ABSTRACT

A data transmit/receive unit receives encrypted digital data distributed through an electronic music distribution system and records the digital data on a primary recording medium. Digital data have been encrypted in different encryption systems according to the distributers, and include attribute information indicating the encryption systems. The encryption system of digital data that has been extracted by a data extraction unit is judged by a judging unit and decrypted by an appropriate decryption unit. An inherent information obtaining unit obtains the identification information of a secondary recording medium or a playback apparatus according to whether the secondary recording medium can be removable from the playback apparatus. An encryption system designation unit selects one out of a plurality of encryption units according to the obtained identification information. The selected encryption unit creates a encryption key according to the identification information and encrypts the digital data. A recording unit records the digital data on the secondary recording medium. An accounting unit charges according to accounting information in the attribute information.