

# SonoruS Audio

## ATR10 mkII Analog Tape Player



SonoruS

Operating Manual

# **OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SonoruS ATR10 mkII**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

Protect your tape deck from excessive heat and humidity. Install it in a manner that ensures the free convection of air through the ventilation louvers.

There are no user serviceable parts inside the machine. It should therefore only be opened by qualified service personnel.

The ATR10 is configured in the factory for use with a single AC line voltage. Check the voltage rating on the rear connector panel to ensure it is configured for the correct AC line voltage.

Applying the wrong AC line voltage increases the risk of fire and can cause permanent damage to the ATR10.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| North America: | 120VAC  |
| Europe:        | 230VAC  |
| Japan:         | 100VAC  |
| Other areas:   | Contact SonoruS Audio LLC to check for compatibility. |

## **WARRANTY**

The ATR10 is covered by a one year limited warranty on parts and labor from the day of delivery. Excessive wear and tear is not covered.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The SonoruS Audio ATR10 Analog Tape Reproducer is a newly designed tape playback machine that meets the highest demands of the music and audio devotee. The ATR10 combines the proven performance and reliability of Studer/ReVox mechanical parts with brand new electronics, designed to meet the highest performance expectations of modern High End audio equipment. Regulated tape tension and strategically placed rolling tape guides provide the same stable tape transport as professional studio tape machines, while carefully designed vacuum tube based playback electronics result in an unprecedented dynamic range combined with the total absence of any type of electronic coloration of the sound.

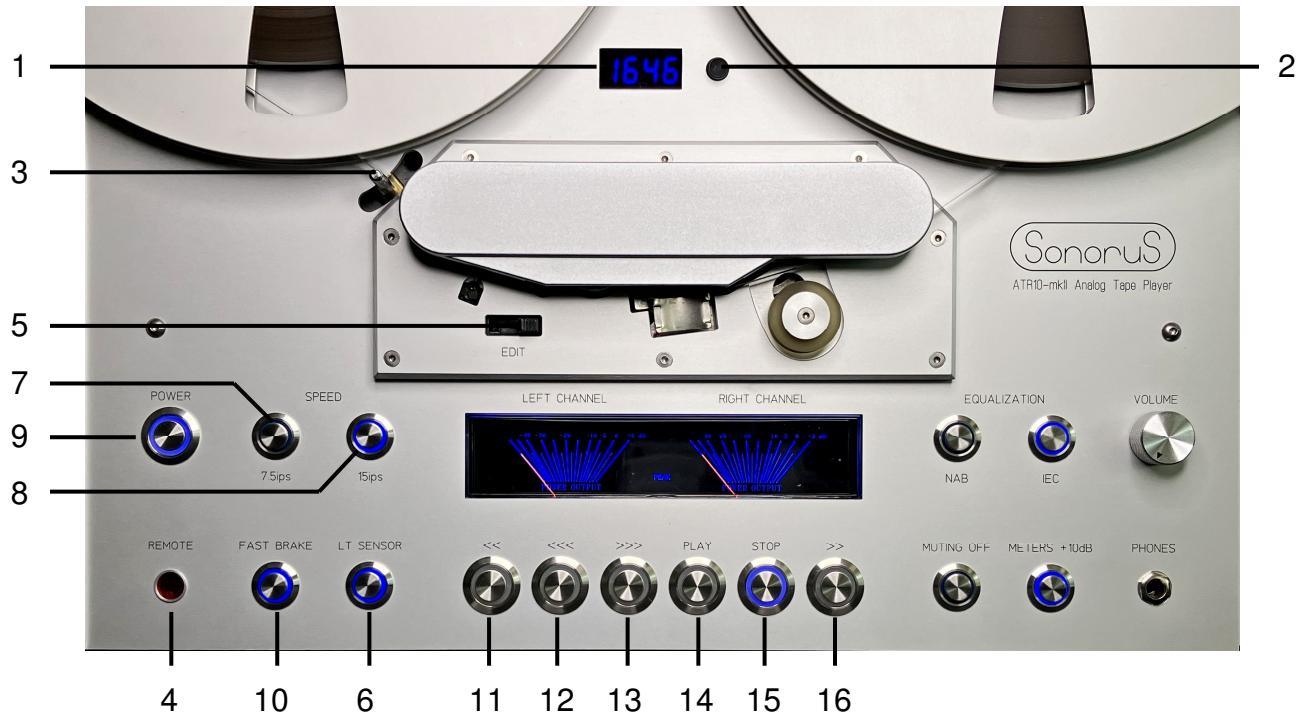
The result is a playback system that coupled with the finest quality source material available today, is capable of providing a level of realism that gives the listener the sense of being present at the live music performance in its original venue.

