



Scientific
Atlanta

VCR Commander™ Service User's Guide



IMPORTANT RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION



CAUTION: To reduce the risk of electric shock, do not remove cover (or back).. No user-serviceable parts inside. Refer servicing to qualified service personnel.



This symbol is intended to alert you that uninsulated voltage within this product may have sufficient magnitude to cause electric shock. Therefore, it is dangerous to make any kind of contact with any inside part of this product.

WARNING

TO PREVENT FIRE OR ELECTRIC SHOCK, DO NOT EXPOSE THIS UNIT TO RAIN OR MOISTURE.



This symbol is intended to alert you of the presence of important operating and maintenance (servicing). instructions in the literature accompanying this product.

1. Carefully read all safety and operating instructions before operating this product, and retain them for future reference.
2. Follow all warnings and cautions in the operating instructions, as well as those that are affixed to this product.
3. Follow all operating instructions that accompany this product.
4. **Do not** use liquid or aerosol cleaners. Use a damp cloth for cleaning.
5. Do not expose this product to moisture. Do not place this product on a wet surface, or spill liquids on or near this product.
6. Route all cords so that objects cannot be placed on or against them. This can pinch or damage the cords. Pay particular attention to the points where the cords exit the product.
7. Do not open the cover of this product and attempt service. Refer all servicing to qualified personnel only.

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IMPORTANT RULES FOR SAFE OPERATION, Continued

8. For damage that requires service, unplug this product from the IR port. Refer service to qualified personnel under the following conditions:
 - a. When there is damage to the cord or plug
 - b. If liquid enters, or an object falls on this product
 - c. If you expose this product to rain or water
 - d. If this product does not operate normally by following the operating instructions
 - e. When this product exhibits a distinct change in performance
 9. Upon completion of any service or repairs to this product, ask the service technician to perform safety checks to determine that this product is in proper operating condition.
-

Introducing the VCR Commander Service

The VCR Commander™ service allows you to easily record programs whether your television is on or off. You simply select programs to record from the Explorer® Digital Home Communications Terminal (DHCT) Interactive Program Guide (IPG) or use the VCR Timer feature. The VCR Commander service works with models of the Explorer DHCT that have the infrared (IR) port on the back of the unit to control VCR recording.

Before you can use the VCR Commander service, you must connect the IR Blaster and then set up the DHCT to recognize your brand of VCR.

Use this guide for the following tasks:

- Connecting the IR Blaster to the Explorer DHCT and to your VCR
- Setting up the VCR Commander service to work with your brand of VCR
- Scheduling a program to record on your VCR

Notes:

- The IR Blaster is compatible with all Explorer DHCTs except the Explorer 2000; for the Explorer 2000 refer to the *VCR Commander™ Module User's Guide*.
- Refer to your DHCT user's installation guide for information about setting up your Explorer DHCT, and to your remote control user's guide for information about setting up and using your remote control.

In This Guide

Installing the IR Blaster	6
Attaching the IR Blaster Cable	6
Attaching the IR Blaster to Your VCR	7
Setting Up VCR Commander Service	8
Scheduling VCR Recording	14
One-Touch Recording	14
Using the IPG	15
Using the VCR Timer	17
Clearing a VCR Timer	19
Manufacturer's VCR Codes	20
Troubleshooting	25

Installing the IR Blaster

This section explains how to

- Attach the IR Blaster cable to the Explorer DHCT
- Attach the IR Blaster to your VCR

