

# USER'S GUIDE

RP-8623

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COMPACT STEREO SYSTEM

**TRISTAR**

# WHERE TO START

Owning an RCA compact audio system is like having a component stereo system, except you don't have the hassle of hooking up a bunch of wires.

## LOOKING FOR A GOOD READ?

You won't find this instruction book on the best seller list, but it does contain a lot of information that you should know before using your RCA stereo system.

I know that you want to use your stereo, not read about it, but you really need to read the first section, "First Things First," to learn how to hook it up; then, as you have time, you can read about all of the great features of this stereo.

## DON'T FORGET THE NOTES

Don't forget to read the notes in the margins too. They give you extra information that can help you get the most from your stereo.

If you have any questions, be sure to check the Troubleshooting Tips section, the Index, or the Table of Contents to help you find the answer.

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## INSTALLATION AND SET UP

Now that you've chosen a stereo location, it's time to hook it up.

### SPEAKERS

Each speaker has its own connection terminals on the back of the unit, so connect the wires from each speaker to one set of terminals. When connecting the speakers, make sure that the bare end of each wire makes contact with the metal grips inside the terminal.

#### For Each Speaker:

1. Press down on the tab to open the red terminal, and insert the red wire (+) into the red terminal.
2. Press down on the tab to open the black terminal, and insert the black wire (-) into the black terminal.

### ANTENNAS

The AM antenna is built in, so there's nothing to install.

The FM wire antenna connects to either of the FM ANTENNA terminals on the unit's back panel, and must be connected for clear reception. Connect the FM antenna wire the same way you connect the speakers.

After connecting the FM antenna, extend it to its full length; then you can adjust its position for better reception when you are listening to the radio.

### AUXILIARY COMPONENTS

Use the AUX input jacks on the back of the unit to add a component that provides an additional source of sound into your system—an additional tape recorder, CD player, VCR, camcorder, or other compatible device.

Note that connecting a phonograph player can result in weak sound performance.

To hook up an auxiliary component, match the left and right output plugs from the component to the left (L) and right (R) AUX input jacks on the back panel.

### AC POWER

Plug the power cord into an AC power outlet that accepts the polarized plug (one blade wider than the other).

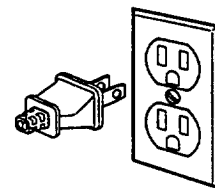
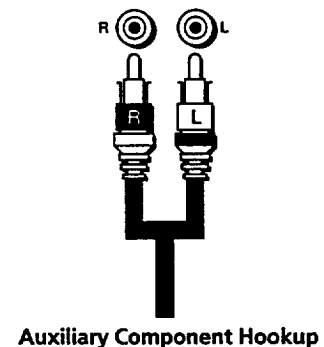
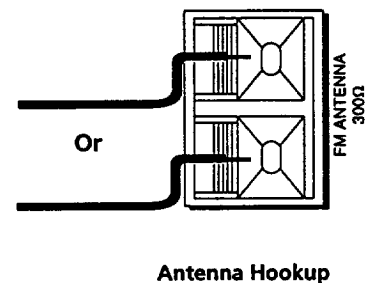
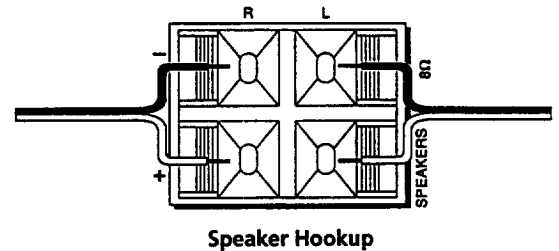
Notice that the **Standby Indicator Light** comes on to let you know that the unit is plugged in and ready to use. This light stays on as long as the stereo is plugged in, so that you can use the Remote Control to turn on and operate the unit.

### HEADPHONES

To listen to your stereo with headphones (not included), use the 3.5 mm PHONES jack on the front of the unit.

#### WARNING:

Be sure to follow these instructions carefully; the system can be damaged if speakers are improperly connected.



#### Have a Blast—Just Not on Your Eardrums

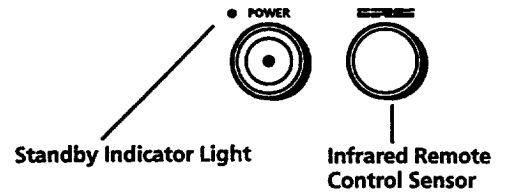
Make sure that you turn down the stereo before you put on the headphones; then increase the volume to the desired level after they are in place.

