SONY®

Stereo Cassette Deck

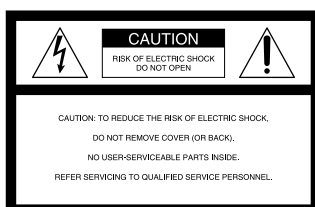Operating Instructions

TC-WE525
TC-WE425
TC-WR681

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Welcome!

Thank you for purchasing the Sony Stereo Cassette Deck. Before operating the unit, please read this manual thoroughly and retain it for future reference.

About This Manual

The instructions in this manual are for models TC-WE525, TC-WE425 and TC-WR681. Check your model number by looking at the rear panel of your tape deck. In this manual, the TC-WE525 is the model used for illustration purposes. Any difference in operation is clearly indicated in the text, for example, "TC-WE525 only."

Type of differences

Model Feature	WE525	WE425	WR681
Pitch control	●		
PHONES jack	●	●	
CD Synchro-Recording	●	●	

The power switch
The power switch is different, depending on the place you purchased the tape deck.

Where purchased	The power switch
U.S.A.	I/⏻
Other countries	⏻

Convention
The following icon is used in this manual:

Indicates hints and tips for making the task easier.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unpacking

Check that you received the following items:
• Audio connecting cords (2)

Hooking Up the System

This section describes how to hook up the tape deck to an amplifier. Be sure to turn off the power of each component before making the connections.

To purchasers of the TC-WR681

For information on connecting your tape deck to the TA-AV581 Amplifier, refer to the Operating Instructions included with the TA-AV581.

To purchasers of the TC-WE525/WE425

Follow the instructions below to connect your tape deck to an amplifier.

TC-WE525/WE425

to an AC outlet

REC OUT   TAPE IN

Amplifier

to a wall outlet

CONTROL A1

CD player
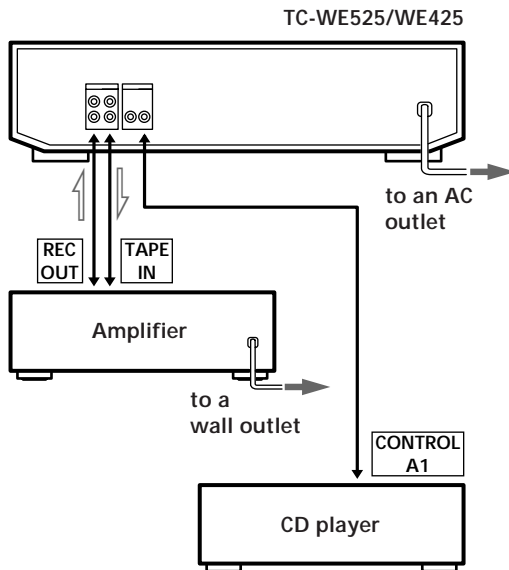
⟹: Signal flow

Hookups

• **Connecting the tape deck to an amplifier**
Connect the amplifier to the LINE IN/OUT connectors using the supplied audio connecting cords.
When connecting an audio connecting cord, be sure to match the color-coded cord to the appropriate jacks on the components: Red (right) to Red and White (left) to White. Be sure to make connections firmly to avoid hum and noise.
Connect the tape deck to the amplifier as shown below.

Tape deck   Amplifier

LINE
IN   OUT

TAPE
REC OUT   IN

L
R

L
R

⟹: Signal flow
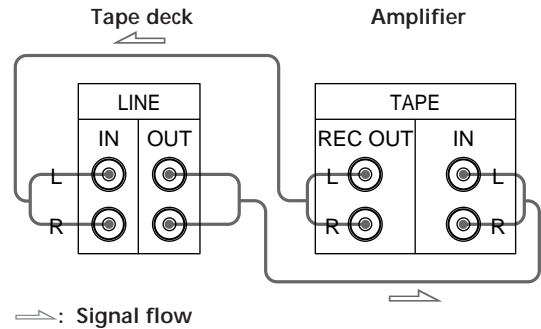
• **Connecting the tape deck to a CD player equipped with CONTROL A1 connectors (TC-WE525/WE425 only)**
For information on connections through the CONTROL A1 connectors, refer to the pamphlet included with this manual.

Connecting the AC power cord

Connect the AC power cord to an AC outlet.

Where do I go next?

Now you're ready to use your tape deck.
For basic operations, go to pages 5 to 7; for advanced operations, go to the sections starting from page 8.