Attaching the IR Blaster Cable Connector

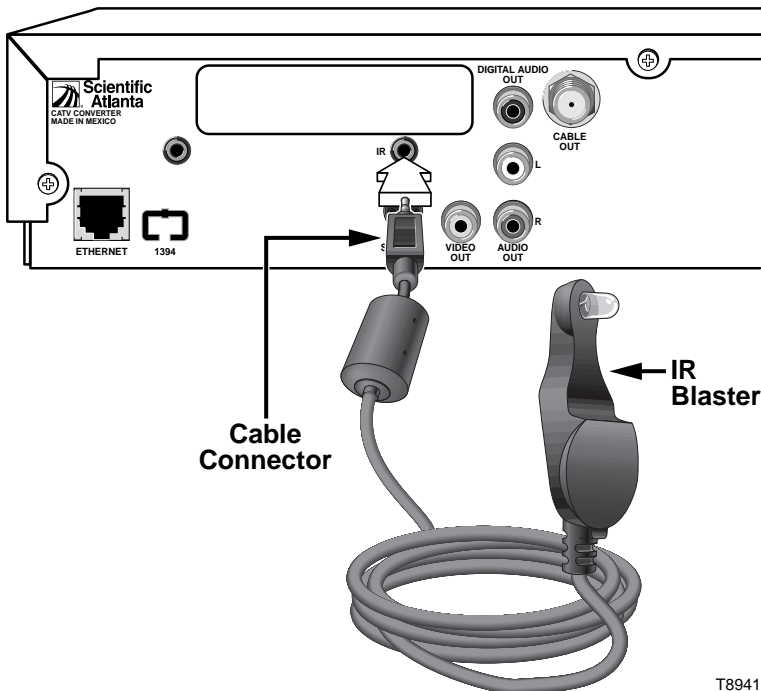


WARNING:

Avoid electric shock. Disconnect the DHCT from the AC power outlet before attaching the connector.

To attach the IR Blaster cable to the Explorer DHCT, complete these steps.

1. Disconnect the Explorer DHCT from the AC power outlet.
2. Locate the port labeled IR on the back of the Explorer DHCT.
3. Plug the cable connector into the IR port.
4. Reconnect the Explorer DHCT to the AC power outlet.



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Installing the IR Blaster, Continued

Attaching the IR Blaster to Your VCR

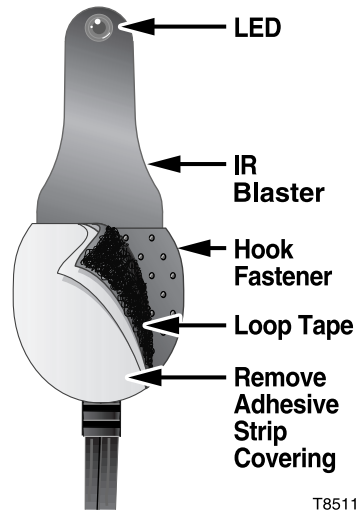
1. Refer to your VCR user's guide to locate the IR sensor window. (The IR sensor is where the VCR receives the remote control signal.)
2. Remove the covering on the adhesive strip from the loop tape, which is attached to the hook fastener on the IR Blaster.

Notes:

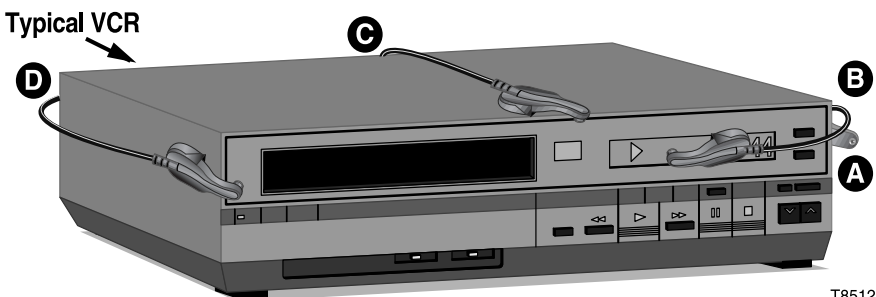
- Attaching the IR Blaster to the VCR may be easier if the loop tape remains attached to the hook fasteners.
 - After attaching the IR Blaster to the VCR, the hook and loop fastener allows you to easily remove the IR Blaster for cleaning or to move the VCR.
3. Mount the IR Blaster within 3 inches of the IR sensor on your VCR by pressing the IR Blaster against your VCR to secure it.

Notes:

- A, B, C, and D are typical places where the IR Blaster can be attached (within 3 inches of the IR sensor on your VCR).
- Do not block the tape insert door on your VCR.



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Setting Up VCR Commander Service

Use your Explorer Remote Control to set up the VCR Commander service.

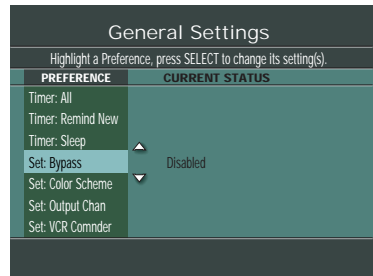
After you connect the IR Blaster, you must program the code for your brand of VCR into the memory of the VCR Commander.