## STANDBY MODE

When the power is off, the system remains in standby mode so that you can use the remote control to turn it on. The Standby Indicator Light (next to the POWER button) comes on when the unit is in standby mode.

## POWER

Press the POWER button to turn on the unit. The LCD lights and the system begins operating from the last sound source used—the tuner, the tape deck, or the CD player. The Standby Indicator Light turns off.

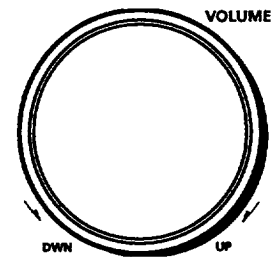


## REMOTE SENSOR

Next to the POWER button is the Infrared Remote Control sensor. Make sure that this is not covered up or blocked, or the remote control won't work.

## VOLUME

Turn the volume dial to increase or decrease the volume. The volume level is displayed numerically in the LCD (from 1 to 32).



## WISEQ PRESETS

The VisEQ PRESET button controls the visual electronic equalizer. Press this button to choose one of the preset electronic equalizer frequencies. The first time you press the VisEQ PRESET button, the LCD shows the current setting. Continue pressing the button until the setting you want (FLAT, ROCK, POP, JAZZ, or CLASSICAL) appears in the display.



## VARIABLE BASS BOOST

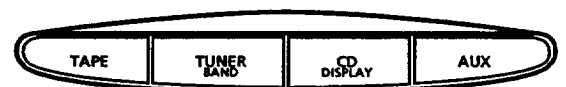
Use the Bass Boost feature to enhance the quality of bass frequencies; however, note that applying Bass Boost at higher volumes can cause some sound distortion.

Press the VARIABLE BASS BOOST button to scroll through the variable settings until the setting you want is reflected in the LCD.



## FUNCTION BUTTONS

Use the function buttons (TAPE, TUNER, CD, AUX) to choose which stereo component function you want to use.



# USING THE CD PLAYER

Combined with features such as Shuffle, Repeat, and Programmed play, the three CD changer gives you lots of options for playing CDs.

## KNOWING YOUR BUTTONS

The following buttons are used for basic CD operation:

**CD (function button)** — Press the CD function button to choose the CD player.

**Track/Search Backward** ◀◀◀◀ and **Forward** ▶▶▶▶

- In **Stop mode**— Moves you to the beginning of the preceding or following track.
- In **Play mode**— Press and release to move to the beginning of the preceding or following track. Press and hold to search.

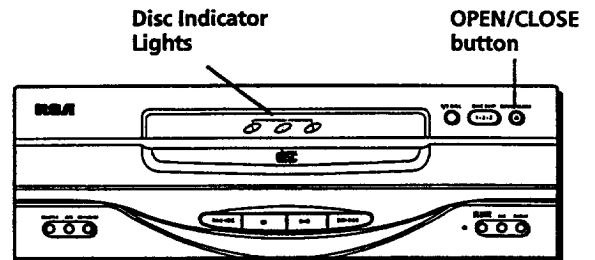
**Stop** ■ — Stops play.

**Play/Pause** ▶|| — This button works as a toggle switch: press to begin play and to pause play.

## LCD MESSAGES

The following LCD messages tell you what the CD player is doing:

<i>Message</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
<i>cd</i>	CD function is active
<i>dr in</i>	CD drawer is in.
<i>dr out</i>	CD drawer is out.
<i>nnnn</i>	Remain time is unavailable. (Displayed when the track number is beyond 32.)
<i>no disc</i>	There are no discs in the CD drawer.
<i>nP</i>	No tracks are programmed (applies to both Program and ATS modes).
<i>nt</i>	No tracks are available in program play mode or ATS mode.
<i>PF</i>	Program is full (applies to both Program and ATS modes).
<i>rEAd</i>	Reading disc's table of contents (how many tracks it has and the total time for the disc). This information is displayed in Stop mode.



