



HOME

RECORDING

BUYING

GUIDE

WHILE the familiar old analog cassette is still the star of the home-recording show, the number of digital recorders vying for our attention is growing steadily. Digital Compact Cassette (DCC) and MiniDisc (MD) machines are now available from several manufacturers. And, of course, the DAT format is alive and well among high-end audio enthusiasts, musicians, and professional and semi-pro recordists. The following guide contains summary descriptions of more than one hundred analog and digital decks as well as an extensive rundown of analog and digital blank media (we've omitted open-reel equipment and tape, which are used mainly by professionals). The listings are selective because of limited space, so if a particular model or brand does not appear, that is no reflection on its quality. Specifications, features, and prices were provided by the manufacturers, and all prices are "suggested retail"; actual selling prices vary. Now, reset that counter and hit RECORD.

—Bob Ankosko

HOME RECORDING EQUIPMENT

AIWA

XK-S9000 3-Head Cassette Deck

Dolby S, B, C, HX Pro. Features dual 18-bit D/A converters with 8x oversampling; sendust erase head and amorphous record and play heads; 4-motor transport; dual capstans. Digital inputs: mic input. Full-logic controls: auto/manual record-level and bias controls; auto tape-bias selector; repeat; linear tape counter with tape-end signal; L/R fluorescent peak-level meters; remote control. FR 20-15,000 Hz ± 3 dB high bias; S/N (metal) 68 dB Dolby B, 80 dB Dolby C above 5,000 Hz; W&F 0.018% wrms. 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; 31 lb.....\$1,200

AMD-100 Portable MD Recorder

Features shock-resistant memory. Fiber-optic digital input and output; mic input. Auto gain control; mic attenuator; SCMS copy-protection system; table-of-contents editing; date and time functions; direct track access; track search; 24-track programming; 4 repeat modes; clock; title display; 24-character LCD with battery-strength indicator. Includes AC adaptor, rechargeable battery, blank disc, interconnect cable, carrying case, and earphones. FR 10-20,000 Hz. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; 1.1 lb without battery.....\$850

AD-F810 3-Head Cassette Deck

Dolby B, C, HX Pro. Features double-gap sendust erase head and record and play heads; dual capstans. Direct-in inputs: headphone jack with volume control. IC-logic controls; auto tape-bias selector; auto record mute; repeat; L/R peak-level meters; timer; manual record-level and bias controls. FR 20-13,000 Hz ± 3 dB (high bias); S/N (metal) 65 dB Dolby B, 78 dB Dolby C above 5,000 Hz; W&F 0.035% wrms. 17 x 5 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; 11 lb.....\$400

ARCAM

Delta 100 3-Head Cassette Deck

Dolby S, B, C. Features amorphous record and play heads; cam-driven 3-motor transport; closed-loop dual-capstan drive; toroidal transformer; nonmagnetic alloy chassis; aluminum front panel. Auto tape-bias selector; bias and record level controls; dual-tone calibration oscillator; peak-level meters. Remote control optional. FR 20-20,000 Hz ± 3 dB (high bias); S/N (high bias) 66 dB no NR, 88 dB Dolby S; W&F 0.04%. 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 5 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; 18 lb.....\$1,800

BANG & OLUFSEN

Beocord 7000 Cassette Deck

Dolby B, C, HX Pro. Integrates with Beosystem 7000. Front-loading drawer; autoreverse; computer-controlled record-level setting; direct track access; auto playback NR selection; track programming; music search; auto bias selector; auto space; timer. FR 30-18,000 Hz ± 3 dB (high bias); S/N (high bias) 65 dB Dolby B, 74 dB Dolby C; W&F 0.09%. Polished-aluminum or white finish. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 x 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ in; 19 lb.....\$1,250

Beocord 4500 Cassette Deck

Dolby B, HX Pro. Integrates with Beosystem 4500. Autoreverse; program search; auto tape-bias selector; auto space. FR 30-18,000 Hz ± 3 dB high bias; S/N (high bias) 66 dB Dolby B; W&F 0.09%. Polished-aluminum finish with white trim. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ in; 15 lb.....\$900