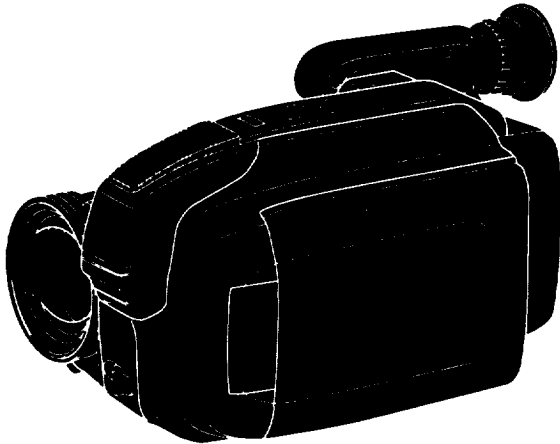


Service Manual

Compact VHS Camcorder



Models : PV-L557D
 VML457



Model : PV-A17

Panasonic[®] **VHS**
Palmcorder[®]

P PV-L557

Consists of PV-L557D / PV-A17

Q VML457

Consists of VML457 / PV-A17

ITEM	SPECIFICATION	MODEL	
		1	2
Power	Source : Compact VHS Camcorder : DC 6V Consumption : Compact VHS Camcorder : 6V DC 10W (Max. 13W) 6V DC 10W	○ ○ —	○ — ○
Video Recording System	Head : 2 rotary heads plus flying erase head, helical scanning system Signal - to - Noise Ratio : SP : more than 43dB, SLP : More than 41dB Horizontal Resolution (Color / Monochrome) Recording : more than 300 lines, Playback : more than 230 lines	○	○
Audio	Head : Normal Mono : 1 stationary head MIC Input Level (M3 type) - 70dB Frequency Responce : Normal Mono : SP : 100Hz - 8kHz, SLP : 100Hz - 5kHz Signal - to - Noise Ratio : SP : more than 42dB, SLP : more than 40dB	○	○
Video Signal	EIA Standard (525 lines, 60 fields) NTSC color signal	○	○
Tape Speed	SP : 1 - 5 / 16 i.p.s. (33.35mm / sec), SLP : 7 / 16 i.p.s. (11.125mm / sec) Record / Playback Time : SP : Max. 40min, SLP : Max. 120min, with TC-40 Tape FF Time : Less than 8min. 14sec. (TC-40 Tape) REW Time : Less than 8min. 19sec. (TC-40 Tape)	○	○
Tape Format	Tape width 0.5inch (12.7mm) high density tape	○	○

1. PV-L557D (Compact VHS Camcorder)
2. VML457 (Compact VHS Camcorder)

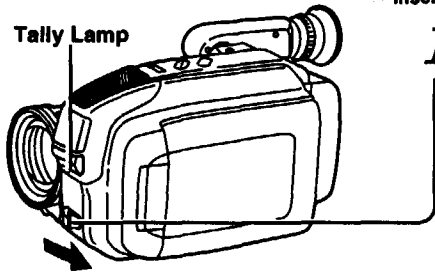
Designs and Specifications are subject to change without notice.
 (Please see reverse side.)

Panasonic / **Quasar**[®]

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Camera Recording

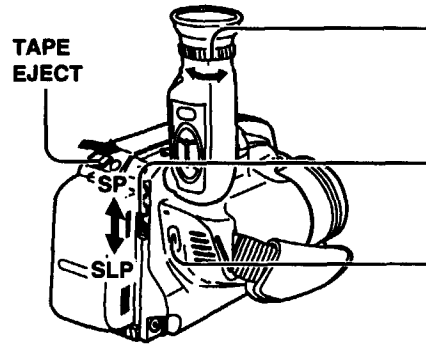
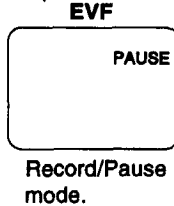
Simple Recording



Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.
- Insert a cassette with record tab.

