

SONY[®]

3-859-241-11 (1)

Video Cassette Player

Operating Instructions

SLV-XA125TK



SLV-XF245TK



Hi-Fi

©1996 by Sony Corporation

SLV-XF245TK/XA125TK 3-859-241-11 (1)

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.

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.

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-XA125TK

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

SLV-XF245TK

	Playback	Recording
PAL	•	•
MESECAM	•	•
NTSC 4.43	•	•
NTSC 3.58	•	•

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.

Table of contents

Getting Started

- 4 Step 1: Unpacking
- 5 Step 2: Setting up the remote commander
- 6 Step 3: Connecting the unit
- 8 Step 4: Tuning your TV to the unit

Getting Started

Basic Operations

- 10 Playing a tape

Additional Operations

- 14 Playing/searching at various speeds
- 16 Adjusting the picture
- 17 Editing with another VCR

Additional Information

- 19 Troubleshooting
- 21 Specifications
- 22 Index to parts and controls

Back cover

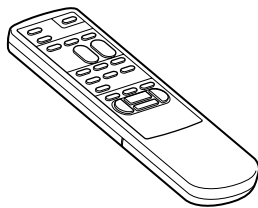
Index

Step 1

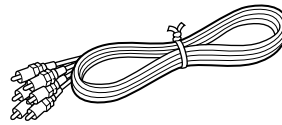
Unpacking

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

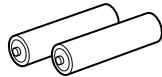
- Remote commander



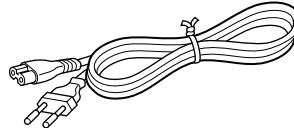
- Audio/video cable (3-phono to 3-phono)
(SLV-XF245 TK only)



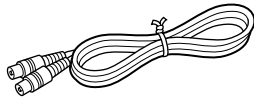
- R6 (Size AA) batteries



- Mains lead



- Aerial cable



Checking your model name

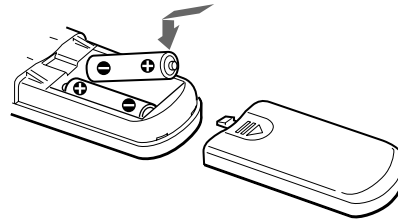
The instructions in this manual are for the 2 models: SLV-XF245TK and XA125TK. Check your model number by looking at the rear panel of your unit. The SLV-XF245TK is the model used for illustration purposes. Any difference in operation is clearly indicated in the text, for example, "SLV-XA125TK only."

Step 2

Setting up the remote commander

Inserting the batteries

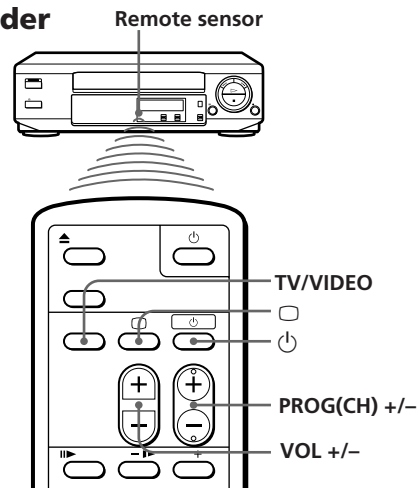
Insert two R6 (size AA) batteries by matching the + and - on the batteries to the diagram inside the battery compartment.



Getting Started

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.



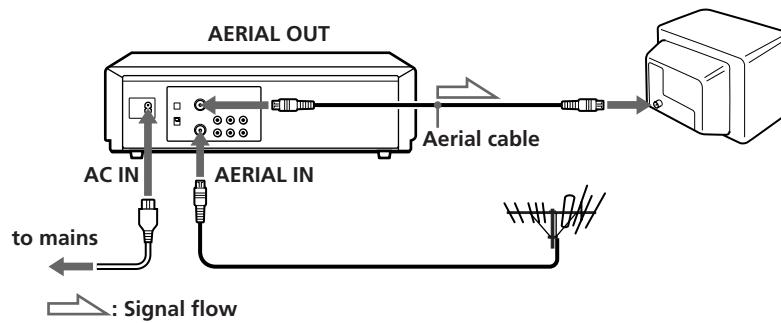
To	Press
Turn the TV to standby or active mode	
Turn on the TV power	
Increase (+) or decrease (-) the TV volume	VOL +/-
Change the TV programme position	PROG(CH) +/-
Select an input source of the TV either from aerial in or from line in	TV/VIDEO

Notes

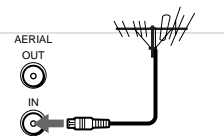
- With normal use, the batteries should last about three to six months.
- If you do not use the remote commander for an extended period of time, remove the batteries to avoid possible damage from battery leakage.
- Do not use a new battery with an old one.
- Do not mix different types of batteries.

