

Video Cassette Player

Operating Instructions



PAL NTSC 4.43

SLV-XA17ME/SG
SLV-XA37ME/SG

WARNING

To prevent fire or shock hazard, do not expose the unit to rain or moisture.

To avoid electrical shock, do not open the cabinet. Refer servicing to qualified personnel only.

The mains lead must only be changed at a qualified service shop.

Precautions

Safety

- This unit operates on 110 – 240 V AC, 50/60 Hz. Check that the unit's operating voltage is identical with your local power supply.
- If anything falls into the cabinet, unplug the unit and have it checked by qualified personnel before operating it any further.
- The unit is not disconnected from the mains as long as it is connected to the mains, even if the unit itself has been turned off.
- Unplug the unit from the mains if you do not intend to use it for an extended period of time. To disconnect the cord, pull it out by the plug, never by the cord.

Installing

- Allow adequate air circulation to prevent internal heat buildup.
- Do not place the unit on surfaces (rugs, blankets, etc.) or near materials (curtains, draperies) that may block the ventilation slots.
- Do not install the unit near heat sources such as radiators or air ducts, or in a place subject to direct sunlight, excessive dust, mechanical vibration or shock.
- Do not install the unit in an inclined position. It is designed to be operated in a horizontal position only.
- Keep the unit and cassettes away from equipment with strong magnets, such as microwave ovens or large loudspeakers.
- Do not place heavy objects on the unit.
- If the unit is brought directly from a cold to a warm location, moisture may condense inside the unit and cause damage to the video head and tape. When you first install the unit, or when you move it from a cold to a warm location, wait for about one hour before operating the unit.

Caution

Television programmes, films, video tapes, and other materials may be copyrighted. Unauthorized recording of such material may be contrary to the provisions of the copyright laws. Also, use of this recorder with cable television transmission may require authorization from the cable television transmitter and/or programme owner.

Compatible colour systems

- This unit is designed to play back and record using the following colour systems:

SLV-XA17ME/SG

| | Playback | Recording |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| PAL | • | – |
| MESECAM | • | – |
| NTSC 4.43 | • | – |

SLV-XA37ME/SG

| | Playback | Recording |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| PAL | • | • |
| MESECAM | • | • |
| NTSC 4.43 | • | • |

Recording of video sources based on other colour systems cannot be guaranteed.

- Tapes recorded with the NTSC colour system can be played back on this unit using a TV or a colour monitor for the PAL colour system.
- To play back tapes recorded with the PAL and MESECAM colour systems, you need a TV or colour monitor compatible with these systems.

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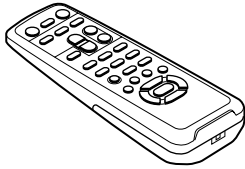
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Step 1

Unpacking

Check that you have received the following items with the unit:

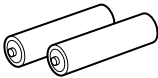
- Remote commander



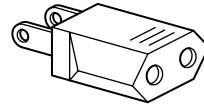
- Aerial cable



- R6 (Size AA) batteries



- Plug adaptor
(SLV-XA17ME/XA37ME only)



Checking your model name

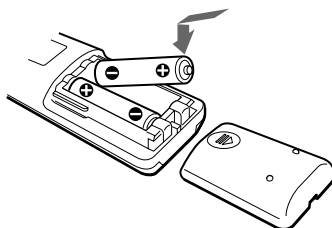
The instructions in this manual are for the 4 models: SLV-XA17ME, XA17SG, XA37ME, and XA37SG. Check your model number by looking at the rear panel of your unit. The SLV-XA37ME is the model used for illustration purposes. Any difference in operation is clearly indicated in the text, for example, “SLV-XA17ME only.”

Step 2

Setting up the remote commander

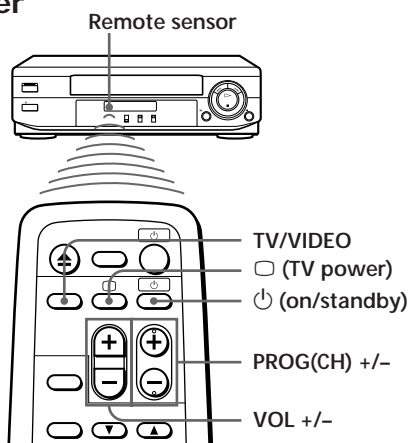
Inserting the batteries

Insert two R6 (size AA) batteries by matching the + and - on the batteries to the diagram inside the battery compartment.