1 Set the POWER switch to CAMERA. The built-in Lens Cover opens.



2 With the Viewfinder Eye Cup against your eye, adjust the Vision Adjustment Control to your eyesight.

3 Slide the TAPE SPEED Selector to SP or SLP.

4 Press RECORD/PAUSE to start recording. The Tally Lamp and REC Indicator are lit during recording.



Press the RECORD/PAUSE again to pause the recording.

Set the Power switch to OFF after recording is finished.

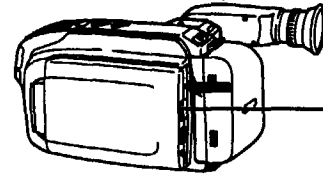
- **To remove the cassette**
In Record/Pause mode, slide the TAPE EJECT switch.

Note:

- When your Palmcorder is aimed at excessively bright objects, or bright lights, a vertical bar may appear in the picture. This is a normal characteristic of the CCD pick-up device. Try to avoid this when possible.

Using the LCD Monitor

The LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) monitor can be used while recording.



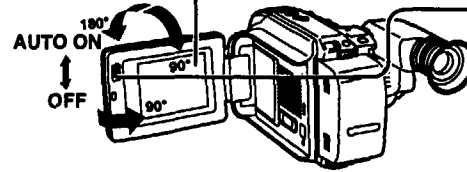
Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.

1 Press the LCD-OPEN button to unlock the LCD monitor.

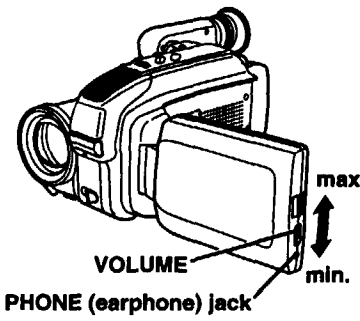
2 Swing the LCD monitor fully open and adjust the angle.

- Rotating the LCD monitor while it is only partially open may block the cassette door and cause damage to the Palmcorder body.



3 LCD AUTO ON

- Set the LCD-POWER switch to AUTO ON. The LCD monitor will then turn on/off according to the Palmcorder's POWER switch setting.
- When the LCD monitor is turned ON, the Viewfinder automatically turns OFF.
- If the LCD monitor is rotated 180° to face the same direction as the lens/subject, the Viewfinder turns back on allowing both you and the subject to monitor the recording.



LCD POWER OFF

- Set the LCD-POWER switch to OFF to have Viewfinder on only.
- When the LCD monitor is completely closed, it will shut off automatically to save power even if the LCD-POWER switch is left on.
- When the LCD monitor turns off, the Viewfinder turns on automatically.

4 Start recording.

Note:

- Using the LCD monitor reduces battery operating time.
- While the LCD monitor is on using the AC Adaptor, the Built-in light cannot be turned on.
- You cannot monitor the sound from the speaker during recording. Connect the earphone (M3 type, not supplied) to PHONE (earphone) jack and adjust the volume of the earphone using the VOLUME control.
- Close the LCD monitor completely when not in use.

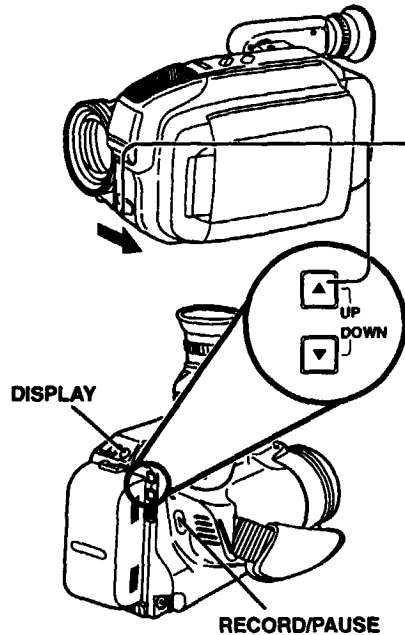
Camera Recording

Stand-by Quick Release

Whenever the Palmcorder is left in RECORD/PAUSE mode for 5 minutes, it will automatically switch to Stand-by mode to conserve energy. Activating the Stand-by Quick Release feature allows you to release the Stand-by mode and resume recording by simply pressing the RECORD/PAUSE button. If this feature is not activated, it is necessary to turn the Palmcorder OFF and back on to CAMERA to start recording again. The default setting from the factory is set to the **NON-ACTIVE** mode.

Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.
- Insert a cassette with record tab.



1 Continue holding down the UP ▲ button before and after turning the POWER switch to CAMERA until the STAND-BY RELEASE menu screen is displayed.

2 Press UP ▲ or DOWN ▼ to select **ACTIVE** or **NON-ACTIVE**.



ACTIVE

You can resume recording from Stand-by mode by pressing the RECORD/PAUSE button.

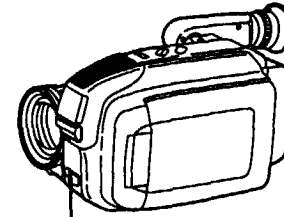
NON-ACTIVE

You must set the POWER switch to OFF, and then to CAMERA to release the Stand-by mode.

3 Press DISPLAY to set your selection and exit this screen.

Easy Edit Stand-by

If you stop recording but plan to resume within 24 hours, use the Edit Standby feature to make a smooth transition between scenes.



POWER Switch

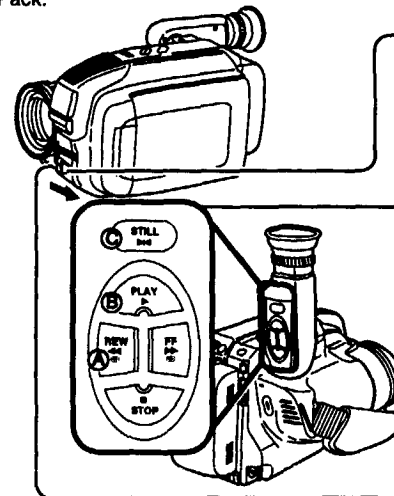
- 1** Press RECORD/PAUSE while recording.
- 2** Set the POWER switch to OFF and leave the cassette in the Palmcorder.
- 3** When ready to resume recording, set the POWER switch to CAMERA and press RECORD/PAUSE.

Note:

- If it is going to be longer than 24 hours before you resume recording, you will need to use the manual Easy Edit feature described below.

Manual Easy Editing

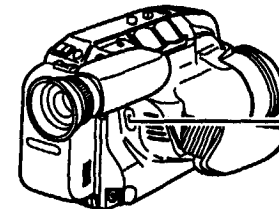
For proper continuity when taping from the Stop mode, or after changing the Battery Pack.



1 Set the POWER switch to VCR.

- 2**
 - Press REWIND/SEARCH to go back a few seconds on the tape.
 - Press PLAY to review the picture on the Viewfinder.
 - Press STILL at the location you wish to continue your recording.

3 Set the POWER switch to CAMERA.



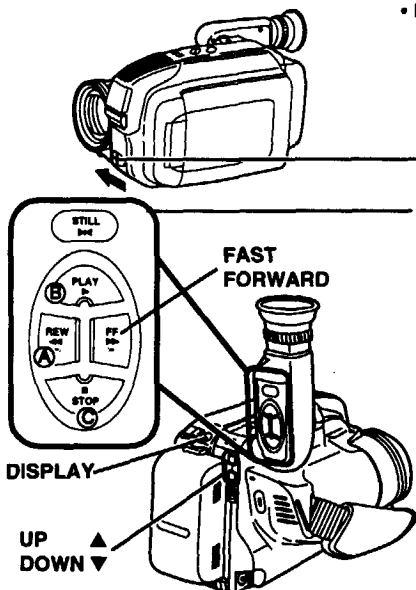
4 Press RECORD/PAUSE to continue recording.