Step 3

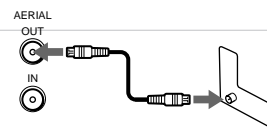
Connecting the unit



- 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 AC IN of the unit to the mains using the supplied mains lead.

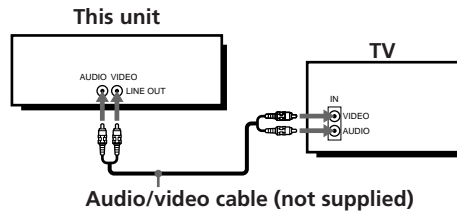


Additional connections

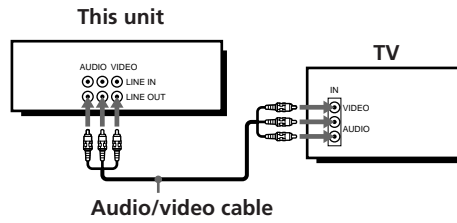
To a TV that has phono type audio/video input jacks

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

For SLV-XA125TK

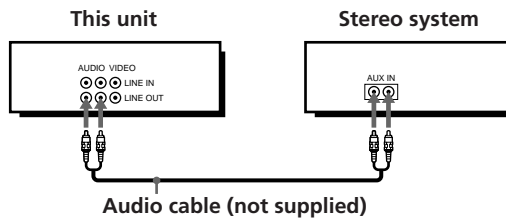


For SLV-XF245TK



To a stereo system (SLV-XF245TK only)

You can improve sound quality by connecting a stereo system as shown on the right.

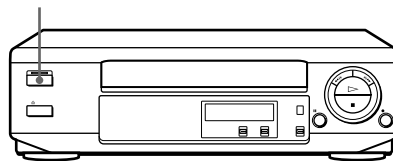



Step 4

Tuning your TV to the unit

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

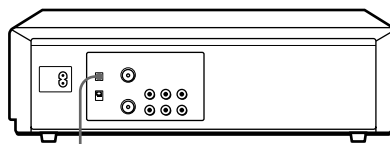
⏻ (on/standby)



- 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.
The unit starts playing automatically if you insert a tape with its safety tab removed.
- 4** Press ▷ 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

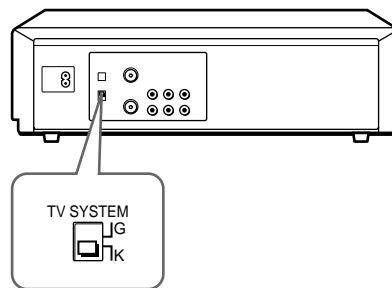
If the playback picture does not appear clearly in step 5 above, turn the RF CHANNEL screw on the rear panel of the unit with a screwdriver to a position where the TV clearly displays the playback picture.



