

SONY

SONY CORPORATION 3-790-461-23 (1) Printed in Japan (2)

PRECAUTIONS

Your SONY TC-55 is a compact Cassette-corder which offers such a variety of features as follows. Please read this instruction manual carefully to master the proper operation of the recorder.

FEATURES

- Built-in condenser microphone for maximum convenience
- Automatic shut-off mechanism in the playback and record mode
- o SONY-MATIC recording system for easy recording
- Dual differential-balanced flywheels for stable tape speed
- o Pause switch for instantaneous tape stop
- High reliability with I.P.B. (Integrated Printed circuit Board)
- o Four-way power source operation

- 1. The REC (record) button cannot be depressed in the following cases.
 - No cassette in the cassette compartment.
 - A cassette is loaded with safety tab broken-out.
- 2. Tape will not move when the pause switch is set at the STOP position. Before using, set this switch at the START position.
- Clean the record/playback head periodically. Otherwise, the reproduced sound may be distorted. Refer to page 21.
- 4. Do not expose the set to direct sunlight, or place too near heaters for extended period.

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• The sides of a cassette are marked "A" and "B". When you wish to record or play back side "A", install the cassette into the cassette compartment with side "A" up. When you wish to record or play back side "B", install it with side "B" up.

The letter "A" of the SONY Cassette is embossed to help distinguish that side of the cassette in a dimly lighted area.



 Before installing a cassette, remove any slack from the tape by inserting a pencil into the hub and winding it until the slack is eliminated.



 Tape Cassettes incorporate a convenient safety device to prevent accidental erasure. (When the recorder is set in the record mode, previous recordings are automatically erased.)

When the small tabs at the rear of a cassette are broken out, a safety device will be activated, preventing recording.

To protect side "A" recording, break out the tab of side "A".

To protect side "B", break out the tab of side "B" When the cassette is installed with the tabs broken out, the REC (record) button cannot be depressed.

To reuse a cassette for recording after the tabs have been removed, simply cover each slot with a small piece of cellophane or vinyl tape.



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PARTS AND CONTROLS



POWER SOURCES

Batteries

Detach the battery case and remove the battery holder from the case. Insert the supplied four batteries positioned as indicated, inside the battery holder. Battery polarity must be correct. Put the holder into the case by matching the orange marks. Install the battery holder and the case into the recorder.

Note: Take out the batteries to avoid battery leakage when you do not use the recorder or use it on an AC power line for an extended period of time.



Checking the battery condition

New Super batteries allow approx. 2 hours of continuous recording. When depressing the FWD (forward) button, if the pointer of the REC/BATT (record/battery) indicator stays in the white zone, replace all the batteries with new ones.





House current

Connect the recorder to an AC outlet using the optional Power Adaptor & Charger AC-9.

When the recorder is connected to the power adaptor, power source switches automatically from the built-in battery to house current.

 Optional Accessory Kit AK-3 consists of the Power Adapter & Charger AC-9 and the Rechargeable Battery Pack BP-23.



Rechargeable Battery Pack BP-23 (optional accessory)

This battery pack is good for approx. 100 discharge and recharge cycles. Before using, charge the battery completely. The Power Adapter & Charger AC-9 is used for charging.

How to charge: Install the BP-23 in the battery case instead of the supplied battery holder. (The installation of the BP-23 is the same as that of the supplied battery holder.) Connect the recorder to an AC outlet, using the Power Adapter & Charger for about 4 hours at nominal operating voltage.

- Fully charged BP-23 permits approx. 3 hours of continuous recording.
- If the pointer of the record/battery indicator stays in the white zone during playback, recharge the battery as described above.
- The recorder can be operated while charging, though more charging time is needed.
- To avoid over-charging, be sure to remove the power adaptor when charging is completed.



Car/boat battery

With the use of the SONY Car Battery Cord DCC-126 (optional accessory), the recorder will operate on a 12V car/boat battery through a cigarette lighter socket of your car or boat. For details, refer to the instructions for the DCC-126.



RECORDING

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With built-in microphone

Make sure that the pause switch is set at START position.

