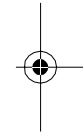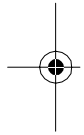Cat. No. 14-1242
OWNER'S MANUAL

Please read before using this equipment.

SCP-96

## AM/FM Stereo Cassette Player
with Auto Reverse

OPTIMUS®

FEATURES

Your Optimus SCP-96 AM/FM Stereo Cassette Player delivers high-fidelity stereo sound through your headphones or amplified speaker system. Because the SCP-96 is portable, you can listen to cassette tapes or the AM/FM radio indoors or out.

Important: To listen to your SCP-96, you need a pair of headphones or amplified speakers (not supplied) with a $1/8$-inch mini-plug. Your local RadioShack store sells a wide variety of headphones and speakers.
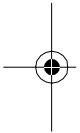
Your SCP-96's features include:

Automatic Reverse — automatically changes the tape direction at the end of a tape side so you can continuously play both sides of a cassette tape.

Dolby B Noise Reduction — can play tapes recorded with Dolby B noise reduction so background and tape noise is reduced.
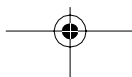
Tone Controls — let you adjust the treble, bass, and extended bass.

Tape Selector — lets you select the proper equalization for normal or high-bias/metal cassette tapes, so you can get the best performance from your tapes.

Tape Direction Control — lets you change the tape's direction at any time without having to eject the tape and turn it over.
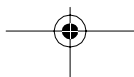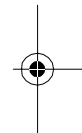
Three Power Sources — let you power your SCP-96 from internal batteries (not supplied), standard AC power (with an optional AC adapter), or your vehicle's battery (with an optional DC adapter) so you can listen to music almost anywhere.

Battery Check LEDs — show you the amount of power remaining in the batteries.

Belt Clip — lets you attach the SCP-96 to your belt for hands-free carrying when you are on the go.

Note: To power your SCP-96, you need two AA batteries or an optional AC or DC adapter.

Take a few minutes to read this manual so you can enjoy all the features of your SCP-96.

CONTENTS

PREPARATION

CONNECTING TO POWER

You can power your SCP-96 from:

- internal batteries

- AC power

- your vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket

Using Battery Power

To power the SCP-96 from internal batteries, you need two AA batteries. For the best performance and longest life, we recommend alkaline batteries, such as RadioShack Cat. No. 23-557.

You can also use rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries (Cat. No. 23-125) and recharge them with a battery charger (Cat. No. 23-133).
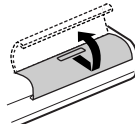
Cautions:

- Use only fresh batteries of the required size and recommended type.

- Do not mix old and new batteries, different types of batteries (standard, alkaline, or rechargeable), or rechargeable batteries of different capacities.

Follow these steps to install batteries.

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1. Open the battery compartment cover by sliding it in the direction of the arrow marked on the cover, then lifting up its outside edge.

   Caution: The battery compartment cover is hinged. Do not try to remove it.

2. Put the batteries into the compartment as indicated by the polarity symbols (+ and –) marked outside the compartment.
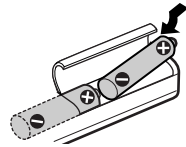
3. Close the cover.

When you turn on the radio or play a tape, one of the three BATTERY indicators lights to show the amount of power remaining in the batteries.

Remaining Power	High		Low
BATTERY Indicators	Green ➡	Orange ➡	Red
	F (full)	M (medium)	L (low)

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If the red (**L**) BATTERY indicator lights during operation, replace both batteries.

Caution: Always dispose of old batteries promptly and properly.

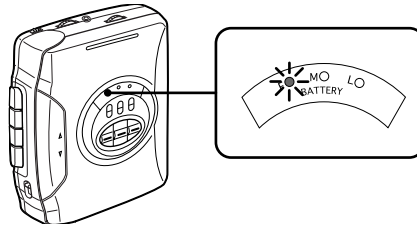**Important:** This product is capable of using rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries. At the end of the batteries' useful life, they must be recycled or disposed of properly. Contact your local, county, or state hazardous waste management authorities for information on recycling or disposal programs in your area. Some options that might be available are: municipal curbside collection, drop-off boxes at retailers such as your local RadioShack store, recycling collection centers, and mail-back programs.
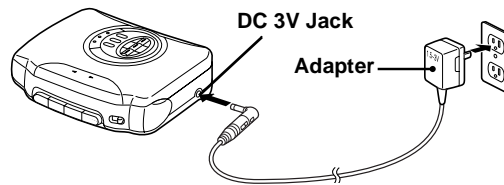
Using AC Power

To power the SCP-96 from a standard AC outlet, you need an AC adapter such as Cat. No. 273-1654.