Before you begin

- Be sure the VCR is off
- Be sure the TV is on and tuned to your cable channel (3 or 4)

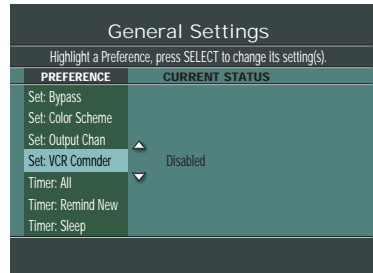
Note: At any time during this procedure, you can press **C** or **EXIT** to manually record a program on your VCR.

1. Turn on the power to your Explorer DHCT.
2. Press **SETTINGS** twice to display the General Settings menu.

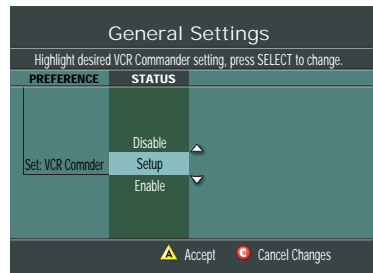


3. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to the **Set: VCR Commander** preference; then, press **SELECT**.

Note: If the menu does not display the VCR Commander option, contact your cable service provider.



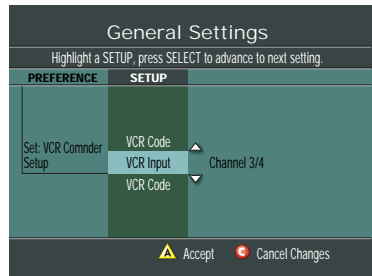
4. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to **Setup**; then, press **SELECT**.



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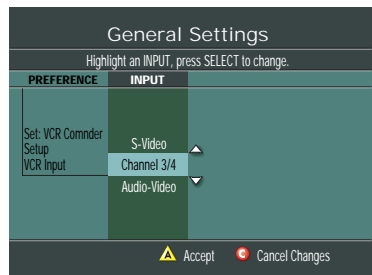
Setting Up VCR Commander Service, Continued

5. Scroll to **VCR Input**; then, press **SELECT**.

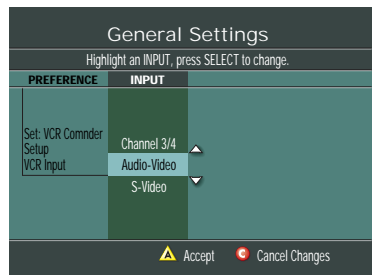


6. Your VCR is connected to your DHCT by one of the following cable types. Locate your cable type in this step and follow the instructions:

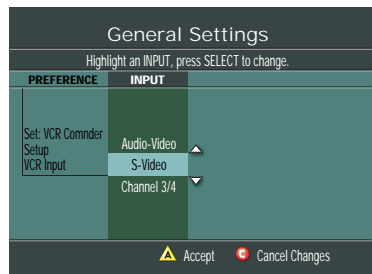
-  For RF/coaxial cable, choose **Channel 3/4**; then, press **SELECT**.



-  For RCA jacks, choose **Audio-Video**; then, press **SELECT**.



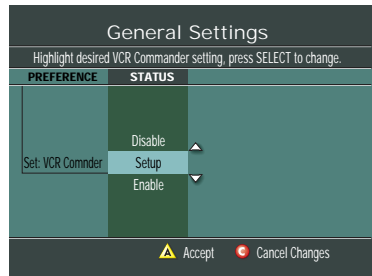
-  For S-Video (SVHS), choose **S-Video**; then, press **SELECT**.



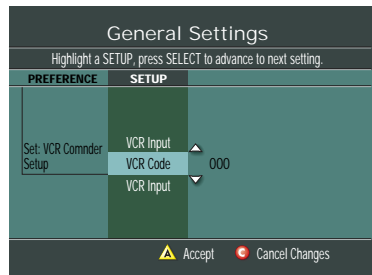
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Setting Up VCR Commander Service, Continued

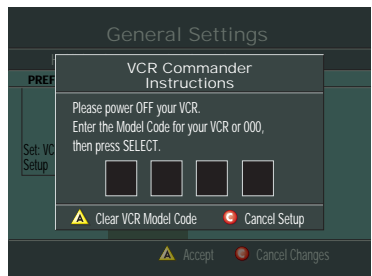
7. Press **SELECT** again; press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to **Setup** and press **SELECT** again.



8. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to **VCR Code**; then, press **SELECT** to display the VCR Commander Instructions screen.



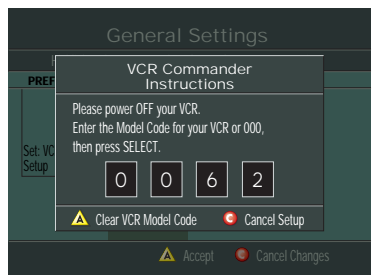
9. Refer to the **Manufacturer's VCR Codes** section in this guide to find the code choice(s) for your brand of VCR.



10. Enter the code for your brand of VCR; then, press **SELECT**.

Notes:

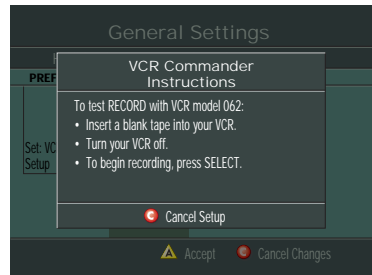
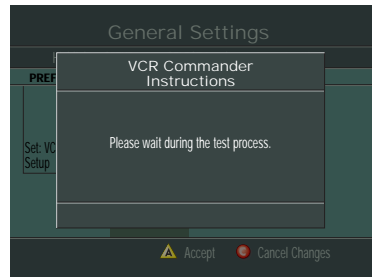
- If more than one code is available for your brand of VCR, use the first code listed.
- If the code choice has only 3 digits, add a leading 0 (zero).
- If you enter an incorrect number, press **A**; then, reenter the code.



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Setting Up VCR Commander Service, Continued

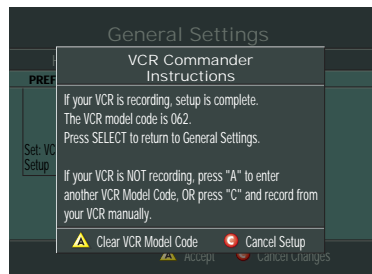
11. Wait for the test process to complete and the power to your VCR to turn on.
12. Did the power to your VCR turn on?
 - If **yes**, press **A**.
 - If **no**, choose one of the following:
 - There are additional code choices for your brand of VCR; press **B** and repeat steps 8 through 10 using the next code in your list of choices.
 - There are no additional code choices for your brand of VCR, go to step 16.



13. Insert a blank tape into your VCR and turn the VCR off; then, press **SELECT** to begin a recording test.



14. Wait for the recording process to begin.

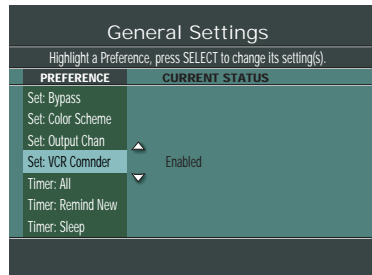


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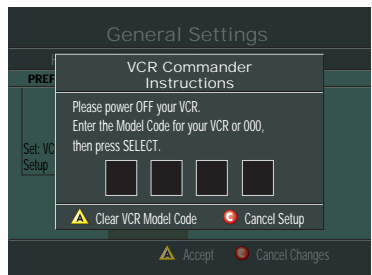
Setting Up VCR Commander Service, Continued

15. Did the VCR begin recording?

- If **yes**, the VCR Commander service setup is complete. Press **SELECT** to return to the General Settings menu.

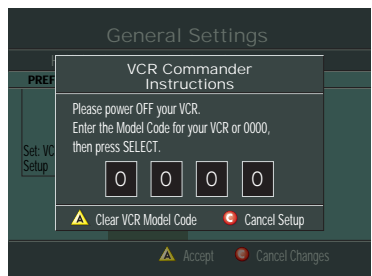


- If **no**, press **A** and choose one of the following:
 - There are additional code choices for your brand of VCR; enter the next code in your list of choices and press **SELECT**. Then, repeat steps 11 through 15.
 - There are no additional code choices for your brand of VCR, go to step 16.



16. If none of the codes turn on the VCR power and start the recording, enter code **0000**; then, press **SELECT**.

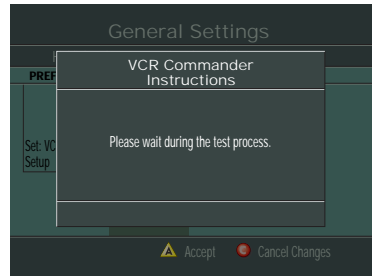
Note: The entire VCR code library will be scanned. This process can take several minutes.



