

LD-V4400 User's Code (?U Command) Bug Fix

I. Introduction

The User's Code is a special code embedded into the lead-in area of a LaserDisc during the mastering process. It is only encoded on the disc if the customer requests it and it is often used to provide a disc ID to distinguish one disc in a series from another. The Disc ID is returned to the computer by the LD-V4400 when the ?U command is issued.

II. Problem

The DYW 1280A version of the LD-V4400 EPROM had a bug in it which corrupted its ability to return the User's Code to the host computer. The DYW 1280A EPROM was included in LD-V4400 players within the serial number range 3911876 through 3913275. The bug only exists in DYW 1280A version of the EPROM. It is not in previous or subsequent versions of the chip.

III. Symptom

When the ?U command is issued to an LD-V4400 player with DYW 1280A, the player will not return the correct Disc ID. Customers who use the ?U command in their Level III program to identify the disc being played, will discover that an LD-V4400 player with DYW 1280A will return too many leading characters, leaving no space to return the entire string of characters fully describing the Disc ID.

IV. Solution

Pioneer Electronics Corp. corrected the bug within one week. The new EPROM version is DYW 1343A. This new EPROM was placed into production units starting with serial number 3913276. The DYW 1343A EPROM was also installed into those LD-V4400 players with DYW 1280A that remained in inventory.

If you have a customer who requires the User's Code function and their LD-V4400 player is not providing it properly, please contact Pioneer New Media Technologies, Inc. Laser Optical Systems Group, Engineering Support at (East Coast) 201-327-6400 and (West Coast) 310-952-2111. We will coordinate with Pioneer Electronic Service to make sure the player is upgraded.