NLS Factsheets

Sources for Purchase of Cassette Players and Player-Recorders Compatible with Recorded Materials Produced by the National Library Service (NLS)

2003

Contents

Background
Part I. Producers
Part II. Distributors

Background

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provides a free library service of recorded books and magazines to persons who are unable to read or use standard print materials because of visual or physical limitations. This service is available to eligible residents of the United States and American citizens living abroad.

Individuals and institutions eligible for the NLS program may request appropriate playback equipment on free loan for as long as they are actively using this library service. Full details about eligibility requirements, a list of available equipment, and the addresses of cooperating libraries may be obtained by contacting the Reference Section, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542.

This buying guide is intended for individuals and institutions that wish to purchase their own playback equipment, desire special features, or are ineligible for the free loan of NLS-provided playback equipment. It lists cassette players, followed by cassette player-recorders, available from a variety of sources. Playback speeds are noted in inches per second (ips). The standard commercial speed is 1-7/8 ips, and the NLS-compatible speed is 15/16 ips.

Part I lists producers of playback equipment that sell their products nationally and internationally or will make referrals to authorized distributors. Basic and optional features of each product are given. Accessories such as carrying cases, AC adaptors, headphones, and beltclips may be available at additional cost. Prices do not include shipping and handling charges or any applicable state taxes. Catalogs and the latest price quotations may be obtained directly from producers.
Part I. Producers

American Printing House for the Blind (APH)

Marketing Department
1839 Frankfort Avenue
Louisville, KY 40206-0085
(502) 895-2405
800-223-1839
(502) 899-2274 fax
info@aph.org
http://www.aph.org

Handi-Cassette II, a cassette player-recorder

- plays and records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- operates on AC or DC current, includes rechargeable battery
- additional features:
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - digital pitch control
  - fast forward and preview
  - operating instructions on cassette and in print, braille start-up sheet
  - pause control
  - rewind/review
  - stereo playback through included headphones
  - tactile symbols
  - tape motion sensor
  - tone index

Items listed in this reference circular are not part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program, and their listing does not imply endorsement.
Table-Top Cassette Recorder-Player

- plays and records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- operates on AC or DC current, includes rechargeable battery
- additional features:
  - auto stop and auto end-of-tape shut-off
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - cue and review
  - digital pitch control
  - erase guard
  - fast forward, rewind, and track change
  - operating instructions on cassette and in print, braille start-up sheet
  - pause control
  - stereo playback through optional headphones
  - tactile symbols on controls
  - tape motion sensor
  - tone index
  - variable speed control
- measurement in inches: 3 by 9-3/8 by 11-1/8
- weighs 4-1/4 pounds
- catalog number 1-07150-00 (U.S. model), $225
- catalog number 1-07150-01 (UK model, no adapter needed), $225
- catalog number 1-07150-02 (European model), $225

The American Printing House (APH) also has a foot-pedal switch that will turn a tape recorder on and off with a foot. It works with all APH cassette recorders. Catalog number 1-07020-00, $10.

Innovative Rehabilitation Technology, Inc. (IRTI)
The Multistation

A modified Sony cassette player-recorder, with AM/FM mono radio, TV sound, and weatherbands.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC current with cord supplied or 4 D batteries, not included
- additional features
  - adjustable telescopic antenna
  - analog tuning
  - built-in microphone
  - operating instructions on cassette
  - pause control
  - variable speed control operates on NLS speed for 100% faster and 20% slower playback

- measurement in inches: 12 by 8 by 5
- $119.95

StudyStation

A modified Sony cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- operates on AC current with adapter supplied or 4 AA batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - built-in tape counter
TCM-4TR

A modified Sony cassette player-recorder. A hand-held model with speech compression.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC current or 2 AA batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - built in microphone and speaker
  - cue and review
  - digital pitch control
  - operating instructions on cassette
  - pause control
  - tone index
- $199.95

TTR-20V

A modified hand-held Sony cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC or 2 AA batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - built-in microphone and speaker
**TTR-30D**

A modified hand-held Sony cassette player-recorder with stereo playback and record.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC or 2 AA batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - built-in mono microphone
  - cue and review
  - headphones
  - operating instructions on cassette
  - records in stereo with included external stereo microphone
  - variable speed control for 30% faster and 20% slower playback
- measurement in inches: 4 by 3 by 1
- weighs 6 ounces
- costs $159.95

**TTR-221**

A modified hand-held Sony cassette player-recorder with AM/FM radio.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC or 2 AA batteries, not included
additional features:
- analog tuning
- auto stop and auto end-of-tape shut-off
- built-in microphone and stereo speakers
- cue and review
- operating instructions on cassette
- pause control
- stereo headphones