Using the remote commander

You can use this remote commander to operate the unit and a Sony TV. To operate this unit, point at the remote sensor on the unit. To operate the TV, point at the remote sensor on the TV.



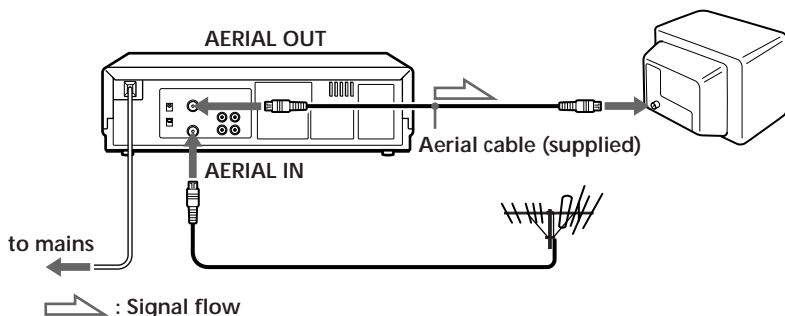
| To | Press |
|--|----------------|
| Turn the TV to standby or active mode | ⏻ (on/standby) |
| Turn on the TV power | □ (TV power) |
| Increase (+) or decrease (-) the TV volume | VOL +/- |
| Change the TV programme position | PROG(CH) +/- |
| Select an input source on the TV either aerial in or line in | TV/VIDEO |

Notes

- With normal use, the batteries should last about three to six months.
- If you do not use the remote commander for an extended period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage from battery leakage.
- Do not use a new battery with an old one.
- Do not mix different types of batteries.

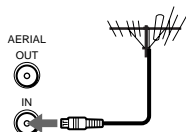
Step 3

Connecting the unit



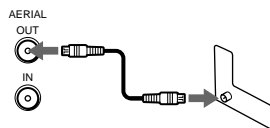
1

Disconnect the aerial cable from your TV and connect it to AERIAL IN on the rear panel of the unit.



2

Connect AERIAL OUT of the unit and the aerial input of your TV using the supplied aerial cable.



3

Connect the mains lead to the mains.

Use the supplied plug adapter, if necessary, depending on the design of the mains (SLV-XA17ME/XA37ME only).

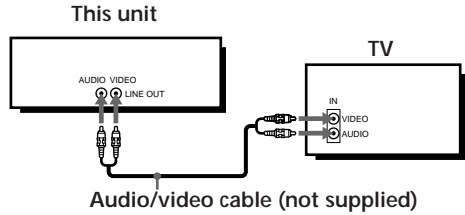
Additional connections

To a TV that has phono type audio/video input jacks

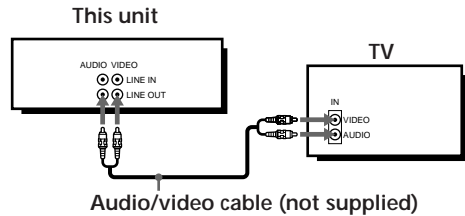
This additional connection improves picture and sound quality. Connect the TV as shown on the right.

If you want to use the Trinitron TV Synchro Play function (see page 12), this connection is necessary. (If your TV has two or more inputs, connect the audio/video cable to the VIDEO IN 1 jacks.)

For SLV-XA17ME/SG



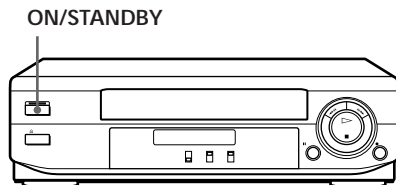
For SLV-XA37ME/SG



Step 4

Tuning your TV to the unit

If you have connected your unit to the TV using the audio/video cable, skip this step.



1



Press ON/STANDBY to turn on the unit.

2

Turn on your TV and select a programme position for video playback.

Choose a channel between UHF 30 and 39 on the TV where there is no picture and no sound or only a steady rustling sound.

This channel will now be referred to as the video channel.

3

Insert a tape recorded in the colour system matching your TV into the cassette compartment.

(SLV-XA17ME/SG)

The unit turns on, and starts playing automatically.

(SLV-XA37ME/SG)

The unit turns on, and starts playing automatically if you insert a tape with its safety tab removed.