### Seeing Is Believing

Whenever you close the disc drawer, the CD player assumes that you put a disc in each of the three trays so that it doesn't have to waste time checking. That's why all of the Disc Indicator Lights come on when you close the drawer. When the CD player discovers an empty tray, it turns out that tray's Disc Indicator Light.

### Look for this Logo

You can play 3" and 5" compact discs that have this logo.



## REPEATING ONLY PART OF A SINGLE TRACK

Repeat one section of a track by using the A~B button to mark a starting and stopping point within the track.

1. Press the A~B button at the point in the track you want begin repeating (A~B flashes in the display).
2. Press A~B again at the point you want the repeating to stop (A~B stops flashing and remains in the display).

The section of the track you marked repeats until you press ■ (Stop), or until you press ◀◀◀◀ or ▶▶▶▶ to move to another track.



A~B flashes in the display when you are choosing part of a track to repeat.

## REPEATING A PROGRAM

When you program tracks into memory, you can repeat the program by pressing the REPEAT button after the program begins playing.

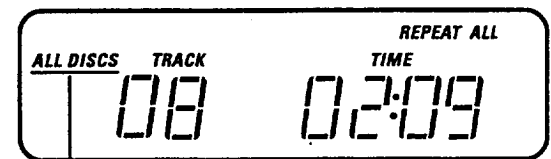
## CHOOSING DISCS FOR PLAY

When you load three discs at one time, you can choose which disc you want to play by pressing the DISC SKIP button until the tray number containing that disc lights up.

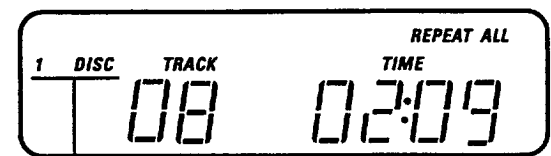
After the current disc finishes playing, the unit moves on to the next disc. If you want to listen to only one of the three loaded discs, use the 1/3 DISC button.

### 1/3 DISC BUTTON

Press the 1/3 DISC button to listen only to the current disc. You can use this feature while in Shuffle or Repeat mode, but if you press the 1/3 DISC button during programmed play, the program feature is turned off.



Playing all discs

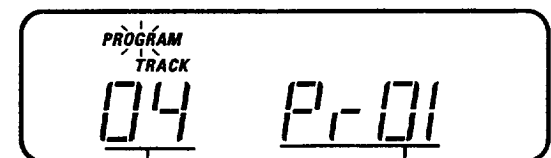


Playing current disc only

## PROGRAMMING PLAY ORDER

You must be in Stop mode in order to program play order.

1. Press the PROGRAM button.
  - PROGRAM blinks in the LCD.
  - -- appears in the LCD beneath the TRACK indicator.
  - Pr 01 appears in the LCD indicating that this is first programmed track.
2. Press the DISC SKIP button to choose a disc.
3. Press ◀◀◀◀ or ▶▶▶▶ to choose a track.
4. Press PROGRAM to save the track in the program memory.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 above to program up to 32 tracks.
  - PF appears in the LCD when the program is full.
6. Press ▶|| (Play/Pause) to begin programmed play.



Track number (04 indicates that track 4 on current disc has been selected)

Program number (01 indicates first programmed track)

## USING ATS (AUTO TRACK SKIP)

ATS (Auto Track Skip) is the opposite of programmed play: instead of programming the tracks you want to hear, you indicate which tracks you don't want to hear.

You can choose as many as 16 tracks to be automatically skipped. The process for creating and editing an ATS program is nearly identical to that of programming disc play.

## CREATING AN ATS PROGRAM

1. Press the ATS button (AUTO TRACK SKIP blinks in the display).
2. Press **⏮** or **⏭** to choose the first track to be skipped (the track number and Pr 01 appears in the display).
3. Press PROGRAM to add the selected track to the ATS program.
4. Repeat the preceding steps to add more tracks to the ATS program.
5. Press **▶** (Play/Pause) to begin playing the ATS program.

## RECALLING AND EDITING THE ATS PROGRAM

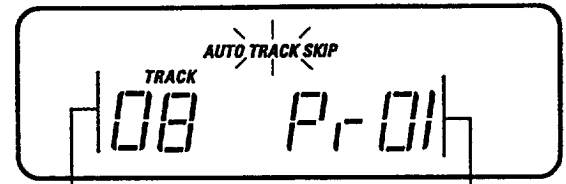
Editing the ATS program is a lot like editing a regular program.

