

RAID IN CALIFORNIA UNCOVERS PIRATE CD HUB

Police in Ontario, California have uncovered a massive CD piracy operation following a raid earlier this week.

Officers were assisted by specialist RIAA investigators when they raided a residential address and uncovered a hub for illegal piracy. The operation was designed to sell customers a master disc and 500 insert cards for US\$500. Customers could then take this bundle away and produce their own pirate discs for sale to the public.

Of interest was the fact that the pirate operation invested in high-cost, quality printers that produced very high quality artwork allowing customers to purchase their own relatively low-cost blank CD-Rs and burner towers to create premium pirate discs. Officers seized large numbers of extremely high quality CD inlays during the raid.

A search of two vehicles at the address revealed some 8,000 fully packaged plant manufactured pirate CDs that were scheduled to be delivered to California. Samples of the seized product are being sent to IFPI's forensic laboratory in London for analysis.

Police arrested six people during the operation and seized 1.4 million CD inserts, 1,632 pirated CD masters, seven burner towers and various other production equipment, as well as the two cars containing the pirate CDs.