4

Press \triangleright PLAY on the unit.

5

Tune the TV until the video playback picture is clearly displayed on the TV screen.

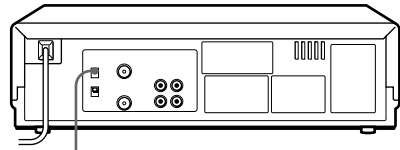
Refer to your TV manual for tuning instructions.

You have now tuned your TV to the unit. From now on, whenever you want to play a tape, set the TV to the video channel.

If the playback picture does not appear clearly, see "To obtain a clear playback picture" on page 9.

To obtain a clear playback picture

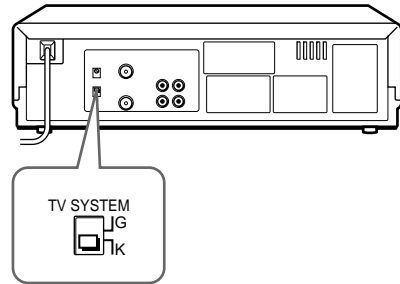
If the playback picture does not appear clearly in step 5 above, turn the RF CHANNEL screw on the rear panel of the unit with a screwdriver to a position where the TV clearly displays the playback picture.



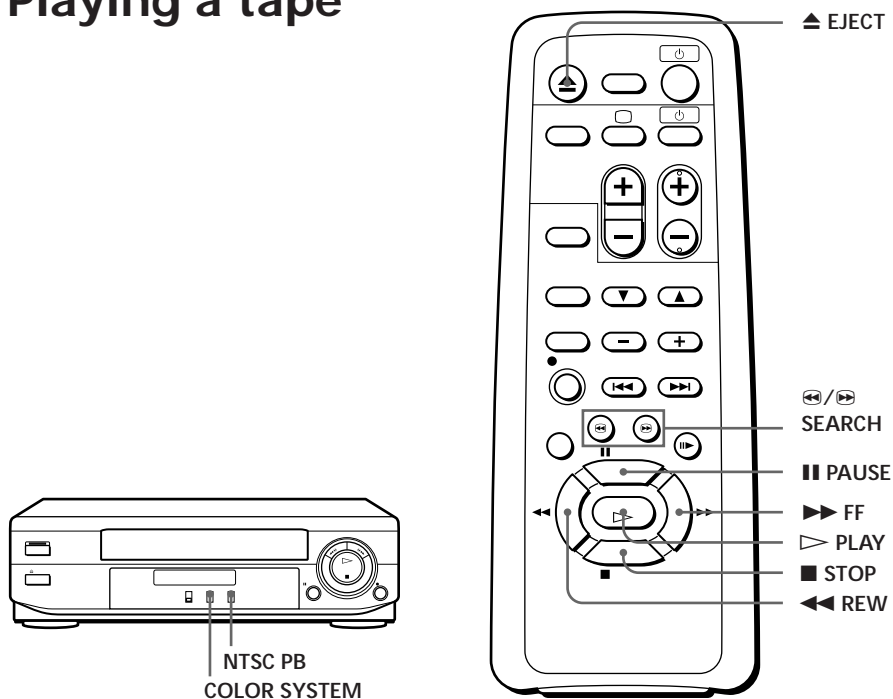
RF CHANNEL

To select the TV system

For your TV to receive the correct signal from your unit, you must set the TV SYSTEM switch on the rear panel of the unit to either G (for system B/G) or K (for system D/K). If this switch is set to the wrong position, the sound will be distorted.

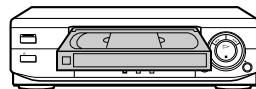


Playing a tape



1 Turn on your TV and set it to the video channel.

2 Insert a tape.
 (SLV-XA17ME/SG)
 The unit turns on, and starts playing automatically.
 (SLV-XA37ME/SG)
 The unit turns on, and starts playing automatically if you insert a tape with its safety tab removed.