4

Playing a Tape

3 **2**   **4**
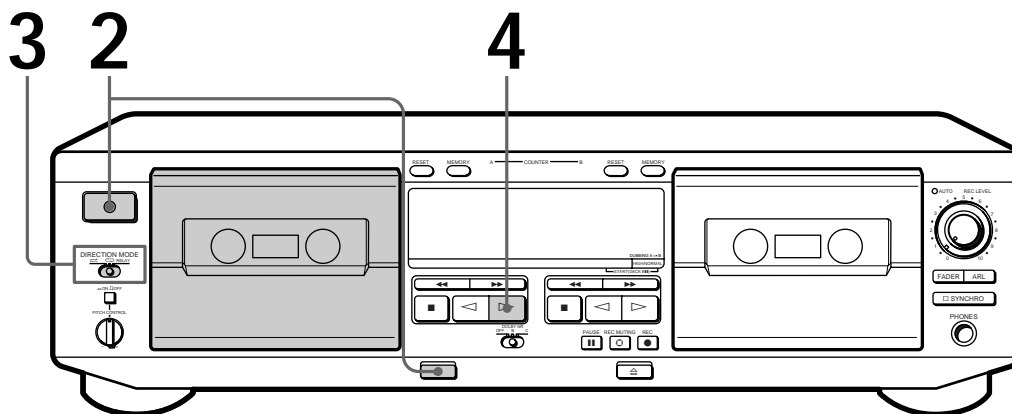
- See page 4 for hookup information.
- You can use either deck for playback.

💡 **To locate the beginning of a tape and start playback automatically (Auto Play)**
Press ◄◄ while holding down ▷. For the reverse side, press ►► while holding down ◁.

💡 **To play a tape recorded with the Dolby NR* system**
Set DOLBY NR to the same position that the tape was recorded in—B or C.

💡 **What is the Dolby NR system?**
The Dolby NR (noise reduction) system eliminates tape hiss noise by boosting low-level signals in the high-frequency range during recording, then lowering them during playback. Type C provides greater noise reduction than type B.

💡 **You can connect the headphones to PHONES (TC-WE525/WE425 only)**

* Dolby noise reduction manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

"DOLBY" and the double-D symbol ▱▱ are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

1 Turn on the amplifier and select the tape deck position.

2 Press **I/**⏻ (or ①), and then press ⏏ and insert a cassette.

With the side you want to play facing you
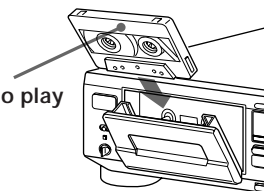
3 Set DIRECTION MODE.

To play back	Set to
One side only	⇌
Both sides continuously*	⊃
Both decks in succession*	RELAY

* The deck automatically stops after playing back five times.

4 Press ▷.

The deck starts playing. Adjust the volume on the amplifier.

Do not turn off the deck during operation.

To	Press
Stop playing	■
Start playback from the reverse side	◁
Pause (deck B only)	PAUSE **II**. Press the button again to resume play.
Fast-forward or rewind	►► or ◄◄
Take out the cassette	⏏ after stopping playing

💡 **To adjust the pitch (Pitch Control function) (TC-WE525 only)**

▱ON ▱OFF
PITCH CONTROL
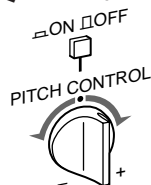
Push in the PITCH CONTROL button to activate Pitch Control function and turn the control clockwise to raise the pitch or counter-clockwise to lower it.
You can adjust the pitch during playback on deck A or normal-speed dubbing.

