

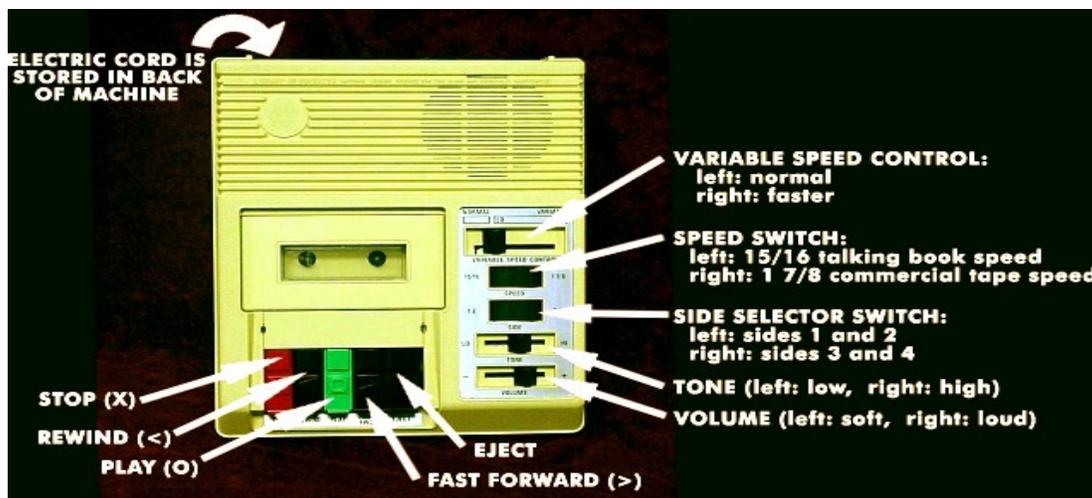
Operating the Cassette Player

Revised November 2012

Background

Our cassette player, also known as a C-1, plays audio recordings at both commercial speed and half commercial speed. We distribute our talking books on standard audio cassettes designed to play at half commercial speed and using four tracks. This configuration can pack up to six hours of reading time onto one cassette. The C-1 side- and speed-selector switches enable you to play cassettes created with the standard, commercial configuration as well as our talking-book configuration. The C-1 player is shipped with a fully charged, rechargeable nickel-cadmium battery that will operate the player for about six hours after being fully charged. Simply plug the player into a standard household (110 volt) outlet to recharge it. Remember, you can always contact us about using our cassette player.

Using the Standard Cassette Player



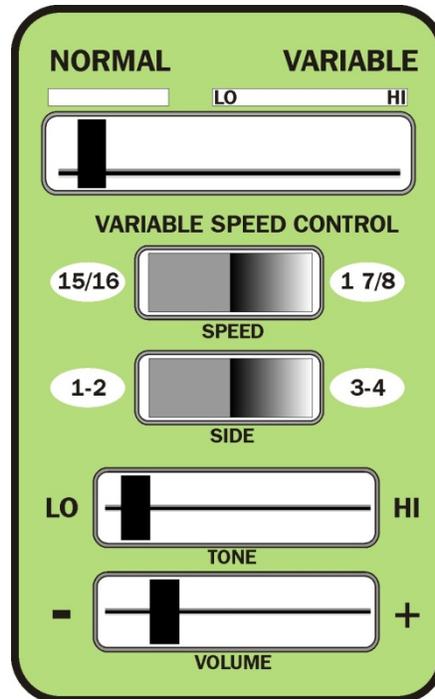
You can operate the player on its battery, or you can take the power cord from the recessed area in the back of the player and plug it into an electrical outlet.

Here is a typical sequence for reading a cassette talking book.

1. Open the tape compartment door by pressing the EJECT key, located on the far right and marked with a raised square.
2. Insert the cassette, label side up, with the tape edge facing out. Seat the cassette by pushing it back until it clicks. Press the compartment door down until it clicks.
3. Press and lock down the PLAY key (green with a raised circle) to start the player. Adjust the volume slide switch (nearest the front, right edge of the player).
4. Stop the player at any point by pressing the red STOP key with a raised "x", first on the left.
5. To review the cassette soundtrack, press REWIND, the key between PLAY and STOP with the raised less-than sign, or arrow head pointing left (<).
6. To advance the cassette soundtrack, press FAST FORWARD, the key between PLAY and EJECT with the raised greater-than sign, or arrow head pointing right (>).
7. To remove a cassette from the player, make sure it is stopped. Press the EJECT key, on the far right with a raised square. The tape compartment door will snap up, and the tape will pop free of its seated position. To play the next side, turn the tape over (print/braille label down), reinsert, seat in the door, and press the door shut. Then press the PLAY key. After reading sides 1 and 2, rock the side selector switch to the right to listen to sides 3 and 4.