3 Press  PLAY.
 When the tape reaches the end, it will rewind automatically.

Additional tasks

| To | Press |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Stop play | ■ STOP |
| Pause play | ⏸ PAUSE |
| Resume play after pause | ⏸ PAUSE or ▷ PLAY |
| Search forward | ▶▶ FF or 🔍 SEARCH during playback |
| Search backward | ◀◀ REW or 🔍 SEARCH during playback |
| Fast-forward the tape | ▶▶ FF during stop |
| Rewind the tape | ◀◀ REW during stop |
| Eject the tape | ⏏ EJECT |

To set the colour system

If streaks appear during playback, set COLOR SYSTEM on the unit to conform to the system that the tape was recorded in. (Normally set the switch to AUTO.)

| If your tape was recorded in | Set COLOR SYSTEM to |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| PAL | PAL/MESECAM |
| NTSC | NTSC |
| MESECAM | PAL/MESECAM |

To play an NTSC-recorded tape

Set NTSC PB on the unit according to the colour system of your TV.

| If your TV is | Set NTSC PB to |
|---------------|----------------|
| PAL | ON PAL TV |
| NTSC 4.43 | NTSC 4.43 |

continued

Playing a tape (continued)

Tip

- You can play back tapes recorded in the SP, LP, and EP mode.

Notes

- Depending on your TV, the following may occur while playing an NTSC-recorded tape:
 - the picture is black and white,
 - the picture shakes,
 - no picture appears on the TV screen,
 - black streaks appear horizontally on the TV screen, and
 - the colour density increases or decreases.
- You can eject a tape even when the power is off. When you press **EJECT**, the unit turns on automatically. After ejecting the tape, the unit turns off again.
- When the pause mode lasts for more than approximately five minutes, the unit will automatically enter the playback mode.

Turning on the unit and TV, and starting playback automatically (Trinitron TV Synchro Play)

You can only use this function if your TV is made by Sony (Trinitron TV).

How to connect to use this function

Connect the unit and TV with the audio/video cable (see “To a TV that has phono type audio/video input jacks” on page 7). Be sure to connect the audio/video cable to the VIDEO IN 1 jacks on the TV if the TV has two inputs or more. The TV must be placed where it will respond to the remote commander while you are pointing it at the unit.

Operation

Make sure that the TV's power is in standby mode.

Press **TRINITRON TV SYNCHRO PLAY** and hold the remote commander in place for about two seconds.

The unit and TV turn on, and the TV is set to the video channel. If there is a tape in the unit, playback starts automatically.

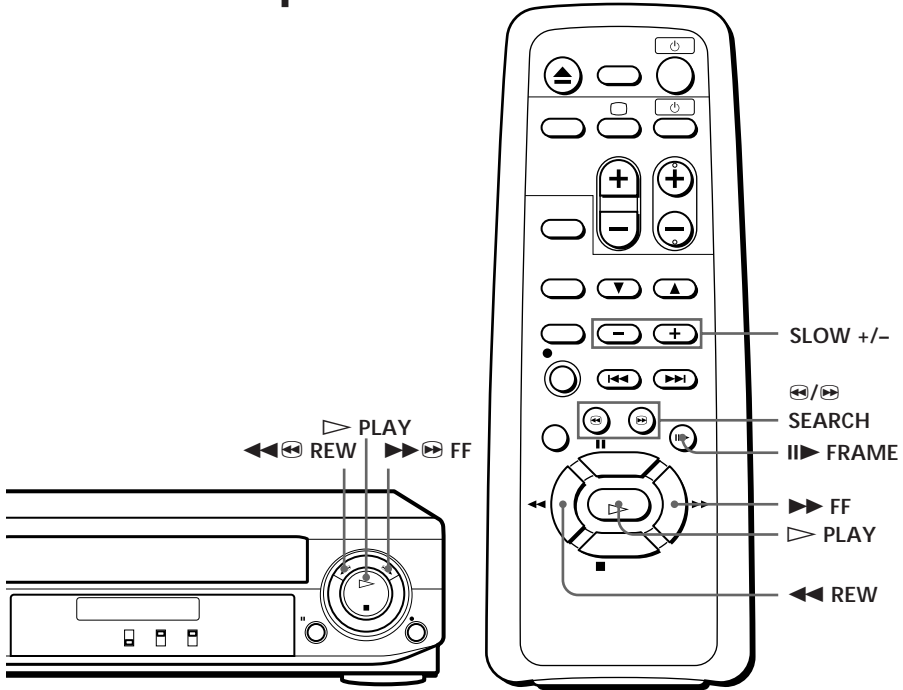
Notes

- If the Trinitron TV Synchro Play function does not work properly:
 - Wait a few moments, and press the button again.
 - Replace both of the batteries in the remote commander with new ones, and press the button again.

Note that this function may not operate some Sony TVs because of the remote commander's signal limitations.

