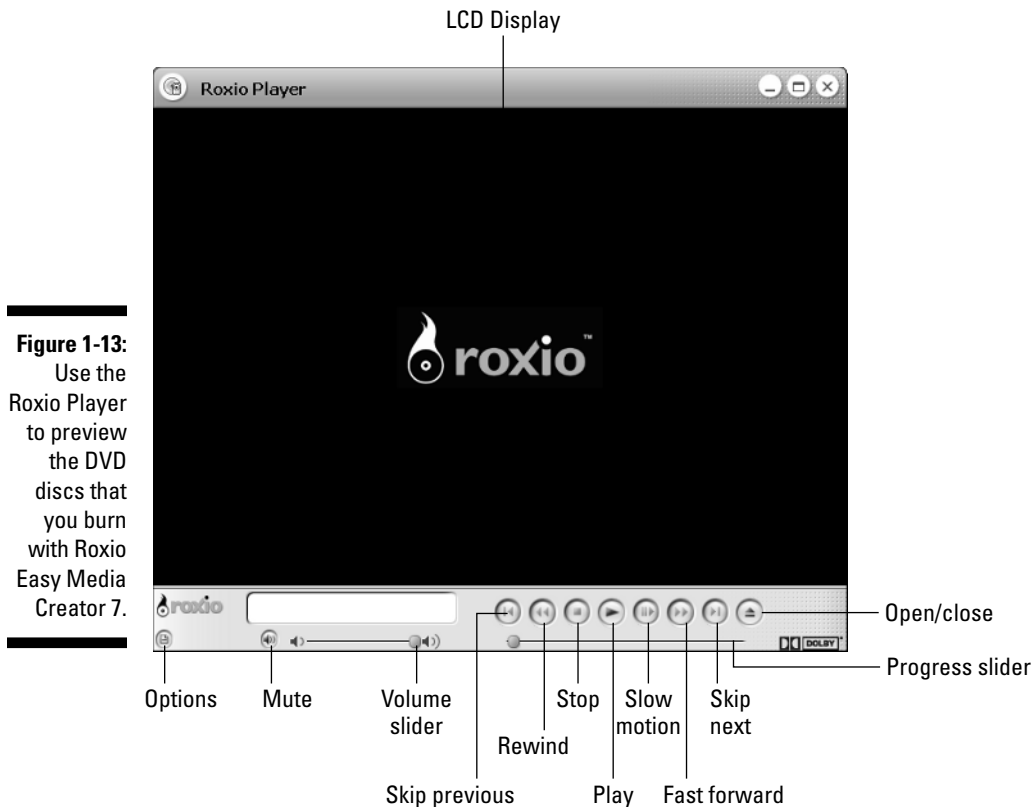
LCD Display

Figure 1-13:
Use the
Roxio Player
to preview
the DVD
discs that
you burn
with Roxio
Easy Media
Creator 7.

Options   Mute   Volume   Rewind   Stop   Slow   Skip
                   slider   motion next

Skip previous   Play   Fast forward

Open/close

Progress slider

2. Place the disc with the video CD or DVD you want to play in the Roxio Player in your computer's CD or DVD drive.

Wait a few seconds before performing Step 3 so that your CD or DVD drive can wind up and the Roxio Player can find the disc.

3. Click the Play button in the middle of the Player controls at the bottom of the Roxio Player window (see Figure 1-13).

If your computer is equipped with both a CD and DVD drive, you may have to specify which drive contains the disc you want to play. To do this, click the Options button in the lower-left corner of the Roxio Player window and then click Change Selected Drive. Use the drop-down Drive Letter menu in the Change Selected Drive dialog box to select the correct drive before you click OK.

As soon as you click the Play button in the Player controls, the video CD or DVD begins playing. If you're playing a DVD and it has an Intro title, this introduction title begins playing. If your video CD or DVD has an opening menu screen, this screen appears, waiting for you to select the menu option for the title you want to play.

If the menu screen offers several titles, each represented by its own menu button, each of the titles is represented by a labeled button. You can play a particular title by positioning the mouse pointer over the button to highlight it and then clicking its button (when playing the disc in a standalone DVD player, you would do this by pressing the arrow keys on the DVD controller to highlight the button for the title you want to view and then pressing the controller's Enter key).

When playing a video CD or DVD, you can toggle back and forth between full-screen video viewing and viewing the video within your normal Roxio Player window by pressing the "F" key on your keyboard or double-clicking the video display area. If you need access to the video controls after switching to full screen, click the screen (it doesn't matter where the mouse pointer is when you do this). To make the video controls disappear, just click the screen another time.

