

key2audio™ - Frequently Asked Questions

Q:

Why is there a demand for CD-Audio copy protection systems now, more than 20 years after the launch of the CD-Audio format?

A:

Music recording software and CD-R/RW drives are becoming standard equipment on new PCs. Also, blank CD-Recordable discs have never been more affordable or more widely available. As a result, high-speed recording of music onto CD-Rs has grown tremendously in recent years. This increase has lead artists and music publishers to demand effective copy control solutions to protect against illegal duplication of their intellectual property.

Q:

What are the key components of a successful copy control system?

A:

According to music industry experts, the two key components of an effective copy control system are compatibility with playback hardware and preservation of the artist's original music content.

key2audio™ achieves full compatibility with virtually every audio playback system available, including backward compatibility with older systems. And unlike other copy protection schemes that work by introducing hidden errors in the audio content, key2audio™ does not change a single bit in the audio stream, preserving the sound quality of the original recording.

Q:

When did Sony DADC start manufacturing key2audio™-protected CDs?

A:

key2audio™ was launched in 2001.

Since then several millions discs have been produced for a wide variety of record companies.

Q:

What is the charge for key2audio™ copy protection?

A:

Charges are based on order size. key2audio™ pricing consists of a one-time pre-mastering fee for each title and a per-unit royalty charge, which is based on the number of discs to be produced.

Q: What equipment do authorized replicators use to produce key2audio™-protected discs?

A:

Authorized key2audio™ replicators license specialized premastering equipment from Sony DADC.–The equipment includes a key2audio™ Signal Feeder System and an Audio Image Processing System.

Where can I play key2audio™-protected CDs?

A:

key2audio™ protected CDs maintain compatibility with virtually every music player on the market. Whether they are played on CD-Audio players, portable players, car stereo systems, PlayStation™ and PlayStation 2™ consoles, Xbox consoles, DVD-Video Players and SACD players key2audio™ protected CDs play trouble free. Upgrades versions of key2audio™ are continuously released to resolve the very few compatibility issues. In the unlikely case of having any problems please contact us at support@key2audio.com.

Q:

How does key2audio™ copy protection work?

A:

key2audio™ works by placing a special signature on each disc during manufacturing. This signature prevents protected CDs from being played and copied on computers (both PC and MAC).

Q:

Does key2audio™ protect CDs by placing uncorrectable, or "C2", errors in the music data stream?

A:

No. Unlike other copy protection systems, key2audio™ does not introduce artificial (C2) errors into the music, thereby preserving the title's original sound quality. Furthermore, key2audio™ leaves the full 77 minutes of recording time available for music content. key2audio™ discs are also compatible with additional features such as ISRC, UPC, CD-Text, and disc watermarking.

Q:

Does Sony DADC recommend that music publishers label key2audio™-protected discs with consumer information?

A:

Yes, DADC recommends that music publishers inform consumers about computer playback limitations of key2audio™-protected discs. This information can be placed on the disc label or disc packaging materials.

Q:

Can key2audio™ protected CDs damage my computer?

A:

Recently, it has been reported that after inserting a key2audio™ protected disc into a specific configuration of a computer model, the system has frozen. In the unlikely event that this problem should occur, a reboot is necessary.

Under no circumstances in all extensive tests, that have been conducted has any damage been reported.

If there are any other questions regarding key2audio™ technology, consumers should refer to the key2audio website at www.key2audio.com.

