LOAD IT
DATA RECORDER

Mills

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OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER

DESCRIPTION

The **LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER** is a device for storing and recalling computer programmes on ordinary cassette tapes. It can be used for saving programmes you have written and want to recall for later use. It can also be used to read pre-recorded programmes that you have purchased.

The **LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER** incorporates manual adjustment of the read/write head in conjunction with an LED Display which shows maximum signal strength.

The Azimuth angle of the playback head can be adjusted at the start of tape loading, by means of an adjustable knob until the optimum position is achieved.

This ensures accurate first time loading of all computer games, software, even on more complex Turbo-Load tapes.

PRELIMINARY CHECKOUT

Before using your **LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER** to recall or store programmes you should complete the preliminary checks - which are described below:-

a) Turn off the computer and plug in the **LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER**.

b) Ensure that the **DATA RECORDER** motor is off by checking that all of the function keys are up. If any are not, press the **STOP** button.

c) Turn the computer on.

IMPORTANT

It is also important to keep the **LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER** at least 2 feet away from the TV because radio emissions from the TV can interfere with the correct operation of the Unit.

MECHANICAL CHECKS

1) Press the **PLAY** button on the **DATA RECORDER**. Look to see that, as the button is engaged, the **READ/WRITE** heads move towards the spindles and the capstan comes into contact with the pinch roller (see Fig.1). The take-up spindle should be moving smoothly in a counter-clockwise direction.

2) Now press the **STOP** button. The heads should move back and the spindle stop.

3) Press the **REWIND** button. The tape heads should remain in the inactive position and the supply spindle should move rapidly clockwise.

4) Press **STOP** again and then **F.FWD**. The tape heads should still remain in the inactive position and the take-up spindle should move rapidly counter-clockwise.

5) Press **STOP** once more and then **GENTLY** attempt to press **RECORD**. You should feel strong mechanical resistance.

ELECTRONIC CHECKS

At switch on, at least one and possibly two red bars of the **LED** display will light up -- this shows that the system is working correctly.

LOADING INSTRUCTIONS

1) Insert the cassette into your **LOAD-IT** recorder.

2) Make sure that the tape is completely rewound to the beginning of the first side.

3) **SETTING THE "LOAD-IT" SYSTEM.**

   Two alternative methods are available to make best use of the Load-It system:-

a) First Method

   Press "PLAY" on the recorder, and during the first part of the Loading Sequence, before .... "FOUND"/PROGRAM appears on the screen, adjust knob slowly until the maximum number of red segments have lit up. This indicates that you have obtained the strongest signal from the tape.

b) Second Method

   Allow tape to run until tape recorded with the required programme is travelling through the recorder. Adjust the knob slowly until the maximum number of red segments are lit up. Then press **STOP**. **REWIND** back to the start of the tape. Leave the **LOAD-IT** adjustment knob in the position that has been decided above and run through the normal tape loading instructions.

c) Once adjusted, **DO NOT MOVE** the knob from that position whilst continuing to use the same particular side of a given tape.

5) If the tape fails to load, then repeat the procedure. Should difficulty continue to be experienced, turn to the section **"Cleaning and Demagnetizing Your Load-It Data Recorder Heads"**.

FURTHER GUIDELINES

   i) Always return adjusting knob to mid-position before commencing load procedure with different tapes.

   ii) Once end of travel is reached, do **NOT** force the knob further.

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

CARE OF TAPES

Be careful to rewind all tapes to the beginning after
use, because this protects the recording from abrasion
and contamination. Do not store or place any tapes
near strong magnetic fields such as may occur near
loudspeakers or large motors.

LOAD—IT DATA RECORDER

The LOAD—IT DATA RECORDER uses magnetic heads to record
and retrieve the information on the cassette tapes.
These heads tend to accumulate residue and dirt from the
tape as the tape moves across them. After a period of
time, the accumulation lifts the tape slightly away from
the heads, drastically degrading the signal from the
head.

Therefore, the following procedure should be used after
every 10 to 20 hours of tape playing time to ensure that
your LOAD—IT DATA RECORDER continues to read and write
reliably.

CLEANING AND DEMAGNETIZING YOUR "LOAD—IT" DATA RECORDER HEADS

You'll need the following tools and materials:

1) Tape head cleaner. Alcohol may be used in
   emergency, but is not recommended for long
   term use.

NOTE: Do not use trichloroethane or any other plastic
       or rubber solvent.

2) Cotton swabs.

3) Tape head demagnetizer. Unit must have
   protective plastic or rubber covering on
   the piece that comes into contact with the
   tape heads so as not to scratch delicate
   head gap.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO CLEAN AND DEMAGNETIZE YOUR LOAD-IT DATA RECORDER

STEP 1 Turn the computer off.

STEP 2 Press **EJECT** to open cover, then press **PLAY** to expose heads.

STEP 3 Put tape head cleaner on one side of a cotton swab. Gently wipe the surfaces of **RECORD/PLAY** and erase heads (see Fig.1). Scrub gently. Any build-up of tape oxide particles on or around the head gap of the **RECORD/PLAY** head may cause un-reliable performance.

Also clean pinch roller and other tape bearing surfaces if tape head cleaner is suitable for this purpose (check label).

STEP 4 Plug in demagnetizer, and activate it while it is at least one foot away from **DATA RECORDER** heads.

STEP 5 Slowly move demagnetizer up to **RECORD/PLAY** head and around on head surface. Rate of motion should be approximately one inch per second during this time.

STEP 6 Slowly move demagnetizer to the erase head and then to all other ferrous metal surfaces which come into proximity with the tape.

STEP 7 Now slowly move demagnetizer away from heads. Do not deactivate field until demagnetizer is at least two feet away from heads.

The tape head cleaning and demagnetizing procedure is now complete. Inspect **RECORD/PLAY** surface for wear. If the tape has worn a groove on head surface more than a couple of tape thicknesses deep, program reading performance may be poor. If so, then replacement of tape head is indicated. Normally, a few thousand hours of tape running time have been completed before replacement is required.

USING THE COUNTER

Your **"LOAD-IT" DATA RECORDER** has a 3-digit counter that you can use to find **SAVED** programme quickly. When you use the counter properly, you can advance or rewind the tape to the location of the programme you want to **LOAD**. This saves time because the computer doesn't have to search the whole tape.

The counter runs whenever the tape is **PLAY**ing, **RECORD**ing, **REWIND**ing, or Fast Forwarding (**F.FWD**).

Here's how to use the counter to find a **SAVED** programme quickly:-

1) Make sure your tape is rewound to the beginning.

2) Reset the counter to **000** by pressing the black button beside the 3-digit display.

3) Note the counter number when you are ready to **SAVE** a programme. This number tells you where that programme will be located on the tape.

4) Advance (**F.FWD**) or **REWIND** the tape to the counter number at which you **SAVE**d the programme you now want to **LOAD**.

5) Follow the regular **LOAD** procedure.

NOTE: The counter can't work accurately unless you follow steps 1 and 2. Don't reset the counter to **000** unless you're at the beginning of the tape.