- 1. Lift the cassette compartment lid to the open position. Load a cassette with desired side up for recording and 2.
- exposed tape-path facing you. Close the lid. 3. Set the MUSIC/SPEECH [REC] selector. For conver-
- sation and telephone recording, set it at SPEECH, and for other sound sources, set it at MUSIC.
- 4. Set the tape counter to 000 by pushing the reset button.
- 5. While depressing the REC (record) button to its locked position, depress the FWD (forward) button.
- To stop the tape motion, depress the STOP button.



- o Recording level adjustment is unnecessary with the SONY-MATIC recording system.
- While recording, the pointer of the REC/BATT (record/ battery) indicator swings indicating that your TC-55 is recording.
- o Program being recorded can be heard through the earphone.

With an external microphone

When using a two-pin plug microphone such as SONY F-25S, ECM-95S, insert the thicker pin into the MIC input jack and the thinner one into the REMOTE control jack. When using a one-pin plug microphone such as SONY ECM-16, ECM-18, insert the plug into the MIC input jack. Recording procedures are the same as those when using the built-in microphone.

• A two-pin plug microphone provides instantaneous stop/ start facility.

Note: The REMOTE control jack is not set firmly in order to allow for easier access when inserting plug.



Instantaneous tape stop

With the pause switch, tape motion can be stopped and re-started instantaneously. This will be useful for recording to eliminate unnecessary parts and also in the transcribing.

- When an external microphone equipped with the stop/ start facility is used, tape motion will be controlled by the switch on the microphone regardless of the position of the pause switch on the recorder.
- When the recorder is not used for a long period of time, depress the STOP button.

Note: Use the pause switch in the playback or record mode. Be careful not to use it in the fast forward or rewind mode, as the tape might be deteriorated because of its high speed transport.



PLAYBACK

Make sure that the pause switch is set at START position.

- 1. Lift the cassette compartment lid to the open position.
- 2. Load a cassette with desired side up for playback and exposed tape-path facing you. Close the lid.
- 3. Depress the FWD (forward) button.
- 4. Adjust the sound level by turning the PB VOL (playback volume) control knob.
- To stop the tape motion, depress the STOP button.



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Fast forward and CUE function

To advance the tape rapidly, set the recorder in the stop mode, then depress and lock the FF/CUE (fast forward/cue) button.

To skip over anything you don't wish to listen to during playback, leave the FWD button in locked position, and hold down the FF/CUE button. The tape will move forward with a chattering sound from the recorded program. To return to the playback mode, simply release the FF/CUE button.



To rewind the tape

Set the recorder in the stop mode, then depress and lock the REW (rewind) button.

Automatic shut-off mechanism

In the record or playback mode, the FWD (forward) button and the REC (record) button (when recording) will return to their original position at end-of-tape. Then the power will be turned off. With this model, it is no longer necessary to worry about when the tape will end. This assures protection of tapes and prevents undue battery wear.

In the fast forward or rewind mode, be sure to depress the STOP button at end-of-tape.

Notes:

- When depressing the FWD button after the automatic shut-off mechanism activates, the buzzing alarm sound will be heard.
- When using some cassettes whose tape is poorly joined with the leader tape, automatic shut-off mechanism may work at the beginning (not end) of the tape.

For private listening

Insert the supplied earphone into the MONITOR jack. The speaker sound will be disconnected and the program can be heard from the earphone.

RECORDING FROM VARIOUS SOUND SOURCES

You can record directly from a radio, TV or other sound sources by using an appropriate connecting cord as illustrated.

The illustration shows the connections for direct recording from SONY components. If your radio, TV, etc., is not a SONY product, please refer to its own instruction manual.

- When recording from the earphone jack of a radio or TV, or duplicating the tape from another tape recorder, adjust the sound level of the radio, TV or another recorder to a normal listening level.
- When duplicating the tape to another tape recorder, adjust the TC-55 to a normal listening sound level.



ERASING

With a new recording, any previous recording will automatically be erased. To erase a previous recording without adding a new recording, proceed as follows:

- Load the recorded cassette with desired side up for erasing and exposed tape-path facing you. A cassette with safety tabs broken-out may be erased by covering the empty slots.
- 2. Insert the plug of the Connecting Cord RK-64A (supplied) into the MIC input jack. (The other plug of the cord should be left free.)
- While depressing the REC (record) button, depress the FWD (forward) button.
- For quicker and easier erasure, the SONY Cassette Eraser BE-7 (optional accessory) is recommended.



