

THE PIRATE GOODS GUIDE

This article is a brief guide to bootleg/pirate/unlicensed/counterfeit goods, with a goal of enabling you to spot and avoid any of these goods that may be sold in the dealers room. If you find a dealer selling such goods, please inform one of the dealers room liaison staff. For quick and easy access we've kept things brief by just using pointers and tips.

The full version of this guide can be found online at – <http://www.otakunews.com/piratefaq.php>

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRUE AND FALSE

Licensing Stickers

Official Japanese goods often have licensing stickers:

- Designs vary over the years
- Often Silver or Shiny
- Sample stickers



Cheap Trick

Although it is not selling unlicensed goods, what some retailers do is buy an anime calendar for (let's say) \$15. Since some anime calendars have the dates right at the bottom they are just right to be guillotined (cut off) and sold as individual posters at around \$5 each! This can be very tricky to spot, the best way to do this is have a look at several posters and see if they are exactly the same size.

Pirate DVD Companies

Bootleg DVDs are often Region 0 or have Chinese subtitles The following Companies are all DVD pirates:

- Anime Cartoon International
- Anime Cartoon
- Anime Studio
- Animation Japan International
- Another DVD Company
- Digital International
- DVD Ani
- FX
- Indian International
- K
- MAC (Manga Anime Cartoon)
- Manga International
- Video Animation



Copyright Details Should be

- Somewhere on the goods and/or packaging
- Often as part of small print
- Often more than one copyright holder
- A P in a circle is also used by pirates

Quality

Quality is one of the key points with all goods. Check the goods to see if they are of a high standard.

Packaging in General

Pirate goods packaging often has one or more of the following:

- Poor quality printing
- Speckles
- Scan lines
- Moiré lines
- Browns look poor
- Bad design
- Inconsistent design

Beware of

- Colours often off
- Price is too cheap for Japanese import
- Variable print quality
- Variable audio quality

Pirate CD Firms

- Check CD Packaging (Spine and Cover)
- Pirate CDs use standard CD cases and are often sealed in cellophane like official CDs
- SonMay Records logo colors vary to match CD design
- Ever Anime often has poor quality print



PIRATE GOODS COMMONLY SOLD:

Plastic Toys, Resin Kits etc...

Look for:

- Mold lines
- Bad quality painting
- Blobby or light details
- Lack of copyright details
- Phantom and Elfin Kits are Pirate

Wallscrolls

Since they are sealed up it is often hard to tell if they are pirate ones or not. Remember Pirate wallscrolls use the same mounting as real ones.

Check for:

- Labels on outer packing and copyright info
- Print quality (same points as posters)
- Quality of fabric

Posters

- Similar points to packaging
- Check print quality
- Printing defects common
- Check for copyright information
- Browns are often the wrong shade
- Check for speckles and scan lines
- Check for bad design

Plush Toys

- Check quality of stitching
- Is toy's face symmetrical if it should be?
- Check for makers label
- Check for attached tag
- Fake Totoros available in inaccurate colors
- Are the toys well stuffed?
- Check quality of fur

Playing, Trading and Collectors Cards

- Check print quality
- Is card it is printed on same as others?
- Does it flex like card stock should?
- Is design consistent with other cards?
- Check for copyright details
- Check spellings on copyright too
- Pirate Traditional playing cards also exist.

Unlicensed Clothes

- Often T-shirts
- Girl's Tops
- Hawaiian Style / Club Shirts
- Poor Quality Printing
- Character colours maybe changed
- No Copyright Info
- Random Kanji is common
- Stitching and print quality is variable

Pirate CDs

Often made by:

- SonMay
- EVERANIME or Alion or MIYA
- Smiley Face or Yuanding / Top Circle

VCD

Very few VCDs in English (sub or dub) are legitimate, VCDs in English are older titles, when the format was fairly new and companies were experimenting.

- Check packaging quality
- Check for copyright and other details
- Sometimes VCDs are passed off as DVD
- MPEG2 coding w/Chinese subtitles is ALWAYS a bootleg.

Info

This Guide is based on the Pirate Anime FAQ found at <http://www.otakunews.com/piratefaq.php> and has been produced by the same people behind it.

Special Thanks goes to:

Sarah Morrison for the nice artwork

Marco Soto for the new and improved layout.

<Insert Extra Names Here>

Feedback

Please send feedback regarding this guide to pirateguide@otakunews.com

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This guide has been edited especially for <Convention Name> if you would like a copy for your convention please contact pirateguide@otakunews.com for more information.

