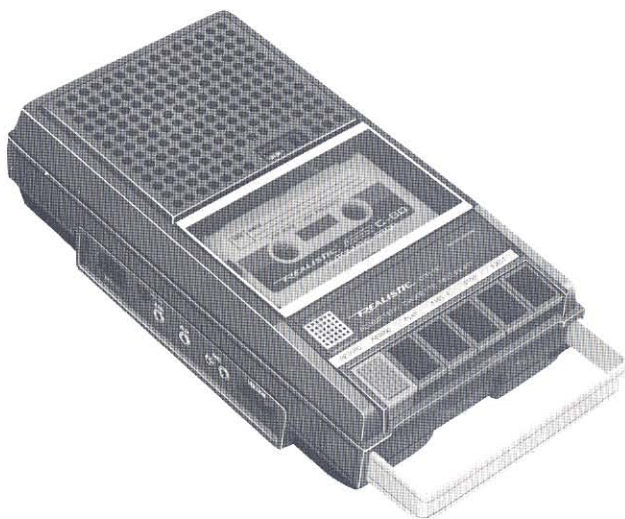


# CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER



**CTR-80A**

## **OWNER'S MANUAL**

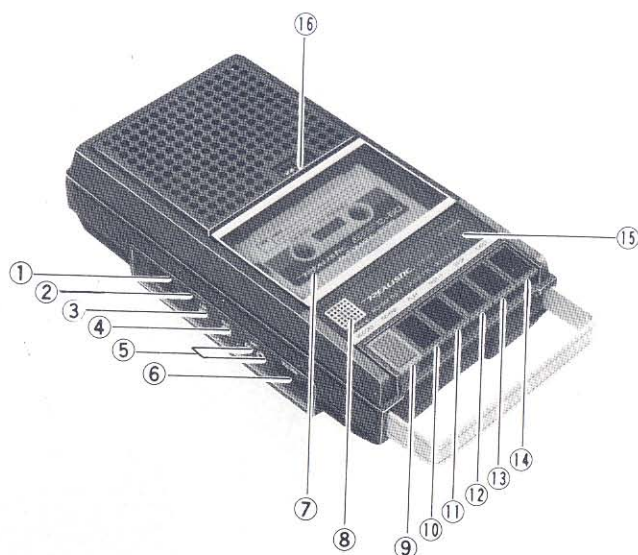
PLEASE READ BEFORE  
USING THIS EQUIPMENT

**REALISTIC®**

**CAT. NO.  
26-1206**

CUSTOM MANUFACTURED FOR RADIO SHACK  A DIVISION OF TANDY CORPORATION

# CONTROLS AND CONNECTIONS



1. AC Line Cord Receptacle
2. DC 6V Jack
3. EARphone Jack
4. AUXiliary Input Jack
5. REMote/MICrophone Jack
6. VOLUME Control
7. Cassette Compartment
8. Built-In CONDENSER MICROPHONE
9. RECORD Key
10. REWIND Key
11. PLAY Key
12. FAST Forward Key
13. STOP Key
14. EJECT Key
15. BATTERY/RECORD LED
16. Tape Counter

## FEATURES

Designed for use either with a Micro-computer system or as a standard cassette recorder/player.

**BUILT-IN CONDENSER MICROPHONE:** Built-in condenser microphone enables you to record voice or sound without connecting an external microphone

**AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF MECHANISM:** Shuts off the recorder automatically when the end of the tape is reached while in the Play or Record mode. This saves wear and strain on the unit, the tape and the batteries.

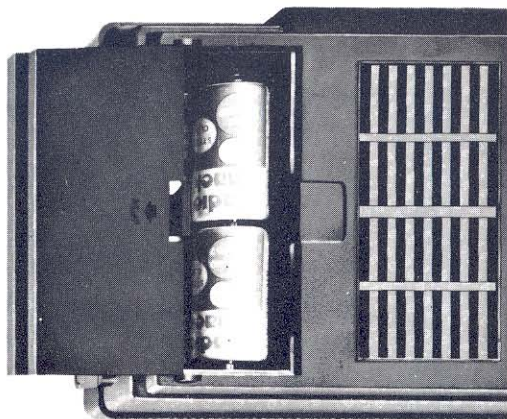
**BUILT-IN A.L.C. CIRCUIT:** Enables you to automatically obtain perfect recording level for both voice and music recording — no need to adjust Volume while recording.