If after viewing part of a particular DVD title, you want to return to the main menu screen to select another title to view, click the Menu button on the Player controls. If the title you're viewing in the Roxio player has chapters (specific jump points in the video), you can jump to the next chapter by clicking the Skip Next button. If you want to jump to an earlier chapter in the title, you click the Skip Previous button instead.

To pause the playing of a video CD or DVD, click the Pause button in the Player controls. When you finish playing the disc, you can either stop the play by clicking the Stop button or simply eject the disc from its CD or DVD drive by clicking the Eject button in the Player controls.

You can't use the Roxio Player to play DVDs that you haven't created and burned with the Roxio Easy Media Creator suite such as commercial DVD movies that you've rented or purchased. To play these DVDs on your computer, you need to use another player capable of playing DVDs such as the Windows Media Player.

Help is on the way!

The Help Center & Tutorials link near the very bottom of the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator window is your ticket to complete online help with using any and all aspects of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 suite. Figure 1-14 shows you the Easy Media Creator Home Help Center window that opens when you click this link in the Home window.
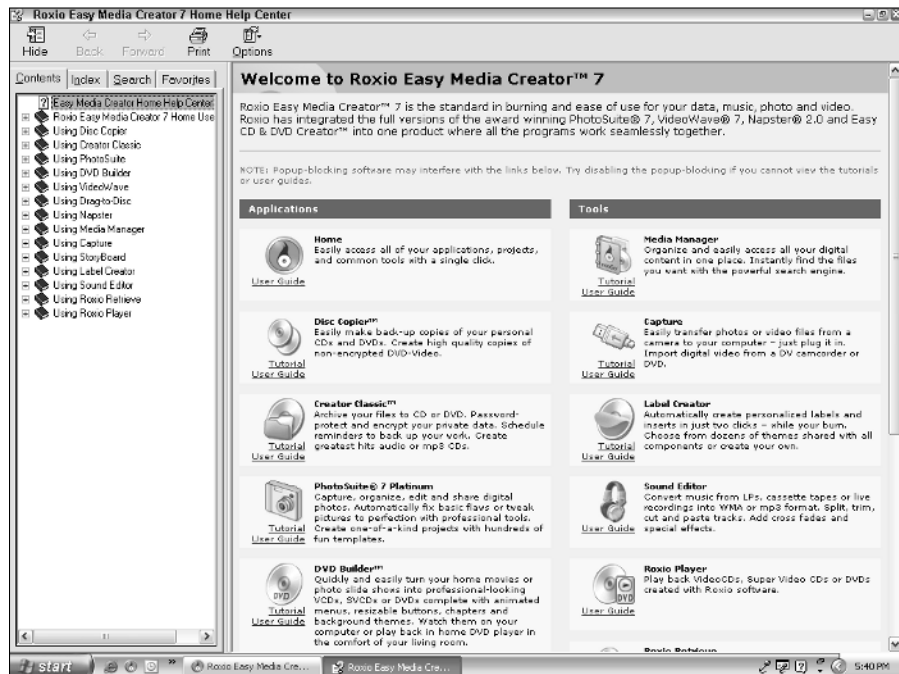
In getting program help from this window, you have a choice between help topics that give you an overview of using the various applications and tools included in the suite (sort of like this chapter gives you) or getting specific help on a particular application or tool. To seek out general program help, use the Contents, Index, Search, and Favorites tabs in the pane on the left

(this pane presents its help topics on the standard tabs in the manner common to all Windows programs).

To get application- or tool-specific help, locate the name of the application or tool in the larger Welcome to Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 pane on the right side of the Home Help Center window. For a great many of the applications and tools shown in this pane, you can choose between seeing an animated tutorial and perusing the user guide for that application or tool.

If you've never opened a particular application or tool and are curious about what it can do, you should definitely start by clicking the application's or tool's Tutorial link. When you do this, the Help Center opens a separate window in which the tutorial plays. Each animated tutorial has a sound track and subtitles that explain the screens and animated actions shown in each scene in the tutorial. To pause the playing of a tutorial, click the Pause button (the second button) in the controls at the very bottom of the Tutorial window. To resume playing the tutorial, click the Play button (the very first control). To advance to a particular scene in the tutorial, drag the slider button in the slider at the bottom or click the Skip Next (the button with the two arrowheads pointing to the right) or the Skip Previous (the button with the two arrowheads pointing to the left). When you finish playing the tutorial, click its window's Close box (the upper-right corner of the window) to close the window.

