THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR COMPACT DISCS AND PLAYER
In 1980 the compact disc was officially introduced to the public and the consumer electronics industry was changed forever. The compact disc (CD) was unlike any other audio medium seen or heard before. Once the listening public got an earful of the superior sound quality the compact disc offered, they never looked back. This new age of music reproduction using optical technology represented a true revolution.

Not only did the new digital format provide vastly superior sound without the tape hiss heard with audio tape, or the scratching that often accompanied vinyl records, it also offered a “deterioration free” method of playing music. Because it is based on “optical” transference of information vs. “mechanical” transference, there is no wear imposed on the disc. Both vinyl records and audiocassettes suffer continual wear from friction caused by their mechanical processes.

Two electronics giants conceived the compact disc: Sony in Japan, and Phillips, in the Netherlands. The two companies had been working individually on a method of digitally encoding audio information. They decided to join forces and established a new worldwide digital audio standard. Phillips and Sony licensed the CD technology to other manufacturers. As a result we now enjoy a worldwide CD standard.

Understanding CDs and your CD player
A disc player reads data from a disc by emitting a laser that reflects off the disc back into the disc player’s laser lens. The disc player then interprets the digital data from the disc to produce sound, video or data. Anything that interferes with this reading process can result in a disc skipping, mistracking or even stopping.

The disc itself is made of four layers of different material. The thickest layer is the bottom, which is made from a clear polycarbonate plastic. A reflective coating of aluminum is applied over the polycarbonate. The combination of the polycarbonate and aluminum layers provides the disc’s digital information. A protective layer of acrylic resin is applied over the top of the aluminum layer, with a label applied on next to form the top, or label, side of the disc.

As amazing as the compact disc system is, it is not indestructible nor is it infallible. If the laser lens becomes coated with dust or if the signal on the CD cannot be read because of dirt or scratches on the disc surface, then the laser reading process will not work. To keep your electronics working at optimal levels, it is important to perform regular maintenance on your disc player and to protect your discs from dust, dirt, heat and damage.
Perhaps now you're starting to understand why there may be a need for some electronics maintenance. Because of the delicacy of the laser lens assembly and the intricate method of data storage, it is essential you take optimum care of your disc player and your discs. As you clean your reading glasses regularly, so too should you clean the laser lens on your CD player. As you should keep your books in good condition, clear of dampness and things that can spill and smear or smudge your text, your CDs should also be properly cared for.

ENTER ALLSOP
As the compact disc emerged in the audio industry, Allsop, Inc. understood that this optical process would require some maintenance and was quick to respond with research, design and production of highly innovative care solutions. Allsop understands, and so should you, that maintenance of a CD system really has two parts — the player and the disc. With the help of this brochure you should gain a clear understanding of why, and how, your disc player should be maintained for optimum performance.

CLEAN YOUR GLASSES!
What happens when you try to read a book and your glasses are smudged with fingerprints? Makes it difficult to read, doesn't it? This simple analogy helps to understand why it is crucial that you keep your laser lens clean to ensure optimum performance from your compact disc player. The laser lens is the optical element in your disc player that actually reads the digital information off your disc and hence, allows you to hear the music, watch the movie or play the video game. If your laser lens is coated with dust, smoke or contaminating debris of any sort, it will cause your discs to skip, or it may fail to track altogether.

There are any number of laser lens cleaners on the market today and the vast majority of them come in one of three formats. Although some manufacturers claim to tackle more stubborn contaminants such as smoke and fingerprints, laser lens cleaners are only designed to remove dust (the number one contaminant of the CD’s laser lens), pollen, hair and any other airborne contaminants. More stubborn contaminants should be cleaned professionally.

UNSATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS
Laser lens cleaning is not a new or revolutionary idea in the field of consumer electronics accessories. In recognizing the need to keep a laser lens clean, many electronics maintenance manufacturers have developed cleaners. To help you understand why the Allsop eight brush Laser Lens Cleaner is unique and highly effective, it is important to look at the various cleaning formats available on the market today.

SINGLE “STRIP” FORMAT
This format offers one “brush strip” (similar to an eyelash) to clean the lens. With this format, the brush sweeps by in one fell swoop. The brush is fairly large in size, and although it may knock off some debris from the lens, it may also knock the lens out of alignment with its impact. If your lens is out of alignment, it won’t play reliably and your player could lock up. Needless to say this is not beneficial to the performance of your compact disc player.

DOUBLE “STRIP” FORMAT
This format is just like the single eyelash format, but it has two brush units at opposite sides of the disc. With this format the brushes sweep by one after the other creating two impacts, and creating two possibilities for the knocking the lens askew.

THE WET/DRY “STRIP” METHOD
Think about what happens to dust when it gets wet? When you rub it just a bit, it smudges. The wet/dry laser lens cleaning method does just that. By placing a small amount of liquid on one brush and wiping it with the other, as the cleaner spins around, it does little more than smear the contaminants on the lens. Again, not an optimal solution.
THE ALLSOP DIFFERENCE

After significant research, Allsop concluded there must be a better way to clean the laser lens. The Allsop Laser Lens Cleaner features eight micro-fine brush clusters spaced evenly around the compact disc. Unlike the “strip” formats, the Allsop eight-brush unit ensures a thorough cleaning without damage to the lens.

The photographic grade micro-fine filament brushes sweep swiftly over the lens in a fan-like motion, blowing off the dust and debris, traveling quickly and repeatedly through the cleaning cycle. Because the brushes are so small, they actually get into the lens compartment and sweep out contaminants yet do not pose a threat to the sensitive optical laser assembly.

Our cleaners are easy to use. Simply put the disc in, push play and let the voice instructions lead you through the cleaning process. Some versions include diagnostic tests, enabling you to set up your stereo or home theatre system for peak performance.

ALLSOP LASER LENS CLEANERS

The Allsop Lens Cleaner (Item #56500) uses a series of eight brushes in a staggered format to perform a helical scan. This allows the eight independent strands to act as one to swath the entire surface of the laser lens in one pass. We include voice instructions on the disc so you know when it is done cleaning.

The Allsop ProLens Cleaner (Item #56700) uses the same eight brush system above, but includes 11 stereo sound checks. This will allow you to set the levels on your audio system to best perform in its surroundings.

The Allsop Ultra ProLens Cleaner (Item #23321) uses carbon fiber technology to dissipate and reduce future build up of static in the cleaning process. Incorporating the eight-brush cleaning process and system checks above, the Ultra ProLens Cleaner works to protect the most delicate electronics components.