**BATTERY/RECORD LED INDICATOR:** Serves two functions. During Recording, the LED will flicker with peaks of recording signal. In any other function, it will give you an indication of the condition of the batteries — if the LED lights up, the batteries are OK; if the LED does not light, or is dim, time for new batteries.

**WARNING: TO PREVENT FIRE OR SHOCK HAZARD, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS APPLIANCE TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.**

# PREPARATION FOR USE

**INSTALLING BATTERIES:** Your recorder requires four (4) "C" size 1-1/2 volt batteries. To load batteries, turn the recorder over and open the battery compartment cover. Insert batteries as indicated within compartment, then close the cover.



**BATTERY CONDITION:** The **BATTERY/RECORD** LED indicates the condition of the batteries. When you press the **PLAY** button, if the LED lights brightly, the batteries are OK; if it does not light (or lights only dimly), it is time for new batteries. We recommend Radio Shack Catalog Number 23-581 or 23-551.

**OPERATING ON AC POWER:** Connect one end of the AC power cord to the **AC IN** of the recorder, plug other end into a convenient 120V outlet (220/240V AC 50 Hz outlet where the sets are so marked on the bottom for European and Australian models). Connecting the cord to the set automatically disconnects the internal battery circuit. Never leave the cord plugged into an AC outlet when it is not connected to the recorder.

**DC 6V JACK:** You can conserve battery power by using a power adapter such as Radio Shack Catalog Number 14-844C (to connect 12 volts DC, in your vehicle, via a cigarette lighter socket). Use the **DC 6V** jack on the side to connect the adapter plug and set the switch on 14-844C to the 6 volt position.

**INSERTING CASSETTE:** Before inserting or removing cassette, be sure to press the **STOP** key. Open the cassette lid by pressing the **EJECT** key. Hold the cassette with the open tape side toward you and insert it into the opening so that the full reel is on your left, and then close the lid. After you've completed recording or playing on one side of the cassette, open the lid, turn the cassette over and re-insert. You are ready to record or play the second track.

**DIGITAL TAPE COUNTER:** Use the Digital Tape Counter for a handy reference in locating specific parts of a tape. Press reset button to set to "000".





## TO PLAYBACK

1. Rewind the tape by pressing the **REWIND** key.
2. Press the **STOP** key when you reach that section of the tape you wish to play.
3. Press the **PLAY** key and adjust the **VOLUME** control for the desired sound level from the speaker.
4. To stop playback, press the **STOP** key. If you want, let the tape play to the end and the unit will automatically shut off the power.
5. When playing back a recorded tape, make sure the **RECORD** key is not pressed; otherwise the recorded tape will be erased.
6. For private listening, connect the earphone to the **EAR**phone jack on the side of the recorder.
7. Use Digital Tape Counter to aid in locating desired portions on a tape.

## TO RECORD

### RECORDING WITH BUILT-IN CONDENSER MICROPHONE:

1. Press the **RECORD** and **PLAY** keys simultaneously and recording will start. Press Tape Counter reset button.
2. During recording, a built-in Automatic Level Control (ALC) circuit automatically sets the proper recording level.
3. The built-in **CONDENSER MIC**rophone is highly sensitive and will pick up sound from practically any distance in normal size room.
4. At the completion of the recording press the **STOP** key. If the end of the tape is reached while recording, the unit will shut off automatically.
5. As you record, the **BATTERY/RECORD** LED will flash with peaks of sound. This will remind you that you are recording.

### RECORDING WITH EXTERNAL MICROPHONE:

Connect an optional microphone to the **REMOTE/MIC**rophone Jacks, this automatically disconnects the built-in microphone. Recording procedures are the same as for recording with the built-in microphone. Use the remote switch on the microphone to temporarily stop recording.

**Note:** Remote control functions only in **PLAY** or **RECORD** mode.

## RECORDING FROM RADIO OR PHONOGRAPH:

1. Connect signal from an external source into the **AUX** jack (use a suitable patch cord with proper plug).
2. Set the Volume control of the external sound source to a normal listening level.
3. Follow the instructions noted above.

