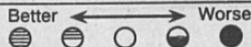


RATINGS AUDIO TAPES



▶ See report, page 34. From Consumer Reports, January 1993.

Recommendations: Just about any Type I tape will do for recordings for a cheap cassette deck in a noisy car, for a boom box, or for an answering machine. Choose higher-rated Type I and Type II tapes for recordings of a radio program, an LP record, or a CD to play in a quiet car, or to play in a walkabout. Higher-rated Type II and Type IV are for copying high-quality LPs, capturing live concerts, or copying CDs for critical listening. Under no circumstances, however, is the *TDK MA-XG* a good value; it cost us \$14 apiece.

Ratings order: Listed by types; within types, listed in order of overall score. Differences in score of 10 points or less were judged insignificant. List price is the manufacturer's suggested retail price for a single tape. Paid is the manufacturer's suggested retail and the average price we paid. **Notes to table:** Key to **Bias shift:** + or ++ means higher-than-normal bias; a - or -- means lower than normal bias. Symbols to **Sensitivity shift** indicate how different the playback level will be than with "standard" tape at the same recording level. Increased sensitivity is indicated by +. □ indicates model discontinued.

Brand and model	Price, list/paid	Overall score	Midrange	Treble	Distortion	Uniformity/ dropouts	Bias shift	Sensitivity shift	Comments
TYPE I ('NORMAL') TAPES									
Fuji DR-1	\$1.99/\$2.00	77	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	++	0	F,G
Sony ES 1 □	3.49/ 2.25	77	⊗	⊗	○	⊗	++	0	C,F
Maxell UDI* □	3.50/ 2.50	74	○	○	⊗	⊗	+	0	F
Maxell XLI-S* □	4.00/ 3.00	74	○	○	○	⊗	+	0	—
TDK DS-X	2.99/ 2.25	73	○	⊗	○	○	0	0	F
TDK D	1.99/ 1.50	68	○	○	⊗	○	+	0	—
BASF Ferro Extra I	0.99/ 1.00	67	○	○	○	⊗	+	0	—
Maxell UR	1.79/ 1.75	67	⊗	○	○	⊗	0	0	—
Scotch CX	1.50/ 1.25	67	○	○	○	⊗	0	0	—
Sony HF	1.69/ 1.75	67	○	○	○	⊗	0	0	—
Realistic Supertape XR	1.99/ 2.00	66	○	○	○	○	+	0	D
Denon DX1	2.25/ 1.75	65	⊗	○	○	⊗	0	-	C
Memorex MRXI	2.29/ 2.50	64	⊗	○	○	○	0	0	—
Scotch BX	1.25/ 1.50	64	⊗	○	○	○	0	0	—
JVC GI	1.55/ 1.50	62	⊗	○	○	⊗	0	0	—
Memorex dbs	1.59/ 1.50	61	⊗	○	○	⊗	-	0	—
Realistic Supertape LN	1.20/ 1.25	59	⊗	○	○	⊗	-	0	D
K Mart KMC 90* □	—/ 1.00	56	⊗	○	⊗	⊗	-	0	E
Certon HD	1.79/ 1.25	44	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	0	+	E
Certon C/90 LN	0.80/ 0.50	41	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	---	+++	E
TYPE II ('HIGH-BIAS') TAPES									
TDK SA-X	4.49/ 3.75	87	⊗	⊗	⊗	⊗	+	0	F

