

Cat. No. 43-777  
**OWNER'S MANUAL**

Please read before using this equipment.

# TAD-277

**Single-Microcassette Answering System  
with Digital Announcement**



**RadioShack<sup>®</sup>**



## FEATURES

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Your RadioShack TAD-277 Single-Microcassette Answering System with Digital Announcement is ideal for your home or office. It is easy to use and has the following features.

**Digital Outgoing Message** — ensures the clearest possible recording of the message you leave for callers.

**Call Screening** — lets you listen while a caller leaves a message so you can decide if you want to answer the call.

**Auto-Reset** — stops recording when you pick up any phone on the same phone line and resets to answer the next call.

**Remote Operation** — lets you use a touch-tone phone (or rotary phone and pocket tone dialer) to enter a 3-digit remote operation security code so you can play back or record messages while you are away from your home or office.

**Remote Answer-On** — lets you call from a remote location to set the TAD-277 to answer calls.

**Ring Select Switch** — lets you select the number of rings the TAD-277 waits before it answers calls.

**Toll Saver** — lets you avoid unnecessary toll charges when you call long-distance to check your messages.

**VOX (Voice-Activated Recording)** — stops recording after 7 seconds of silence to conserve tape space for other messages.

**Supplied Incoming Message Tape** — lets you record up to about 29 minutes of incoming messages on each side of the tape.

This answering system has been tested and found to comply with all applicable UL and FCC standards.



We recommend you record your TAD-277's serial number here. The number is on the bottom of the TAD-277.

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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**WARNING:** To reduce the risk of fire or shock hazard, do not expose this product to rain or moisture.

	<b>CAUTION</b> RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK. DO NOT OPEN.	
<p><b>CAUTION:</b> TO REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT REMOVE COVER OR BACK. NO USER-SERVICEABLE PARTS INSIDE. REFER SERVICING TO QUALIFIED PERSONNEL.</p>		



This symbol is intended to alert you to the presence of uninsulated dangerous voltage within the product's enclosure that might be of sufficient magnitude to constitute a risk of electric shock. Do not open the product's case.



This symbol is intended to inform you that important operating and maintenance instructions are included in the literature accompanying this product.

## READ THIS FIRST

We have designed your TAD-277 to conform to federal regulations, and you can connect it to most telephone lines. However, each device you connect to the phone line draws power from the phone line. We refer to this power draw as the device's *Ringer Equivalence Number*, or REN. The REN is on the bottom of your TAD-277.

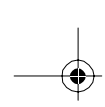
If you are using more than one device on the line, add up all the RENs. If the total is more than five, your phones might not ring and your TAD-277 might not answer. In rural areas, a total REN of three might impair ringer operation. If ringer operation is impaired, remove a device from the telephone line.

## FCC STATEMENT

Your TAD-277 complies with Part 68 of *FCC Rules*. You must, upon request, provide the FCC registration number and the REN to your phone company. Both numbers are on the bottom of your TAD-277.

**Note:** You must not connect your TAD-277 to:

- Coin-operated systems
- Party-line systems
- Most electronic key phone systems



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## PREPARATION

### SELECTING A LOCATION

The TAD-277 is designed to rest on a flat surface such as a desktop or countertop. Select a location that is:

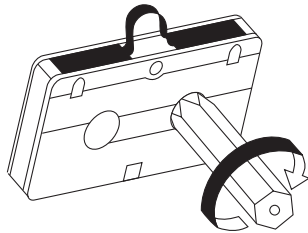
- Near an AC outlet
- Near a modular telephone line jack

If the phone line jack is not a modular jack, you must update the wiring. You can convert the wiring yourself, using jacks and adapters available at your local RadioShack store. Or, you can let the phone company update the wiring for you. The USOC number of the jack to be installed is RJ11C.

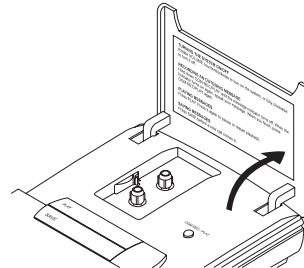
### LOADING THE CASSETTE

Your TAD-277 comes with an MC-60 cassette tape (30 minutes of recording time per side). You can buy additional and different length cassettes at your local RadioShack store.