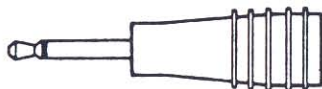
**NOTE:** When both **MIC** and **AUX** jacks are connected, only **MIC** jack is functional.

## REWIND AND FAST-FORWARD KEYS

1. To rewind tape, press the **REWIND** key.
2. To move tape rapidly in a forward direction, press the **FAST-Forward** key.
3. In either case, to stop tape travel, press the **STOP** key.

## TO ERASE TAPE

To change recordings, merely record over the old recording. The old recording will automatically be erased and the new one put on the tape. If you do want to erase a cassette, or just a portion of a recording, insert the special Dummy Plug (provided) into the **MIC** jack. Then, operate the CTR-80 just as though you were recording. As the tape moves, it will be erased clean (no sound pick up from Mic when using this Dummy Plug).

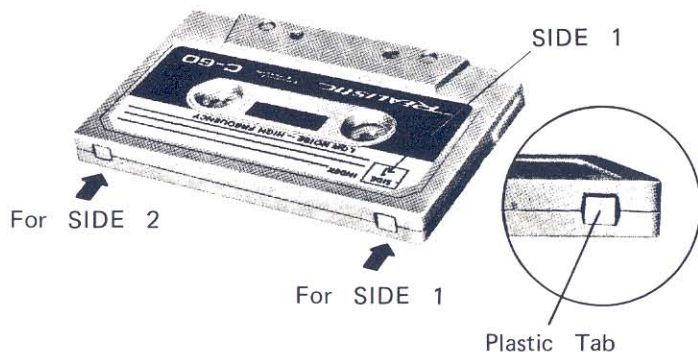


Dummy Plug

## ACCIDENTAL ERASURE PREVENTION

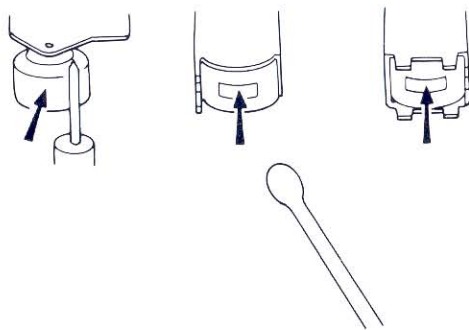
Cassettes have a built-in device to automatically prevent erasure of a previous recording. It is small plastic tab at the back of the cassette. To activate the erase-protect feature, break off the plastic tab with a screwdriver. There is a tab for each side; be sure you break off the correct tab. If you want to record again on that cassette, put a piece of tape over the hole where you broke off the tab.

**CAUTION:** If you have a cassette with the tabs broken off, don't try to force the **RECORD** key down. You can damage a part of the mechanism.



# MAINTENANCE

With batteries and cassette removed, and with cassette lid up, press down the **PLAY** key, exposing the erase and record heads and the rubber drive wheel. Clean these points, using a cotton swab moistened with denatured alcohol (not rubbing alcohol) or with a special head cleaning fluid. Your Radio Shack store has these items. To insure good recording and playback results, clean every 10 – 20 hours of operation. After cleaning, be sure to press the **STOP** key, so that these parts may return to their normal operating position for cassette loading. For easy cleaning, we recommend our Cassette Head Cleaning Cartridge, Catalogue number 44-1160.



It's a good idea to periodically demagnetize the tape heads too. Use one of our 44-211 Tape Head Demagnetizers.

You can clean and demagnetize in one simple operation just by playing our Cassette Demagnetizer Tape, 44-631.