Ratings continued ▶

56 AUDIO TAPES

▶ Ratings continued

Brand and model	Price list/paid	Overall score	Performance							Comments
			Midrange	Treble	Distortion	Uniformity/dropouts	Bias shift	Sensitivity shift		
Fuji DR-II	\$2.99/\$2.00	84	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	-	F,G	
BASF Chrome Maxima II D	3.99/ 2.75	83	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	-	—	
Maxell XLII-S	4.39/ 3.25	83	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	+	0	B,F	
Sony ES II	3.99/ 2.25	83	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	0	F	
Sony UX Turbo	3.99/ 2.50	82	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	0	A,F	
Sony UX-Pro	4.29/ 4.00	81	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	0	—	
BASF Chrome Super II	2.99/ 2.25	79	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+	-	—	
Maxell XLII	3.79/ 2.75	79	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F	
Fuji FR-IIx	3.99/ 2.00	78	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F,G	
Maxell UDII* D	4.00/ 2.75	78	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F	
TDK SD	2.99/ 2.50	78	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F	
Fuji FR-IIxPro	4.99/ 1.75	76	⊕	○	○	⊕	0	0	A	
TDK SA	3.79/ 2.75	76	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F	
Denon HD6	3.25/ 2.25	75	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F	
Realistic Supertape M-II	4.79/ 4.75	75	○	⊕	○	⊕	0	-	D	
Denon S-Port High (C-100)	2.50/ 2.25	74	○	○	○	⊕	0	0	F,G,H	
Realistic Supertape HD	2.99/ 1.75	74	○	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	D	
Sony ES II (C-100) D	4.49/ 3.25	74	⊕	○	⊕	○	+	0	—	
TDK SA (C-100)	4.39/ 2.75	74	⊕	○	○	⊕	0	0	F	
3M Black Watch 2020	3.99/ 3.50	73	○	⊕	○	⊕	0	-	—	
Denon HD8	4.75/ 3.25	72	○	⊕	○	○	0	0	F	
Sony CDit II (C-94)	2.99/ 2.00	72	○	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F,G	
Sony UX	3.19/ 2.75	71	○	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	0	—	
Denon HD7	4.00/ 3.00	69	○	○	⊕	⊕	0	0	F	
Memorex HBS II	2.59/ 2.25	68	○	⊕	⊕	⊕	0	0	—	
TYPE IV ('METAL') TAPES										
Sony Metal-ES D	4.95/ 4.00	94	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	+++	-	—	
Sony Metal Master	11.00/ 7.00	93	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	+++	-	B	
TDK MA-XG	18.99/14.00	93	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	++	0	B	
Fuji FR Metal	5.99/ 4.25	92	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	+	-	F,G	
Maxell MX-S	5.29/ 4.00	89	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	++	0	B,F	
Maxell Metal Vertex	14.99/13.25	89	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	++	0	B	
TDK MA-X	5.29/ 4.50	88	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	++	0	—	
Realistic Supertape M-IV	5.99/ 6.00	86	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+++	0	D	
Sony CDit IV D	3.49/ 2.75	86	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+	0	F,G	
Sony Metal-SR	3.49/ 3.00	86	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	+	0	—	
TDK MA	3.99/ 3.50	86	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	+++	0	F	
Denon S-Port Metal (C-100)	3.50/ 3.50	83	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	0	0	F,G,H	
Maxell MX	3.99/ 3.00	83	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	++	0	—	

Brand and model	Price, list/paid	Overall score	Midrange	Treble	Distortion	Uniformity/dropouts	Bias shift	Sensitivity shift	Comments
3M Black Watch 4040	\$4.59/\$4.50	82	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+	0	—
Denon HD-M	5.50/ 3.25	82	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+	+	F
Memorex CDX IV	2.99/ 2.75	82	⊕	⊕	○	○	+	0	—
Denon MG-X (C-100)	9.95/ 9.00	81	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	+	0	B

Performance Notes

Except as noted, all: • Cassettes and carrying cases were average in heat-resistance.

Key to Comments

- A—Cassette and case much better than average in heat-resistance.
 B—Cassette much better than average in heat-resistance.
 C—Cassette better than average in heat-

resistance.

D—Cassette worse than average in heat-resistance.

E—Cassette much worse than average in heat-resistance.

F—Cassette case has rounded edges.

G—"Slimline" case, somewhat thinner than most.

H—According to mfr., formulation has changed since we conducted our tests.

RATINGS UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROLS

Better ← → Worse
 ⊕ ⊖ ○ ⊙ ●

▶ See report, page 21. From Consumer Reports, December 1992.

Recommendations: To control video devices, consider *One For All 3 Big Easy* (\$30) or *Sole Control SC-500* (\$60); both remote controls were easy to program and the *Sole Control* even controlled complex functions. For controlling both video and audio products, look first at the top four: the *Memorex CP8 Turbo* (\$90); the *Fox 600* (\$60); the *One For All 12* (\$99); the *RCA System Link RCU 100*, (\$50). Models that are discontinued may still be available but hard to find.

Ratings order: Listed by types; within types, listed in order of overall score. Models with equal scores are listed alphabetically. Price is the manufacturer's suggested retail; actual retail may be lower. □ indicates tested model has been replaced by successor model; according to the manufacturer, the performance of new model should be similar to the tested model but features may vary. See page 58 for new model number and suggested retail price, if available. ⊠ indicates model discontinued.

Brand and model	Overall score	Price	Components	Keypad					Programming	Owner's manual	Code-entry	Learning	Comments
				Accessibility	Grouping	Differentiation	Visibility	Visibility					
One For All 3 Big Easy	88	\$30	4	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	✓	—	B,E,N	
Sole Control SC-500 □	84	60	6	⊕	○	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	✓	—	A,B	
Zenith MBR 3020 □	84	60	3	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	✓	—	I	
Gemini Easy3	83	15	3	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	✓	—	I,N,W	

Ratings continued ▶

© 1993 Consumers Union of United States, Inc. All rights reserved. Copyright of Consumer Reports is the property of Consumers Union and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.