While the other three Dual cassette decks in this series outperform competitive models, the 839 RC can be compared only with your own conception of the ideal deck. The 839 continues to add features after all other decks are finished.

For example, automatic reverse. When a C-90 cassette reaches the end of its first side, 45 minutes later, that really is the end for other decks. For the 839 it's only the halfway point. Whether in recording or in playback, the tape automatically reverses and resumes the pre-set desired mode for another 45 minutes. And it can be set to play continuously.

Thanks to its computer-logic solenoid-activated controls, the convenience of the Direct Load and Lock system is extended further. If the tape is nearing the end and the music you're recording has no break, you can remove and replace the cassette in less than two seconds - and the record mode continues automatically. In fact, any operating mode - play or fast wind - resumes automatically when you change a cassette. Another fine touch: any slack in the tape is automatically taken up before the drive begins.

Variable pitch control adds another dimension of versatility. If you'd like to play a live instrument to tape accompaniment, you have an 8 percent tuning range for the tape. (That's a lot easier than tuning a piano.) And if a tape made on another deck sounds too flat or too sharp, the 839 can fix that, too.

For recording a program when you're away from the house, the 839 is designed for operation via an external timer. And to operate the deck while you're in the house, but across the room, there's optional wireless remote control. The infra-red technology and PCM principles used prevent any interference with other electronic devices in the home.

The 839's drive system employs two DC servo motors and dual capstans in a closed-loop drive system. This is one reason why the 839's performance is identical in both directions. Another is that the record/playback head has four gaps and does not change positions when drive reverses; it switches electronically.

Electronic fade/edit, variable headphone level, line/ mic mixing, equalized peak-reading LED record-level indicators, six-way bias/equalization (including metal), switchable overload protection, switchable multiplex filter and two-way memory with automatic play - and Direct Load and Lock, of course - round out the 839's astonishing range of features.

Specifications

Type: auto reverse, 3-head, single compact cassette deck

Track System: 4-track, 2-channel stereo

Tape Speed: 4.75 cm/s

Heads: 1 x record/playback, 2 x erase

Tape Type: type I, FeCr, CrO2, Metal

Noise Reduction: B

Frequency Response: 30Hz to 20kHz

Signal to Noise Ratio: 67dB

Wow and Flutter: 0.03%

Input: 40mV (line), 0.25mV (mic)

Output: 0.58V (line)

Dimensions: 440 x 150 x 360mm

Finish: metallic silver/brown

Year: 1979