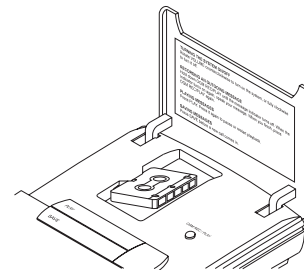
1. Turn the supplied cassette's hub with the tip of a pencil to take up any tape slack.



2. Lift open the cassette compartment door.



3. Put the cassette in the compartment with its full reel toward the back of the system and its open edge to the right.



4. Close the compartment door.

#### Notes:

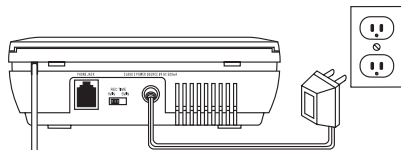
- You can turn the tape over and record on the other side. This lets you save any messages recorded on the first side while using the tape to record more messages.
- Replace the tape at least once a year, or more often if it is used frequently.

## CONNECTING POWER

Use the supplied AC adapter to power your TAD-277.

### Cautions:

- The supplied Class 2 AC adapter supplies 9 volts of power, delivers at least 500 milliamps, and has a plug that properly fits the TAD-277's **9V AC 500mA** jack. Using an adapter that does not meet these specifications could damage the TAD-277.
- Always plug the adapter into the TAD-277 before you plug it into an AC outlet, and unplug the adapter from the outlet before you unplug it from the TAD-277.



1. Plug the supplied AC adapter's barrel plug into the TAD-277's **9V AC 500mA** jack.
2. Plug the adapter's other end into a standard AC outlet.
3. Rotate **VOLUME** to the right until it clicks to turn on the TAD-277.

The message indicator turns on while the TAD-277 checks for an outgoing message.

If an outgoing message is already recorded, the TAD-277 automatically plays it back. If there is no outgoing

message, the TAD-277 sounds a continuous high tone until you record a message (see "Recording the Outgoing Message").

**Note:** If the cassette tape is broken or is not inserted properly, the TAD-277 sounds a continuous low tone when it is connected to power. To stop the tone, unplug the adapter from the AC outlet. Reinsert or replace the tape, then plug the adapter back into the AC outlet.

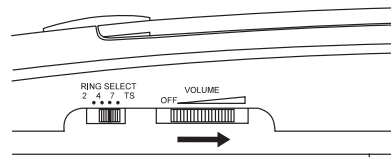
## RECORDING THE OUTGOING MESSAGE

Before you can use the TAD-277, you must record the outgoing message. The maximum length for your outgoing message is 30 seconds.

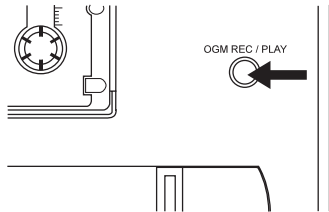
**Hint:** To help protect your home or office, do not tell callers you are away. Instead, say you cannot come to the phone at this time.

Follow these steps to record an outgoing message.

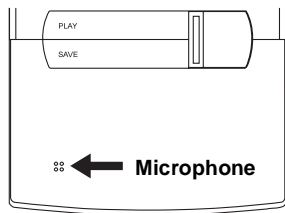
1. If the TAD-277 is off, rotate **VOLUME** to the right until it clicks to turn it on. The message indicator turns on.



2. Lift open the cassette compartment door.
3. Hold down **OGM REC/PLAY** until the message indicator turns off, then release the button. The TAD-277 beeps once.



4. When the message indicator turns on again after a few moments, speak clearly in a normal volume from about 12 inches away from the microphone.



**Note:** The TAD-277 records only the first 30 seconds of your outgoing message.

5. When you finish recording your message, press **OGM REC/PLAY** again. The TAD-277 beeps, rewinds the tape, and plays back the message as it is recording it from the digital chip to the tape. (The message is backed up on tape so after a power failure it can be automatically restored to the chip).