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Recording on a Tape

32 **5** **4**
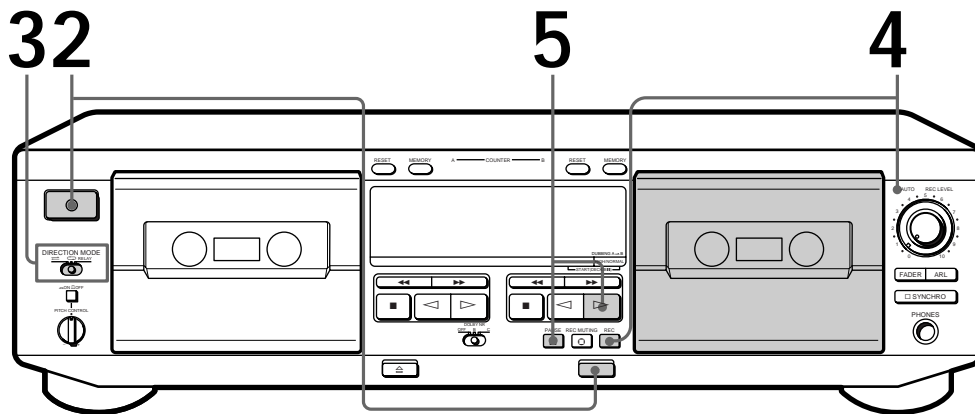
- See page 4 for hookup information.
- Use deck B (on your right hand side) for recording.
- See "Dubbing a Tape" (page 9) to make a copy of the tape.

1 Turn on the amplifier and play the program source you want to record.

2 Press I/⏻ (or ①), and then press ⏏ and insert a cassette into deck B.

With the side you want to record facing you
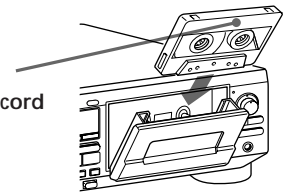
3 Set DIRECTION MODE.

To record on	Set to
Only one side	⇌
Both sides*	⊃

* Recording stops when the tape reaches the end of reverse side.

4 Press REC ●.

▷ lights up for recording on the side facing you. If it doesn't, press ▷ once.

The tape deck automatically adjusts the recording level (see page 8). After the AUTO indicator lights up continuously, stop playing the program source. If you wish to adjust the recording level manually, see "To adjust the recording level manually" on page 7.

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5 Press PAUSE ❚❚ or ▷.

Recording starts.

6 Start playing the program source.

Do not turn off the deck during operation.

To	Press
Stop recording	■
Start recording from the reverse side	◁ twice in Step 5
Pause	PAUSE ❚❚. Press the button again to resume recording.
Take out the cassette	⏏ after stopping recording

Use these switches (controls) to perform additional operations
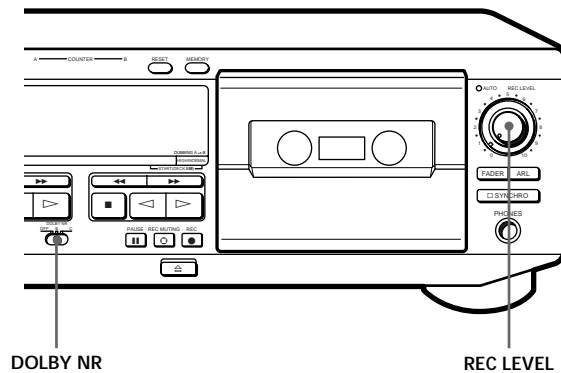
DOLBY NR   REC LEVEL

To record with the Dolby NR system

Set DOLBY NR to B or C before you start recording.

To adjust the recording level manually

After pressing REC ● in Step 4 on page 6, turn REC LEVEL so that the peak level meters reach the recommended level for the corresponding tape type. After completing the adjustment, stop playing the program source, then continue the procedure from Step 5.

For type I or type II tape

For type IV tape

💡 **To protect recordings against accidental erasure**
Break out the record-protect tab(s) (see page 13).

💡 **The Dolby HX PRO* system automatically works during recording**
Distortion and noise in the high-frequency response are reduced to produce high-quality sound that can be enjoyed even during playback on other tape decks.
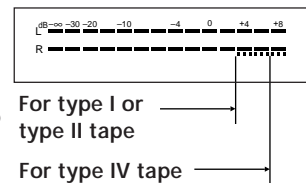
* HX Pro headroom extension originated by Bang & Olufsen and manufactured under license from Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

"DOLBY", the double-D symbol ▯▯ and "HX PRO" are trademarks of Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corporation.

Adjusting the Recording Level Automatically (Auto Rec Level)

The Auto Rec Level function automatically measures the peak signal level and adjusts the recording level accordingly.

