What are all of those Diamond Cut files for?

We still get a lot of questions about various files that are created and used by Diamond Cut so we thought we'd cover what files are created and their uses for you.

The first file type is, of course, your audio file. Regardless of what file types we start with, Diamond Cut will automatically create a wave file for you. Wave files are generally uncompressed and offer the best audio quality. Everyone is comfortable with this.

Diamond Cut, when used in Classic Mode, also creates new wave files when you run filters. These are automatically numbered as wave01, wave02, etc. So far, so good, right?

The next type of file created by Diamond Cut is the .pkf file. This stands for Peak Information File. It's basically a data file that contains information about the graphic display of the wave file that you see on your screen when you open a file. So why do we create this .pkf? The answer is that it makes it much faster to reopen a file. Remember, with audio you can have some long files. Suppose you have 1 hour of CD quality audio. This file will be about 640mb in size. In order to accurately draw this file on your screen, we have to read thru the entire hundreds of megabytes. This is why there's a delay that says "building peak file display" when you record a new file - we don't know what it should look like until we read thru the whole thing.

So Diamond Cut saves this info and updates it frequently in the pkf file. The next time you open the audio file, we'll be able to draw the display just about instantly. This makes for much more efficient operation. Pkfs are generally small files. They can be deleted at any time with the only result being that the program will once again have to read thru the entire wave file to draw the display - and create a new pkf file.

You can force the creation of a new pkf file at any time by looking under the View menu and choosing "Rebuild Peak File". This is handy if your display doesn't match what you are hearing.

The next type of file used by Diamond Cut is the .Ses file. This is a Session file and is used only in Fast Edit Mode. This stores information about everything you have done on the file. The history window is populated from the information in this file. Again, you can delete it at will, but your history with the file will be lost.

Generally it is safe to delete any .ses or .pkf if you are finished with the wave file. If they are inadvertently deleted, your wave file will still work fine. If you have older pkfs or ses files lying around, feel free to send them to the trash bin.

The next type of file used in Diamond Cut are Pst files. These are Preset files and they contain information that is used to set all the sliders and buttons when you select a preset. Diamond Cut comes with over 1000 presets and you can add more anytime you

want. These will all be .pst files. You are free to delete them either in the program or using your normal windows tools, but beware - you'll lose those presets. Since these are quite small, it's not worth the effort to delete presets you never use. One more point - don't mix presets from previous DC versions with Diamond Cut - they probably won't work right and may cause strange problems.

The last type of file used by Diamond Cut is Zip files. Yep, our old friend is used by the program when you share presets with other users under the Edit/Manage Presets function. These can be safely deleted once you're done with either exporting or importing them.

That's it - a complete list of files used by Diamond Cut. Hopefully, you'll now be able to get rid of unneeded files with no worry that you are going to break something.