Subject: Re: Blu-Ray vs DVD
Posted by Adveser on Thu, 03 Feb 2011 21:55:47 GMT
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Anything that was recorded digitally (DDD) or mixed digitally (ADD) has digital master tapes. I don't know when they started migrating to 24-bit, but these recordings should be 20-bits at worst based on the tech that existed since the late 80's.

Master Tape is a whopping 1/2 inch wide for a stereo mix and the tape runs at 30/60 inches per second. The quality surpasses anything you could go out and buy by a long shot.

You can take this tape and transfer it at 96Khz/24-bits and have as close to perfect copy as can possibly exist.

Sometimes bands hold on to the original bed tracks and 48-tracks get transferred, remixed as close to the original as possible or sometimes they only hung onto the stereo mixes. But in what is probably the majority of the cases, they made two masters, one is a stereo recording and one is an identical mix that is not mixed down at all, so it is just a 48-track version of the stereo recording.

The "Master Tape" is generally whatever the highest quality source for the recordings happens to be.