AUTO indicator   REC LEVEL

PAUSE **II** REC ●   ▷   ARL
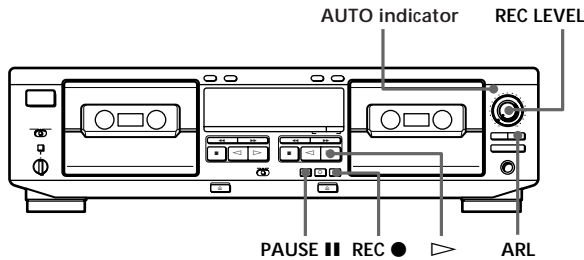
1 Follow Steps 1 to 3 of "Recording on a Tape" on page 6.
Make sure that record-protect tabs on the cassette have not been removed.

2 Press REC ●.
The AUTO indicator flashes and the deck automatically adjusts the recording level. The AUTO indicator lights up continuously after the recording level has been adjusted.

3 Press PAUSE **II** or ▷.
Recording starts.

To cancel the Auto Rec Level function
Press ARL or turn REC LEVEL so that the AUTO indicator goes off. If you do either of these during recording, recording will continue but with the Auto Rec Level function turned off.

To stop recording
Press ■.

ʼϘʼ What is the Auto Rec Level function?
The Auto Rec Level function automatically sets the recording level according to the peak signal level of the program source. While the AUTO indicator is flashing, the deck sets the recording level as high as possible without causing distortion. If the signal level rises excessively after the start of recording, the deck gradually decreases the recording level.

ʼϘʼ You should adjust the recording level manually with REC LEVEL in the following cases:
—The recording level cannot be adjusted properly due to excessive noise in the program source.
—The program source level is too low and the recording level does not increase.
During a quiet passage in a program source such as classical music, the recording level may not increase for some time. If a high sound level is expected later on in the track, play that portion first so that the right adjustment can be obtained.
—The recording level does not decrease for a long time. The Auto Rec Level function may not work properly when you try to record sound produced by a graphic equalizer that has extremely high-level signals.

ʼϘʼ To record with the optimum recording level
• To prevent changes in the recording level after recording starts, press REC ● while playing the highest sound level portion of the program source to be recorded. The result is a more natural-sounding recording.
• If you play the entire program source after the AUTO indicator has stopped flashing and is lit continuously, the deck will set the recording level for the portion of the program source with the highest signal level.

ʼϘʼ Recording level setting remains even after the recording has ended
After you have finished recording with the Auto Rec Level function, the AUTO indicator remains on and the recording level setting remains the same. To cancel the setting, do one of the following:
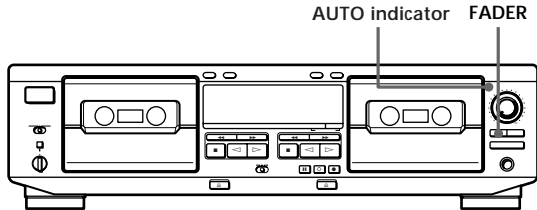• Press ARL to turn off the AUTO indicator
• Turn REC LEVEL
• Turn the deck off.

Fading In and Out (Fader)

You can gradually increase the recording level at the beginning of a recording (fade in) or gradually decrease the recording level at the end of a recording (fade out).
It is convenient to use this function, for example, when the tape reaches to its end and you don't want the track to be cut off abruptly.

AUTO indicator   FADER

To	Do the following:
Fade in	1 Follow Steps 1 to 4 of "Recording on a Tape" on page 6. 2 Press FADER. During fade-in, the AUTO indicator flashes. When the fade-in has completed, the AUTO indicator goes off. (The AUTO indicator lights continuously if the Auto Rec Level function is on.)
Fade out	Press FADER when you want to start fading out while recording. When the fade-out has completed, "REC" flashes in the display and the deck pauses.

Note
Fade-in or fade-out is not possible when REC LEVEL is set to 0 (minimum).

Dubbing a Tape

You can copy a tape in deck A to a tape in deck B at normal or high speed.

DIRECTION MODE   ■   PAUSE II   ◁ / ▷   HIGH/NORMAL
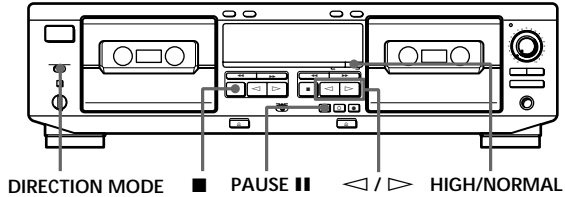
1 Insert the recorded cassette into deck A and a blank cassette into deck B.
Make sure the record-protect tabs on the cassette in deck B have not been removed.