Figure 1-14:
The Easy Media Creator Home Help Center is the place to go when you need help using any of the program's components.

Open an application's or tool's user guide when you need a printed copy of the guide for using that particular application or tool. When you click the User Guide link for an application or tool, the Help Center launches your Web browser and Adobe Acrobat Reader (which appears inside the browser). The opening page of the user guide (which is saved as PDF file) then appears in browser window along with the Adobe Reader controls.

To print a copy of the entire user guide, click the Print button on the very first toolbar displayed at the top of your browser's window and then click OK in the Print dialog box. To print a particular help topic, use the bookmarks in the Bookmarks Navigation pane on the left to determine its page numbers; then click the Print button and fill in the appropriate start and stop page numbers in the Pages From and To text boxes in the Print dialog box before you click OK.

To copy a particular help topic or step-by-step instructions into a document in another Windows program, click the Select Text Tool (labeled Select Text); then use the I-beam pointer to drag through and select all the text you want to copy. Then press Ctrl+C to copy the selected text to the Windows Clipboard, switch to the document in the other program, click the insertion point at the place where you want the help text copied, and then press Ctrl+V to insert the help text into the document at the insertion point.

When perusing the help information in an application or tool user guide, you can use the Zoom controls or the Actual Size, Fit Page, and Fit Width buttons to resize the text in the Document pane on the right side of the browser window. Click Fit Page to resize the text so that each page is fully displayed in Document pane. Click Fit Width to resize the text so that it fills out the width of the Document pane. Click Actual Size to resize the text with the 100% setting so that it represents more-or-less the size at which the text prints.

You can also use the Zoom Out and Zoom In buttons to decrease and increase the magnification of the text in set increments. To select a particular magnification, click the Magnification drop-down button and click a preset or click the Insertion Point in the Magnification text box and replace the current setting with one of your own (by selecting the current setting and then typing in a new one). When you finish printing or viewing the help information in the user guide, you can close it, Adobe Acrobat Reader, and your Internet Browser by clicking the Browser window's Close button in its upper-right corner.

WARNING!

Because each of the application and tool user guides are saved in the Adobe PDF file format, you must have the Adobe Acrobat Reader (simply called the Adobe Reader in version 6) or a full-fledged version of Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer in order to view and print these guides. If you don't yet have Adobe Reader installed on your computer, you can download and install a free copy by going on the Internet and visiting the following Web page:

```
www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readerstep2/html.
```

Exploring the Extras and Utilities

The last item in the Tools area of the Easy Media Creator Home window is an Extras & Utilities pop-up button. When you click this button, a pop-up menu with the following options appears:

- ✔ **Disc and Device Utility** to display a Disc and Device Utility dialog box where you can view all of the drives and external devices that are connected to your computer system

- ✔ **Roxio Retrieve** to open the Roxio Retrieve utility that enables you to get files from multi-disc data discs, backup data discs, and encrypted data discs that you created with the Creator Classic application (see Chapter 3 for information on using Roxio Retrieve to restore media files stored across multiple CD or DVD discs)

- ✔ **Roxio Updater** to go online to the Roxio Web site to check for updates to your Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 suite that you can download and install

- ✔ **Audible Manager** to go online to the Audible.com Web site where you can register and purchase audio books for playing on your computer or your MP3 player (see Chapter 6)

- ✔ **Digital Media Services** to go online to the Roxio.com Web site where you get information about all the online services available for processing the digital media you use in your CD and DVD projects

- ✔ **Roxio Registration** to register your copy of the Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 suite online at the Roxio.com Web site (you have to do this only if you didn't register the program when you installed it)

- ✔ **About Roxio Easy Media Creator 7** to display the About Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 dialog box that contains a bunch of technical and legal information (spread out on four tabs: General, Details, Legal, and System Information) about your copy of Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 and your computer system

To open a particular utility dialog box or window on this menu, you simply click its name in the pop-up menu. Remember, however, that you must have Internet access in order to use the Roxio Updater, Audible Manager, Digital Media Services, and Roxio Registration options.

The Disc and Device Utility and About Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 options are most helpful when you're having technical trouble getting some part of the program to run properly. Your system information combined with the information on the various devices connected to your computer system can be most helpful to a Roxio support technician trying to diagnose and help you fix the problem.