## **SUMMARY OF FEATURES**

- Compact single box Plug and Play solution
- Built-in Vacuum Tube playback electronics
- Stable performance for years to come due to automatic tube set point adjustment
- Wireless Remote control
- Newly designed tape drive electronics
- Regulated tape tension
- Tape standard: 1/4" 2 track
- Selectable tape speeds: 7.5 and 15ips
- Selectable EQ: NAB and IEC
- Self centering NAB spindles
- Library wind
- Leader tape sensor

# SUMMARY OF OPERATING CONTROLS

## TAPE TRANSPORT



## AUDIO



## TAPE TRANSPORT

1. Tape counter
2. Reset button for tape counter
3. Supply reel tape tension arm
4. Remote control receiver
5. Edit slide
6. Leader Tape Sensor button (*normally on at power up*)
7. Tape speed selector button 7.5ips
8. Tape speed selector button 15ips (*normally on at power up*)
9. AC POWER switch
10. Fast Braking button (*normally on at power up*)
11. << Slow rewind key (Library wind)
12. <<< Fast rewind key
13. >>> Fast forward key
14. PLAY key
15. STOP key
16. >> Slow forward key (Library wind)

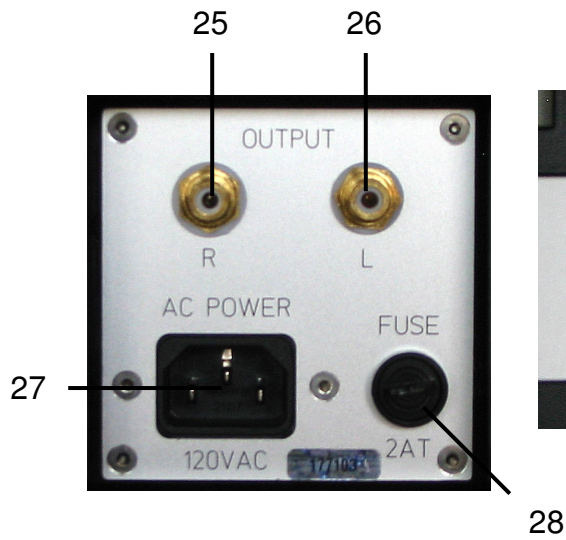
## AUDIO

17. Headphones level control
18. Headphones output
19. Peak level meter scale +10dB setting (+13dB full scale) (*normally on at power up*)
20. NAB Playback equalization button
21. IEC / CCIR Playback equalization button
22. Audio output muting override button
23. Left channel peak level meter
24. Right channel peak level meter