Cautions:

- You must use an AC adapter that supplies at least 3 volts DC power and delivers at least 200 milliamps. Its center tip must be set to negative, and its barrel plug must properly fit the SCP-96's **DC 3V** jack. The recommended adapter meets these specifications. Using an adapter that does not meet these specifications could damage the SCP-96 or the adapter.

- Be sure you connect the adapter to the SCP-96 before you plug it into the AC outlet and that you unplug the adapter from the AC outlet before you unplug it from the SCP-96, to prevent damage to the SCP-96 or the adapter.

Follow these steps to connect the SCP-96 to AC power.

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1. Set the adapter's voltage switch to 3V.

2. Put the adapter's 3.4 mm outer diameter/1.3 mm inner diameter barrel plug into the adapter's cord, with the tip set to negative (–TIP).

3. Insert the plug into the SCP-96's **DC 3V** jack.

4. Plug the adapter into a standard AC outlet.

Note: Connecting the AC adapter automatically disconnects internal batteries.
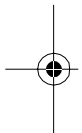
Using Vehicle Battery Power
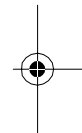
To power the SCP-96 from your vehicle's battery, you need a DC adapter, such as Cat. No. 270-1560 or 273-1810.

**Cautions:**

• You must use a DC adapter that supplies at least 3 volts DC power and delivers at least 200 milliamps. Its center tip must be set to negative, and its barrel plug must properly fit the SCP-96's **DC 3V** jack. The recommended adapter meets these specifications. Using an adapter that does not meet these specifications could damage the SCP-96 or the adapter.

• Be sure you plug the adapter into the SCP-96 before you plug it into the cigarette-lighter socket, and that you unplug the adapter from the cigarette-lighter socket before you unplug it from the SCP-96, to prevent damage to the SCP-96 or the adapter.

Follow these steps to power the SCP-96 from your vehicle's battery.
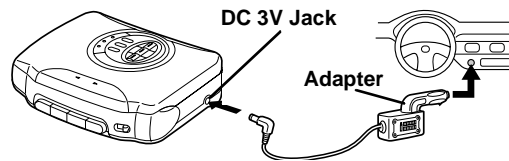
1. Set the adapter's voltage switch to 3V.

2. Put the adapter's 3.4 mm outer diameter/1.3 mm inner diameter barrel plug into the adapter's cord, with the tip set to negative (–TIP).

3. Insert the plug into the SCP-96's **DC 3V** jack.

4. Plug the other end of the adapter into the vehicle's cigarette-lighter socket.

Note: Connecting the DC adapter automatically disconnects internal batteries.

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CONNECTING HEADPHONES OR SPEAKERS

To listen to your SCP-96, you must connect a pair of headphones or amplified speakers (not supplied) with a 1/8-inch (3.5-mm) mini-plug. To connect headphones or an amplified speaker system, insert the mini-plug into the SCP-96's ⌒ jack.


⌒ **Jack**

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Listening Safely

To protect your hearing, follow these guidelines when you use headphones.

- Set the volume to the lowest setting before you begin listening. After you begin listening, adjust the volume to a comfortable level.

- Do not listen at extremely high volume levels. Extended high-volume listening can lead to permanent hearing loss.

- Once you set the volume, do not increase it. Over time, your ears adapt to the volume level, so a volume level that does not cause discomfort might still damage your hearing.
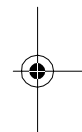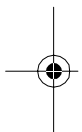
Traffic Safety

Do not wear headphones while operating a motor vehicle or riding a bicycle. This can create a traffic hazard and could be illegal in some areas.