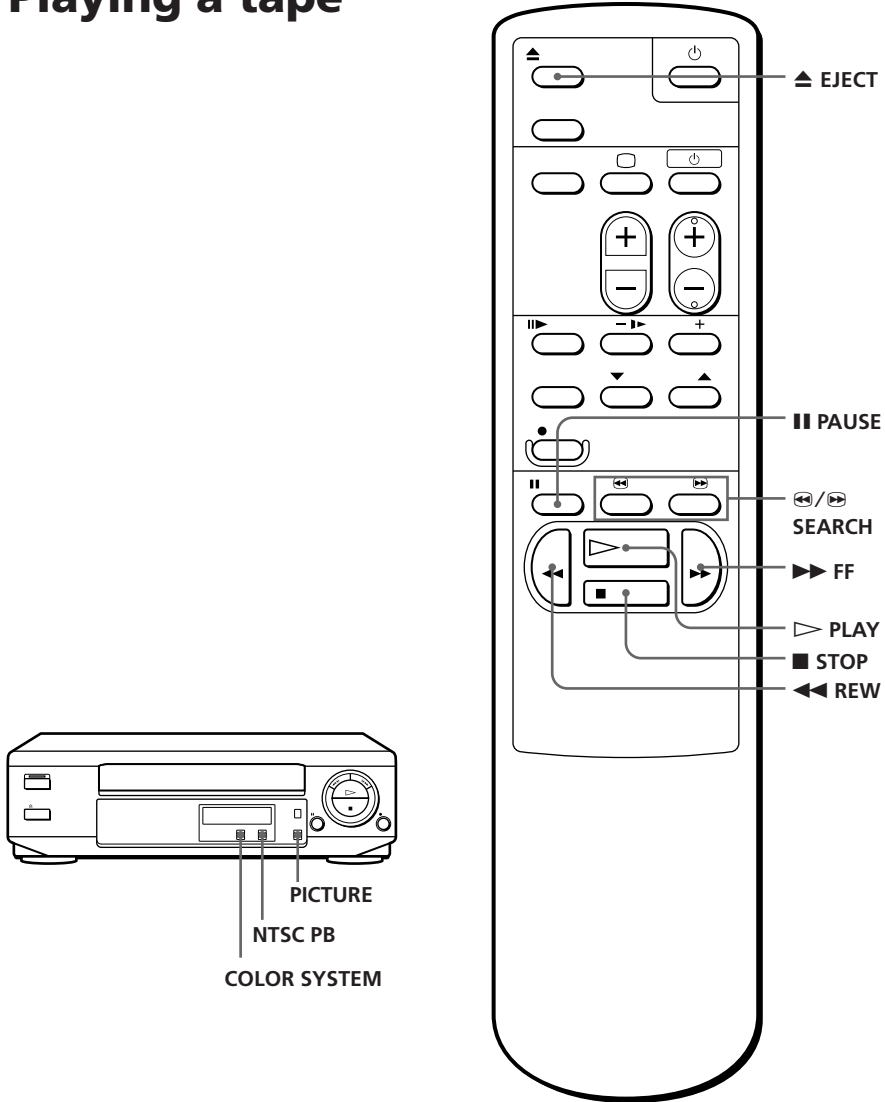
RF CHANNEL

Selecting 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.

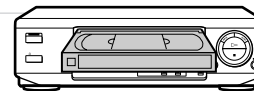


Playing a tape



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

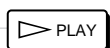
2 Insert a tape.
(SLV-XA125TK)
The unit turns on, and starts playing automatically.



(SLV-XF245TK)

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

continued

Playing a tape (continued)

To play an NTSC-recorded tape

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

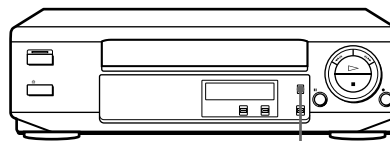
If your TV is	Set NTSC PB to
PAL	ON PAL TV
NTSC 4.43	NTSC 4.43
NTSC 3.58	NTSC 3.58 (SLV-XF245TK only)

Watching a rental tape

Set PICTURE on the unit to RENTAL PICTURE. Noise will be reduced on the playback picture. After watching the rental tape, set the switch back to NORMAL.

Selecting the sound during playback (SLV-XF245TK only)

Press AUDIO MONITOR to select the desired sound. Each press of the button changes the display on the unit. When you play a tape recorded in stereo or with a bilingual sound track, the HiFi indicator on the unit lights up.



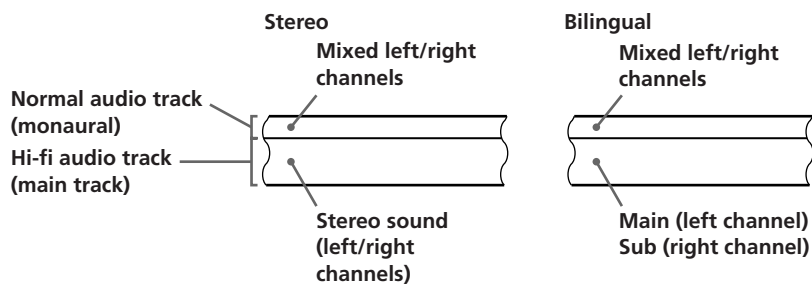
AUDIO MONITOR

To listen to a		Press AUDIO MONITOR until the display window indicator shows
Stereo tape's	Bilingual tape's	
Stereo sound	Main and sub sounds	"L/R"
Left channel	Main sound	"L"
Right channel	Sub sound	"R"
Standard sound*	Standard sound*	No indication