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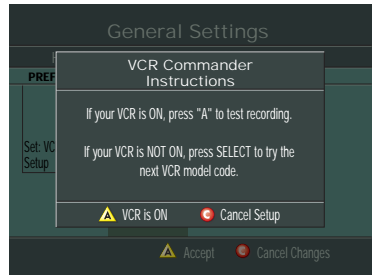
Setting Up VCR Commander Service, Continued

17. Wait for the test process to complete.



18. Press **SELECT** slowly and repeatedly, and wait for the VCR power to turn on; then, press **A** to begin the recording test process.

Note: If the power to the VCR does not turn on, call your cable service provider for help.

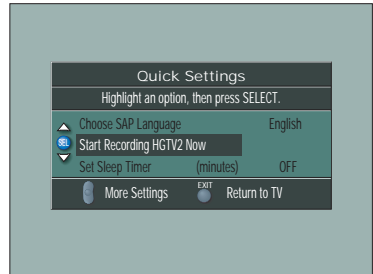


Scheduling VCR Recording

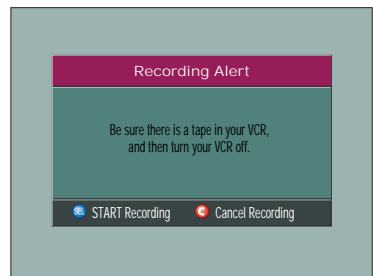
One-Touch Recording

You can instantly record the current program using your remote control.

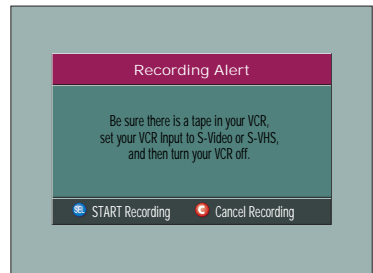
1. Turn on the power to your Explorer DHCT.
2. Press **SETTINGS** once while viewing a full-screen TV program.
3. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to the **Start Recording...Now** option.



4. Press **SELECT** to setup the recording process.
Note: If the VCR Input option was set correctly in the **General Settings VCR Commander Service Setup**, you will see instructions for selecting the Input option of your VCR.



5. Put a blank tape in your VCR.
6. Turn off the power to your VCR.
7. Press **SELECT** to start recording the program. The DHCT displays **rEc**, which indicates that the recording process is preventing you from using most of the keys on the remote control. This ensures that your recording will not be interrupted accidentally.



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Scheduling VCR Recording, Continued

- Verify that the DHCT power is on by checking the LED under the Power button on the front panel. If the LED is not illuminated, press **POWER** or **CBL** on your remote control.
- Press **EXIT** to stop recording.

Using the IPG

You can program your VCR to record future TV programs, directly from the IPG, using your remote control. You can select up to eight programs to record.

- Turn on the power to your Explorer DHCT.
- Press **GUIDE**. The IPG appears.
- Press the arrow keys to locate and highlight the future program you want to record; then, press **SELECT**.
- Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to **Set a VCR Timer for...;** then, press **SELECT** to set the timer. The programs for which you set timers are highlighted in red, and the red REC icon indicates that a VCR timer is set.



Continued on next page

Scheduling VCR Recording, Continued

5. Press **EXIT** to return to the TV program.
6. Put a blank tape in your VCR.
7. Turn off the power to the VCR.

Note: When you set a timer from the IPG, you are setting a one-time only timer for that program. See **Using the VCR Timer** for information about setting 7-day, weekday only, weekend only, or single-day timers.



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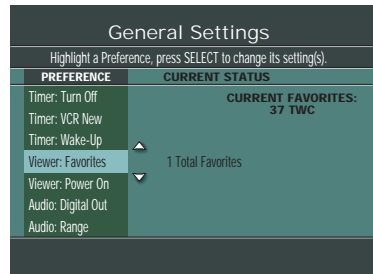
Scheduling VCR Recording, Continued

Using the VCR Timer

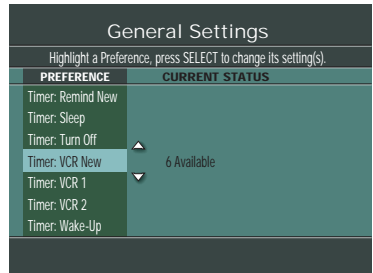
The VCR timer sets your VCR Commander service to record programs at specific days and times. Use your remote control to set the channel, day, start time, and stop time of the program or programs you want to record. You can select/choose up to eight timers including the timers set from the IPG.