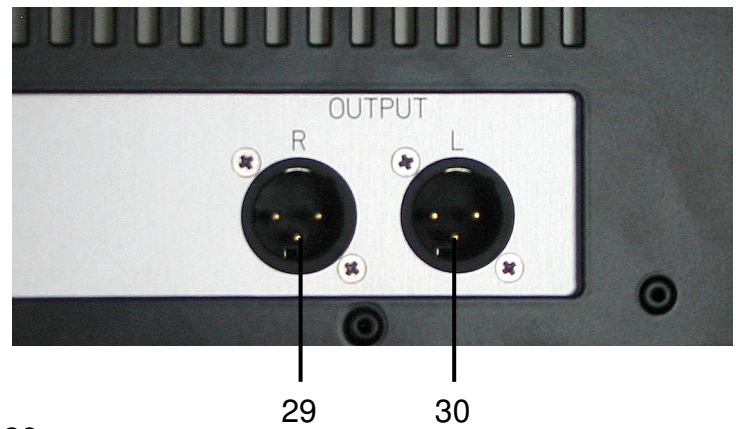


# CONNECTIONS

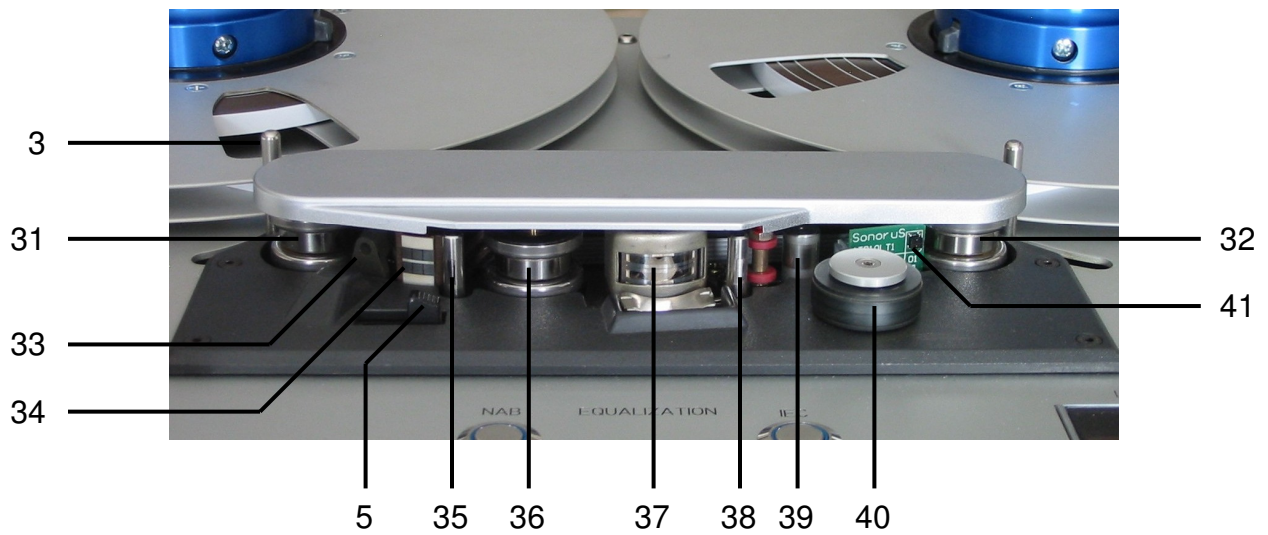
REAR PANEL



TOP PANEL



# HEAD BLOCK



## CONNECTIONS

### REAR PANEL

- 25. Right channel RCA output connector
- 26. Left channel RCA output connector
- 27. AC Power inlet connector
- 28. Fuse holder

### TOP PANEL

- 29. Right channel XLR output connector
- 30. Left channel XLR output connector

### HEAD BLOCK

- 31. Supply reel tape guide
- 32. Take-up reel tape guide
- 33. Optical tape-end sensor
- 34. Erase head (not used, but installed for correct tape flow)
- 35. Tape lifter
- 36. Center tape guide / scrape roller
- 37. Playback head
- 38. Tape lifter
- 39. Capstan shaft
- 40. Pinch roller
- 41. Leader tape sensor



## DETAILED EXPLANATION OF FUNCTIONS

### TAPE TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS

#### **Tape counter (1)**

The tape counter is driven by the take up reel motor. The counter therefore gives an indication of the position on the tape, but is not linearly related to the position on the tape. The tape counter does not have a direct relation to the elapsed time.

#### **Tape counter reset button (2)**

The reset button puts the counter to 0000. This can be done at the beginning of the tape or at any other place on the tape to serve as a locator point.

#### **Tape tension arm (3)**

These arms are intended to keep the tape under some tension when the tape starts playing. The ATR10 has electronically regulated tape tension on both sides, however this tape tension arm is not involved in that process.

#### **Remote Control Receiver (4)**

The receiver for the infrared remote control is located behind this window. For the Remote Control to work properly the ATR10 should be positioned in a way that there is a direct line of sight from the remote handset to the receiver window.

#### **Edit slide (5)**

When operating this slide, the tape will be pressed against the sound heads. Thus, the cutting position can be searched by manually turning the reels. This function can be cancelled by pressing the PLAY key (14) or by lightly pushing the pressure roller against the capstan.

#### **LEADER TAPE SENSOR ON button (6) *(normally on at power up)***

Official SonoruS Holographic Imaging (SHI) tapes include an infrared light reflecting white leader tape at the beginning of the program. When button (6) is pressed the ATR10 will stop when the infrared light reflecting leader tape is detected by the Leader tape sensor (41) on the head block.

Practically this means that when an SHI tape is rewound, the ATR10 will automatically stop at the beginning of the program. Since the ATR10 will need some time to stop when the leader tape is detected it will overshoot by several seconds. For that reason it is recommended to use the FAST BRAKE button (10) *(normally on at power up)* to minimize the overshoot.