After the message plays back, the TAD-277 sets itself to answer calls, beeping twice to indicate it is set.

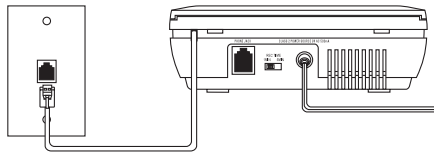
6. Adjust **VOLUME** to a comfortable listening level.

### Checking the Outgoing Message

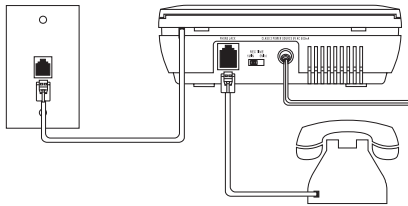
Press **OGM REC/PLAY** at any time to hear the outgoing message. Set **VOLUME** to the desired level.

## CONNECTING TO THE TELEPHONE LINE

To complete the connections, insert the modular plug into a modular phone jack.

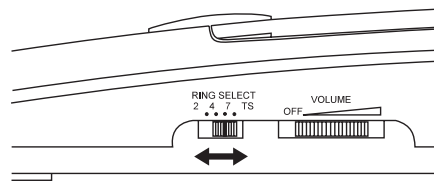


To connect a telephone to your TAD-277, insert the telephone's modular plug into **PHONE JACK** on the back of the TAD-277.



## SETTING THE NUMBER OF RINGS

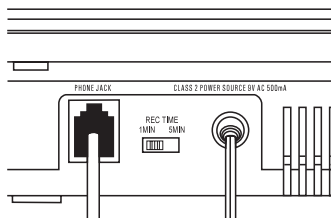
You can select the number of rings the TAD-277 waits before it answers calls. Set **RING SELECT** to **2**, **4**, **7**, or **TS**.



The system can answer calls in 2, 4, or 7 rings. If you set the switch to **TS** (Toll Saver), the TAD-277 answers in four rings if there are no new or saved messages, or in two rings if you have messages. This can save you long-distance charges because, if there are no new messages, you can hang up before the TAD-277 answers.

## SETTING THE MAXIMUM MESSAGE LENGTH

Your TAD-277 can record messages of up to 1 or 5 minutes. Set **REC TIME** to **1MIN** or **5MIN** for the desired maximum recording time.

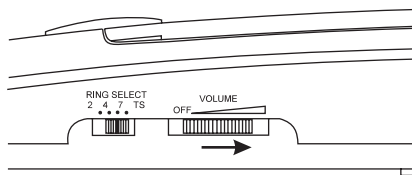




## ANSWERING SYSTEM OPERATION

### SETTING THE TAD-277 TO ANSWER CALLS

Rotate **VOLUME** to the right until it clicks to turn on the TAD-277. When the message indicator stays on and the TAD-277 does not sound any tones, it is ready to answer calls.



The TAD-277 hangs up and resets to answer the next call when:

- The caller hangs up.
- The maximum message length of about 1 minute or 5 minutes is reached (see "Setting the Maximum Message Length" on Page 8).
- There are more than 7 seconds of silence.

The TAD-277's supplied tape can record up to about 29 minutes of incoming messages per side. You can buy additional and different length cassettes at your local RadioShack store.

If the tape reaches the end while a caller is leaving a message, the TAD-277 beeps twice and hangs up.

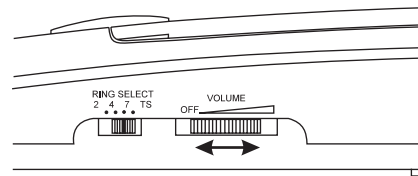
If the incoming message tape is full, the TAD-277 answers a call after ten rings, plays back the outgoing mes-

sage, then waits 7 seconds for you to enter the remote operation security code. If you do not enter the correct code, the TAD-277 beeps twice and hangs up. See "Remote Control Operation" on Page 11.

To have the TAD-277 not answer calls, turn it off by rotating **VOLUME** to the left until it clicks. The message indicator turns off.