- Do not press **TRINITRON TV SYNCHRO PLAY** while playing back a video tape. If you do so, the TV's input source will momentarily switch to the TV's tuner.

Playing/searching at various speeds



| Playback options | Operation |
|--|--|
| Fast-forward/rewind | During stop, press ►► FF or ◀◀ REW. |
| View the picture during fast-forward or rewind | During fast-forward, hold ►► FF down. During rewind, hold ◀◀ REW down. |
| Play at high speed | During playback or pause, press ►► SEARCH or ◀◀ SEARCH. |
| Play in slow motion | During playback or pause, press SLOW +/- . Press the +/- buttons to change the speed. |
| Play frame by frame | During pause, press ►► FRAME to advance the picture one frame. Hold the button down to play one frame each second. |
| Rewind and start play | During stop, hold ◀◀◀ REW on the unit down and press ► PLAY on the unit. |

continued

Playing/searching at various speeds (continued)

To resume normal playback

Press ▷ PLAY.

Tip

- If the picture shakes while in the still mode, adjust the picture using ▼/▲ TRACKING NORMAL/SLOW STILL ADJUST.

Notes

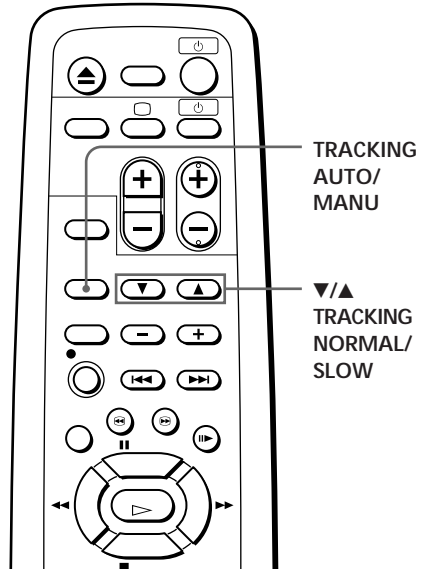
- Streaks or snow cannot be eliminated completely in the various playback operations, especially in the slow motion mode.
- The sound is muted during these operations.
- If you press II► FRAME during playback, playback continues at the normal speed but the sound is muted. Press ▷ PLAY to resume normal playback.
- In the LP mode, you may see static or there may be no colour.

Adjusting the picture

Adjusting the tracking

Although the unit automatically adjusts the tracking when playing a tape, distortion may occur if the tape was recorded in poor condition. If so, manually adjust the tracking.

Press ▼/▲ TRACKING NORMAL/SLOW to obtain the best possible picture. The distortion should disappear as you press one of the two buttons. If you cannot get a clear picture with manual adjustment, press TRACKING AUTO/MANU to return to automatic adjustment.



About OPC

OPC (Optimum Picture Control) automatically improves playback quality by adjusting the unit to the condition of the video heads and tape.

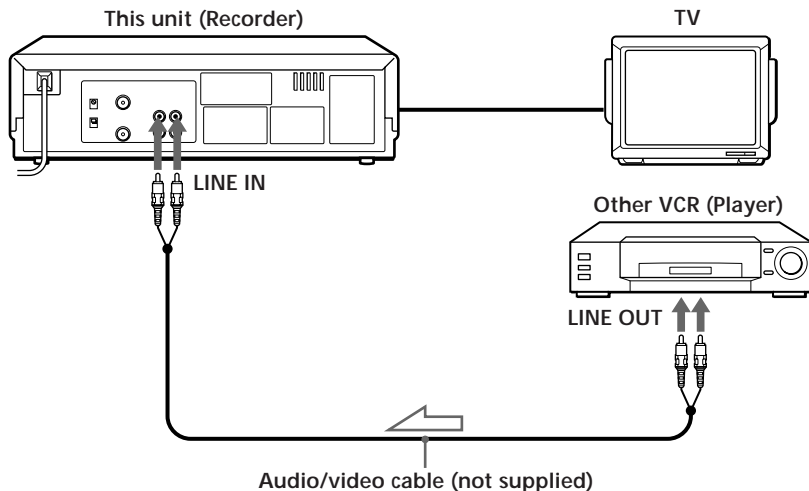
The OPC function automatically works on all types of tapes, including rental tapes and tapes that were not recorded with OPC.