Play Back your Recordings

Playback using the EVF

Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.
- Insert a recorded cassette.



1 Set the POWER switch to VCR.

2 **A** Press the REWIND/SEARCH button to rewind the tape.
B Press PLAY to start playback.
C Press STOP to stop playback.

Auto Play

When the POWER switch is set to VCR, playback will automatically begin if the record tab has been removed on the cassette.

Search Speed

Standard Play (SP) Search is about 3 times the normal speed, and Super Long Play (SLP) Search is about 9 times the normal speed.

Special Effects Playback

To rapidly locate a scene

Press FAST FORWARD/SEARCH or REWIND/SEARCH for rapid visual search. Press again, or press PLAY to resume normal speed.

View a Still Picture

Press STILL to freeze the picture. Press again to resume normal playback. This feature works best in SLP mode.

Note:

- During search playback, horizontal noise bars will appear and there will be no audio.
- To protect the tape and the video heads, your Palmcorder's operating modes will revert as follows:
 STILL → STAND-BY after 5 minutes.
 STAND-BY → POWER OFF after 5 minutes when using a Battery Pack.
- When the tape reaches its end during playback, or fast forward, it will rewind automatically.

Tracking Control

Auto Tracking

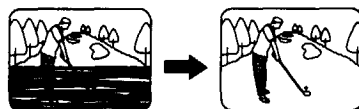
Continuously analyzes the signal of each recording for optimum picture quality.

Manual Tracking

To minimize the noise in some recordings, manual tracking may be necessary.

In Playback mode:

Press UP ▲ or DOWN ▼ until picture clears.
 Press DISPLAY to return to Auto Tracking.

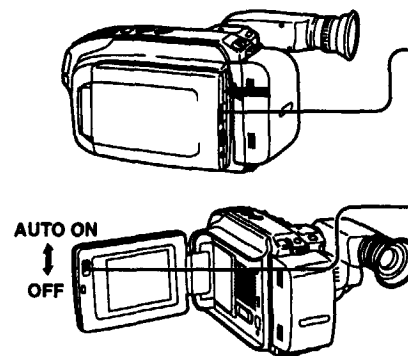


Playback using the LCD Monitor

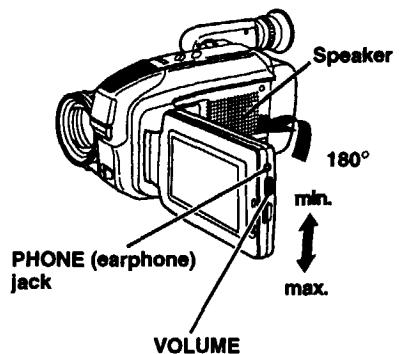
You can also use the LCD monitor to playback your recording.

Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.
- Insert a recorded cassette.
- Set the POWER switch to VCR.



1 Press the LCD-OPEN button to unlock the LCD monitor and swing open.



2 Set the LCD-POWER switch to AUTO ON. The LCD monitor will then turn on/off according to the Palmcorder's POWER switch setting.
 • When the LCD monitor is turned ON, the Viewfinder automatically turns OFF.
 • When not in use, close the LCD monitor. (Faces inward)

3 Playback the tape.
 • Adjust the volume of the speaker or earphone (if connected) using the VOLUME control.

4 Set the LCD-POWER switch to OFF to have Viewfinder on only when viewing is finished.
 • When the LCD monitor is completely closed, it will shut off automatically to save power even if the LCD-POWER switch is left on.
 • When the LCD monitor turns off, the Viewfinder turns on automatically.

Note:

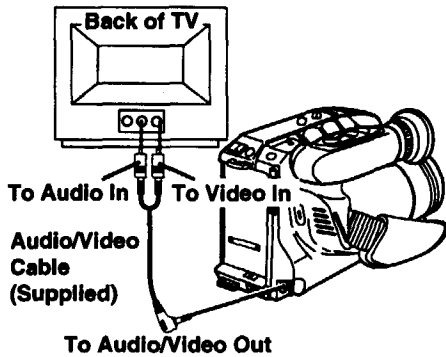
- Using the LCD monitor reduces battery operating time.
- If you connect the earphone (M3 type, not supplied) to PHONE (earphone) jack, the sound from the speaker will be muted.