1. Press the ATS button to go to Auto Track Skip mode.
2. Press PROGRAM to move to the next program number until you get to the programmed track you want to change.
3. Press DISC SKIP to choose the disc, and then press **⏮** or **⏭** to choose a replacement track.
4. Press the PROGRAM button to change the current skipped track to the one you just selected.

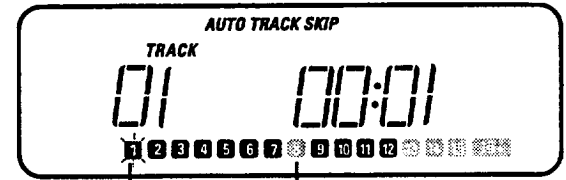
## CLEARING THE ATS PROGRAM

Clearing the ATS program is also a lot like clearing a regular program. You can unplug the unit, or you can:

1. Press the ATS button.
2. Press PROGRAM to select the first program number you want to clear.
3. Press **⏮** or **⏭** until you get to track number 00.
4. Press PROGRAM to clear all tracks to the end of the program.

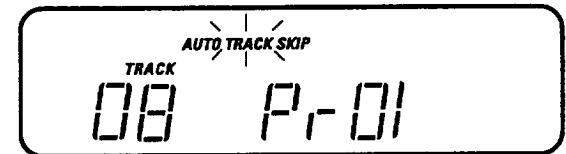


Track 08 is the first track selected in the ATS program (Pr 01).

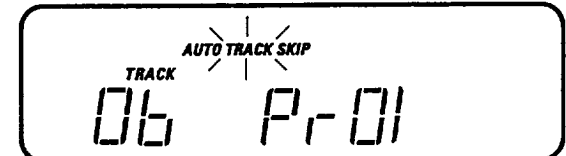


Track 01 begins playing.

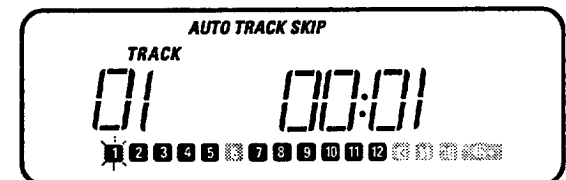
Track 08 is the only track in the ATS program, and has been removed from the Music Calendar.



The first ATS program number (Pr 01) contains track 08.



Track 6 is selected to replace track 8 as the first programmed track to be skipped.



Notice that when play begins, track 6 does not appear in the Music Calendar, and will be skipped.

## RECORDING FROM COMPACT DISCS

1. Insert a cassette tape into Deck 1.
2. Choose the CD function.
3. Insert the disc(s) to be recorded. You can start with any track on a disc or you can create a program to record.
4. Press ►|| (Play/Pause) on the CD player twice (to begin and pause disc play).
5. Press the RECORD button on the cassette deck to begin recording.

## HIGH SPEED DUBBING OF COMPACT DISCS

Use the High Speed Dubbing feature to speed up the CD recording process.

1. Insert a cassette tape into Deck 1.
2. Choose the CD function.
3. Insert the disc(s) to be recorded. You can start with any track on a disc, or you can create a program to record.
4. Press ►|| (Play/Pause) on the CD player twice (to begin and pause disc play). Wait until the unit displays a "blinking" track number and track time.
5. Press the CD SPEED DUBBING button.
6. Press the RECORD button on the Deck 1.

## RECORDING FROM A CASSETTE

Two speed options are available for recording cassette tapes. (Note that you must activate the tape component function before you can begin taping.)

Use the TAPE SPEED DUBBING button (located beside the phones jack on the Tuner component) to activate high speed dubbing of tapes. The indicator light beside the button comes on when high speed dubbing is active.

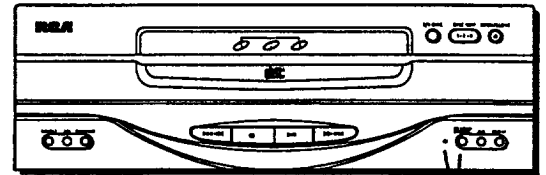
1. Insert the pre-recorded tape you want to record into the Deck 2.
2. Insert the blank tape you're recording to into Deck 1.
3. Press the PAUSE button and then the RECORD button on Deck 1.
4. Press the PLAY button on Deck 2. (Playback and recording begin simultaneously.)