MAINTENANCE

Before proceeding, remove the batteries or the power adaptor to turn off the recorder.

Head cleaning

The heads are one of the most important parts in the recorder. For optimum performance, always keep the heads clean. Depress the FWD (forward) button to expose the heads in the cassette compartment. Wipe the record/ playback head, erase head, pinch roller and capstan, where the tape travels, using a soft cloth (when the heads are quite dirty, moisten the cloth with denatured alcohol) or the optional SONY Head Cleaning Pen CLH-1.



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Head demagnetizing

Accidental contact with any magnetized steel object (screwdriver, scissors, etc.) may cause the record/playback head to become magnetized, which increases hissing noise during playback. It is recommended that the record/playback head be demagnetized with the SONY Head Demagnetizer HE-2 (optional accessory).

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

SONY Cassette (C-30, C-60, C-90, C-120, C-60UHF, C-90UHF, C-120UHF)
Accessory Kit AK-3 (consists of Power Adapter & Charger AC-9 and Rechargeable Battery Pack BP-23)
Car Battery Cord DCC-126
Dynamic Microphone F-25S
Condenser Microphone ECM-16, ECM-18, ECM-95S
Telephone Pickup TP-5S
Connecting Cord RK-69
Remote Control RM-15
Foot Switch FS-6
Cassette Eraser BE-7
Head Cleaning Pen CLH-1
Cleaning Cassette C-1C
Head Demagnetizer HE-2

SONY tape for best recording

WARRANTY

SONV

All parts of this product are fully guaranteed by Superscope, Inc. for a period of ONE YEAR from date of purchase, and you are entitled to free labor service for a period of ninety days from date of purchase. The conditions of this Warranty and the extent of the responsibility of Superscope, Inc. under this Warranty, are as follows:

- 1. The purchase must have been made from an authorized Superscope dealer.
- 2. The Warranty extends only in favor of the original, registered owner of the product.
- The Warranty Registration Card must be transmitted to Superscope, Inc., 8150 Vineland Avenue, Sun Valley, California 91352, not later than ten days from date of purchase.

4. The Warranty will become void if repairs are effected by anyone other than an authorized SUPERSCOPE Service Station.

5. If it becomes necessary to send this product or any defective part to Superscope, Inc., or to an authorized SUPERSCOPE Service Station, all shipping charges must be fully prepaid. If the entire instrument is sent, it must be shipped in its original package. No accessories should be shipped with the product. If any accessories are shipped with the product, Superscope, Inc. shall have no liability whatsoever for loss of or damage to any such accessories, nor for the safe return thereof.

6. This Warranty shall be valid only if the purchase was made within the United States of America. The Warranty shall not apply unless shipment is made by the purchaser to a SUFERSCOFE Service Station from a point within the United States. If the requested repairs and/or parts exchange are within the terms of this Warranty, Superscope will prepay return shipping charges, provided that such return shipment is to be made to an address located within the United States.

7. This Warranty is void if the Serial Number has been altered or removed. This Warranty shall not apply if the product has not been connected or operated in accordance with such instructions as may be furnished by SONY and/or SUPERSCOPE. This Warranty shall also be void if the product has been altered or repaired in any way which Superscope believes has affected the stability or reliability of the product.

 Superscope, Inc. shall have no liability whatsoever for consequential damages. The sole responsibility of Superscope, Inc. under this Warranty shall be limited to the repair of the product, or replacement thereof, in the sole discretion of Superscope, Inc.

 This Warranty does not include the furnishing of labor or parts for user maintenance, as the same is described in the instruction manual or handbook furnished with this product.
 This Warranty is valid only with respect to repairs effected by an authorized SUPERSCOPE Service Station.

Service Station. 11. EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT THAT APPLICABLE LAW PRECLUDES A DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY, THERE IS NO IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS WITH RESPECT TO THIS PRODUCT, NOR ARE THERE ANY OTHER WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS WARRANTY.

TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THIS WARRANTY, FILL OUT AND MAIL THE WARRANTY REGISTRATION CARD TO SUPERSCOPE, INC., 8150 VINELAND AVENUE, SUN VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 91352, NOT LATER THAN TEN DAYS FOLLOWING THE DATE OF PURCHASE.