Play Back your Recordings

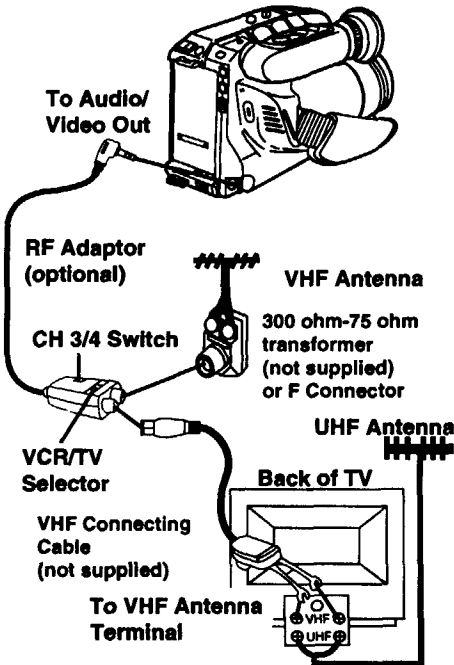
TV Playback or Viewing

Your Palmcorder may be connected to a TV to play back tapes or to view what you are recording.

TV with AUDIO/VIDEO IN Jacks.



TV without AUDIO/VIDEO IN Jacks.



Before you begin...

- Connect the Palmcorder to a power source.

1 Set the **POWER** switch to **VCR** for tape playback.
Or, set to **CAMERA** to view what your Palmcorder is recording.

2 Turn the TV **ON** and set it to **LINE INPUT**.
Check your TV operating instructions.

Note:

If your TV has no VIDEO or AUDIO IN jacks, select CH 3 or 4 on your TV to match the CH 3/4 switch setting on the OPTIONAL PV-RF16 RF Adaptor. Set the VCR/TV selector on the RF Adaptor to VCR for playback.

3 Start playback or begin a recording.

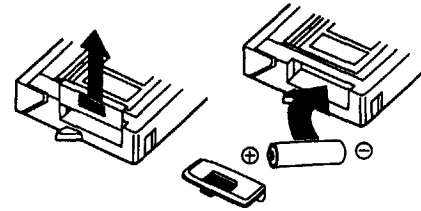
If you have connected the Palmcorder to your TV using the PV-RF16 RF Adaptor and want to watch TV only:

Set the **POWER** switch to **OFF** on the Palmcorder.
Then, set the **VCR/TV Selector** on the RF Adaptor to **TV**.
Now, turn the TV **ON** and select a channel.

CATV System Installer

This reminder is provided to call the CATV system installer's attention to Article 820-40 of the NEC in USA (and to the Canadian Electrical Code in Canada) that provides guidelines for proper grounding and, in particular, specifies that the cable ground shall be connected to the grounding system of the building, as close to the point of cable entry as practical.

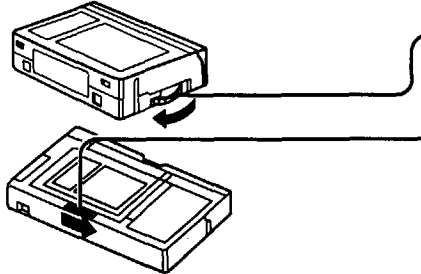
Playback using the PlayPak



Remove the Battery Compartment lid and insert the AA size battery.

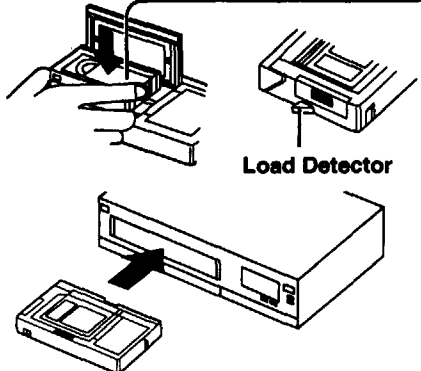
- Make sure polarities are aligned properly.
- When tape loading and unloading time becomes longer than normal, battery replacement is necessary.