Even though some headphones let you hear some outside sounds when listening at normal volume levels, they still can present a traffic hazard.
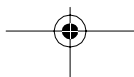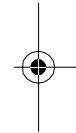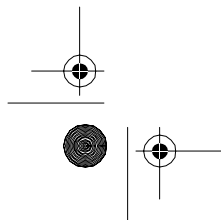
USING THE BELT CLIP

The belt clip lets you keep your hands free while you listen to the SCP-96. To attach the belt clip, slide its latches into the slots on the cassette player and slide it up until it locks into place.

To remove the belt clip, push in on **PUSH RELEASE**, slide the belt clip down, then lift it off.

OPERATION

PLAYING THE RADIO

1. Set **TAPE/RADIO** to **RADIO**. One of the BATTERY indicators lights.

2. Set **FM ST/FM/AM** to the desired band. Set it to **FM ST** for stereo sound on FM stations.

   Notes:

   • The AM antenna is built-in. Move the SCP-96 to improve AM reception.

   • For the best FM reception, fully uncoil the headphones' or speaker's cord.

   • To improve reception for weak FM stereo stations, set **FM ST/FM/AM** to **FM**. The sound will be monaural, but reception should improve.

3. Rotate **TUNING** to select a radio station.

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4. Adjust **VOLUME** to the desired listening level.

5. Adjust **E-BASS**, **BASS**, and **TREBLE** to the desired levels. (See "Using the Tone Controls" on Page 19.)

   Note: If you set **E-BASS** to **MAX**, the bass and treble controls have no effect.

6. To turn off the radio, set **TAPE/RADIO** to **TAPE**.

PLAYING A CASSETTE TAPE

For the best performance, use only regular length (60- or 90-minute) cassette tapes. Long-playing cassette tapes, such as C-120s, are not recommended because they are extremely thin and can tangle easily.

Follow these steps to play a cassette tape.

1. Set the reverse mode switch to the desired position.

15
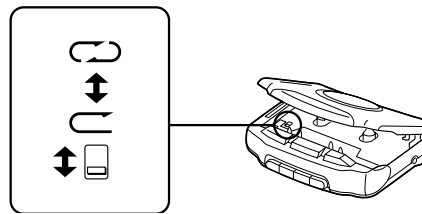
One-Time Playback (⊂▱): plays each side of the tape once, then stops.

Note: If you set **FWD/REV** to **REV**, the cassette player plays only the reverse side and stops at the end of that side.

Continuous Playback (⟳): alternately plays each side of the tape until you press ■ **STOP**.
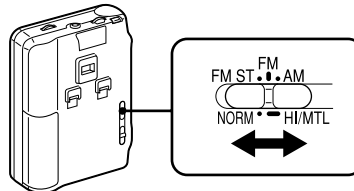
2. Gently pull open the cassette compartment door and insert a prerecorded cassette into the guides with the exposed tape edge facing out. Then close the door.
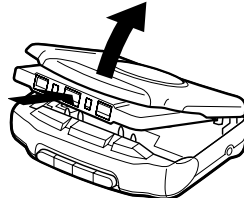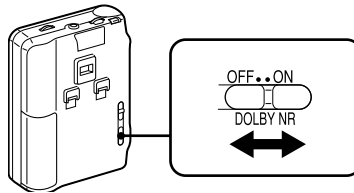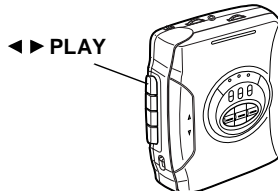
3. Set **TAPE/RADIO** to **TAPE**.

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4. Set the tape select switch to **NORM** for normal
   bias cassette tapes or to **HI/MTL** for high bias or
   metal cassette tapes.

5. Slide **DOLBY NR** to **ON** if you are playing a cas-
   sette tape that was recorded with Dolby B noise
   reduction.

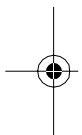6. Press ◄ ► **PLAY**. One of the BATTERY indicator
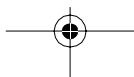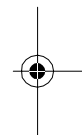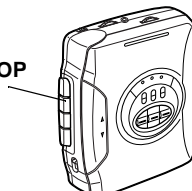   lights and the tape plays.

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7. Adjust **VOLUME** to the desired listening level.

8. Adjust **E-BASS**, **BASS**, and **TREBLE** to the desired levels. (See "Using the Tone Controls" on Page 19.)

   Note: If you set **E-BASS** to **MAX**, the bass and treble controls have no effect.