### SETTING THE SYSTEM'S VOLUME

To adjust the volume, set **VOLUME** to a comfortable listening level. (This does not affect the volume of the message the caller hears.)



### SCREENING CALLS

To screen calls, let the TAD-277 answer them. Listen to the caller's message through the TAD-277's speaker. If you decide to answer the call, pick up any phone on the same phone line as the TAD-277. The TAD-277 stops recording and resets to answer the next call.

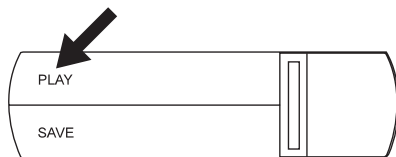
**Note:** If you pick up the phone just as the TAD-277 answers, the TAD-277 might not stop recording the message. If this happens, briefly hang up the phone then pick it up again.

## PLAYING MESSAGES

When you have messages, the message indicator blinks. If you have four messages or less, the light blinks once for each message stored. (For example, if you have two messages, the light blinks twice followed by a 2-second pause, then blinks twice more, and so on.) If you have more than four messages, the light blinks continuously.

**Note:** The light also blinks continuously if the TAD-277 receives one or more incoming messages after power is interrupted (see "Troubleshooting" on Page 13).

To play the messages, press **PLAY**. The TAD-277 beeps once, rewinds the tape, then plays the messages.



### Notes:

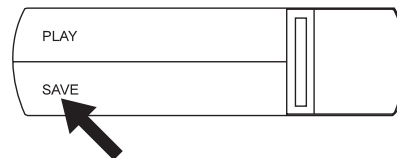
- To pause playback, press **PLAY**. To restart playback, press **PLAY** again.

If you do not restart playback within 60 seconds, the tape fast-forwards to the end of the last incoming message, as though playback was never started. This helps prevent accidental erasure of incoming messages.

- If a call comes in while playback is paused, the tape immediately fast-forwards to the end of the last message and answers the call.

After you play back all the messages, the TAD-277 beeps twice, rewinds to the beginning, and resets to answer calls. New messages will be recorded over the messages you have heard.

To save the messages, press **SAVE** before a new call is recorded. The tape fast-forwards to the end of all the messages and resets to answer calls.



To replay the messages, simply press **PLAY** again.

## REMOTE CONTROL OPERATION

While you are away from your home or office, you can use a touch-tone phone or a pulse phone with a pocket tone dialer to:

- Set the TAD-277 to answer calls
- Play your messages
- Record a message
- Set the TAD-277 to record over old messages

### REMOTE ANSWER-ON

You can use a remote phone to set the TAD-277 to answer calls if:

- The TAD-277 has power.
- The cassette is loaded.
- The TAD-277 is off.

To remotely set the TAD-277 to answer calls, dial your phone number then let your phone ring at least 12 times until the TAD-277 answers. Then hang up the phone.

#### Notes:

- Your phone rings 10 times plus the number of rings you have set using **RING SELECT** (see "Setting the Number of Rings" on Page 8) before the TAD-277 answers. For example, if **RING SELECT** is set to 7, the TAD-277 answers after 17 rings.
- When you return, be sure to rotate **VOLUME** to turn the TAD-277 on.

Then you can play any messages you received while you were gone (see "Playing Messages" on Page 10).

### REMOTE PLAYBACK

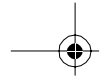
You must know your 3-digit remote operation security code to play back or record messages from a remote phone. The code for your particular answering system is printed on the bottom of your TAD-277.

*To play back your messages from a remote phone*, dial your phone number. After the TAD-277 plays the outgoing message and beeps, enter the remote operation security code within 7 seconds. (Be sure each button press is at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  second long). The TAD-277 sounds a tone while the tape rewinds. If no tone sounds, re-enter the code.

#### Notes:

- If you do not enter the code within 7 seconds, the TAD-277 hangs up.
- If the TAD-277 is set to **TS**, it answers on the second ring if there are messages. If there are no messages, the TAD-277 answers on the fourth ring.