Insert VHS Cassette



1 Turn the **Tape Wheel** on the **VHS** cassette in the direction of the arrow to take up any slack.

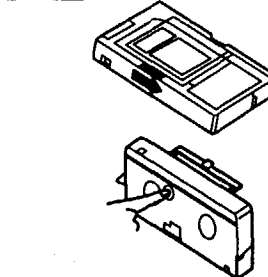
2 Slide the **RELEASE** button in the direction of the arrow to open the PlayPak door.



3 Insert the **VHS** cassette with the window facing up and to the left.
Then, snap the lid shut.

- Be sure the cassette reel area under the PlayPak is free to turn while loading.
- Allow the Load Detector to fully retract before using the PlayPak in your standard VHS VCR.

Remove VHS Cassette

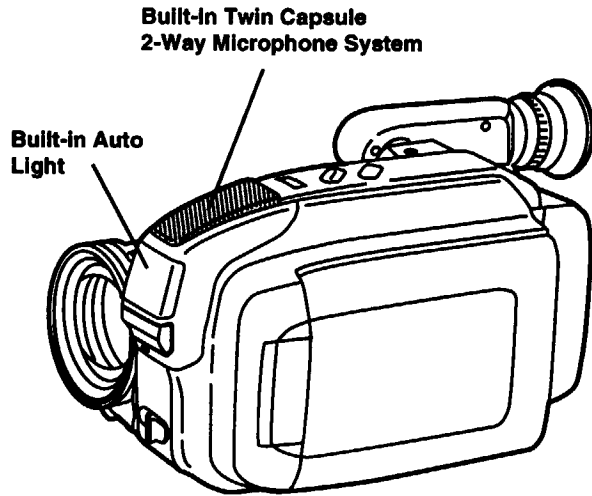


1 Slide the **RELEASE** button and wait for the lid to open.

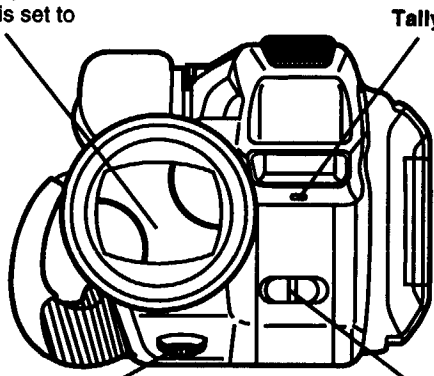
2 Hold the **PlayPak** securely in one hand. Using your finger, reach through the hole in the bottom of the PlayPak Adaptor and push the tape out the top.