When button (6) is released the leader tape detection feature is disabled.

Infrared light reflecting leader tape can be used to stop the ATR10 at any point in a tape. To detect the leader tape under all conditions the length has to be at least two feet.

The leader tape sensor is only active during FF and REWIND. The machine will not stop at the leader tape during playback.

### **Tape speed selectors (7) (8)**

Select desired tape speed by pressing down the corresponding button. The tape speed may be changed in any operating mode.

### **Mains POWER switch (9)**

Before switching on the tape deck, check the voltage rating at the rear of the tape deck. The tape deck can be switched on by pressing the POWER switch (9). When power is applied, the VU-meters (23,24) are illuminated and the warm-up indicator in the POWER switch (9) will be blinking for approximately 50 seconds. During this 50 seconds all tape transport functions are available but the audio outputs will be muted.

### **FAST BRAKE key (10) *(normally on at power up)***

The ATR10 features motor assisted braking to allow faster searching on the tape and to reduce overshoot when the tape is stopped during fast forward or rewind. The braking time from fast forward or rewind is typically three times faster when the FAST BRAKE function is active.

The Fast Braking feature can only be used with 10.5" reels and with 1.5mil or 1mil thick tapes. All professional tapes like the current RTM and ATR tapes as well as the SonoruS 38xx series of tapes meet these criteria.

'Double play' or 'Triple play' tapes and any tapes that come on 7" reels should not be used in combination with the Fast Braking feature.

### **<<< Fast Rewind (12)**

Pressing this key results in immediate rewinding of the tape. This function can be selected directly from any other operating mode. The Fast Rewind function terminates if the STOP key (16) is pressed, a new command is entered, or when the optical tape-end sensor detects the end of the tape.

With slider (5) in the edit position the rewind function remains active only as long as this key stays pressed, thus allowing motorized search of a cutting position.

Note:

To reduce wear on the sound heads, long tape section should not be wound in the edit position.

### **Library Wind / << Slow Rewind key (11)**

The function of this key is essentially the same as the Fast Rewind key (12) however the winding speed will be approximately three times slower and the tape will be wound at increased tape tension. This function is mainly used as Library Wind because the reels will be neat and tightly wound, which in general improves the shelf life of tapes. In practice this mode is mainly used to wind the remainder of a partly played tape before putting it back in storage.

### **>>> Fast Forward (13)**

This key causes immediate fast forward winding of the tape. It is used in the same manner as key (12).

### **Library Wind / << Slow Forward key (16)**

The function of this key is essentially the same as the Fast Forward key (13) however the winding speed will be approximately three times slower and the tape will be wound at increased tape tension. This function is mainly used as Library Wind because the reels will be neat and tightly wound, which in general improves the shelf life of tapes. In practice this mode is mainly used to wind the remainder of a partly played tape before putting it back in storage.

### **PLAY key (14)**

The reproduce function is initiated by pressing the PLAY key. It may also be pressed while fast forward or rewind is active.

### **STOP key (15)**

This key cancels the current mode of operation. The tape deck is ready to accept a new command. The indicator of the STOP key will be blinking when the machine is braking and the tape is still in motion. When the tape has come to a full stop the indicator will light up continuously.

## **AUDIO FUNCTIONS**

### **Audio Electronics warm up indicator (9)**

Immediately after the ATR10 is powered on, the Audio Electronics warm-up indicator in the POWER switch (9) starts blinking. After approximately 50 seconds the indicator will stay lit.

Because the ATR10 uses vacuum tubes in the audio playback section there is a significant time required for the cathodes of the tubes to warm up. During this warm-up time the audio outputs need to stay muted. After 50 seconds the audio outputs are released and the ATR10 is ready to play music. Contrary to the audio electronics, the tape transport functions are immediately available after the tape deck is powered on.

### **Headphones output (18)**

The ATR10 includes a headphones monitor amplifier. Any set of headphones intended to be used with standard headphones outputs and that have a 1/4" stereo headphones jack can be used.

### **Headphones level control (17)**

A dual channel potentiometer is used to control the level of the headphones output (18). In the standard version of the ATR10 this level control does not influence the level of any of the other outputs.

### **NAB/IEC equalization selector buttons (20) (21)**

For each speed the playback equalization curve can be set for NAB (North American standard) or IEC / CCIR (European standard). The selector buttons can be pressed at any time to change the equalization curve.