* The mixed sound of left and right channels (monaural)

How sound is recorded on a video tape (SLV-XF245TK only)

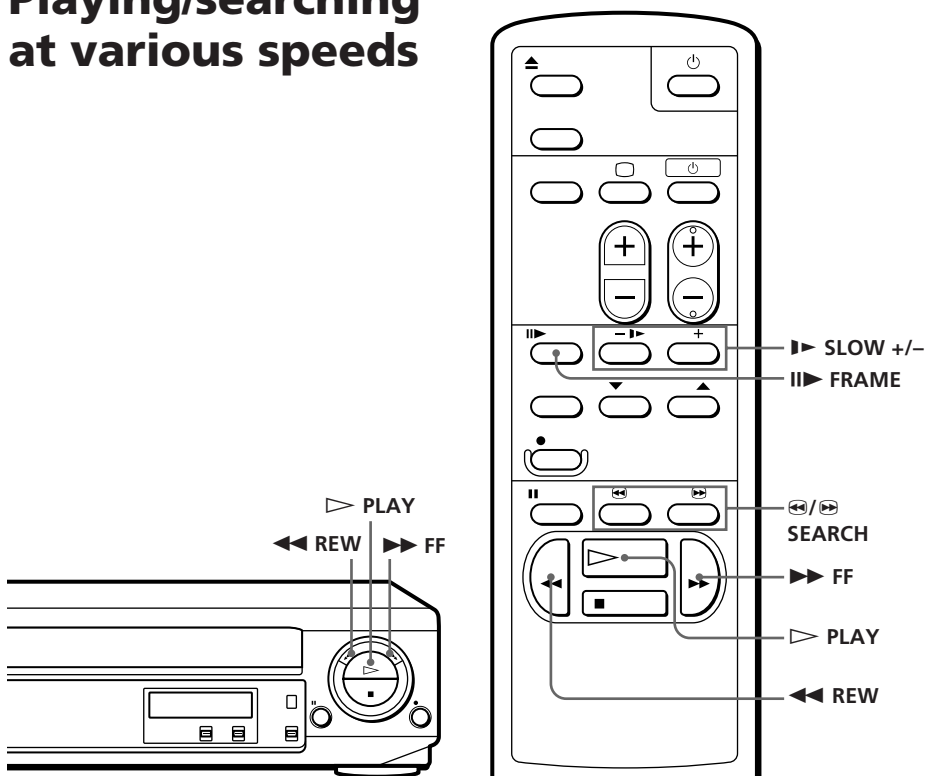
The unit records sound onto two separate tracks. Hi-fi audio is recorded onto the main track along with the picture. Monaural sound is recorded onto the normal audio track along the edge of the tape.



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.
- To listen to playback sounds in stereo, you must use the AUDIO OUT connections (SLV-XF245TK only).
- When you play a tape recorded in monaural, the sound is heard in monaural regardless of the AUDIO MONITOR setting.
- You cannot select the sound to listen to while recording.
- You can playback tapes recorded in the SP mode only.
- 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.

Playing/searching at various speeds



Playback options

Fast-forward/rewind

View the picture during fast-forward or rewind

Play at high speed

Play in slow motion

Play frame by frame

Rewind and start play

Operation

During stop, press ►► FF or ◀◀ REW.

During fast-forward, hold ►► FF down. During rewind, hold ◀◀ REW down.

During playback or pause, press ◀◀/►► SEARCH or ►►/◀◀ SEARCH.

During playback or pause, press ►► SLOW+/- . Press the +/- buttons to change the speed.

During pause, press ◻►► FRAME to advance the picture one frame. Hold the button down to play one frame each second.

During stop, hold ◀◀ REW on the unit down and press ▷ PLAY on the unit.

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 on the unit.

Notes

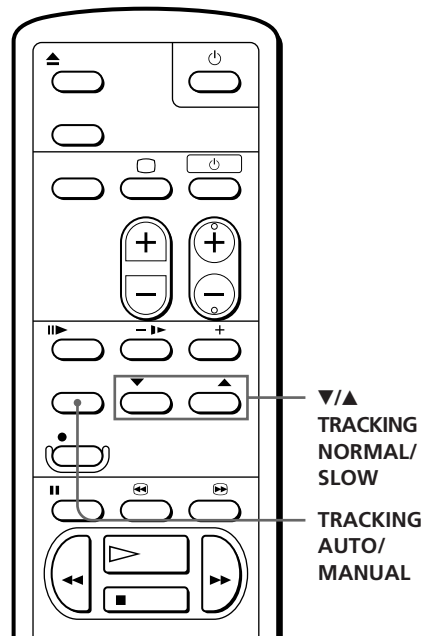
- Streaks or snow cannot be eliminated completely in the various playback operations.
- The sound is muted during these operations.