Index of Controls

Front View

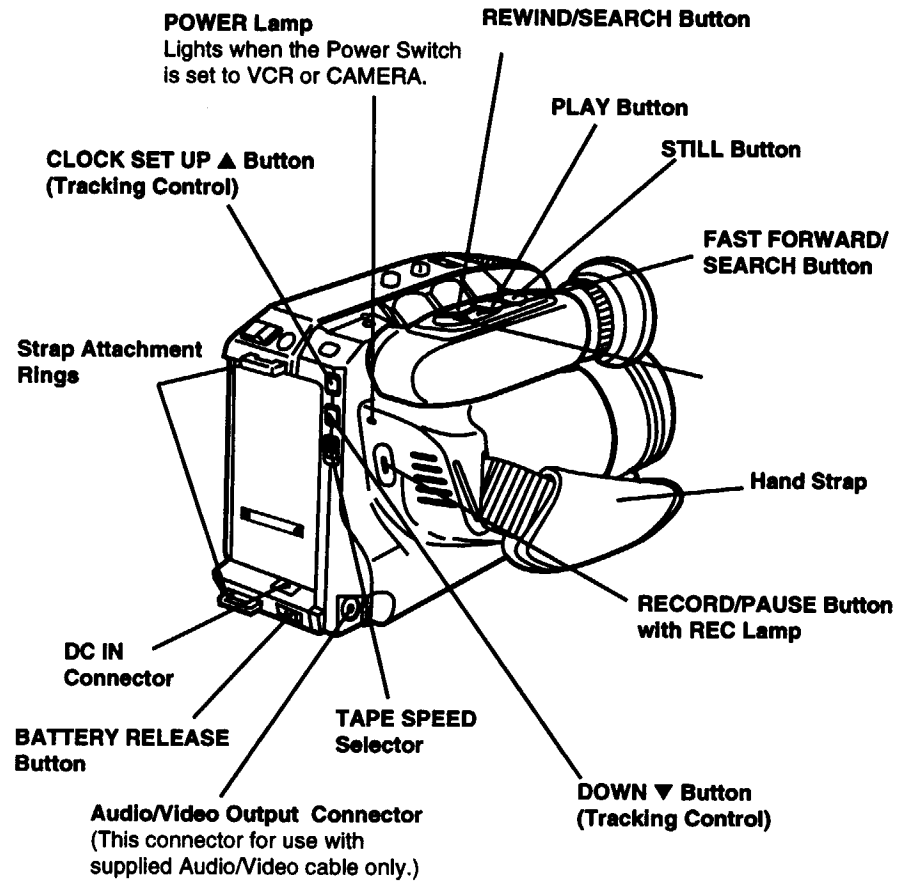


Built-In Lens Cover
Opens automatically when the Power Switch is set to CAMERA.

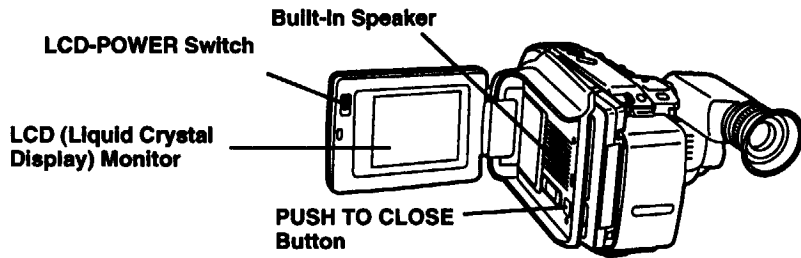
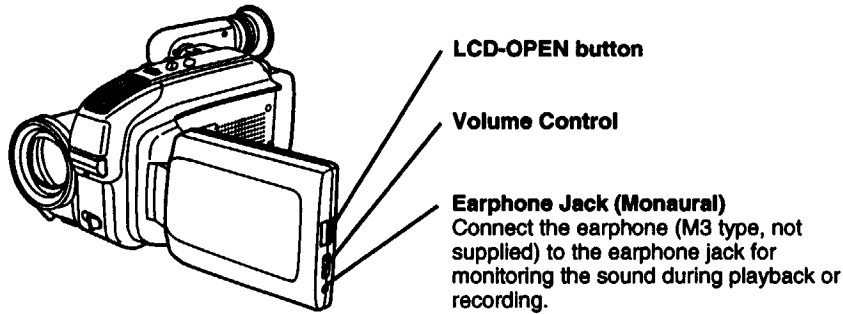