- measurement in inches: 4 by 3 by 1
- weighs 8 ounces
- costs $169.95

**TTR-323**

A modified hand-held cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on two AA batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - cue and review
  - operating instructions on cassette
- measurement in inches: 4 by 3 by 1
- weighs 6 ounces
- TTR-323, $59.95
- TTR-323-SP-1 plays and records at both 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips, $79.95

**TTR-929-SP-1**

A modified Sony desktop cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
operates on AC current with adapter supplied on 4 AA batteries, not included

additional features:
- built-in microphone and speaker
- cue and review
- operating instructions on cassette
- pause control
- variable speed control operates on NLS speed only for 100% faster and 20% slower playback

- measurement in inches: 9 by 5 by 1.5
- weighs 2 pounds
- TTR929-SP-1, $99.95
- TTR929T-4 has tone index, $119.95

Also distributes the **Narrator**, a cassette player produced by Telex.

**LS&S Group, Inc.**

P.O. Box 673
Northbrook, IL 60065
(847) 498-9777
800-468-4789
(847) 498-1482 FAX
info@LSSproducts.com
www.lssproducts.com

**Tape Talker**

A modified cassette player

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 4 tracks
- operates on two AA batteries, not included
- measurement in inches: 4.5 by 3.5 by 1.5
- weighs 8 ounces
- catalog number 5323, $59.95
- catalog number LH82 has variable speed, weighs 5 ounces, $85.95

**Trackmaster**
A modified Panasonic cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-1/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on AC current with adapter supplied or 4 C batteries, not included
- additional features:
  - auto stop
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - cue and review
  - pause control
- measurement in inches: 9.75 by 5.5 by 2
- catalog number 2633, $78.50

Trackmaster II

A modified Sony cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassette at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on 4 AA batteries, not included
- Additional features:
  - auto stop
  - built-in microphone and speaker
  - cue and review
  - pause control
  - variable speed control
- measurement in inches: 9.75 by 5.5 by 2
- catalog number LHS-68, $89.95

4 Track Play/4 Track Record

A modified Panasonic player-recorder.

- plays and records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 4 tracks
Spinoza Bear with Talking Book Cassette Player

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- operates on AC or DC current
- additional features:
  - automatic shut-off
  - includes theme tape
  - single function control volume and power
  - single switch selects tape speed and track
- height in inches: 17
- weighs 3 pounds
- catalog number 4500, $126

Telex Communications, Inc.

Corporate Offices
1200 Portland Avenue South
**Narrator**

A cassette player.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- operates on AC or DC current
- additional features:
  - built-in speaker
  - cue and review
  - tactile symbols
  - tone control
  - variable speed control
- measurement in inches: 10.66 by 10.125 by 3.5
- weighs 2-1/2 lbs.
- catalog number 300509-000, $115

**Tutor**

A cassette player-recorder.

- plays cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 and 4 tracks
- records cassettes at 1-7/8 and 15/16 ips on 2 tracks
- operates on two AA batteries
- additional features:
  - automatic shut-off
  - built-in speaker and microphone
  - cue and review
  - headphones
Part II. Distributors

All the machines listed in this section are described in Part I.

Ann Morris Enterprises, Inc.
551 Hosner Mountain Road
Stormville, NY 12582
(854) 227-9659
800-454-3175
(854) 226-2793 FAX
sales@annmorris.com
www.annmorris.com

Distributes Telex products and others.

Beyond Sight, Inc.
5650 South Windermere Street
Littleton, CO 80120
(303) 795-6455
(303) 795-6425 FAX
www.beyondsight.com

Distributes Telex products and others.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind
Attn: Visionaries Store
1120 20th Street NW
Suite 750 South
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 454-6490
877-324-5252 ext. 6490
(202) 454-6462 fax
store@clb.org

Distributes APH products and others.
Independent Living Aids
200 Robbins Lane
Jerico, NY 11753-2341
(516) 937-1848
800-537-2118
(516) 937-3906 fax
can-do@independentliving.com
www.independentliving.com

Distributes APH, IRTI, Telex products and others, including Talkmans.

Maxi-Aids, Inc.
42 Executive Boulevard
Farmingdale, NY 11735
(631) 752-0521
800-522-0521
(631) 752-0738 TTY
(631) 752-0689 FAX
sales@maxiaids.com
www.maxiaids.com

Distributes APH, IRTI, LS&S Group products and others, including Talkmans.

National Federation of the Blind (NFB) Materials Center
1800 Johnson Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
(410) 659-9314
(410) 685-5653 FAX
materials@nfb.org
www.nfb.org

Distributes Telex products and others.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic
Customer Services Department
20 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
800-221-4792
(609) 987-8116 fax
www.rfbd.org

Distributes IRTI and Telex products.

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