2 Select the side(s) to be recorded on.

To record on	Set DIRECTION MODE to
One side	⇌
Both sides	⇌. Recording on the reverse side on deck B starts independently of playback on deck A.
	RELAY. Recording on the reverse side on deck B starts simultaneously with playback of the reverse side on deck A.

3 Select the dubbing speed.

To select	Press HIGH/NORMAL
Normal speed	Once
High speed	Twice

"HIGH" or "NORM" appears in the display.
The tape deck changes to dubbing standby.

4 Select the side from which to start dubbing.

To record from	Press
The front side	▷
The reverse side	◁

5 Press PAUSE II to start dubbing.

To stop dubbing

During	Press
Normal-speed dubbing	■ on deck B
High-speed dubbing	■ on either deck

(Continued)

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☼ **During high-speed dubbing**
Only ■ is operative.

☼ **You don't have to adjust the recording level or select the Dolby NR system during dubbing**
Dubbing is automatically performed with the same recording level and Dolby NR system as the original in deck A. If, however, you want to monitor the sound during normal-speed dubbing, set DOLBY NR to match the tape in deck A (see page 5).

☼ **You can adjust the pitch of the playback on deck A (TC-WE525 only)**
See page 5.

Note
If a TV set is placed near the tape deck, noise may occur during high-speed dubbing. In that case, turn the television set off or move it away from the tape deck.

Dubbing only specific portions

You can do this only during the normal-speed dubbing.

1 Press ■ on deck A at the portion you want to skip.
Deck B changes to recording pause.

2 Locate the point you want to resume recording on deck A, then stop the tape.

3 Press PAUSE II to resume dubbing.

Inserting a Blank Space During Recording (Record Muting)

You can insert a blank space of 4 seconds between each track or erase unwanted portions on a tape.
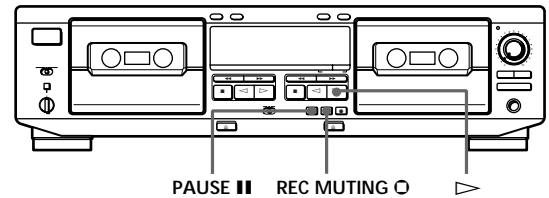
PAUSE II   REC MUTING ○   ▷

1 Start recording.

2 Press REC MUTING ○ where you want to insert a blank space.
"REC" flashes in the display and a blank is recorded on the tape.
After 4 seconds, II lights up and the tape deck changes to recording pause.

3 Press PAUSE II or ▷ to resume recording.

☼ **If you want to insert a blank space longer than 4 seconds**
Hold down REC MUTING ○ as long as you want.
After 4 seconds, "REC" flashes faster.
When you release REC MUTING ○, II lights up and the tape deck changes to recording pause.
Press PAUSE II or ▷ to resume recording.

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Synchro-Recording With a CD Player Through a Monaural (2P) Mini-plug Cord (TC-WE525/WE425 only)

By pressing SYNCHRO, you can perform synchro-recording on your tape deck with a Sony CD player connected to the CONTROL A1 connector through an optional monaural (2P) mini-plug cord (connecting cord for CONTROL A1) (see page 4). The monaural (2P) mini-plug cord supports advanced functions not possible with the commander-based CD synchro-recording function on previous models. Further information on the various operations made possible by a monaural (2P) mini-plug cord is provided in the pamphlet attached to this manual.

DIRECTION MODE   ◁ / ▷   SYNCHRO
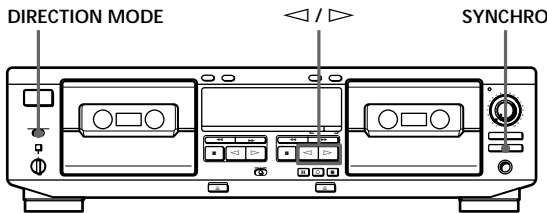
1 Set the source selector on the amplifier to CD player.

2 Insert a CD into the CD player.

3 Select the play mode (CONTINUE, SHUFFLE, or PROGRAM) of the CD player.

4 Insert a cassette into deck B.

To record on	Set DIRECTION MODE to
Only one side	⇌
Both sides	⊃ or RELAY

5 Select the side(s) to be recorded on.

6 Press SYNCHRO.

7 Select the side you want to start recording from on deck B.

To record from	Press
The front side	▷
The reverse side	◁

If your CD player has the Peak Search function:
The SYNCHRO button indicator lights up and the CD player locates the highest signal level among the tracks to be recorded as the tape deck adjusts the recording level. When the recording level adjustment is completed, CD Synchro-Recording starts automatically.

