

## DVD-R/RW (for General) – Frequently Asked Questions

### Overview

Many questions are forwarded to Pioneer Electronics, Business Solutions Division, which cover a broad range of DVD-R/RW situations. This document provides answers for the more common inquiries. For additional information, please refer to the website: [www.pioneerelectronics.com](http://www.pioneerelectronics.com) and click on the **Service & Support** tab.

### Questions & Answers

**Q:** *What is DVD-R and DVD-RW?*

**A:** DVD recordable (DVD-R) technology is similar to Compact Disc Recordable (CD-R). DVD-R is a write-once method to store information usually archived on mass-produced discs. The information can include video footage, audio tracks, image files, data files, etc.

DVD re-writable (DVD-RW) is similar to CD-RW. DVD-RW is a multi-write / erasable / re-record system with *disc life* extending beyond 1,000 uses. This technology also supports video footage, audio tracks, image files, data files, etc.

Both formats comply with DVD Forum specifications. Current media stores up to 4.7 GB of data per disc.

**Q:** *How can you get the full 4.7 GB of data on a disc?*

**A:** *The total data space available on a 4.7GB DVD-R or DVD-RW disc is 4.4 GB. Gigabytes are calculated as one billion bytes in statistical terms rather than based on computer terminology.*

GB - Common Use	GB - Computer Use
1,000,000,000 bytes	1,073,741,824 bytes

*Note: Windows 95/98 limits the DVD disc size to 4.0 GB or less.*

**Q:** *Which writing formats do the Pioneer DVD-R and DVD-RW drives support?*

**A:** .The following list is for current and past models:

DVR-S101	DVR-S201	DVR-A03 (DVR-103 OEM)
DVD-R 3.95 GB	DVD-R 3.95 GB DVD-R 4.7 GB (Authoring)	DVD-R 4.7 GB (General) DVD-RW 4.7 GB (General) CD-R CD-RW

**Q:** *Can a DVD-R and/or a DVD-RW play back on my DVD Player?*

**A:** As the technology matures, many player and/or drive manufacturers add DVD-R/RW support to their products. Being as there is a wide selection of systems, some good compatibility reference websites are [www.DVDMadeEasy.com](http://www.DVDMadeEasy.com) , [www.apple.com/dvd/compatibility/](http://www.apple.com/dvd/compatibility/) , and [www.proh.com](http://www.proh.com) .

**Q:** *Why can't I record to DVD-R media?*

**A:** Verify that your media is for General use. If it still fails to write, disable the DMA and enable the PIO mode. If it still fails to write, check with your dealer for service options.

**Q:** *Where can I buy blank DVD-RW discs, with and without printable surfaces?*

**A:** The Pioneer website ([www.pioneerelectronics.com](http://www.pioneerelectronics.com)) has a link to sales contacts and distributors on each individual product page.

**Q:** *Can I play back a video on my player if the DVD-R or DVD-RW disc was recorded on the DVR-A03?*

**A:** Yes, as long as your player recognizes this type of media. Refer to the DVDMadeEasy.com website for compatibility reference information.

**Q:** *Can I play back a video on my DVD-ROM drive if the DVD-R or DVD-RW disc was recorded on a DVR-A03?*

**A:** Yes, as long as your drive recognizes this type of media. Refer to the DVDMadeEasy.com website for compatibility reference information.

**Q:** *Can the Pioneer DVD-R/RW devices play DVD-RAM media?*

**A:** No, the technology is incompatible.

**Q:** *Will a Pioneer DVDR/RW drive copy studio-released movies to a disc?*

**A:** Any disc with copy-protection is blocked from being copied.

**Q:** *What is the difference between a "replicated" disc and a disc created on a DVD burner?*

**A:** A replicated disc is stamped from a master while a duplicated or 'burned' disc is processed track by track, usually 1 disc at a time. Creating a replication master is very expensive but the stamping process is swift. Burning a disc is less expensive but requires much more time to make multiple copies.

**Q:** *What's the difference between the media formats, DVD-R (A) for Authoring and DVD-R (G) for General?*

**A:** DVD-R (A): disc created using a 635nm laser

DVD-R (G) disc created using a 650nm laser

Because the 650nm laser is cheaper to produce, the cost of the device is reduced as well. A playback device that reads DVD-R media is capable of reading either an Authoring or a General format.

**Q:** *What are the benefits of using DVD-R/RW for storing data?*

**A:** Both DVD-R and DVD-RW drives are designed to merge in to existing DVD environments. Being as they don't require a protective cartridge, the footprint of the device fits smoothly within computer chassis or in external drive devices. Also, both technologies are larger capacity than the CD format and comply with DVD Forum specifications for improved compatibility across devices from multiple manufacturers.

**Q:** *Can I burn video footage using a DVD-RW drive then play it on a DVD recorder/player?*

**A:** Yes, as long as you create the disc in the DVD-Video format. The disc is compatible with devices that recognize DVD-R/RW media.

**Q:** *Besides the bundled programs, what other software works with the DVD-RW drive?*

**A:** It is best to use the bundled programs but some application companies that are designing programs to support this drive are listed below. Please understand Pioneer has not tested all of these programs

Adaptec Direct CD (WIN)

Roxio EZ CD Creator (WIN)

Sonic DVD-Fusion (MAC)

Sonic DVDit! (WIN)

SpruceUp (WIN)

Toast Titanium (MAC)

**Q:** *Do I have to put a region code on my disc?*

**A:** No, the option to add a region code is available from your replicator. However, be aware that encryption is suggested for region coding.

**Q:** *Why do the files I add to my Adobe Premier themes come out as 360x240 pixels instead of 720x480 pixels?*

**A:** The original image files are of mixed resolutions. Unless all images are of the same resolution, the program automatically converts the images to a common resolution.

**Q:** *Where can I find the serial number for the software program?*

**A:** This information is located on the orange sticker on the CD sleeve. If the sticker is marred or missing, please contact the technical support group at 310/952-2577 for assistance.

**Q:** *What is the life expectancy of the DVD-R/RW media?*

**A:** The estimated life of a properly stored disc is 100 years.

**Q:** *Can writing from a permanent marker be removed from a DVD-R disc?*

**A:** NOT RECOMMENDED

**Q:** *Is it possible to use DVD-RAM media with the DVR-A03 drive?*

**A:** DVD-RAM media is incompatible with current Pioneer DVD-ROM and DVD-R/RW devices.

**Q:** *Is it possible to write to DVD+RW media?*

**A:** The technology behind DVD+RW (non-conforming to specifications set forth by the DVD Forum) is incompatible with DVD-R/RW devices.

**Q:** *What if I get the error, -10 at sector XXXXX – command:2A sense 04 ASC: 08 ASCQ: 01?*

**A:** To correct this error disable DMA from the drive.

In addition, you may need to disable the DMA for this channel on the motherboard.