Note:

Even though the equalization can be chosen at any moment, the ATR10 has a default setting of IEC for a tape speed of 15ips and NAB for 7.5ips. The default equalization setting comes up whenever the machine is powered up, but also when the speed setting is changed when the machine is already powered up.

These default settings are chosen because of the best audio performance at the respective speeds.

### **MUTING OFF button (22)**

All audio outputs are muted when the tape deck is in the STOP position or during forward or reverse winding. The muting function can be disabled to allow hearing the content of the tape, which can be very helpful during searching with fast forward or rewind. The MUTING OFF button does not override the muting function during the 50 seconds warm-up period immediately after the machine is powered up.

### **VU Level meters (23) (24)**

Each channel has its own level meter to monitor the level of the audio signal recorded on the tape. The ATR10mkII meters are calibrated for 0dBVU at 255nWb/m with the 'METERS +10dB' button in the OFF position.

### **METERS +10dB button (19) *(normally on at power up)***

The meters on the ATR10mkII are peak level meters. For best dynamic performance, most professional tapes like SonoruS Holographic Imaging (SHI) tapes are recorded to a peak level of up to +13dBVU. For this reason the meters on the ATR10mkII are by default set to +13dB full scale or 10dB above the reading on the scale.

When the 'METERS +10dB' button is in the OFF position, full scale corresponds to +3dBVU which means that the needles of the meters may go off the scale when professional tapes are used. This is not a problem and cannot damage the meters in any way.

# QUICK REFERENCE OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

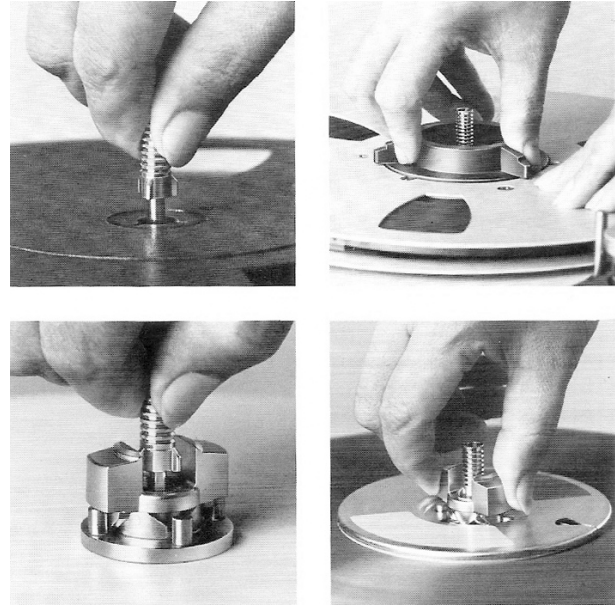
## REEL MOUNTING

**Three-pronged reel (DIN):** Mount the supply reel on left-hand reel support and an empty take-up reel on right-hand reel support. Pull out three-pronged guide and lock it with a 60° rotation.

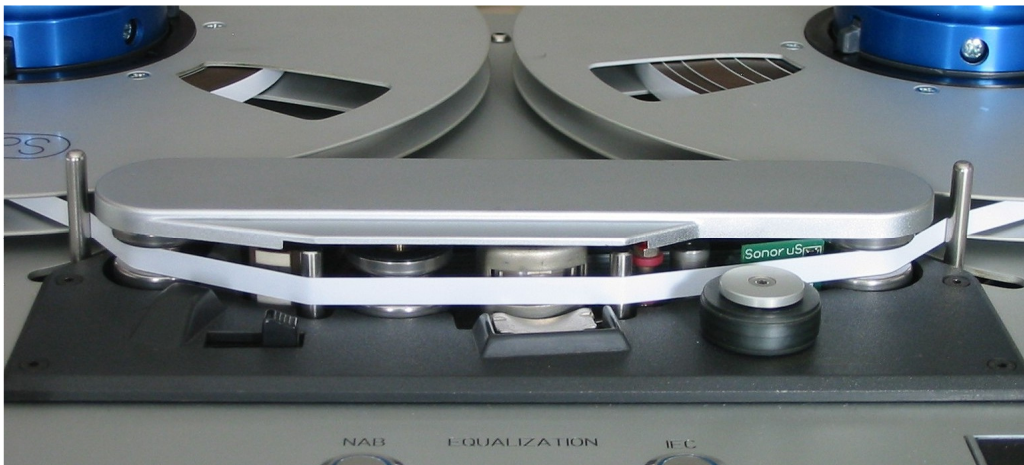
**NAB reels on SonoruS NAB spindles.** Mount the NAB reel on the spindle and turn the metal flange clockwise until it locks in place.