The TAD-277 plays back the incoming messages. At the end of all the messages, the TAD-277 sounds four short beeps and automatically saves your messages.

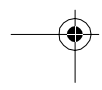
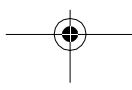
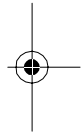
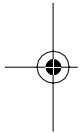


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*To replay the messages, wait until you hear a single beep (about 8 seconds after the four short beeps), then enter your remote operation security code again. The TAD-277 replays the messages.*

*To record a message, wait until you hear a single beep (about 8 seconds after the four short beeps), then record the message and hang up.*

*To reset the TAD-277 so new messages record over the old ones, enter your remote operation security code within 8 seconds after you hear the four short beeps at the end of all the messages. Then, after the TAD-277 beeps, hang up the phone.*



## TROUBLESHOOTING

We do not expect you to have any problems with your TAD-277, but if you do, be sure you installed the tape correctly and turned on the system. If you still have a problem, this chart might help. If not, take the TAD-277 to your local RadioShack store for assistance.

Problem	Cause	Solution
The TAD-277 does not answer and record callers' messages.	The system is turned off.	Turn on the TAD-277 by rotating <b>VOLUME</b> to the right so the message indicator turns on.
	The outgoing message is not recorded.	Record an outgoing message.
	Bad phone line connection.	Check and reconnect the modular phone plug.
The TAD-277 records a dial tone, beeping, or the operator's voice instead of the caller's message.	The caller hung up without leaving a message or without using the maximum time, and your phone company does not send out CPC (Calling Party Control) signals.	If this happens often, discuss the problem with your phone company.
The TAD-277 does not respond to any button.	The TAD-277 has been turned on by remote.	Turn on the TAD-277 by rotating <b>VOLUME</b> to the right so the message indicator turns on.
	The TAD-277 is locked up.	Reset the TAD-277 by unplugging the AC adapter from the AC outlet then plugging it in again.
Outgoing messages sound distorted.	You were too close to the microphone or you spoke too loudly when you recorded the outgoing message.	Re-record the message. Speak clearly into the microphone at a normal volume from about 12 inches away.

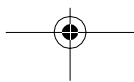
<b>Problem</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
Incoming message sounds distorted.	The tape head is dirty.	Clean the head using a tape head-cleaning kit (see "Cleaning the Tape-Handling Parts" on Page 17).
	The tape is worn out.	Unplug the adapter from the AC outlet, replace the tape, then plug the adapter back into the AC outlet.
Remote control functions do not work.	The remote operation security code was not entered correctly.	Enter the correct code. The code for your particular answering system is printed on the bottom of your TAD-277.
	You are using a pulse dialing phone.	Use a touch-tone phone or pocket tone dialer.
	The tone output from the phone or tone dialer is not long enough.	Hold down the buttons for at least $\frac{1}{2}$ second or try using another phone or dialer.
	The telephone line is noisy.	Enter the remote operation security code again.
	Seven seconds of silence have passed so the TAD-277 hangs up.	Call the TAD-277 and try again.
Continuous tone sounds.	No outgoing message recorded.	Record an outgoing message (see "Recording the Outgoing Message" on Page 6).
	The cassette tape is jammed, broken, or not installed.	Unplug the adapter from the AC outlet, replace the tape, then plug the adapter back into the AC outlet.



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<b>Problem</b>	<b>Cause</b>	<b>Solution</b>
The message indicator blinks continuously, but there are fewer than five incoming messages.	Power was interrupted to the TAD-277.	Press <b>PLAY</b> . The TAD-277 plays back any saved messages then any new incoming messages.



## CARE AND MAINTENANCE

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Your RadioShack TAD-277 Single-Microcassette Answering System with Digital Announcement is an example of superior design and craftsmanship. The following suggestions will help you care for your TAD-277 so you can enjoy it for years.



Keep the TAD-277 dry. If it gets wet, wipe it dry immediately. Liquids might contain minerals that can corrode the electronic circuits.



Use and store the TAD-277 only in normal temperature environments. Temperature extremes can shorten the life of electronic devices and distort or melt plastic parts.



