

Name: Max Rible

Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #2 (DVD Region Coding):
Audiovisual works stored on Digital Versatile Disks ("DVDs") that are not
available in Region 1 DVD format and access to which is prevented by
technological measures.

Summary:

Disc name: Tonari no Totoro

I enjoy animated movies, "anime," produced in Japan. It can take a long time for anime to become available in the United States, though, so a considerable number of people go to the effort of importing anime direct from overseas. In the days of VHS tapes, this wasn't difficult at all, since Japan uses the same kind of television signal (NTSC) as the United States. DVDs, however, are region-encoded, and Japan is a different region than the United States, so a Japanese DVD will not play on most US players. Hayao Miyazaki's "Tonari no Totoro" (which has appeared in the US as "My Neighbor Totoro") is a delightful children's film that's on a par with some of the best work to come out of Disney. It's available over here on VHS tape, but I prefer the durability and flexibility of a DVD-- on DVD, I can choose to hear the Japanese voice acting (a more highly regarded profession in Japan than in the US) and watch the English subtitles, and can access the additional material on the DVD. I received a Japanese copy of "Tonari no Totoro" as a gift from a friend who'd visited Japan recently, but couldn't play it on my DVD player without making modifications that are illegal under the DMCA.