

## Why Some New CDs Will Not Play in My CD Player

### Situation

There has been an increasing occurrence of new CDs being purchased which will not play in some CD players leaving purchasers quite confused as retailers who check the CD find that they play without any problem on their CD players.

### Reason

The reason for this problem is often that the CD that has just been purchased has PC Copy Protection on it.

PC Copy Protection, as you might expect, is a technology that slightly changes the data on the CD such that it will not be read by PC-type drives and will therefore help to prevent piracy. This however, does in the first count mean that it may not be possible to playback your new CD in your PC.

Secondly it also means that the CD may not playback in some of CD players, in particular higher end hi-fi models which often use CD-ROM transports rather than more normal audio CD transports which are considerably cheaper and of lower quality. Some newer models take this issue into account and have circumvented the problem in their internal software but older units will simply not play a copy-protected CD.

### Solution

Unfortunately there is no easy solution is a CD you have just bought and it will not, like my old classic CD player, play copy-protected CDs.

The first port of call is to the manufacturer of the CD player (or their local dealer) to see if there is an internal software update (firmware) which will overcome this problem.

If not, then the only option is to return the CD to the retailer. Under this circumstance, you need to absolutely clear about your situation as the retailer may try the CD on their player and it works just fine.

For every type of format there is a very large document which clearly specifies that format. For CD it is called The Red Book. For an audio CD to be a true audio CD, the CD and the data on it must comply 100% with The Red Book. If it has PC copy-protection applied to it, it is no longer 100% Red Book compliant and is therefore not an Audio CD.

Most retailers of suitable size know about this problem as do the record companies and they do normally accept problematic CD returns without much problem.

However, be are when buying CDs (check the case sleeves) and also check the information about it if you are buying them online. For example, currently

Amazon.com do specify if PC copy-protection is applied or not but Amazon.co.uk do not.