## RECORDING FROM AN AUXILIARY COMPONENT

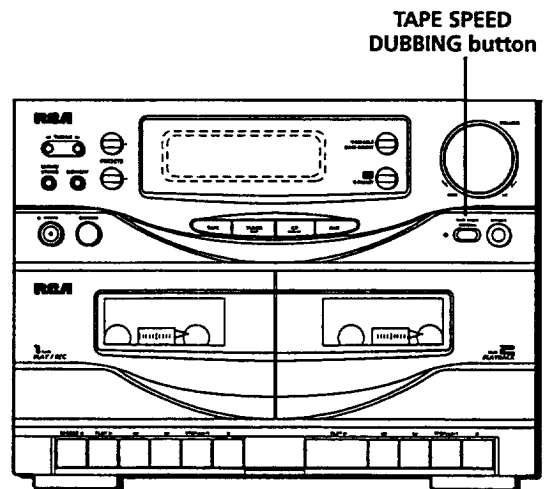
1. Insert a cassette tape into the tape deck (preferably a blank cassette).
2. Make sure that the auxiliary device is connected correctly, then choose the AUX function.
3. Press the RECORD button on the cassette deck to begin recording, and then start playback on the auxiliary unit.

### We're on the Level

The built-in Automatic Level Control automatically sets the input level for optimum recording sound. You can listen to, and even adjust the volume setting of the radio without affecting the quality of the recording—just don't change the station.



CD Speed Dubbing button and indicator light



TAPE SPEED DUBBING button



# CARE AND MAINTENANCE

## CLEANING THE EXTERIOR

- Disconnect the system from AC power before cleaning the exterior of the unit with a soft dust cloth.

## HANDLING COMPACT DISCS

- Do not touch their signal surfaces. Hold by the edges, or by one edge and the hole.
- Do not affix labels or adhesive tape to the label surfaces. Also, do not scratch or damage the label.
- Discs rotate at high speeds inside the player. Do not use damaged (cracked or warped) discs.

## CLEANING COMPACT DISCS

- Dirty discs can cause poor sound quality. Always keep discs clean by wiping them gently with a soft cloth from the inner edge toward the outer perimeter.
- If a disc becomes very dirty, wet a soft cloth in water, wring it out well, wipe the dirt away gently, and then remove any water drops with a dry cloth.
- Do not use record cleaning sprays or anti-static agents on discs. Also, never clean the discs with benzene, thinner, or other volatile solvents which may cause damage to the disc surface.

## TAPE CARE

- Don't expose tapes to sunlight or store in hot places. High temperatures may warp the shell or damage the tape itself.
- Keep cassettes in their boxes when not in use.
- Cassette tapes can be erased by magnetic fields produced by magnets, electric motors, electrical transformers, and other devices. Keep tapes away from magnets and magnetic fields.

## CLEANING THE TAPE HEADS

Iron oxide particles from the magnetic tape can build up on the parts that come in contact with the tape. These deposits can cause incomplete erasure, muffled playback sound, and might prevent automatic stop.

Open the compartment door, push the PLAY button and gently clean the heads, capstan, and pinch wheel with a head cleaner.

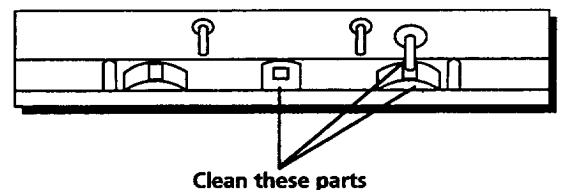
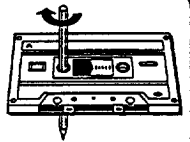
Always unplug the power cord before cleaning, and allow 30 minutes drying time when using a liquid cleaner.

Clean heads after every 25 hours of use.

- Demagnetize the head occasionally with a head demagnetizing cassette (available from many audio equipment stores).
- Never use any metal objects on or near the tape heads. Do not allow any cleaning material to fall into the tape assembly.

### Quit Slacking

A little bit of slack in your tapes can cause scratches on the tape, or worse yet, the tape could break. If you notice some slack in the tape, use a pencil to tighten it up before you insert it.



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