If your CD player does not have the Peak Search function:
The CD player changes to play pause and deck B to recording pause. Press PAUSE II on deck B to start Synchro-Recording. Adjust the recording level automatically (see page 8) before pressing SYNCHRO.

To stop CD Synchro-Recording
Press ■ on deck B or the CD player.

ϙ́ **You can use an optional remote to operate the CD player**
To start CD play, press II twice; to pause CD play, press II once; to locate a CD track, press I◀◀ or ▶▶I.

ϙ́ **If the SYNCHRO button indicator goes off after flashing three times**
The tape cannot be recorded on because the record-protect tab(s) on the selected side(s) of the cassette has (have) been removed.

ϙ́ **Length of tape used for recording**
Tracks on a CD differ in length. Classical music CDs and others often have tracks that exceed the recording time of a single cassette side. In this case, record the tape manually.

ϙ́ **When recording from the middle of the tape**
A tape that is inserted and has not been played or recorded on is assumed by the deck to be a new tape, even if the present location is in the middle of the tape. The deck will transport the tape for 10 seconds before starting CD Synchro-Recording to bypass the portion corresponding with the leader. To begin CD Synchro-Recording without the ten-seconds delay, play or record on the tape for a few seconds before starting the CD Synchro-Recording procedure.

(Continued)

💡 **If the tape ends during CD Synchro-Recording on the front side of the tape (▷ lights up) and DIRECTION MODE is set to ⊃ or RELAY**
Recording of the track ends immediately, the tape direction is reversed, and recording starts again from the beginning of the track. If the tape ends on the reverse side of the tape (◁ lights up), CD Synchro-Recording stops and the CD player stops playing.

Notes
• To prevent interruption of the recording process, do not press any operation buttons on the CD player during CD Synchro-Recording.
• Certain operation buttons on the tape deck are disabled during CD Synchro-Recording.

Precautions

On safety
- Do not disassemble the cabinet — this may result in an electrical shock. Refer servicing to qualified personnel only.
- Should any solid object or liquid fall into the cabinet, unplug the tape deck and have it checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.

On power sources
- Before operating the tape deck, check that the operating voltage of the tape deck is identical with your local power supply. The operating voltage is indicated on the nameplate at the rear of the tape deck.
- The unit is not disconnected from the AC power source (mains) as long as it is connected to the wall outlet, even if the unit itself has been turned off.
- If you are not going to use the tape deck for a long time, be sure to disconnect the tape deck from the wall outlet. To disconnect the AC power cord, grasp the plug itself; never pull the cord.
- AC power cord must be changed only at the qualified service shop.

On operation
- Because of a safety mechanism, the function buttons will not operate if the cassette holder is not completely closed, if there is no cassette in the cassette holder, or if a cassette has been incorrectly inserted into the cassette holder.
- Be sure to stop the tape before turning off the tape deck. Otherwise, the tape may be damaged.

On placement
- Place the tape deck in a location with adequate ventilation to prevent heat build-up in the tape deck.
- Do not place the tape deck:
  — on a soft surface such as a rug that might block the ventilation holes on the bottom.
  — in a location near heat sources.
  — in a place subject to direct sunlight.
  — in an inclined position.
 — in a place subject to excessive dust or mechanical shock.

On cleaning the tape deck
Clean the cabinet, panel and controls with a soft cloth slightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of abrasive pad, scouring powder or solvent such as alcohol or benzine.
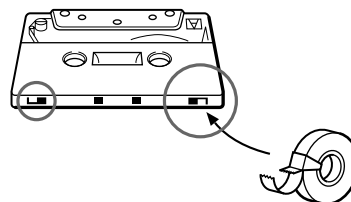
If you have any questions or problems concerning your tape deck, please consult your nearest Sony dealer.

Notes on Cassette Tapes

To protect a recording on side A or B
Break out the respective tab.

Side A

Tab for side B   Tab for side A
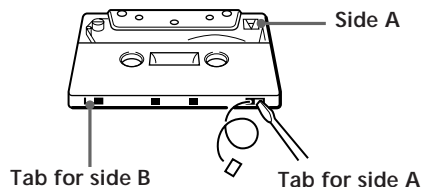
To record on a tape with a missing record-protect tab
Cover the respective tab hole with adhesive tape.