Tips

Switches and Controls



Speed, volume, tone and side-selector switches are on the right of the player. If you begin at the top of these controls, in the middle of the player as you face it, and you will find the following:

Variable Speed Control

Used to slow down or speed up the book narration. The voice of the narrator becomes distorted as the playback speed is changed.

Speed

A different sort of speed switch is just under the variable speed control. This rocker switch is used to match the speed of the player with the recording speed on the cassette. Press, or rock it down, to the left (15/16) to play our talking books. Press, or rock it down, to the right for commercial cassettes (1 7/8).

Side-Selector Switch

Another rocker switch, the side-selector switch enables readers to listen to both commercial and talking-book cassettes.

Here are the things you should know about talking-book cassettes before you use the side-selector switch:

- Talking-book cassettes will appear to be oddly numbered because of the four-side (or, four-track) system. The first side of the first cassette will be 1. The first side of the next cassette will be 5. Then, 9 and so on.
- Turn the cassette over after each side.
- When starting with side 1, push the side selector switch down to the left, marked 1-2. **Do not change the switch to listen to side 2, just eject and flip the cassette.** Push the side-selector switch down to the right for sides 3 and 4. It is important to be methodical about the use of the side switch, or you may find yourself skipping whole segments of the book.
- As guidance, the narrator will provide instructions at the end of each side.

Tone Control

This slider switch raises the pitch of the narrator's voice when slid to the right and lowers the pitch when slid to the left.

Volume Control

The volume control is also a slider. The volume increases when the control is slid to the right and decreases when slid to the left.

Rewinding Cassettes

To help ensure the next person to use each cassette will be starting at the very, please be sure to practice the following steps when you have finished listening to a cassette:

- At the end of the fourth side of each cassette, press the FAST FORWARD key. Hold it down until the sound of tape moving stops.
- If a book ends on an odd numbered side, such as 1, 3, 5, etc. (braille label will be up in the machine), press the REWIND key. Hold it down until the sound of tape moving stops.
- If a book ends on an even numbered side, such as 2, 4, 6, etc. (braille label will be facing down in the machine), press the FAST FORWARD key. Hold it down until the sound of tape moving stops.

Battery Maintenance

To maintain battery life, the player should be frequently played unplugged, on battery. After several hours - up to six or until the battery fails - plug the player back into an electrical outlet to charge the battery. If it is plugged in, the player will operate while the battery recharges.

Do not remove the battery. As a nickel-cadmium product, it is toxic if not disposed of properly. If you suspect the player will not work because of battery problems, call the Communication Center. They will arrange for a replacement player.

Troubleshooting Problems with Your Cassette Tapes

Question 1

What if a tape plays too fast and sounds like Donald Duck or the Chipmunks?

First make sure the speed switch is pushed down on the 15/16 side and that the variable speed control is pushed all the way to the left. If the speed switch and the variable speed control are in the correct positions and the tape is still running too fast, take the cassette tape out of the player and slap the tape flat down on a hard surface. This will often correct the problem. If you continue to experience difficulty, please place a rubber band or a piece of string around the individual cassette and place it in the container on top of the front stack of cassettes.

Question 2

What if the tape plays for a minute, then stops, or the volume fades as you're listening?

Plug the machine in and let it charge for a few minutes. Then, try playing the tape again. If the problem persists, try another tape. If that doesn't solve the problem, call the Communication Center for a replacement cassette player.

Question 3

What if the tape sounds like two sides are playing at once?

You may have a bad tape. Try another tape to determine if it is the tape or the machine. If the problem continues with all tapes, call the Communication Center for a replacement machine.

Question 4

What if these tips do not solve the problem?

Call the Communication Center in Saint Paul. Sometimes they can troubleshoot problems over the telephone. Please have your cassette player and the problematic tape(s) nearby.

Help Contact Information

For book requests or questions about your library service, contact:

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library

388 SE 6th Ave

Faribault, MN 55021-6340

1-800-722-0550 or 507-333-4828

FAX: 507-333-4832

Email: mn.btbl@state.mn.us

For equipment questions or problems, contact:

Communication Center

State Services for the Blind

2200 University Ave W, Suite 240

Saint Paul, MN 55114-1840

1-800-652-9000 or 651-642-0500