9. To stop the tape, press ■ **STOP**.

■ **STOP**

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USING THE TONE CONTROLS

You can use the tone controls to customize the SCP-96's sound.
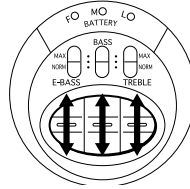
E-BASS — slide the control toward **MAX** to increase (or toward **NORM** to decrease) the volume of tones below normal bass tones.

BASS — slide the control toward **MAX** to increase (or toward **NORM** to decrease) the volume of low tones.

TREBLE — slide the control toward **MAX** to increase (or toward **NORM** to decrease) the volume of high tones.

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USING FAST-FORWARD AND REWIND

When the tape is stopped, press ◄◄ or ►► to fast-forward or rewind it.
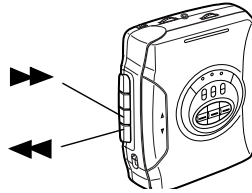
When FWD/REV is set to:	Press:	To:
FWD	◄◄	Fast forward
	►►	Rewind
REV	►►	Fast forward
	◄◄	Rewind

Press ■ **STOP** to release the ◄◄ or ►► button after the tape has fully wound to either end, or to stop the tape before it reaches the end.

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CHANGING THE TAPE DIRECTION

You can change the tape's direction using the **FWD/REV** switch. To listen to the tape's forward side (facing out), set the switch to **FWD**. To listen to the tape's reverse side (facing in), set the switch to **REV**.
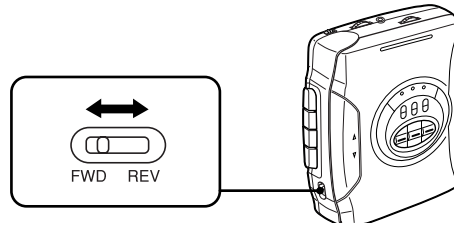
Note: If the reverse mode switch is set to ⊂▸, the cassette player stops when you set the **FWD/REV** switch to **FWD**.

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CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Your SCP-96 AM/FM Stereo Cassette Player is an example of superior design and craftsmanship. The following suggestions will help you care for the SCP-96 so you can enjoy it for years.

- Keep the SCP-96 dry. If it gets wet, wipe it dry immediately.

- Handle the SCP-96 gently and carefully.

- Use and store the SCP-96 only in normal temperature environments. Temperature extremes can shorten the life of electronic devices, damage batteries, and distort or melt plastic parts.

- Keep the SCP-96 away from dust and dirt.

- Wipe the SCP-96 with a damp cloth occasionally to keep it looking new. Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents, or strong detergents to clean the SCP-96.
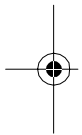
Modifying or tampering with the SCP-96's internal components can cause a malfunction and might invalidate the SCP-96's warranty and void your FCC authorization to use it. If your SCP-96 is not performing as it should, take it to your local RadioShack store for assistance.
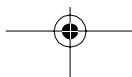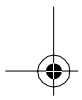
RESTORING TAPE TENSION AND SOUND QUALITY

After you play a cassette tape several times, the tape might become tightly wound on the reels. This can cause playback sound quality to deteriorate.

To restore the sound quality, fast-forward the tape from the beginning to the end of one side, then completely rewind it. Then loosen the tape reels by gently tapping each side of the cassette's outer shell on a flat surface.
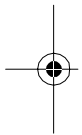
Caution: Be careful not to damage the cassette when tapping it. Do not touch the exposed tape or allow any sharp objects near the cassette.
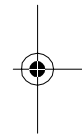
CLEANING THE TAPE-HANDLING PARTS

Dirt, dust, or particles of the tape's coating can accumulate on the tape heads and other parts the tape touches. This can greatly reduce the performance of the SCP-96. You should clean the tape-handling parts after about every 20 hours of tape player operation. Your local RadioShack store sells a complete line of cassette player head cleaning supplies.
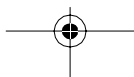
1. Remove the batteries and disconnect any other power source.

