Panasonic DMR-ES40VS

Panasonic DMR-ES40VS VHS / DVD Recorder Instruction Manual

Model: DMR-ES40VS

1. Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the operation and maintenance of your Panasonic DMR-ES40VS VHS / DVD Recorder. This unit combines a DVD recorder, DVD player, and VCR into a single device, offering versatile media management capabilities.
Key features include:

- Simultaneous program watching and recording.
- DVD recording support for DVD-RAM, DVD-R, DVD-RW, and DVD+R media.
- Playback compatibility with DVD-Video, DVD-R & DVD-RW, DVD+R & DVD+RW, DVD-RAM, Video CD, DVD-Audio, CDs, audio CD-Rs & CD-RWs, and MP3 CDs.
- VHS HiFi stereo VCR with MTS decoding, 4 video heads, and 3 VHS recording settings (SP, EP, VP).
- VCR Plus+, timer, and manual recording functions.
- Built-in NTSC TV tuner for recording.
- Progressive scanning for enhanced image quality with compatible discs and televisions.
- Chasing Playback, allowing viewing of a DVD recording before completion.
- Time Slip Button for convenient navigation.
- 2x LP Horizontal Resolution Recording, providing 500 lines of horizontal resolution in LP mode.
- Rapid Random Access with DVD-RAM discs.
- Selectable recording modes: XP/SP/LP/EP/FR.
- Dolby Digital (Dolby AC-3) 2-channel audio recording.
- Black Level Control.

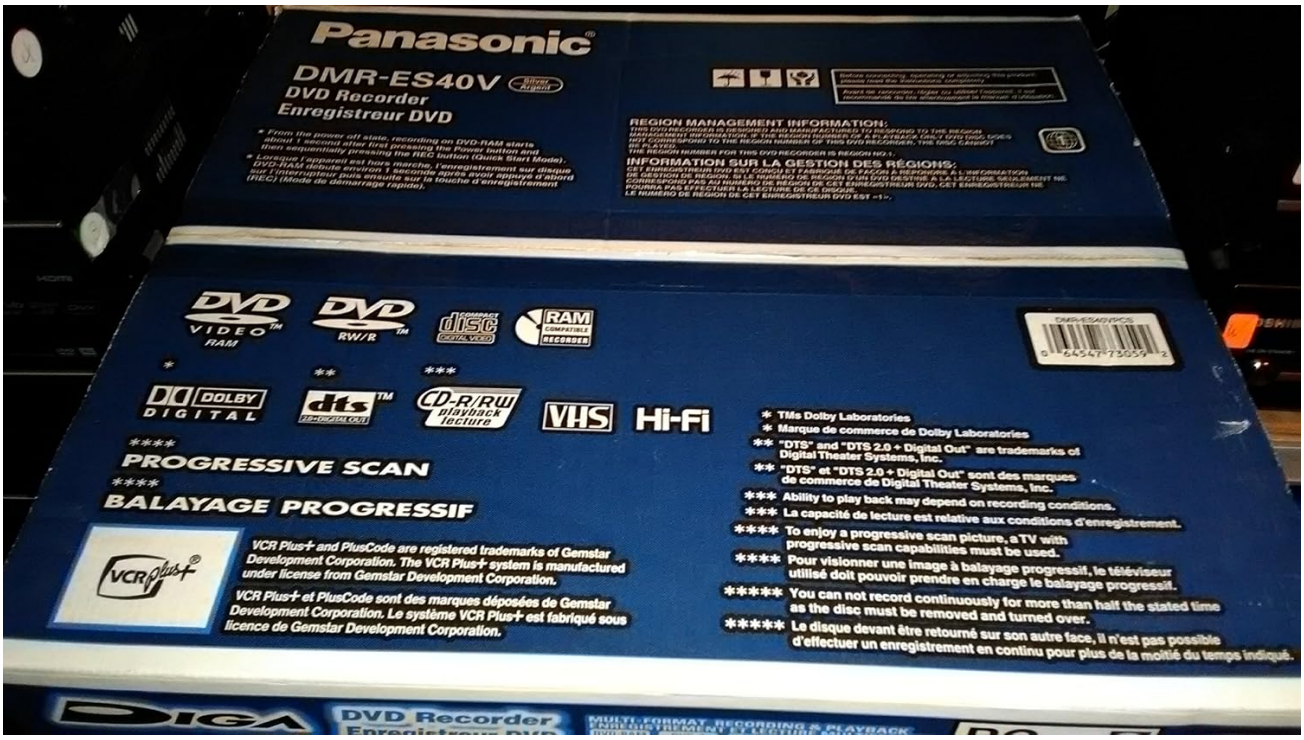


Figure 1: Packaging of the Panasonic DMR-ES40VS VHS / DVD Recorder, showing key features and specifications.

2. Setup

Before operating your Panasonic DMR-ES40VS, ensure all necessary connections are made to your television and other audio/video equipment.

2.1 Connecting to a Television

Connect the appropriate video and audio cables from the recorder's output ports to your television's input ports. The unit supports Component Video (Y, PB, PR), S-Video, and Composite Video outputs. For audio, use the Audio L/R outputs or the Optical Digital Output for DTS & Dolby Digital Surround Sound.