**NAB reels on NAB adapters:** Mount NAB adapter on reel support and lock the three pronged guide. Mount the NAB reel on adapter and turn the top section of adapter clockwise until it locks in place.

**AEG reel flange:** Mount adapter disk on the reel support and lock three-pronged guide. Mount full reel on left –hand reel support; lift up cover plate and rotate by 90° until it rests on the two guide pins. After completing the preceding instructions, mount an empty core on the right-hand reel support.



**Threading of tape:** Thread tape according to illustration below. The tape must be threaded neatly around the tape tension arm (3). Thread leading tape end onto right-hand reel and manually rotate the take-up reel in a counter-clockwise direction until the tape is locked. Tape fitted with a transparent leader should be wound forward until the start of the magnetic surface has passed the heads. Set tape counter to zero by pressing the reset button (2).



**Tapes that are stored 'TAILS OUT':** Master tapes and other professional tapes are often stored 'Tails Out'. This means that the tape is put in its storage box after playing without first rewinding the tape. This is done so that the tape is stored in a neat and tightly wound condition, which prolongs the shelf life of the tape.

To play a tape that is stored 'Tails Out', the tape should be threaded in the machine as described above, however the tape has to be placed on the right-hand side and the empty reel on the left-hand side. Before playing the tape it first needs to be rewound using the Fast Rewind key (12).

After playing the tape it should be put back in storage without rewinding. Party played tapes should be wound to the end by using the Library Wind / <<< Slow Forward key (16), which also assures a neat and tightly wound tape pack.

## OPERATING THE TAPE DECK

Apply power to the tape deck by setting the POWER SWITCH (9) to the ON position. Select desired tape speed with the corresponding button (7) (8). Playback can be started by pressing the PLAY key (14). The audio path is automatically switched on.

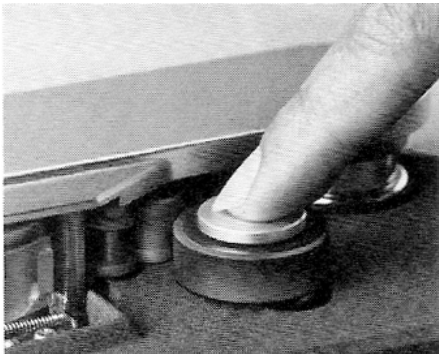
Fast winding is initiated with key <<<(12) or >>>(13). These keys can also be used to search for a particular tape section. The amplifier circuits are not active during fast wind operations.

The STOP key (15) cancels the current operating mode.

The tape deck command keys function fully independently and do not require the tape to be stopped. This also applies for the tape speed selectors (7) (8).

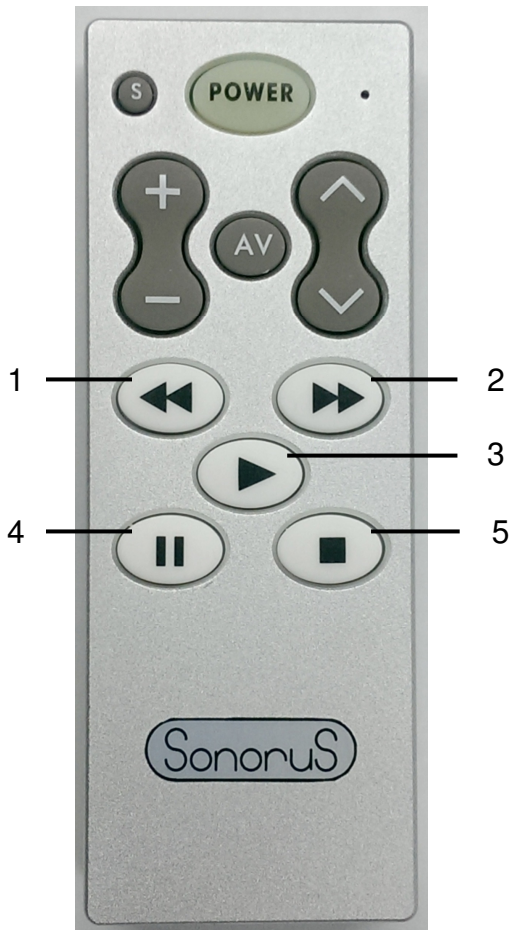
Even though the tape transport functions are available immediately, the audio electronics will only be available after the warm-up indicator light has stopped blinking after approx. 50 seconds.

