

OM SYSTEM J300

OM SYSTEM Olympus J300 Microcassette Recorder User Manual

Model: J300

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1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides detailed instructions for the proper use and care of your OM SYSTEM Olympus J300 Microcassette Recorder. Please read this manual thoroughly before operating the device to ensure optimal performance and longevity. The J300 is designed for portable audio recording, featuring a compact design and essential functions for clear voice capture.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

2.1 Key Features

- **Variable Control Voice Actuator (VCVA):** Enables hands-free recording by starting and stopping recording based on sound detection.
- **Tape Counter:** For precise location of recorded passages on the microcassette tape.
- **Dual Tape Speeds:** Offers extended recording time, up to three hours on a 90-minute microcassette tape.
- **Cue/Review Function:** Allows for fast and easy monitoring of messages during playback.
- **Built-in Dynamic Speaker:** Provides clear audio playback.
- **Compact Design:** Ergonomic and easy to carry.

2.2 Component Identification

Familiarize yourself with the various parts of your J300 recorder:



Figure 1: Top view of the Olympus J300 Microcassette Recorder with the cassette compartment open, showing the tape reels and recording mechanism. The device features a speaker grille on the left and control labels like "EASY CLEAR SOUND" and "ULTRA-COMPACT" on its surface.

1. **Cassette Compartment:** Area for inserting microcassette tapes.
2. **Speaker:** Built-in speaker for audio playback.
3. **Microphone:** Integrated microphone for recording.
4. **REC Button:** Initiates recording.
5. **PLAY Button:** Starts playback.
6. **STOP/EJECT Button:** Stops current operation and ejects the cassette.
7. **Volume Control:** Adjusts playback volume.
8. **Tape Speed Switch:** Selects between two recording/playback speeds.
9. **VCVA Switch:** Activates or deactivates the Voice Control Voice Actuator.
10. **Battery Compartment:** Located on the underside for AAA batteries.





Figure 2: Side view of the Olympus J300 Microcassette Recorder, highlighting the REC, PLAY, and STOP/EJECT buttons, along with a slide switch for other functions. The battery compartment cover is visible at the bottom.

3. SETUP

3.1 Battery Installation

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the underside of the recorder.
2. Slide the cover open.

3. Insert two (2) AAA batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.

Note: The J300 requires 2 AAA batteries. Fresh batteries are recommended for optimal performance.

3.2 Loading a Microcassette Tape

1. Press the **STOP/EJECT** button to open the cassette compartment cover.
2. Insert a microcassette tape with the exposed tape side facing upwards and the full reel on the left.
3. Gently push the cassette compartment cover down until it clicks into place.



Figure 3: Side view of the Olympus J300 Microcassette Recorder, showing the clear window where a microcassette tape is visible once loaded. The "Pearlcorder J300" model name is printed on the casing.

4. BASIC OPERATION

4.1 Recording

1. Ensure a microcassette tape is loaded and batteries are installed.
2. Press the **REC** button. The recorder will begin recording.
3. Speak clearly into the built-in microphone.
4. To stop recording, press the **STOP/EJECT** button.

Tip: For optimal recording quality, hold the recorder approximately 10-20 cm (4-8 inches) from the sound source.

4.2 Playback

1. Press the **PLAY** button. The recorded audio will play through the built-in speaker.
2. Adjust the volume using the volume control dial.
3. To stop playback, press the **STOP/EJECT** button.

4.3 Fast Forward and Rewind (Cue/Review)

- During playback, press and hold the **FF (Fast Forward)** button to quickly advance the tape. Release to resume playback.
- During playback, press and hold the **REW (Rewind)** button to quickly reverse the tape. Release to resume playback.
- These functions allow for quick message monitoring.

4.4 Tape Counter

The tape counter displays a numerical value indicating the tape's position. This is useful for locating specific recorded passages. Reset the counter to "000" at the beginning of a new recording or tape for accurate tracking.

5. ADVANCED FEATURES

5.1 Variable Control Voice Actuator (VCVA)

The VCVA function allows the recorder to automatically start recording when sound is detected and pause when silence occurs. This conserves tape and battery life.

1. Locate the **VCVA switch** (often labeled "VCVA" or "VOX").
2. Slide the switch to the "ON" position to activate VCVA.
3. To record continuously, slide the switch to the "OFF" position.

5.2 Dual Tape Speeds

The J300 offers two tape speeds, typically 2.4 cm/s (standard) and 1.2 cm/s (half speed). The slower speed doubles the recording time but may slightly reduce audio fidelity.

1. Locate the **Tape Speed switch**.
2. Select the desired speed before recording or playback. For extended recording, choose the slower speed.

6. MAINTENANCE

6.1 Cleaning the Recorder

- Wipe the exterior of the recorder with a soft, dry cloth.
- For stubborn dirt, slightly dampen the cloth with water or a mild cleaning solution, then wipe dry.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners or solvents.
- Periodically clean the tape heads and pinch roller using a cotton swab lightly moistened with isopropyl alcohol. Ensure the recorder is off and batteries are removed before cleaning internal components.

6.2 Battery Care

- Remove batteries if the recorder will not be used for an extended period to prevent leakage.
- Replace all batteries at the same time with new ones of the same type.

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Recorder does not power on.	Dead or incorrectly inserted batteries.	Check battery polarity; replace with fresh AAA batteries.
No sound during playback.	Volume too low; tape not recorded; tape heads dirty.	Increase volume; ensure tape was recorded correctly; clean tape heads.
Recording is distorted or unclear.	Microphone too far/close; dirty tape heads; old tape.	Adjust distance to microphone; clean tape heads; try a new microcassette tape.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Tape does not move or jams.	Tape tangled; mechanical issue.	Carefully remove and reinsert tape; if problem persists, contact support.
VCVA not activating.	VCVA switch off; ambient noise too low.	Ensure VCVA switch is ON; speak louder or closer to the microphone.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

- **Model:** J300
- **Brand:** OM SYSTEM (Olympus)
- **Manufacturer:** Olympus
- **Microphone Form Factor:** Built-In
- **Microphone Operation Mode:** Mono
- **Headphones Jack:** 2.5 millimeters
- **Power Source:** 2 x AAA batteries
- **Battery Average Life:** Approximately 3 hours (recording)
- **Item Weight:** 140 g
- **Tape Speeds:** Standard (2.4 cm/s), Half (1.2 cm/s)
- **Features:** VCVA, Tape Counter, Cue/Review, Built-in Speaker

9. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For warranty information, technical support, or service inquiries, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official OM SYSTEM (Olympus) website. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.

Online Support: www.omsystem.com

ASK A QUESTION ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Ask about setup, troubleshooting, compatibility, parts, safety, or missing instructions. Manuals+ will review the question and use this page’s manual context to help answer it.

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Question

Example: How do I reset this device or fix this error?

Details

Model number, symptoms, what you tried, or the section of the manual you are using.

Submit question