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Archival DVD Quality by Bruce Harshberger, LCGS member

Recently I had a problem with recording photo slides and music together for a show on a DVD. I followed the software maker's directions to no avail. I tried, what I thought, was a long shot...changing DVD brands. Voila! It worked. I was able to record my slide show on DVDs with no problem.

I called the software maker and the technician said, yes, indeed! There are big differences in DVD quality...and the gold ones are not always the best! He pointed to this website:

<http://www.digitfaq.com/reviews/dvd-media.htm>.

You can read the details there. It is detailed. So, I will only summarize.

From the website: "Not all media is good. Buying a good disc is not a simple matter of using a "name brand" disc, or paying for the most expensive disc on the shelf. With the continued production of cheaply-made Chinese and "bulk-quality" Taiwanese media, about half of all media is inferior quality. Bad discs are a complete waste of time and money.

While some cheap media may work for you, it's a gamble that often loses. Try to use 1st class media, maybe 2nd class if the situation must budget tightly. Do yourself a big favor and just outright avoid 3rd class media, if at all possible." The website provides charts on DVD quality, brand, and manufacturers. This DVD review states that one ought not buy a DVD by the brand, but by the manufacturer.

"Not everybody has the time or the need to learn about media. If you're simply after the quick advice on what discs will almost always work the best in any DVD player or DVD burner, then get one of these:

1. **Verbatim DVD-R, DVD+R or DVD+R DL**, made in India, UAE, Singapore or Taiwan. (Do not buy the "Life Series" or "Value Series" discs.) Good Version is getting harder to find.
2. **JVC Taiyo Yuden DVD-R or DVD+R**, from an authorized dealer only. Our list to the left only included authorized dealers.
3. **Sony DVD-R or DVD+R**, made in Taiwan only. These are getting harder to find."

"Top quality DVDs with prices listed:

Branded blank DVDs:

- \$24 - Verbatim DVD+R 16x 100-pack (@amz)
- \$20 - Verbatim DVD-R 16x 100-pack (@amz)
- \$25 - JVC Taiyo Yuden Value DVD-R 8x 100 (@ml)
- \$26 - JVC Taiyo Yuden Value DVD-R 8x 100 (@amz)
- \$30 - JVC Taiyo Yuden DVD-R 8x 100-pack (@amz)

Inkjet-Printable DVDs:

- \$28 - JVC Taiyo Yuden Value DVD-R 8x 100 (@sms)
- \$29 - JVC Taiyo Yuden Value DVD-R 8x 100 (@ml)
- \$35 - JVC Taiyo Yuden Premium DVD-R 8x 100 (@ml)
- \$36 - Verbatim DVD-R 16x 100-pack (@ml)

DVD+R DL double-layer blanks:

- \$24 - Verbatim DVD+R DL 20-pack (@amz)

LightScribe DVDs

- \$16 - Verbatim Colors DVD-R 16x 25-pack (@amz)"