MANUAL FOCUS Wheel

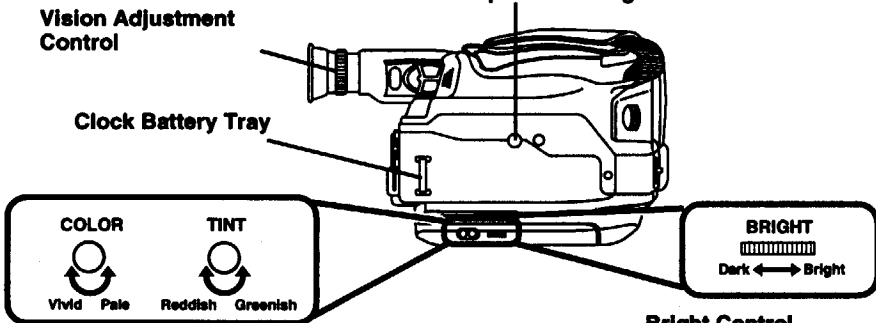
Rear View



Index of Controls



Underside View

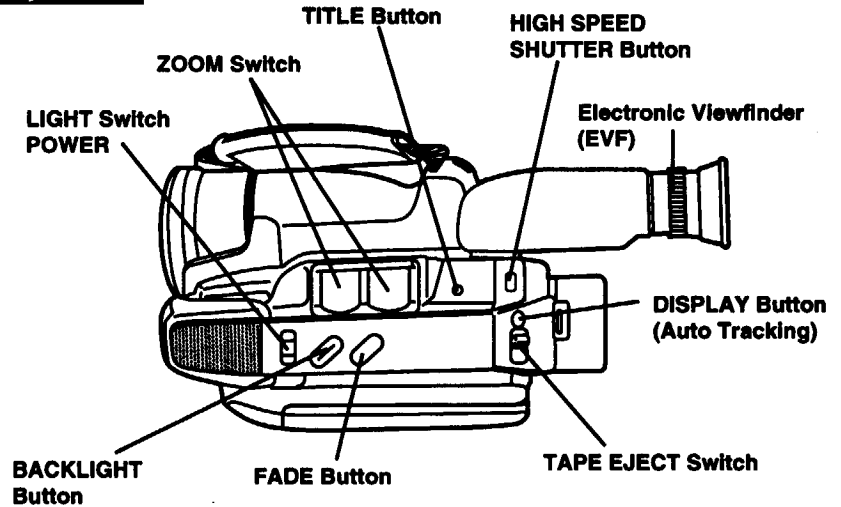


***Tint Control**
Adjusts the tint for natural flesh tones.

***Color Control**
Adjusts the color intensity.

***Note:** These controls have been set at the factory. It is not necessary to adjust these controls under normal circumstances. But, should it become necessary, be careful to make the adjustment with a small, slender screwdriver so as not to damage the miniature control.

Top View

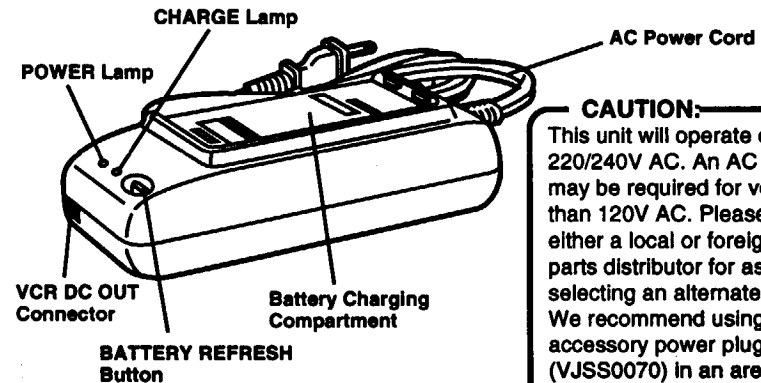


***Focus Control**
Adjust the focus of the picture on the EVF.

***Bright Control**
Adjust the brightness of the picture.

***Note:** These controls have been set at the factory. It is not necessary to adjust these controls under normal circumstances. But, should it become necessary, be careful to make the adjustment with a small, slender screwdriver so as not to damage the miniature control.

AC Adaptor



CAUTION:

This unit will operate on 110/120/220/240V AC. An AC plug adaptor may be required for voltages other than 120V AC. Please contact either a local or foreign electrical parts distributor for assistance in selecting an alternate AC plug. We recommend using the accessory power plug adaptor (VJSS0070) in an area which has special AC outlets.