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/MANUAL 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.

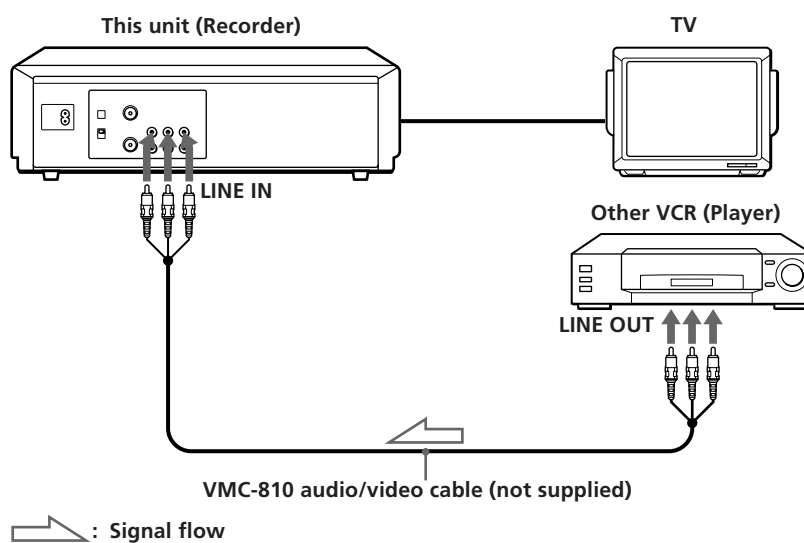
The OPC function automatically works on all types of tapes, including rental tapes. You can play a tape using the OPC function even if the tape was not recorded with it.

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 (SLV-XF245TK only)

How to connect to record on this unit



Tips

- If the other VCR is a monaural type, use a connecting cable like the Sony VMC-910MS.

Notes

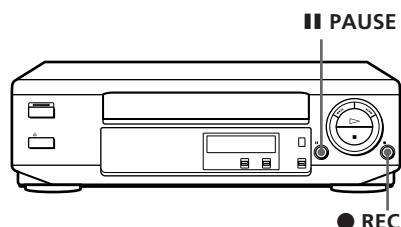
- Make sure you connect the plugs to jacks of the same colour.
- When connecting the units, do not simultaneously connect the LINE IN and LINE OUT jacks on your unit with the other VCR. A humming noise may occur if you do this.

continued

Editing with another VCR (continued)

Operation (when recording on this unit)

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

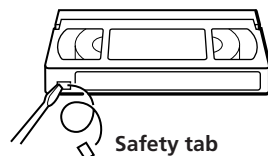
- Turn on your TV and set it to the video channel.
- 1** Insert a source tape with its safety tab removed into the other (playback) VCR. Search for the point to start playback and set it to playback pause.
 - 2** Insert a tape with its safety tab in place into this (recording) unit. Search for the point to start recording and press **|| PAUSE**.
 - 3** Press **● REC** on this unit to set it to recording pause.
 - 4** 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.



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 the Sony V-25CL video head cleaning cassette.

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.

Note

- You can record tapes only in SP mode.





Additional Information

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 VCR 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 ⏻ to restart the unit. If the unit does not work after pressing ⏻ again, disconnect the mains lead from the mains. Wait for at least 15 seconds. Then reconnect mains, and press ⏻ 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 below). Clean the video heads using the Sony V-25CL video head cleaning cassette. If this 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.

Symptoms caused by contaminated video heads

• Normal picture	• Rough picture	• Unclear picture	• No picture (or black & white screen appears)
			
	initial	→	terminal continued

Troubleshooting (continued)

	Symptom	Remedy
Recording*	The tape starts playing as soon as it is inserted.	• The safety tab has been removed. To record on this tape, cover the tab hole.
	The tape is ejected when you press ● REC.	• Check that the safety tab has not been removed.
	No tape can be inserted.	• Check that a tape isn't already in the tape compartment.
Others	The remote commander does not function.	• 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.	• 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 benzine.