Important: Do not overlap program times when setting up the VCR timer. A program that you set to record will not begin recording until the previous VCR timer event has stopped.

1. Turn on the power to your Explorer DHCT.
2. Press **SETTINGS** twice while viewing a full-screen TV program.



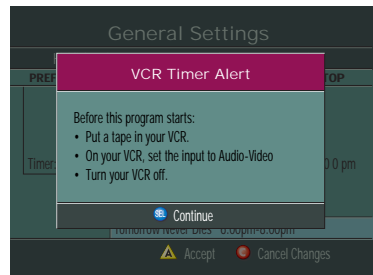
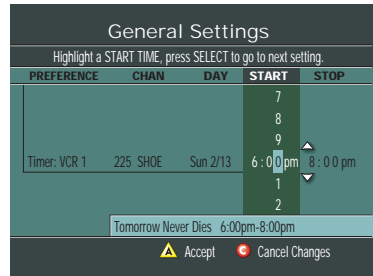
3. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to the **Timer: VCR New** option; then, press **SELECT**.



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Scheduling VCR Recording, Continued

- Follow the on-screen instructions to set the recording time. Refer to your *Interactive Program Guide for Explorer® Digital Home Communications Terminal User's Guide* for detailed instructions to set the VCR Timer.
- Press **A** to accept the timer settings.
- Put a blank tape in your VCR; then, set the Input option you selected on your VCR.
- Turn off the VCR.
- Press **SELECT** to set the timer; then, press **EXIT** to return to the TV program.



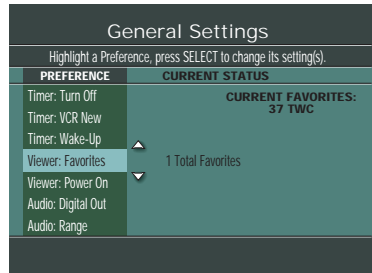
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Scheduling VCR Recording, Continued

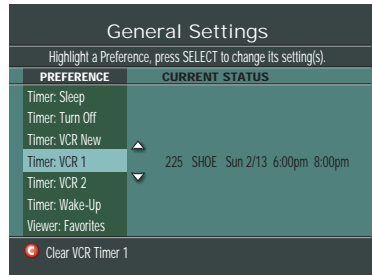
Clearing a VCR Timer

You can delete a scheduled VCR Timer program from the VCR Timer.

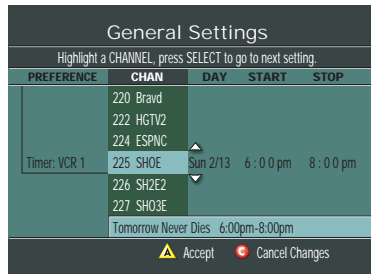
1. Turn on the power to your Explorer DHCT.
2. Press **SETTINGS** twice while viewing a full-screen TV program.
3. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to the **Timer: VCR** preference number for the VCR Timer you want to delete.



3. Press **▲** or **▼** to scroll to the **Timer: VCR** preference number for the VCR Timer you want to delete.



4. Press **C** to clear the timer; then, press **EXIT** to return to the TV program.
Note: The program name appears in the current CHAN column.
5. Press **C** twice to clear the timer.



Manufacturer's VCR Codes

Find the code for your brand of VCR and use this code in **Setting Up the VCR Commander Service** procedure. Start with the first code in the list and continue through the choices. The most common codes are listed first.