Notes

- The auto tracking function works automatically when you play back a tape just after inserting it.
- Sufficient picture quality may not be obtained when playing back tapes recorded on another VCR or tapes in poor condition.
- When a tape recorded with the copyguard system is played back, intermittent distortion may appear in the upper portion of the picture. However, this is not a malfunction of the unit.

Editing with another VCR

How to connect to record on this unit (SLV-XA37ME/SG only)



 : Signal flow

Tip

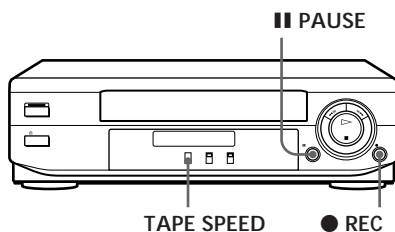
- Use a commercially available 2-phono to 2-phono type audio/video cable. If the other VCR has the AUDIO L and R jacks, use a commercially available 3-phono to 2-phono type audio/video cable.

Notes

- Make sure you connect the plugs to the jacks of the same colour.
- When connecting the units, do not simultaneously connect the LINE IN and LINE OUT jacks on your unit with the other VCR. A humming noise may occur if you do this.

Operation (when recording on this unit) (SLV-XA37ME/SG only)

You can make a copy of a tape using this unit for recording or playback. The unit cannot record TV programmes directly since it does not have a TV tuner.



Before you start editing

- Turn on your TV and set it to the video channel.

- 1** Set TAPE SPEED to select the tape speed (SP or LP for the PAL colour system, and SP or EP for the NTSC colour system).
LP provides a recording time twice as long as SP. EP provides a recording time three times as long as SP. However, SP produces better picture quality.
- 2** Insert a source tape with its safety tab removed into the other (playback) VCR. Search for the point to start playback and set it to playback pause.
- 3** Insert a tape with its safety tab in place into this (recording) unit. Search for the point to start recording and press **|| PAUSE**.
- 4** Press **● REC** on this unit to set it to recording pause.
- 5** To start editing, press the **|| PAUSE** buttons on both units at the same time.

To stop editing

Press the **■ STOP** buttons on both units.

To save a recording

To prevent accidental erasure, break off the safety tab as illustrated. To record on a tape again, cover the tab hole with adhesive tape.



Tips

- To edit more precisely, press the **|| PAUSE** buttons on the units to release pause.
- To cut out unwanted scenes while editing, press **|| PAUSE** on this unit when an unwanted scene begins. When that scene ends, press **|| PAUSE** again to resume recording.

Troubleshooting

If you have any questions or problems not covered below, please consult your nearest Sony service facility.

| | Symptom | Remedy |
|------------|--|---|
| Power | The ON/STANDBY switch does not function. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect the mains lead securely. |
| | The power is turned on but the unit does not operate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moisture condensation occurs. Turn the power off, unplug the mains lead and leave the unit to dry for over an hour. |
| | The unit enters standby mode or turns off automatically. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The auto safety system is triggered to protect your tape and the unit's mechanism when there is something wrong with the tape or when the mechanism is overloaded. Press ON/STANDBY to restart the unit. If the unit does not work after pressing ON/STANDBY again, disconnect the mains lead from the mains. Wait for at least 15 seconds. Then reconnect mains, and press ON/STANDBY again. If the unit still does not work, please consult your nearest Sony service facility. |
| Playback | The playback picture does not appear on the TV screen. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the TV is set to the video channel. If you are using a monitor, set it to video input. |
| | The picture is not clear. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust the tracking with the ▼/▲ TRACKING NORMAL/SLOW buttons. • Make sure the COLOR SYSTEM switch is set to the position corresponding to the colour system which the tape was recorded with. • The video heads are dirty (see the next page). Clean the video heads using a video head cleaning cassette. If a cleaning cassette is not available in your area, have the heads cleaned at your nearest Sony service facility (a standard service charge will be required). Do not use a commercially available wet-type cleaning cassette, as it may damage the video heads. • The video heads may have to be replaced. Consult your local Sony service facility for more information. |
| | The picture rolls vertically during picture search. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust the vertical hold control on the TV or monitor. |
| | The picture has no sound. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tape is defective. Use a new tape. |
| Recording* | The tape starts playing as soon as it is inserted. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The safety tab has been removed. To record on this tape, cover the tab hole. |
| | The tape is ejected when you press ● REC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that the safety tab has not been removed. |
| | Nothing happens when you press ● REC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the tape is not at its end. |

| | Symptom | Remedy |
|--------|---|--|
| Others | No tape can be inserted. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check that a tape isn't already in the tape compartment. |
| | The remote commander does not function. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you are pointing the remote commander at the remote sensor on the unit. • Replace all the batteries in the remote commander with new ones if they are weak. |
| | The unit needs to be cleaned. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the cabinet, panel, and controls with a dry soft cloth, or a soft cloth slightly moistened with a mild detergent solution. Do not use any type of solvent, such as alcohol or benzene. |

