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Sony Introduces Blu-ray Disc Products

The BDP-S1 Blu-ray Disc player and the home player, VAIO



Sony Electronics today introduced its first Blu-ray Disc products in the U.S., along with details on suggested pricing and availability for some of the new offerings which mark a concerted push by the Japanese electronics giant to put next-generation video into the hands of consumers and avoid challenge from Toshiba's competing HD DVD format. Headlining Sony's new product debuts are the BDP-S1 Blu-ray Disc player, priced at \$1,000 and the VAIO RC desktop computer. Sony's BDP-S1 disc player, will ship in July with an output feature that will let those who own first-generation HD TV sets play Blu-ray video content. In addition, according to Sony, the BDP-S1 will be backwards-compatible with standard DVDs and existing receivers. The home players, VAIO desktop and notebook computers, will sell for \$2,300 when available this summer. Vaio RC users will be able to edit high-definition video footage, then archive it and share it on Blu-Ray discs. The Vaio RC will also come with software that will give users the ability to convert video to standard DVD formats. In April, Sony plans to ship 25-GB BD media, which will retail for about \$20 to \$25 for each disc. The 50-GB versions of the media will be dual-layer discs that will be sold for around \$50, according to Sony. Later this year, Sony will also release the internal BWU-100A drive, which will be able to handle both 25-GB and 50-GB discs, burning a full 25 GB disc in about 30 minutes. Retail pricing for the BWU-100A drive will be available later this year.