* SLV-XF245TK only

Specifications

System

RF output signal
UHF channels 30 to 39
Aerial out
75-ohm asymmetrical aerial socket

Inputs and outputs

LINE IN (SLV-XF245TK only)
VIDEO IN, phono jack (1)
Input signal: 1 V_{p-p}, 75 ohms,
unbalanced, sync negative
AUDIO IN,
phono jack (2)
Input level: 327 mV_{rms}
Input impedance: more than 47 kilohms

LINE OUT

VIDEO OUT, phono jack (1)
Output signal: 1 V_{p-p}, 75 ohms,
unbalanced, sync negative
AUDIO OUT,
phono jack (1) (SLV-XA125TK)
phono jack (2) (SLV-XF245TK)
Standard output: 327 mV_{rms}
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 102 x 283.5 mm (w/h/d)
including projecting parts and controls
Mass
Approx. 3.8 kg

Supplied accessories

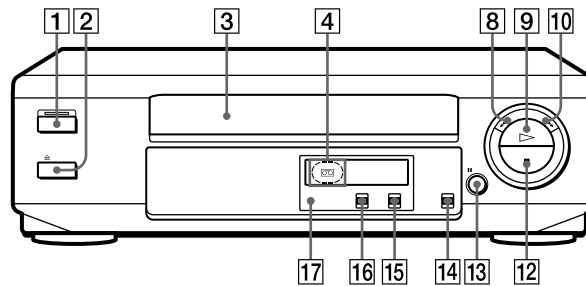
Remote commander (1)
R6 (Size AA) batteries (2)
Aerial cable (1)
Mains lead (1)
Audio/video cable (3-phono to 3-phono)
(SLV-XF245TK only) (1)

Design and specifications are subject to change
without notice.

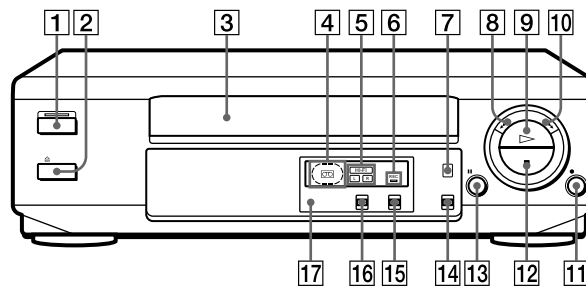
Index to parts and controls

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

Front panel (SLV-XA125TK)

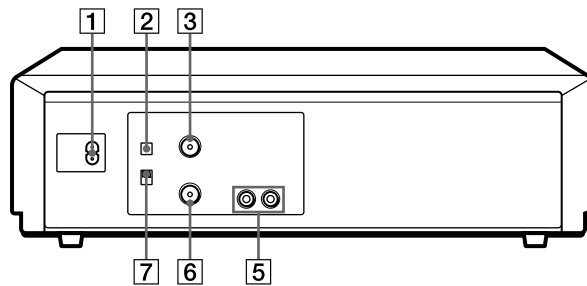


Front panel (SLV-XF245TK)

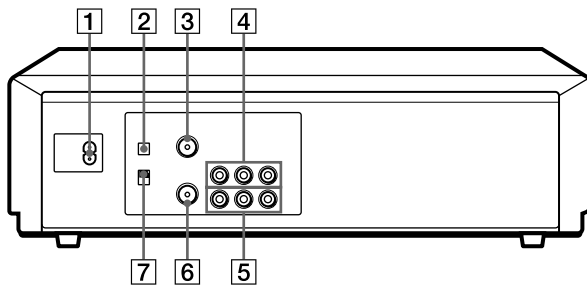


- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 ⏻ (on/standby) switch/indicator (8) | 9 ▷ PLAY button (11) |
| 2 ⏏ EJECT button (11) | 10 ⏩ FF button (11, 14) |
| 3 Tape compartment | 11 ● REC button (SLV-XF245TK only) (18) |
| 4 Tape operation indicators | 12 ■ STOP button (11) |
| 5 HiFi L/R indicators (SLV-XF245TK only) (12) | 13 ⏸ PAUSE button (11) |
| 6 REC (recording) indicator (SLV-XF245TK only) | 14 PICTURE switch (12) |
| 7 AUDIO MONITOR button (SLV-XF245TK only) (12) | 15 NTSC PB switch (12) |
| 8 ◀◀ REW button (11, 14) | 16 COLOR SYSTEM switch (11) |
| | 17 Remote sensor (5) |