* SLV-XA37ME/SG only

Auto head cleaner

The unit incorporates an auto head cleaner which cleans the video heads when a tape is loaded or unloaded. When the heads are not sufficiently clean, even after a tape has been loaded/unloaded several times, use a video head cleaning cassette.

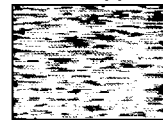
Symptoms caused by contaminated video heads

• Normal picture

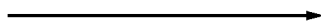
• Rough picture

• Unclear picture

• No picture (or black & white screen appears)



initial



terminal

Sapphire tape cleaner

The unit incorporates a sapphire tape cleaner which cleans a video tape when it is loaded. This cleaner can prevent the video heads from contamination by removing dust or mold from a tape with the sapphire edge.

Specifications

System

RF output signal

UHF channels 30 to 39

Aerial out

75-ohm asymmetrical aerial socket

Inputs and outputs

LINE IN (SLV-XA37ME/SG only)

VIDEO IN, phono jack (1)

Input signal: 1 Vp-p, 75 ohms,
unbalanced, sync negative

AUDIO IN, phono jack (1)

Input level: 327 mVrms

Input impedance: more than 47 kilohms

LINE OUT

VIDEO OUT, phono jack (1)

Output signal: 1 Vp-p, 75 ohms,
unbalanced, sync negative

AUDIO OUT, phono jack (1)

Standard output: 327 mVrms

Load impedance: 47 kilohms

Output impedance: less than 10 kilohms

General

Power requirements

110 - 240 V AC, 50/60 Hz

Power consumption

10 W

Operating temperature

5°C to 40°C

Storage temperature

-20°C to 60°C

Dimensions

Approx. 355 x 100 x 280 mm (w/h/d)
including projecting parts and controls

Mass

Approx. 3.8 kg

Supplied accessories

Remote commander (1)

R6 (Size AA) batteries (2)

Aerial cable (1)

Plug adaptor

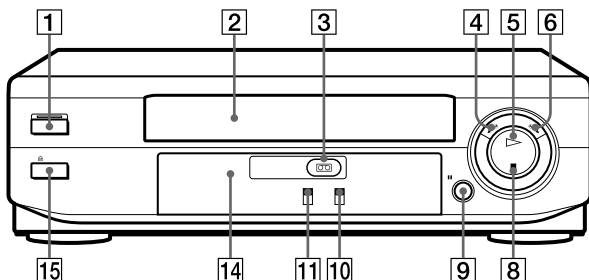
(SLV-XA37ME/ SLV-XA17ME only) (1)

Design and specifications are subject to change
without notice.

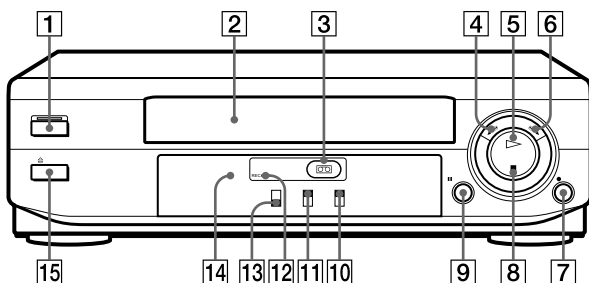
Index to parts and controls

Refer to the pages indicated in parentheses () for details.