Slide (5) causes the tape to be pressed against the sound-head and switches on the reproduce amplifier. This mode of operation (edit mode) is used for acoustically searching the desired cutting position. During the search, the tape can be transported through manual rotation of the spindles or under control of the spooling motors by pressing key <<<(12) or >>>(13). The cutter mode can be terminated by pressing the PLAY key (14) or by pushing the pressure roller against the capstan.





## WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL



## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications apply for operation in horizontal position.

Line voltage: 120VAC @ 60Hz

Ambient temperature: 25°C

## TAPE TRANSPORT FUNCTIONS

### Tape speeds:

15 ips (38.1 cm/s)

7.5 ips (19.05 cm/s)

### Tape speed deviation:

< +/- 0.2%

### Tape slip:

< 0.1%

### Tape reels:

Max. diameter: 10.5" (26.5cm)

Min. hub diameter: 2.34" (60mm)

### Tape width:

1/4" (6.35mm)

### Wow and flutter:

Weighted according DIN 45507.

15 ips: <0.05%

7.5 ips: <0.07%

### Winding time:

Fast Forward / Fast Rewind:

Slow Forward / Slow Rewind (Library Wind):

Approx. 90 sec. for 2500ft (762m) tape

Approx. 5 min. for 2500ft (762m) tape

## Stopping time from spooling:

Measured in the middle of a 2500ft (762m) tape on metal 10.5" (26.5cm) NAB reel.

Normal Braking:       Approx. 6 sec.  
Fast Braking:         Approx. 2 sec.

## Tape tension:

Electronically regulated. Tested with 10.5" (26.5cm) reels.

Supply reel side:     0.45N +/-0.05N  
Take-up reel side:    0.60N +/-0.05N

## AUDIO FUNCTIONS

Measured with RMGI 911 tape.

### Outputs:

RCA/XLR outputs:     Output impedance: 75 $\Omega$   
                          Load impedance: 5k $\Omega$  min.  
Headphones output:   Output impedance: 180 $\Omega$   
                          Load impedance: Any

### Output level:

RCA/XLR outputs:     0.55Vrms @ 0dBVU  
Headphones output:   max. 6.4Vrms

### Equalizations:

NAB and IEC (CCIR), switch selectable

### Equalization time constants:

NAB (7.5ips):    50/3180  $\mu$ s  
NAB (15ips):    50/3180  $\mu$ s  
IEC (7.5ips):    70/ $\infty$  (16000 actual)  $\mu$ s  
IEC (15ips):    35/ $\infty$  (16000 actual)  $\mu$ s

### Frequency response:

15ips: 18Hz – 25kHz (+2/-3dB)  
7.5ips: 14Hz – 21kHz (+2/-3dB)

## Signal-to-noise ratios:

RMS, weighted according to ASA-A, referenced to +6dBVU (510nWb/m)

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| NAB (7.5ips): | 71dB |
| NAB (15ips):  | 73dB |
| IEC (7.5ips): | 71dB |
| IEC (15ips):  | 73dB |

## Distortion:

THD measured at 1kHz

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| 15ips, 0dBVU:   | <0.15% |
| 15ips, +6dBVU:  | <0.5%  |
| 15ips, +13dBVU: | <3%    |

## Power consumption:

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| Stop:         | 55W  |
| Play:         | 120W |
| Spooling:     | 130W |
| Library Wind: | 160W |

## Operating temperatures:

50°F – 104°F (10°C – 40°C)

## Relative humidity:

20% - 90%, non condensing

## Weight:

Nett: 20kg (44 lbs)  
Shipping weight: 30kg (66 lbs) (30kg)

## Dimensions:

H x W x D = 410mm x 450mm x 250mm (16.140" x 17.710" x 9.840")  
(The total depth is measured from the rear feet to the front of the NAB spindles. From the rear feet to the front panel the depth is 190mm (7.480"))

Shipping dimensions: H x W x D = 46cm x 61cm x 61cm (18" x 24" x 24")

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