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MUSIC

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made, therefore leading to the unavailability of DAT pre-recorded music. The unions feel that if consumers are able to make a CD-quality recording from their friend's discs, why would they want to buy CDs?

By and large, in the U.S., the only purchasers of DAT machines have been professional artists, using the machines to record their own work. In comes the new DCC format.

The DCC format is similar to DAT's in that it can record as accurately as a CD. However, what makes this format special is that it is compatible with analog tapes, the normal cassette tapes currently in the market.

Philips, the company that has introduced most of the new recording technology within the past decade, and the original creator of the analog tape, projects that DCC players will be available within the next 16 months.

The projected list price for a DCC player ranges from \$300 to \$600, with machines available for home, car, and portable usage. The DCC player will

be capable of recording only on DCC tapes, but by being able to play analog tapes, music collections won't be automatically outdated like vinyl has become.

Also, production companies have been agreeing to produce pre-recorded music on DCC tapes, al-

Unlike CDs, the only thing you can do with a digital audio tape player is record because there is no pre-recorded music available in the U.S. on DAT.

lowing the DCC player to be a much more viable option than a DAT player.

So what does all this mean for the average consumer? Does this mean that the CD player will soon become obsolete? Not likely, as CDs already have a firm grip on the music market. It just means that you, as a consumer, will soon have even more options, and listening to music will never be the same again.

-Chandra Foote