SUPERSCOPE

SPECIFICATIONS

Power requirements:	AC 120V (with the optional Power
	Adapter & Charger AC-9), 60H2
. *	SONV Persparanable Pattery Park
	PP 22 12V car or best bettery
	with the SONY DCC 126
Power concumption :	
Tana spood:	17/ inc
Recording time:	120 min (with Tana Cassatta
Recording time.	C-120)
Semiconductors:	1 FET (for built-in microphone)
	13 transistors, 8 diodes
Speaker:	2″ dia.
Power output:	350 mW (max.)
Frequency response :	90-10,000 Hz
Microphone input :	Sensitivity -72dB (0dB=0.775V)
	0.2 mV
	Accepts a low impedance micro-
	phone
Monitor output:	Accepts an 8 Ω earphone or more
	than 10k Ω load impedance
Battery life:	Approx. 2 hours of continuous
	recording with four SONY Super
	Batteries size AA
Dimensions :	1½×5⅓×3⅔″ (w/h/d)
Weight:	1 lb 14 oz (incl. supplied batteries)
Supplied accessories:	Battery size AA (4 pieces), Tape
	cassette, Earphone, Connecting
	Cord RK-64A, Carrying case

Design and specifications subject to change without notice.

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SONY CORPORATION

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Printed in Japan (C)

TAPE TALK

SONY®

- A-B TEST....Direct comparison of sound quality between hi-fi components accomplished by switching from one to another.
- ACOUSTIC FEEDBACK.... The howling caused when a microphone picks up vibrations from its own skeaker system.
- AMPLIFY.....To increase levels, as with a volume control.
- ATTENUATE.... To decrease levels, as with a volume control.
- AUTOMATIC SHUT-OFF.... A special switch on a tape recorder which automatically stops the machine when the tape breaks or runs out.
- AZIMUTH ADJUSTMENT....The adjustment to position the head gap exactly perpendicular to the horizontal base of the tape.
- **BAFFLE...** The panel to which most speakers are mounted, usually the front panel of an enclosure.
- **BIAS....** A high frequency alternating current fed into the recording circuit and used as a carrier of the audio signals to the record head, as well as current to the erase head.
- BINAURAL SOUND....Two-channel sound, in which each channel recorded is heard only through one ear. (Channel 1—left ear, and Channel 2—right ear.)

- **BINAURAL MONITOR JACK...** Output jack of tape recorder wired to accept binaural earphones.
- **BULK ERASER....** A strong alternating electro-magnetic device used to erase the magnetic patterns on tape while still wound on a reel, or in bulk form.
- **CAPSTAN....**The rotating shaft which engages the tape and pulls it across the heads at constant speed.
- **CATHODE FOLLOWER....** The type of electronic circuit used in an output stage of a recorder to permit the use of longer interconnecting cables without the loss of high frequency. Usually not necessary in a normal installation.
- CHANNEL....Complete sound or signal path of a sound system.
- CHASSIS....The metal base of frame which carries the electrical or mechanical assemblies.
- CPS....Cycles per second.
- CROSS TALK....Signal (sound) leakage between two channels.
- **DECIBEL (ABBREVIATED db)**....A relative measure of sound intensity. One db is the smallest change in sound volume that the human ear can detect.
- **DISTORTION....** Any difference between the original sound and the recorded and reproduced sound.

DUAL TRACK RECORDER....Type of monophonic recorder which records or plays back half of a standard 1/4''tape in one direction and the other half in the opposite direction.

DUBBING....The art of duplicating on tape.

- **DYNAMIC MICROPHONE....** An electro-magnetic type which employs a moving coil in the magnetic field.
- **DYNAMIC RANGE...** The ratio between the softest and loudest sounds a tape recorder can reproduce without distortion.
- **EDITING....** Selection of certain sections of tape recordings and the deletion of unwanted portions and then splicing them together in the desired sequence.
- **EQUALIZATION...** The manipulation of frequencies that are required to meet the recognized standards of recording and reproducing techniques.
- **ERASE HEAD....** The magnetic assembly on a tape recorder over which the tape passes to remove previously recorded signals.
- **FAST FORWARD**....Provision in a tape recorder to run tape rapidly forward through the machine for quick selection of desired portion.
- **FEED REEL....**The reel on a tape recorder which supplies the tape.

