



THE RECORDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Identifying Unauthorized Sound Recordings

COMMON INDICATORS OF UNAUTHORIZED SOUND RECORDINGS

To determine if a product is suspicious, look for more than one of the following indicators:

Sold in non-traditional settings such as a flea market, swap meet, by a street vendor, etc.

Price is often well below retail value (\$5 - \$10).

The printing on the inserts tends to be blurry and the color is poor and faded.

Often recorded on CD-Rs (Recordable Compact Discs), which are characterized by a greenish or bluish tint on the underside of the disc.

Shrink-wrap is not factory grade quality (loose and poorly applied; sometimes enclosed in a cellophane envelope).

Insert cards are often improperly trimmed and printed on thin, low quality paper, and are often one-sided.

True name and address of the manufacturer (record label) is not shown, is fictitious, or is incorrect.

There are often misspelled words on the inserts and/or disc.

There is no bar code on the packaging.

They are frequently "mix" or "DJ" recordings.

Artist name, date, and location of concert performance are listed on insert.

PRODUCT DEFINITIONS

Counterfeit

Unauthorized duplication of not only the sounds and track listing, but also of the original artwork, label, trademark, and packaging of a legitimate recording.

Pirate

Unauthorized duplication of sounds from one or more legitimate recordings. These are sometimes advertised as DJ or Dance Mixes or contain a compilation of various hits from different artists.

Bootleg

Unauthorized recording of a performance that has been broadcast on radio or television, or of a live concert.

Unauthorized sound recordings are often made on Compact Disc Recordable (CD-R) medium.



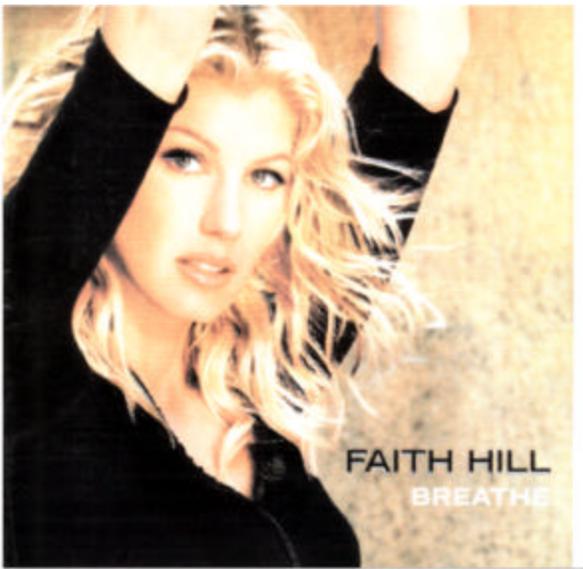
One distinguishing characteristic of a CD-R is the bluish or greenish color of the underside.

A Compact Disc Recordable (CD-R) will have a printed numeric code within the clear ring, as shown below.



A legitimate Compact Disc (CD) is factory pressed and will have a silver underside.





Duplication of not only the sounds, but also of the original artwork, label, trademark, and packaging of a legitimate recording is referred to as **COUNTERFEIT**.

The samples on this page illustrate Counterfeits containing one-sided insert cards that are improperly trimmed and printed on thin, low quality paper. The printing on the inserts are blurred and smudged and poorly represent the original colors in the artwork and photographs. These are common indicators of unauthorized sound recordings.

As illustrated with the discs at the left, the top of a Counterfeit disc can contain a paper label with minimal artist and/or title information. More often than not this information is handwritten directly on the disc.

Counterfeit product is often recorded on CD-Rs, which are characterized by a greenish or bluish tint on the underside. There is a silver backed CD-R, which is rarely used because of the cost. It is still easily identified by the printed numeric code within the clear ring, as shown on page one.

The shrink-wrap used is not factory grade quality, usually loose and poorly applied. The product can also be enclosed in a resealable cellophane envelope.

The average price of a Counterfeit can be \$5.00 - \$10.00, which is well below retail value.





Illegal compilations of songs from either a single artist or multiple artists are referred to as **PIRATE**

Pirates will usually contain the same indicators as most counterfeit products.

As shown in the above samples, Pirate recordings are sometimes labeled as DJ Mixes or Dance Mixes.