Rear panel (SLV-XA125TK)



Rear panel (SLV-XF245TK)

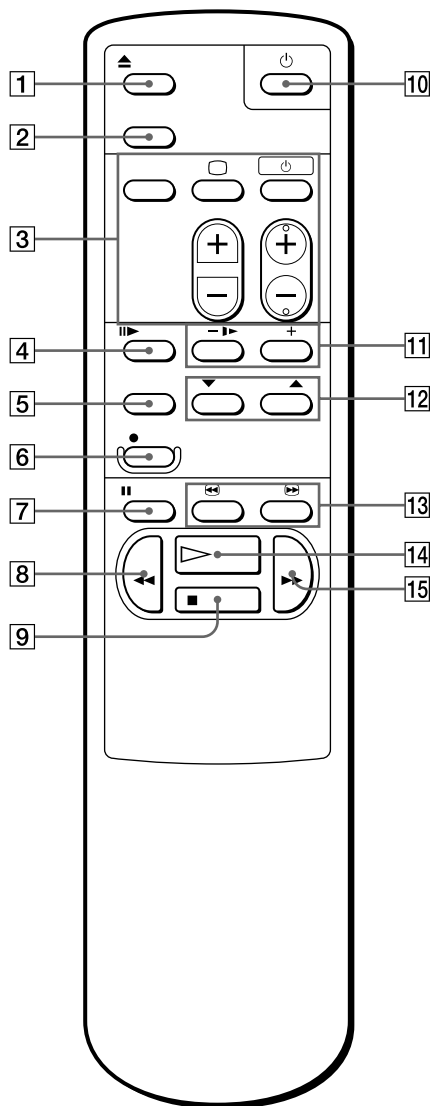


- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 AC IN connector (6) | 5 LINE OUT VIDEO/AUDIO jacks (SLV-XA125TK only) (7) |
| 2 RF CHANNEL screw (9) | LINE OUT VIDEO/AUDIO L/R jacks (SLV-XF245TK only) (7) |
| 3 AERIAL OUT connector (6) | 6 AERIAL IN connector (6) |
| 4 LINE IN VIDEO/AUDIO L/R jacks (SLV-XF245TK only) (17) | 7 TV SYSTEM switch (9) |

continued

Index to parts and controls (continued)

Remote commander



- 1 ▲ EJECT button (11)
- 2 TV/VTR button (*This button doesn't work for this unit*)
- 3 TV buttons (Only for TV) (5)
TV/VIDEO
□ (TV power)
⏻ (Power standby)
VOL +/-
PROG (CH) +/-
- 4 ⏮ FRAME button (14)
- 5 TRACKING AUTO/MANUAL button (16)
- 6 ● REC button (For SLV-XF245TK only) (18)
- 7 ⏸ PAUSE button (11)
- 8 ⏪ REW button (11, 14)
- 9 ■ STOP button (11)
- 10 ⏻ (on/standby) switch (8)
- 11 ⏩ SLOW +/- buttons (14)
- 12 ▼/▲ TRACKING NORMAL/SLOW STILL ADJUST buttons (16)
- 13 🔍/🔍 SEARCH buttons (11, 14)
- 14 ▷ PLAY button (11)
- 15 ⏭ FF button (11, 14)

Index

A, B

- Accessories supplied 4
- Adjusting
 - picture 16
 - tracking 16
- Aerial hookup 6
- Audio track 13
- Auto head cleaner 18
- AV connection 7

C

- Cleaning the video heads 19
- Colour system
 - compatible colour systems 2
 - setting 11
- Connecting
 - the VCR and your TV 6
 - to a TV with audio/video jacks 7

D

- Dubbing. *See* Editing

E, F, G

- Editing 17

H, I, J, K, L

- Hi-fi audio track 13

M

- Monitoring
 - during playback 12

N

- Normal audio track 13
- NTSC-recorded tapes 12

O

- OPC (Optimum Picture Control) 16

P, Q

- Picture adjustment. *See* Adjusting
- Playback 10
 - at various speeds 11, 14
 - frame-by-frame 14
 - slow motion 14

R

- Recording 18
- Remote commander 5
- Rental tape 12
- RF CHANNEL screw 9

S

- Safety tab 18
- Searching at various speeds 14
- SP mode 13

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

- Tracking adjustment. *See* Adjusting
- Tuning your TV to the unit 8
- TV system 9