When you are using a type II or type IV tape, be careful not to cover the detector slots that the deck uses to determine the tape type.


Type II   Type IV

Detector slots   Detector slots
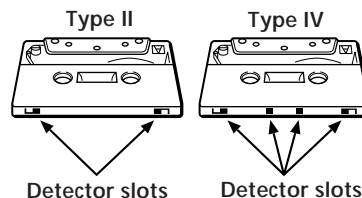
On tapes longer than 90 minutes
We do not recommend the use of tapes longer than 90 minutes except for a long continuous recording or playback. They are very thin and tend to stretch easily.

On handling cassettes
- To prevent the heads and tape path from getting dirty, avoid touching the tape surface of a cassette.
- Place cassettes away from equipment with magnets, such as speakers and amplifiers, which may cause tape distortion or erase the recordings.
- Do not expose cassettes to direct sunlight, extremely cold temperature, or moisture.

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Cleaning

Head assembly

Pinch rollers

Capstans

Erasing head

Recording/playback head

⏏
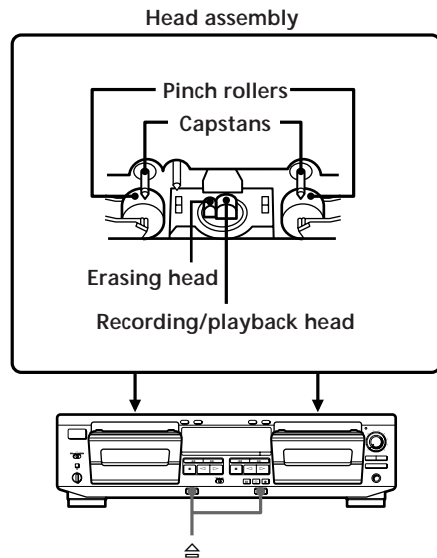
Cleaning the heads and tape path

Clean the heads and tape path of the tape deck after every 10 hours of operation to guard against:
• low-quality sound
• a decrease in sound level
• excessive wow or flutter
• sound dropout
• incomplete erasure
• impairment of recording function
To ensure better recording, we recommend that you clean the heads and tape path before every recording.

1 Press ⏏ to open the cassette holder. Grasp the front cover on both sides and gently lift to remove it.

2 With the tape deck turned off, wipe the heads, the pinch rollers and the capstans with a cotton swab slightly moistened with alcohol or a commercially available cleaning fluid for tape decks.

3 Replace the front cover.

Demagnetizing the heads

After 20 to 30 hours of use, or when you notice a hissing sound or loss of high frequencies, demagnetize the heads with a commercially available demagnetizer for tape decks. Please refer to the instructions of the demagnetizer.

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Troubleshooting

If you've experienced any of the following difficulties while using the tape deck, use this troubleshooting guide to help you remedy the problem. Should the problem persist, consult your nearest Sony dealer.

The function buttons do not work.
➡ The tape deck has been just turned on and does not operate for about 3 seconds. Wait until ❚❚ stops flashing.
➡ Check that the cassette is inserted correctly and the cassette holder is closed completely.

The tape deck does not play or record.
➡ There is no cassette in the cassette holder.
➡ The tape has come to the end.
➡ The tape is slack. Take up the tape slack.
➡ The record-protect tab has been removed from the cassette (see page 13).
➡ Make sure the amplifier setting is correct.
➡ Check that the tape deck connections are secure.
➡ The heads and tape path are dirty. Clean them (see page 14).
➡ The recording/playback head is magnetized. Demagnetize it (see page 14).

There is excessive wow, flutter or sound drop-out.
➡ The capstans and pinch rollers are dirty. Clean them (see page 14).

There is a decrease in sound level, sound drop-out, or poor reproduction of high frequencies./The tape does not erase completely./Noise increases.
➡ The recording/playback or erasing head and tape path are dirty. Clean them (see page 14).
➡ The recording/playback or erasing head is magnetized. Demagnetize it (see page 14).

There is hum or noise.
➡ The tape deck is placed near a TV or VCR. Move the tape deck away from the TV or VCR.
➡ The tape deck is placed on or under the amplifier. Move the tape deck away from the amplifier.