In the CD-R format, Pirate discs are likely to contain over 20 different tracks.

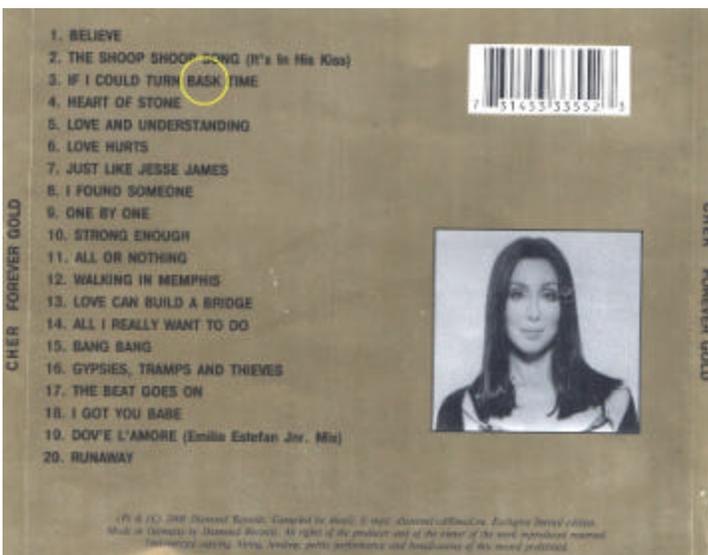
Pirate recordings can also contain every album from a single artist. These recordings, in mp3 format, are illustrated with the sample to the right.

Many Pirate recordings list unfamiliar company names of alleged manufacturers or distributors, list fictitious names, or list no names at all.

The presence of major recording artists on an obscure or fictitious record label is another indicator of an unauthorized sound recording.

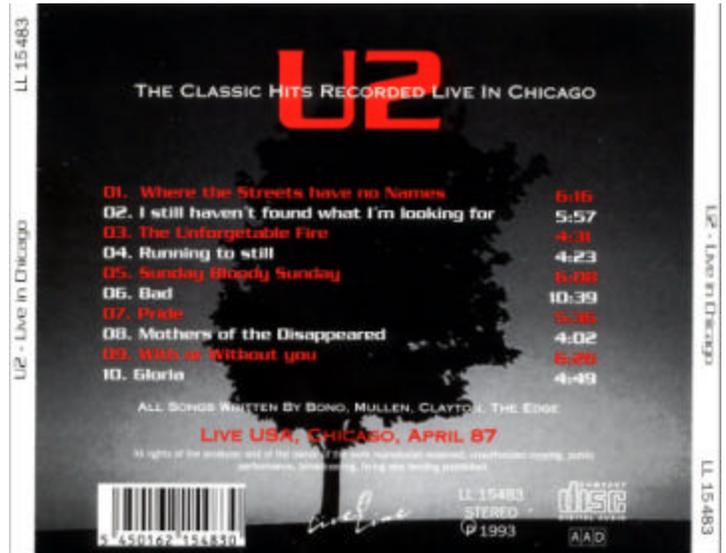
Unlike legitimate sound recordings, Pirate recordings often times contain artwork and/or printing on only one side of the packaging. It is not uncommon for only the names of the songs to be listed.

Pirate recordings generally do not contain any recognizable trademarks.



Misspellings are excellent indicators for identifying an unauthorized sound recording, as highlighted in the above sample.

Other indications of Pirate recordings include the presence of handwritten information and uncharacteristic symbols that do not appear on legitimate sound recordings, as shown above.



BOOTLEG sound recordings contain songs from live performances and have been manufactured without authorization from the artist.

Bootleg recordings often list the name of the artist and the location and date of the live performance.

Many unauthorized live performances do not contain the True Name and Address of the manufacturer as required by most state statues, as illustrated with the samples on this page.

Bootlegs, sometimes referred to as "Imports", can also found on VHS tapes and DVDs.

The average price of a Bootleg recording can be \$25.00 - \$30.00.

If you have any questions, or to report any incidents of suspected music piracy, please call the RIAA at:
1-800-BAD BEAT

For additional information about the RIAA, please refer to our web page at: www.riaa.com