VCR Brand Name	Code
Action	331
Admiral	062, 562
Advantz	370
Adventura	014
Aiko	292, 792
Aiwa	014, 051, 420, 450, 482, 551, 651, 751, 851
Akai	067, 055, 063, 075, 120, 170, 256, 555, 655, 755
American High	049
Asha	254, 754, 854
Audiovox	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Beaumarck	254, 754, 854
Bell & Howell	118, 618, 718
Broksonic	016, 135, 198, 223, 225, 309, 375, 493, 516, 635, 698, 723, 893
CCE	086, 292, 586, 792
Calix	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Canon	049, 116, 181
Caphart	034, 534
Carver	095, 160
Cineral	292, 792
Citizen	051, 292, 551, 651, 751, 792, 851
Colt	086, 586
Craig	051, 061, 086, 254, 285, 551, 561, 586, 651, 751, 754, 851, 854
Curtis Mathes	049, 055, 069, 074, 176, 555, 655, 755
Cybernex	065, 254, 754, 854
Daewoo	034, 031, 059, 101, 292, 534, 559, 792
Daytron	034, 534
Denon	056, 058, 556, 558
Dynatech	014
Electrohome	051, 551, 651, 751, 851

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Manufacturer's VCR Codes, Continued

VCR Brand Name	Code
Electroponic	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Emerex	046, 546
Emerson	014, 016, 050, 051, 057, 075, 082, 102, 135, 198, 222, 223, 225, 226, 292, 308, 309, 375, 493, 516, 524, 551, 557, 635, 651, 657, 698, 723, 751, 792, 824, 851, 893
Fisher	061, 068, 080, 118, 561, 618, 718
Fuji	047, 049, 547
Funai	014
GE	062, 049, 069, 074, 079, 216, 254, 562, 754, 854
Garrard	014
Go Video	246, 293, 364, 446, 540
GoldStar	032, 051, 052, 494, 551, 651, 751, 851, 894
Gradiente	014, 022, 422, 522
Grundig	209
HI-Q	061, 561
Harley Davidson	014
Harman/Kardon	052, 089
Harwood	082, 086, 586
Headquarter	060, 560
Hitachi	014, 055, 056, 058, 079, 096, 119, 180, 249, 306, 555, 556, 558, 596, 655, 755
JVC	081, 083, 022, 055, 220, 221, 398, 522, 555, 581, 583, 655, 720, 721, 755, 898
Jensen	055, 555, 655, 755
KEC	051, 292, 551, 651, 751, 792, 851
KLH	086, 586
Kenwood	081, 083, 052, 055, 398, 555, 581, 583, 655, 755, 898
Kodak	049, 051, 551, 651, 751, 851
LXI	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Lloyd's	014, 222
Logik	086, 586
MEI	049
MGA	057, 075, 254, 557, 657, 754, 854

Continued on next page

Manufacturer's VCR Codes, Continued

VCR Brand Name	Code
MGN Technology	254, 754, 854
MTC	014, 254, 754, 854
Magnasonic	292, 792
Magnavox	014, 049, 053, 095, 117, 163, 553
Magnin	254, 754, 854
Marantz	049, 095, 160, 175
Marta	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Matsushita	049, 176
Memorex	060, 062, 014, 049, 051, 053, 061, 118, 176, 254, 282, 313, 551, 553, 560, 561, 562, 618, 651, 718, 751, 754, 851, 854
Minolta	056, 119, 058, 556, 558
Mitsubishi	081, 083, 062, 057, 075, 089, 187, 228, 256, 457, 557, 562, 581, 583, 657, 687
Motorola	062, 049, 562
Multitech	014, 086, 586
NAD	072
NEC	081, 083, 052, 054, 055, 064, 096, 118, 471, 555, 581, 583, 596, 618, 655, 718, 755
Nikko	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Nikon	048, 267, 548
Noblex	254, 754, 854
Olympus	240, 049
Optimus	072, 062, 051, 118, 176, 446, 551, 562, 618, 651, 718, 751, 851
Optonica	076
Orion	016, 198, 309, 493, 516, 698, 893
Panasonic	240, 049, 091, 116, 176, 239, 241, 260, 392
Penney	049, 051, 052, 054, 056, 058, 068, 254, 551, 556, 558, 651, 751, 754, 851, 854
Pentax	056, 058, 079, 119, 556, 558
Philco	049, 223, 493, 723, 893
Philips	049, 076, 095, 417
Pilot	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Pioneer	081, 072, 083, 176, 182, 581, 583

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Manufacturer's VCR Codes, Continued