**If you use the longer, thinner tapes (C-90, 120, etc.), it is absolutely vital that you keep your recorder clean. Failure to do so will result in poor tape handling, improper auto-stop function and serious tape wrap-ups. Clean the tape handling parts well and often.**

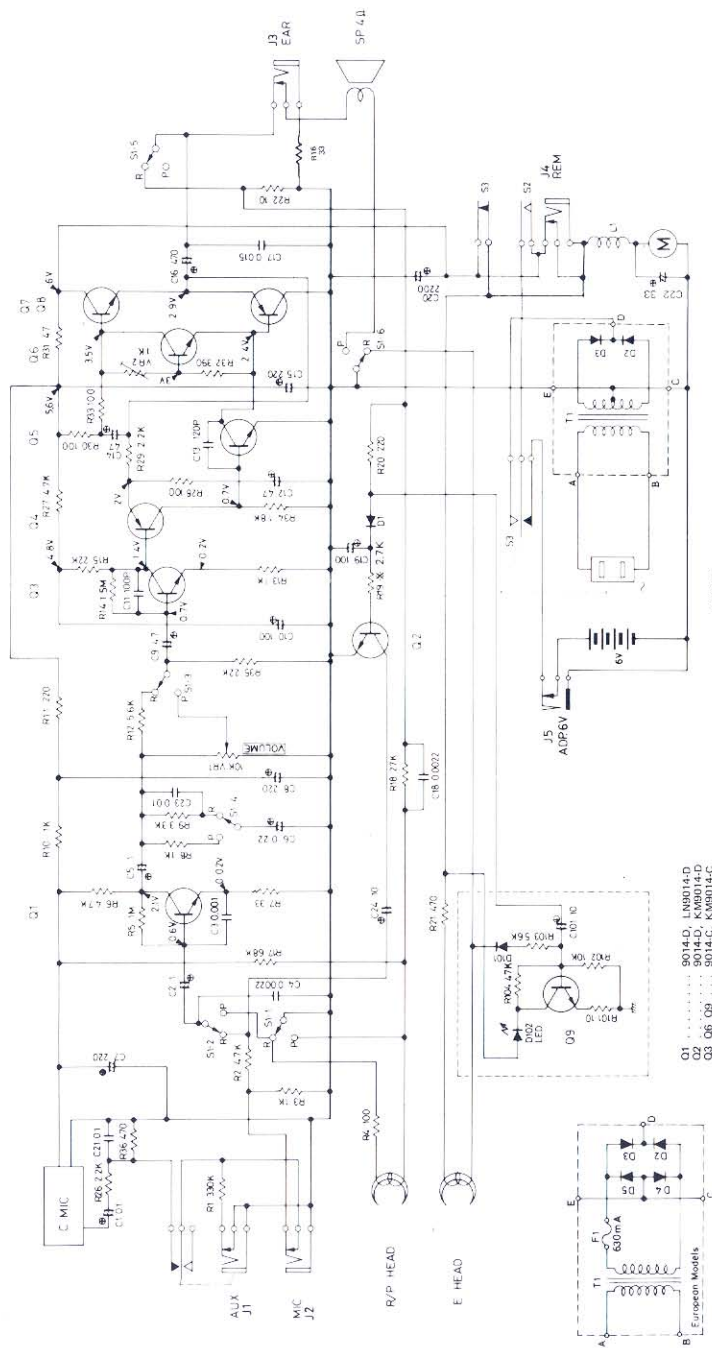
## CAUTION:

Do not expose the tape recorder or a cassette to high temperature or high humidity. Do not touch the tape heads with screwdrivers or other metal objects or any magnetic object.

Remove batteries when recorder is not in use for more than a month, because battery leakage may damage the unit. **Don't leave weak or dead batteries in the recorder.**



# SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM



- NOTES
1. ALL RESISTANCE VALUES ARE IN OHM. K = 1000  $\Omega$ . M = 1000 K
  2. ALL CAPACITANCE VALUES ARE IN  $\mu F$ . P =  $10^{-12}$   $\mu F$ .
  3. ALL RESISTORS ARE 1% TOLERANCE UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.
  4. WITH V.T.V.M. AT LINE VOLUME CONTROL MINIMUM AND NO SIGNAL.
- (SPECIFICATION AND CIRCUITS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE IMPROVEMENT)

### RADIO SHACK LIMITED WARRANTY

This equipment is warranted against defects for 90 days from date of purchase. Within this period, we will repair it without charge for parts and labor. Simply **bring your sales slip** as proof of purchase date to any Radio Shack store. Warranty does not cover transportation costs. Nor does it cover equipment subjected to misuse or accidental damage.

This Warranty gives you specific legal rights and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

*We Service What We Sell*

RADIO SHACK  A DIVISION OF TANDY CORPORATION

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