There is an unbalanced tone.
➡ Check that DOLBY NR position is the same as when the tape was recorded.
➡ The tape deck is placed near a TV or VCR. Move the tape deck away from the TV or VCR.

The tape stops before the tape has been fully rewound.
➡ The tape is slack. Take up the tape slack.
➡ The cassette shell is bent. Use another cassette.

The DOLBY NR function does not work properly during playback.
➡ The Pitch Control function is on and the frequency characteristics of the sound is altered. Push the PITCH CONTROL button again to turn off the function (TC-WE525 only).

There is excessively loud tape transport noise during fast-forwarding or rewinding.
➡ This noise is caused by the cassette and is not a mechanical problem.

⏏ does not work.
➡ There has been a power failure or the power cord has been disconnected during tape operation. Reconnect the power.

There is a short break in sound output during playback.
➡ You pressed ▶▶, ◀◀, or ■ on one deck while the other deck was playing.
Or you pressed PAUSE ❚❚, ▷, or ◁ on deck B while deck A was playing.

"--E--" appears in the display.
➡ All the operation buttons and controls on the deck do not work.
Turn off the deck, then turn it on.

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Specifications

System

Recording system
4-track 2-channel stereo

Fast-winding time (approx.)
100 sec. (with Sony C-60 cassette)

Bias
AC bias

Signal-to-noise ratio (at peak level and weighted with Dolby NR off)
Type I tape, Sony Type I (NORMAL): 55 dB
Type II tape, Sony Type II (HIGH): 57 dB
Type IV tape, Sony Type IV (METAL): 58 dB

S/N ratio improvement (approximate values)
With Dolby B NR on: 5 dB at 1 kHz, 10 dB at 5 kHz
With Dolby C NR on: 15 dB at 500 Hz, 20 dB at 1 kHz

Harmonic distortion
0.4% (with Type I tape, Sony Type I (NORMAL):
160 nWb/m 315 Hz, 3rd H.D.)
1.8% (with Type IV tape, Sony Type IV (METAL):
250 nWb/m 315 Hz, 3rd H.D.)

Frequency response (Dolby NR off)
Type I tape, Sony Type I (NORMAL): 30 – 16,000 Hz
(±3 dB, IEC)
Type II tape, Sony Type II (HIGH): 30 – 17,000 Hz
(±3 dB, IEC)
Type IV tape, Sony Type IV (METAL): 30 – 19,000 Hz
(±3 dB, IEC)
30 – 13,000 Hz (±3 dB, –4 dB recording)
Type I tape, Sony Type I (NORMAL): 20 – 17,000 Hz
(±6 dB)
Type II tape, Sony Type II (HIGH): 20 – 18,000 Hz
(±6 dB)
Type IV tape, Sony Type IV (METAL): 20 – 20,000 Hz
(±6 dB)

Wow and flutter
±0.15% W. Peak (IEC)
0.1% W. RMS (NAB)
±0.2% W. Peak (DIN)

Inputs

Line inputs (phono jacks)
Sensitivity: 0.16 V
Input impedance: 47 kilohms

Outputs

Line outputs (phono jacks)
Rated output level: 0.5 V at a load impedance of
47 kilohms
Load impedance: Over 10 kilohms

Headphones (stereo phone jack) (TC-WE525/WE425 only)
Output level: 0.25 mW at a load impedance of
32 ohms

General

Power requirements

Where purchased	Power requirements
U.S.A.	120 V AC, 60 Hz
U.K., China and certain countries in Asia	220 – 230 V AC, 50/60 Hz
Australia	240 V AC, 50/60 Hz

Power consumption
18 W

Dimensions (approx) (w/h/d)
Model for U.K. and Australia:
430 × 120 × 310 mm (17 × 4 $^3/_4$ × 12 $^1/_4$ in.)
Model for other countries:
430 × 120 × 290 mm
including projecting parts and controls

Mass (approx.)
4 kg (8 lbs 13 oz)

Supplied accessories
Audio connecting cords (2 phono plugs - 2 phono
plugs) (2)

Optional accessory
Remote commander RM-J920
For more information on the availability of the remote
commander, contact your nearest Sony dealer.

Design and specifications are subject to change without
notice.

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D, E, F, G

H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O

P, Q, R, S

T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

Names of Controls

Buttons

Switches

Controls

Jacks

Others

Sony Corporation   Printed in China

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