2. Open the cassette compartment cover.

3. Press ◄ ► **PLAY** to expose the tape-handling parts.

4. Use a cotton swab dipped in denatured alcohol or tape head cleaning solution to clean the playback head, pinch rollers, and capstans.
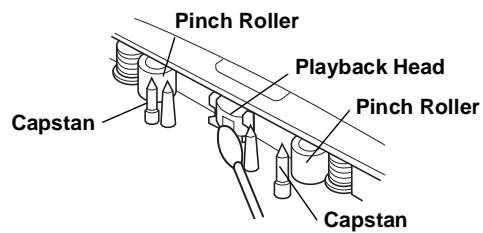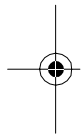
5. When you finish cleaning, press ■ **STOP** and close the cassette compartment cover. Then re-connect power.

SPECIFICATIONS

CASSETTE DECK

Tape Speed .... $1^7/_8$ ips (4.8 cm/s)

Wow and Flutter (WRMS) 0.3%

Frequency Response (at −3 dB) ..... 63 Hz to 10 kHz

S/N Ratio .... 45 dB

RADIO
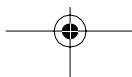
AM .... 530 to 1710 kHz

FM .... 88 to 108 MHz

POWER REQUIREMENT

Batteries .... 2 AA Batteries

AC .... 120 Volts with AC Adapter
(Cat. No. 273-1654)

DC .... 12 Volts DC with DC Adapter
(Cat. No. 270-1560 or 273-1810)

Radio Playing Time
with AA Alkaline Batteries .... About 60 Hours

Cassette Playing Time
with AA Alkaline Batteries .... About 21 Hours

GENERAL

Power Output .... 12 mW/Channel at 32 ohms

Dimensions (HWD) .... $4^5/_8 \times 3^1/_2 \times 1^3/_8$ Inches
(117 $\times$ 86.7 $\times$ 34.9 mm)

Weight .... 5.4 oz
(155 g)

Specifications are typical; individual units might vary. Specifications are subject to change and improvement without notice.
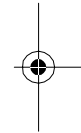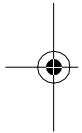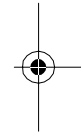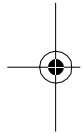
NOTES

Limited Ninety-Day Warranty

This product is warranted by RadioShack against manufacturing defects in material and workmanship under normal use for ninety (90) days from the date of purchase from RadioShack company-owned stores and authorized RadioShack franchisees and dealers. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, RadioShack MAKES NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES AND ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, ARE LIMITED IN DURATION TO THE DURATION OF THE WRITTEN LIMITED WARRANTIES CONTAINED HEREIN. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED HEREIN, RadioShack SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY TO CUSTOMER OR ANY OTHER PERSON OR ENTITY WITH RESPECT TO ANY LIABILITY, LOSS OR DAMAGE CAUSED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY BY USE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE PRODUCT OR ARISING OUT OF ANY BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM INCONVENIENCE, LOSS OF TIME, DATA, PROPERTY, REVENUE, OR PROFIT OR ANY INDIRECT, SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, EVEN IF RadioShack HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

Some states do not allow the limitations on how long an implied warranty lasts or the exclusion of incidental or consequential damages, so the above limitations or exclusions may not apply to you.

In the event of a product defect during the warranty period, take the product and the RadioShack sales receipt as proof of purchase date to any RadioShack store. RadioShack will, at its option, unless otherwise provided by law: (a) correct the defect by product repair without charge for parts and labor; (b) replace the product with one of the same or similar design; or (c) refund the purchase price. All replaced parts and products, and products on which a refund is made, become the property of RadioShack. New or reconditioned parts and products may be used in the performance of warranty service. Repaired or replaced parts and products are warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. You will be charged for repair or replacement of the product made after the expiration of the warranty period.

This warranty does not cover: (a) damage or failure caused by or attributable to acts of God, abuse, accident, misuse, improper or abnormal usage, failure to follow instructions, improper installation or maintenance, alteration, lightning or other incidence of excess voltage or current; (b) any repairs other than those provided by a RadioShack Authorized Service Facility; (c) consumables such as fuses or batteries; (d) cosmetic damage; (e) transportation, shipping or insurance costs; or (f) costs of product removal, installation, set-up service adjustment or reinstallation.

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

RadioShack Customer Relations, Dept. W, 100 Throckmorton St., Suite 600, Fort Worth, TX 76102

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