Front panel (SLV-XA17ME/SG)



Front panel (SLV-XA37ME/SG)

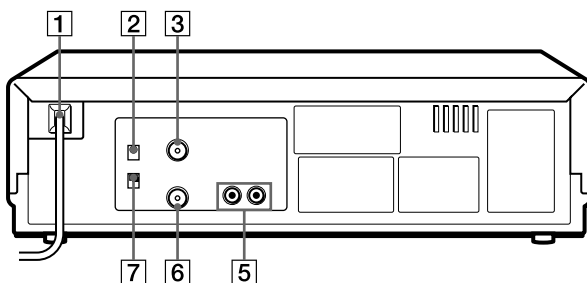


- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ON/STANDBY switch/indicator (8) | 9 ■ PAUSE button (11) |
| 2 Tape compartment | 10 NTSC PB switch (11) |
| 3 Tape operation indicators | 11 COLOR SYSTEM switch (11) |
| 4 ◀◀ REW button (11, 13) | 12 REC (recording) indicator (SLV-XA37ME/SG only) |
| 5 ▷ PLAY button (10) | 13 TAPE SPEED switch (SLV-XA37ME/SG only) (17) |
| 6 ▶▶ FF button (11, 13) | 14 Remote sensor (5) |
| 7 ● REC button (SLV-XA37ME/SG only) (17) | 15 ≡ EJECT button (11) |
| 8 ■ STOP button (11) | |

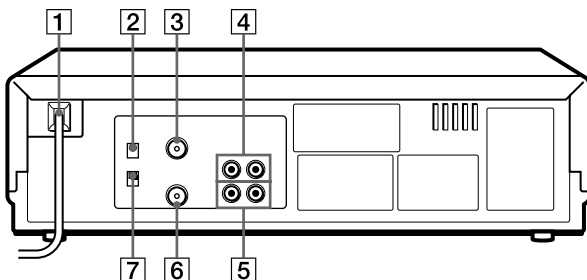
continued

Index to parts and controls (continued)

Rear panel (SLV-XA17ME/SG)

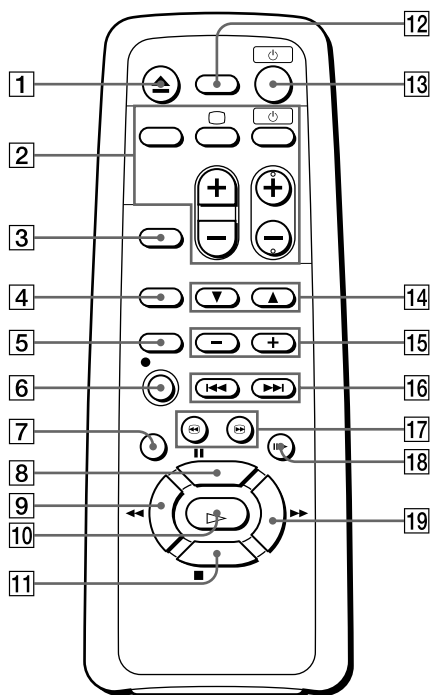


Rear panel (SLV-XA37ME/SG)



- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Mains lead (6) | 5 LINE OUT AUDIO/VIDEO jacks (7) |
| 2 RF CHANNEL screw (9) | 6 AERIAL IN connector (6) |
| 3 AERIAL OUT connector (6) | 7 TV SYSTEM switch (9) |
| 4 LINE IN AUDIO/VIDEO jacks (SLV-XA37ME/SG only) (16) | |

Remote commander



- 1 ▲ EJECT button (11)
- 2 TV control buttons (*Only for TV*) (5)
 TV/VIDEO
 □ (TV power)
 ⏻ (on/standby)
 VOL +/-
 PROG (CH) +/-
- 3 EFFECT button (*This button doesn't work with this unit.*)
- 4 TRACKING AUTO/MANU button (15)
- 5 TV/VTR button (*This button doesn't work with this unit.*)
- 6 ● REC button (SLV-XA37ME/SG only) (17)
- 7 AUDIO MONITOR button (*This button doesn't work with this unit.*)
- 8 ■■ PAUSE button (11)
- 9 ◀◀ REW button (11, 13)
- 10 ▷▶ PLAY button (10)
- 11 ■ STOP button (11)
- 12 TRINITRON TV SYNCHRO PLAY button (12)
- 13 ⏻ (on/standby) switch (8)
- 14 ▼/▲ TRACKING NORMAL/SLOW STILL ADJUST buttons (15)
- 15 SLOW +/- buttons (13)
- 16 ◀◀/▶▶ AMS buttons (*These buttons don't work with this unit.*)
- 17 ◀◀/▶▶ SEARCH buttons (11, 13)
- 18 ■▶ FRAME button (13)
- 19 ▶▶ FF button (11, 13)

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