VCR Brand Name	Code
Portland	034, 534
Profitronic	254, 754, 854
Proscan	069, 074, 216
Protec	086, 586
Pulsar	053, 065, 553
Quarter	060, 560
Quartz	060, 169, 560, 669
Quasar	049, 091, 176
RCA	062, 049, 056, 058, 069, 074, 079, 091, 119, 120, 163, 216, 254, 291, 467, 556, 558, 562, 754, 854
Radio Shack	014, 051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Radix	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Randex	051, 551, 651, 751, 851
Realistic	060, 062, 014, 049, 051, 061, 076, 080, 118, 551, 560, 561, 562, 618, 651, 718, 751, 851
Ricoh	048, 267, 548
Runco	053, 553
STS	056, 058, 556, 558
Salora	089
Samsung	067, 059, 065, 254, 559, 754, 854
Sanky	062, 053, 553, 562
Sansui	081, 083, 014, 055, 096, 285, 493, 555, 581, 583, 596, 655, 755, 893
Sanyo	060, 061, 118, 254, 282, 386, 560, 561, 618, 718, 754, 854
Scott	057, 059, 135, 198, 224, 225, 226, 559, 635, 698
Sears	060, 014, 049, 051, 056, 058, 061, 068, 071, 080, 118, 119, 551, 556, 557, 558, 560, 561, 618, 651, 657, 718, 751, 851
Semp	059, 559
Sharp	062, 076, 562
Shintom	086, 586
Shogun	065, 254, 754, 854
Singer	086, 586

Continued on next page

Manufacturer's VCR Codes, Continued

VCR Brand Name	Code
Sony	048, 047, 014, 025, 036, 046, 049, 267, 289, 546, 547, 548
Sunpak	267
Sylvania	014, 049, 057, 095, 117, 557, 657
Symphonic	014
TMK	050, 222, 254, 754, 854
Tatung	055, 555, 655, 755
Teac	014, 055, 555, 655, 755
Technics	049, 176, 260
Teknika	014, 049, 051, 066, 551, 651, 751, 851
Thomas	014
Toshiba	057, 059, 071, 080, 224, 226, 380, 557, 559, 657
Totevision	051, 254, 551, 651, 751, 754, 851, 854
Unitech	254, 754, 854
Vector	059, 559
Vector Research	052, 054
Video Concepts	054, 059, 075, 235, 559
Videosonic	254, 754, 854
Wards	062, 014, 049, 056, 058, 061, 069, 074, 076, 086, 095, 163, 175, 226, 254, 556, 558, 561, 562, 586, 754, 854
White Westinghouse	292, 792
XR-1000	014, 049, 086, 586
Yamaha	052
Zenith	048, 047, 014, 053, 547, 548, 553

Troubleshooting

Check the following list for possible problems. If a problem occurs, you may be able to easily resolve it before calling your cable service provider.

Message or Problem	Possible Cause	Check and Correct
VCR Commander service did not turn on the power to the VCR for the scheduled recording and/or did not begin recording.	A blank tape is not in the VCR.	Insert a blank tape.
	The VCR is not off.	Power off the VCR.
	The IR Blaster is improperly positioned.	Move the IR Blaster around until you are in front of or within 3 inches of the sensor window on the VCR.
	VCR Timer is improperly set.	See Using the VCR Timer in the Scheduling VCR Recording section.
The VCR Commander Menu option does not appear on the screen.	Your DHCT is not authorized for VCR Commander service.	Call your cable service provider.
After entering your VCR code, the VCR will not turn on.	The VCR code is incorrect.	Try another VCR code for your VCR brand or enter 0000 . See the instructions in the section on Setting Up the VCR Commander Service .
Your VCR powered on but did not begin recording.	A blank tape is not in the VCR.	Insert a blank tape.
	The incorrect VCR code was entered.	Try another VCR code for your VCR brand or enter 0000 . See the instructions in the section on Setting Up the VCR Commander Service .
You recorded an on-screen message (blocked barker), which states the channel was not authorized.	The channel, time, or rating was blocked after the program timer was set.	Blocking should be done before setting the program timer.
	Program became blocked after One-Touch recording started.	Make sure Parental Control is off before starting a One-Touch recording.

FCC Compliance

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the applicable limits of Part 15 of FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation.

This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning this equipment off or on. The user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures.

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between this equipment and the receiver.
- Consult your cable service provider or an experienced radio/television technician for help.



Caution:

Any changes or modification to this equipment not expressly approved by Scientific-Atlanta could void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

Notes

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