

DVD Recording Q&A

We get a lot of phone calls about DVD-R, because its such a new technology and its been in the news alot. Here are a few of the most common questions:

1. Can I copy entertainment titles on DVD? Someone said there's software out there to get around the encryption.

No. Most DVDs are copy protected in one way or another, mainly by CSS encryption or Macrovision. Even if you could get around this, a pressed DVD can hold up to around 20 GB of data and video. Your DVD-R only holds 4.7 GB. And you'd have to re-author the video anyway. Do the industry a favor, and pay for your titles; if you like it enough to own it, show your appreciation to the people who put their time and effort into creating it.

2. What is DVD-RAM? Can I use it like a regular DVD?

DVD-RAM is almost entirely unrelated to DVD and DVD-R. It is a sectored media (like a hard drive) and is designed for write-multiple usage. It is not playable in most consumer DVD players. Its purpose is not usually video-type applications.

3. What is the difference between "Authoring" and "General Purpose" media?

The original Pioneer DVD recorders used authoring media; this can be given to a plant to be used as a master for replication.

DVD recording became mainstream when a less expensive DVD recorder was introduced by Pioneer for general use. It uses a 650 nm laser, just like a CD recorder, so it is less expensive to manufacture. The authoring recorders used a 635 nmlaser.

You can't put authoring media in a general purpose drive. And if you send a general purpose disc to a replication plant, it will have to be transferred to DLT tape before it can be replicated.