FLAT RESPONSE.... Any audio system is specified as having an essentially flat frequency response if it is rated plus or minus 3 db from 50 to 14,000 cps.

FLUTTER.... Very short and rapid variations in tape speed.

- **FOOT SWITCH....** A mechanical foot pedal for stopping and starting a tape recorder without the use of hands.
- **FREQUENCY**..., The rate of repetition in cycles per second (cps) of musical pitch, as well as of electrical signals. Low frequencies refer to bass tone, high frequencies to treble tone.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE.... (See Flat Response.)

- FM "Frequency Modulation"....FM broadcasting is characterized by wide range audio response and a great deal of freedom from noise.
- **FM STEREO**....Also known as multiplexing. A form of FM broadcasting in which two channels of audio signals are transmitted on the same carrier, offering a signal similar to the stereo available from stereo records and tapes.
- GAIN....The increase in signal provided by an amplifier between input level and output level.
- **GAP....**The tiny distance between the poles of tape heads usually measured in microns.

- **GROUND...** A point in any electrical system that has zero voltage, usually the chassis of any electrical component.
- **HEAD**....An electro-magnetic device across which the tape is drawn and which magnetizes the iron oxide coating of tape.
- **HEAD ALIGNMENT...** In tape recorders, the correct position of the tape head and gap, with, respect to the magnetic tape.
- **HEADPHONES....**Small sound reproducers in a suitable frame for wearing about the head. Close coupled to the ears for private listening.
- **HUM**....Low frequency noise in an audio component usually induced from the power line or stray magnetic fields.
- Hz....Hertz: cycles per second.
- **IHF**....The Institute of High Fidelity, the official association of the manufacturers and certain related organizations in the high fidelity field.
- IMPEDANCE.... Measured in ohms, it is the AC resistance of any electrical system. Generally referred to as either "high" or "low" impedance. For best results in connecting two components, output and input impedances must match.

- **IN-LINE HEADS....** Arrangement of stereophonic heads on a tape recorder in which the head gaps are mounted one directly above the other. Also called "stacked heads".
- **INPUT...** The receptacle or jack through which a signal is fed into an amplifier.
- **IPS....** Abbreviation for tape speed in inches per second.
- **INVERTER....** A device to change one type of electrical current to another. Frequently used to obtain 110 volts alternating current for operation of a tape recorder in an automobile.
- JACK....Receptacle or plug connector leading to the input or output circuit of a tape recorder or other component.
- LEVEL INDICATOR....Indicates the level at which the recording is being made and serves as a warning against under recording or over recording. It may be in the form of a neon bulb, "Magic Eye" or a VU meter.
- LOUDNESS CONTROL....Sometimes known as "contour". Compensates for loss of tones at the extreme end of the audio range when listening at soft volumes or through small speakers. A typical control of this sort will usually boost the bass.

- **MAGNETIC TAPE...**.Usually 1/4" plastic tape which has been coated with an emulsion of iron oxide particles. Used on tape recorders as the recording media and is the highest fidelity of reproduction possible today.
- MIL....1/1,000 of an inch. Tape thickness is usually measured in mils.
- MIXER....A device by which signals from two or more sources can be combined and fed simultaneously into a tape recorder at the proper level and balance.
- **MIXING....** The blending of two or more signals for special effects.
- **MONITOR HEAD**....The head on a tape recorder which, when connected to the proper circuitry, makes it possible to listen to the material directly off the tape while the recording is being made.
- **MONOPHONIC RECORDER**....Sometimes incorrectly called monaural recorder. It is capable of only one channel recording.

MULTIPLEX.... (see FM Stereo.)

NAB CURVE....Standard playback equalization curve set by the National Association of Broadcasters.

