Olympus J500

Olympus Pearlcorder J500 Microcassette Recorder User Manual

Model: J500

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the Olympus Pearlcorder J500 Microcassette Recorder. This device is designed for reliable voice recording with features such as voice activation and dual tape speeds. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your recorder.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- Do not expose the unit to extreme temperatures, direct sunlight, or high humidity.
- Avoid dropping the unit or subjecting it to strong impacts.
- Keep the unit away from water and other liquids.
- Use only the specified battery type (AAA).
- Do not attempt to disassemble or modify the unit. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel.
- Keep out of reach of children.

PACKAGE CONTENTS

Please check that all items are present:

- Olympus Pearlcorder J500 Microcassette Recorder
- User Manual (this document)
- *(Note: Batteries and microcassette tapes are typically sold separately unless specified.)*

COMPONENT IDENTIFICATION

Familiarize yourself with the various parts of your Pearlcorder J500.

Image: Olympus Pearlcorder J500 Microcassette Recorder. This image displays the recorder from an angled perspective, highlighting the microcassette tape compartment, the built-in speaker, and various control buttons on the front panel.

- **Tape Compartment:** Holds the microcassette tape.
- **Speaker:** For audio playback.
- **Microphone:** Built-in for recording.
- **Record Button:** Initiates recording.
- **Play Button:** Starts playback.
- **Stop Button:** Halts all operations.
- **Rewind Button:** Rewinds the tape.
- **Fast Forward Button:** Advances the tape quickly.
- **Eject Button/Lever:** Opens the tape compartment.
- **Volume Control:** Adjusts playback volume.
- **Tape Speed Switch:** Selects between two recording/playback speeds.
- **Voice Activation (VAS) Switch:** Enables or disables voice-activated recording.
- **LED Indicators:** For record and battery status.
- **Earphone Jack:** For private listening.

SETUP

1. Battery Installation

1. Locate the battery compartment cover on the back or bottom of the recorder.
2. Slide or lift the cover to open the compartment.
3. Insert two (2) AAA batteries, ensuring correct polarity (+/-) as indicated inside the compartment.
4. Close the battery compartment cover securely.
5. The battery indicator LED may briefly light up to confirm power.

2. Microcassette Tape Insertion

Image: Olympus Pearlcorder J500 with tape compartment open. This side view illustrates the recorder with its microcassette tape door open, indicating where the tape should be placed.

1. Press the Eject button or slide the Eject lever to open the tape compartment.
2. Insert a microcassette tape with the exposed tape side facing the recording head and the full reel on the left.
3. Gently close the tape compartment cover until it clicks into place. Do not force it.

OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Power On/Off

The unit powers on automatically when a function button (Record, Play) is pressed and powers off after a period of inactivity or when the Stop button is held down.

Recording

1. **Select Tape Speed:** Use the Tape Speed switch to choose between the two available speeds (e.g., 1.2 cm/s or 2.4 cm/s). Higher speed offers better audio quality but shorter recording time.
2. **One-Touch Record:** Press the **RECORD** button. The Record LED indicator will light up, and recording will begin.
3. **Voice Activation (VAS):** Slide the VAS switch to the "ON" position. The recorder will automatically start recording when sound is detected and pause when silence occurs. Press **RECORD** to initiate VAS mode.
4. **Monitoring Recording:** For private monitoring, connect earphones to the earphone jack.
5. **Stop Recording:** Press the **STOP** button.

Playback

1. Ensure a microcassette tape is inserted.
2. Press the **PLAY** button. Audio will play through the built-in speaker or connected earphones.
3. **Adjust Volume:** Use the Volume Control dial to set the desired listening level.
4. **Variable Speed Playback:** If available, use the variable speed control to adjust playback speed without changing pitch.

5. **Cue & Review:** While playing, press and hold **FAST FORWARD** to quickly scan forward or **REWIND** to quickly scan backward. Release the button to resume normal playback.

6. **Quick Review:** Press the **REWIND** button briefly during playback to jump back a few seconds.

7. **Stop Playback:** Press the **STOP** button.

Fast Forward and Rewind

- To fast forward, press the **FAST FORWARD** button.
- To rewind, press the **REWIND** button.
- Press **STOP** to halt the fast forward or rewind operation.

MAINTENANCE

Cleaning

- Wipe the exterior of the unit with a soft, dry cloth.
- Do not use abrasive cleaners, solvents, or strong detergents.
- Periodically clean the recording head and pinch roller with a cotton swab lightly dampened with head cleaner fluid (available separately) to ensure optimal recording and playback quality.

Battery Replacement

Replace batteries when the battery indicator LED shows low power or when the unit's performance degrades. Always replace both batteries at the same time with new ones of the same type.

Storage

- When storing the unit for extended periods, remove the batteries to prevent leakage.
- Store in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Unit does not power on.	Dead or incorrectly inserted batteries.	Replace batteries with new ones, ensuring correct polarity.
Poor recording quality.	Dirty recording head; low battery; incorrect tape speed.	Clean the recording head; replace batteries; ensure correct tape speed is selected.
Tape does not move or jams.	Tape is damaged or incorrectly inserted; mechanical issue.	Check tape insertion; try a different tape. If problem persists, seek service.
Voice Activation (VAS) not working.	VAS switch is off; ambient noise too low.	Ensure VAS switch is "ON"; speak closer to the microphone or increase sensitivity if adjustable.
No sound during playback.	Volume too low; earphones connected; tape recorded blank.	Increase volume; disconnect earphones; verify tape has content.

SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	53240 (J500)

Product Dimensions	0.83 x 2.13 x 4.57 inches
Item Weight	6.7 ounces (0.19 Kilograms)
Manufacturer	Olympus®
Batteries Required	2 AAA batteries
Microphone Form Factor	Built-In
Headphones Jack	2.5 millimeters
Battery Life	3 Hours (approximate)
Microphone Operation Mode	Mono

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, or service, please refer to the warranty card included with your product or visit the official Olympus website. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.
Olympus Official Website: www.olympus-global.com