Keep the TAD-277 away from dust and dirt, which can cause premature wear of parts.



Handle the TAD-277 gently and carefully. Dropping it can damage circuit boards and cases and can cause the TAD-277 to work improperly.



Wipe the TAD-277 with a damp cloth occasionally to keep it looking new. Do not use harsh chemicals, cleaning solvents, or strong detergents to clean the TAD-277.

Modifying or tampering with the TAD-277's internal components can cause a malfunction and might invalidate your TAD-277's warranty and void your FCC authorization to operate it. If your TAD-277 is not performing as it should, take it to your local RadioShack store for assistance. If the trouble is affecting the phone lines, the phone company can ask you to disconnect the phone until you have resolved the problem.



## CLEANING THE TAPE-HANDLING PARTS

To restore the sound quality, you must inspect and clean the tape head. Dirt, dust, or particles of the tape's coating can accumulate on the tape heads and other parts that the tape touches. This can greatly reduce the performance of the cassette player.

We recommend cleaning the tape head after about every 20 hours of playing time. Rotate **VOLUME** to the left until it clicks to turn off the TAD-277 and remove the cassette. Insert a special head-cleaning cassette (such as Cat. No. 44-1168), and follow the cleaning cassette's directions to clean the tape head.

**Caution:** To avoid damage to the tape head, never use a chemical not approved for tape head cleaning and never touch the tape head with your fingers or any metal object.

## THE FCC WANTS YOU TO KNOW

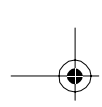
In the unlikely event that your TAD-277 causes problems on the phone line, the phone company can disconnect your service. The phone company attempts to notify you in advance. If advance notice is not practical, the phone company notifies you of your right to file a complaint with the FCC.

Also, the phone company can make changes to its lines, equipment, operations, or procedures that could affect the operation of your TAD-277. The phone company notifies you of these changes in advance, so you can take the necessary steps to prevent interruption of your phone service.

## LIGHTNING

Your TAD-277 has built-in protection circuits to reduce the risk of damage from surges in phone and power line current. These protection circuits meet or exceed FCC requirements. However, lightning striking the phone line or power lines can damage your TAD-277.

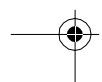
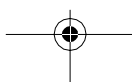
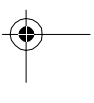
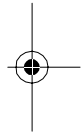
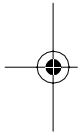
Lightning damage is not common. Nevertheless, if you live in an area that has frequent electrical storms, we suggest that you unplug your TAD-277 during storms to reduce the possibility of damage.

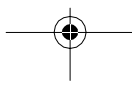
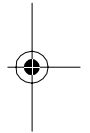
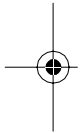


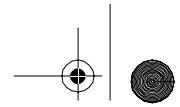
# NOTES

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### Limited One-Year Warranty

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In the event of a product defect during the warranty period, take the product and the RadioShack sales receipt as proof of purchase date to any RadioShack store. RadioShack will, at its option, unless otherwise provided by law: (a) correct the defect by product repair without charge for parts and labor; (b) replace the product with one of the same or similar design; or (c) refund the purchase price. All replaced parts and products, and products on which a refund is made, become the property of RadioShack. New or reconditioned parts and products may be used in the performance of warranty service. Repaired or replaced parts and products are warranted for the remainder of the original warranty period. You will be charged for repair or replacement of the product made after the expiration of the warranty period.

This warranty does not cover: (a) damage or failure caused by or attributable to acts of God, abuse, accident, misuse, improper or abnormal usage, failure to follow instructions, improper installation or maintenance, alteration, lightning or other incidence of excess voltage or current; (b) any repairs other than those provided by a RadioShack Authorized Service Facility; (c) consumables such as fuses or batteries; (d) cosmetic damage; (e) transportation, shipping or insurance costs; or (f) costs of product removal, installation, set-up service adjustment or reinstallation.

This warranty gives you specific legal rights, and you may also have other rights which vary from state to state.

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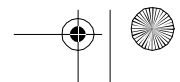
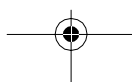
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