- **OSCILLOSCOPE...** A device which forms a graphic representation of an electrical signal on a screen (cathode ray tube). Used for testing and measuring of electrical and elecronic equipment (tape recorders).
- **OUTPUT**....The signal voltage coming from components, such as pre-amplifiers and amplifiers. In tape recorders, there are line outputs, speaker outputs and monitor outputs.
- **OXIDE**....As used in magnetic tape—a microscopic ferrous oxide.
- **PATCH CORD**....A short cable with a plug at either end used to interconnect equipment, such as tape recorders and amplifiers.
- **PHASING....** The proper polarity orientation of the two speakers used in stereo playback; proper phasing would be, for example, the ground connection being common to both speakers.
- **PINCH ROLLER** (Pressure Roller)....A rubber roller which engages the capstan and pulls the tape with constant speed and prevents slippage.
- **PLAYBACK...** Reproduction of the sound previously recorded on the tape.
- **PLAYBACK HEAD**....The magnetic head which picks up signals from tape for playback.

- **PLUG**....A form of mechanical interconnector used for quick and easy connection of components, such as phone plug, phono plug and AC plug.
- **POWER AMPLIFIER....** An amplifier designed to operate a speaker system.
- **POWER CORD....**Cable used to connect a tape recorder to AC current.
- **PRE-AMPLIFIER....** An amplifier that boosts extremely weak signal voltages, such as those from microphones, magnetic playback heads or phonograph pickups, to a level that is usable by power amplifiers, and at the same time accomplishes the necessary equalization for industry standards.
- **PRE-RECORDED TAPES....Recordings** on tape that are commercially available.
- **PRESSURE PADS**....Felt pads mounted on arms which hold the magnetic tape in close contact with the heads. Mostly always used in "one-motor" tape recorders.
- SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO....The ratio, measured in db's, between the pure sound and the noise induced by the recording system itself.
- SOUND-ON-SOUND....A method in which previously recorded material on one track may be re-recorded

on another track while simultaneously adding new material.

SPLICING TAPE.... A special pressure sensitive non-magnetic tape used for splicing magnetic tape.

STACKED HEADS.... (See In-Line Heads.)

- **STEREOPHONIC SOUND....** "Dimensional" sound reproduction achieved through the use of two or more sound tracks recorded through microphones so placed as to provide separation of sounds and heard simultaneously through speakers arranged somewhat apart from each other, according to the size of the room in which it is played.
- **TAKE-UP REEL....** The reel located on the right side of the tape recorder which accumulates the tape as it is recorded or played.
- **TAPE DECK...** A tape recorder designed for use in built-in high fidelity music systems. It is encased in a metal cage rather than a carrying case. The electronics usually consist of record amplifiers and playback pre-amplifier.
- **TAPE GUIDES....Grooved** metal posts located on either side of the head assembly to keep the tape tracking properly across the heads.
- **TAPE INDEX COUNTER....** A digital counter used mostly to aid in referring to a particular portion of tape.

- **TAPE SPEED**....The speed at which tape moves past the heads and measured in inches per second.
- **TAPE SPLICER....** A semi-automatic or automatic device used for splicing tape.
- **TAPE TRANSPORT**....The mechanical portion of the tape recorder mounted with motors, reel spindles, heads and controls. It does not include pre-amplifiers, power amplifiers, speakers or carrying case.
- **TONE CONTROL...** Used to vary bass and treble response to achieve individually desired balance of tone.
- **VU METER....** A volume unit meter which indicates the relative levels of sounds being recorded.

WOW....Repetitive slow variations in tape speed.

SONY CORP.

TOKYO JAPAN

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Notes on Cassette

The Record Button cannot be depressed in the following cases :

- 1. No cassette in the Cassette Compartment.
- 2. Safety tabs on the installed cassette have been removed.

Never depress the button FORCIBLY.

Insert your cassette into the Cassette Compartment correctly.

Read the supplied Instruction Manual carefully.

Renseignements sur la cassette

La touche d'enregistrement ne peut être enfoncée dans les cas suivants :

- 1. Il n'y a pas de cassette dans son logement.
- 2. Le segment de sécurité a été enlevé de la cassette.

Ne jamais enfoncer la touche par force.

Installer une cassette dans le logement de façon correcte.

Lire attentivement le mode d'emploi fourni avec l'appareil.

SONY. TC-55

How to attach the carrying case and the shoulder strap



*Adjust the length of the strap.

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Note on pause switch

Use the pause switch on the recorder in the playback or record mode. Be careful not to use it in the fast forward or rewind mode, as the tape might be deteriorated because of its high speed transport.

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