2.2 Connecting External Devices

The recorder features various input options for connecting external devices such as camcorders or other video sources:

- **Front A/V Inputs:** 1 S-Video, 1 Composite Video, 1 Audio L/R, 1 IEEE1394 DV Firewire.
- **Rear A/V Inputs:** 1 S-Video, 1 Composite Video, 1 Audio L/R.
- **RF Input:** 1 RF (VHF/UHF) for antenna or cable connection.



Figure 2: Front view of the recorder, showing the disc tray and front panel controls, with a remote control and camcorder nearby.



Figure 3: Close-up of the front panel, highlighting the DV IN port and other accessible input connections.



Figure 4: The remote control for the Panasonic DMR-ES40VS, used for operating various functions of the unit.

3. Operating Instructions

3.1 DVD Playback

1. Press the **OPEN/CLOSE** button on the front panel or remote control to open the disc tray.
2. Place a DVD disc onto the tray with the label side facing up.
3. Press the **OPEN/CLOSE** button again to close the tray. The unit will read the disc.
4. Playback will typically begin automatically. If not, press the **PLAY** button.



Figure 5: The recorder in operation, displaying a 'LUCASFILM THX' logo on a connected television, indicating DVD playback.

3.2 DVD Recording

The DMR-ES40VS supports recording to DVD-RAM, DVD-R, DVD-RW, and DVD+R media. For optimal performance, DVD-R media is often recommended.

1. Insert a blank recordable DVD into the disc tray. The unit will recognize it as a recordable disc.
2. Select the desired input source (e.g., TV tuner, external A/V input).
3. Choose your preferred recording mode (XP, SP, LP, EP, FR) based on desired quality and recording time.
4. Press the **RECORD** button to begin recording.
5. To stop recording, press the **STOP** button.
6. After recording, it is recommended to **FINALIZE** the disc (for DVD-R/RW/+R) to ensure compatibility with other DVD players. This option is usually found in the Disc Management menu.



Figure 6: A television screen displaying a progress bar and message during the disc finalization process, essential for playback on other devices.



Figure 7: The recorder's front display showing 'DVD VIDEO RAM', indicating the type of disc currently inserted or being used.

3.3 VHS Playback and Recording

1. Insert a VHS tape into the VCR slot.
2. For playback, press the **PLAY** button.
3. For recording, select the desired input source and recording speed (SP, EP, VP). Press the **RECORD** button.
4. The VCR Plus+ and timer recording features allow for scheduled recordings.

3.4 Dubbing (VHS to DVD / DVD to VHS)

The DMR-ES40VS allows for one-touch dubbing between VHS tapes and DVD discs.

1. Insert the source media (VHS tape or DVD) and the blank recordable media (DVD or VHS tape) into their respective slots.
2. Select the source (VHS or DVD) using the **OPERATION SELECT** dial or remote.
3. Press the **DUB** button. The unit will initiate the dubbing process.
4. Monitor the dubbing process on your television.



Figure 8: The recorder's front display showing 'dub', indicating that the dubbing function is active or selected.

4. Maintenance

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your DMR-ES40VS, follow these maintenance guidelines:

- Keep the unit in a well-ventilated area to prevent overheating.
- Clean the exterior of the unit with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid using liquid cleaners or abrasive materials.
- Regularly inspect and clean the disc tray and VCR tape path for dust or debris. Use a specialized cleaning disc or tape if necessary, following their instructions.
- Avoid exposing the unit to direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, or high humidity.

5. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your DMR-ES40VS, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **No Power:** Ensure the power cord is securely connected to both the unit and a working electrical outlet.
- **No Picture/Sound:** Verify all audio and video cables are correctly connected between the recorder and your television. Ensure the TV input is set to the correct source.
- **Disc Not Playing/Recording:** Check that the disc is inserted correctly (label side up). Ensure the disc is clean and free of scratches. For recording, confirm it is a blank, recordable disc and that it has been formatted if required.
- **Unit Freezes/Locks Up:** Disconnect the power cord from the outlet, wait for a few minutes, then reconnect it. This can often resolve temporary software glitches.
- **Recording Quality Issues:** Ensure the recording mode selected is appropriate for the desired quality. Check the quality of the input signal.
- **VHS Tape Issues:** Ensure the tape is not damaged or tangled. Clean the VCR heads if playback or recording quality is poor.

For persistent issues, consult the full service manual or contact Panasonic customer support.

6. Specifications

Feature	Specification
Brand Name	Panasonic
Model Number	DMR-ES40VS
Item Weight	14.25 pounds
Product Dimensions	13.87 x 3.5 x 16.93 inches
Color Name	Silver
Built-In Decoders	Dolby Digital, DTS decoder
Special Features	DVD Recorder, VCR Recorder Dubbing
Item Display Height	3.54 inches
Batteries Required	2 AA batteries (for remote control)
Date First Available	August 11, 2005

7. Important Consumer Information

CONSUMER ALERT:
This television receiver has only an analog broadcast tuner and will require a converter box after February 17, 2009, to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the U.S.'s transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products. For more information, call the Federal Communications Commission at 1-888-225-5322 (TTY: 1-888-835-5322), or visit the commission's digital-television Web site at: www.dtv.gov.

8. Warranty and Support

For warranty information, please refer to the documentation included with your product at the time of purchase. For

technical support, service, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact Panasonic customer service directly. Keep your purchase receipt and model number (DMR-ES40VS) readily available when contacting support.