

Re: Is the Sencore VC93 All Format VCR Analyzer any good?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2005-01/1192.html>

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Date: 01/09/05

Date: Sun, 09 Jan 2005 18:46:43 GMT

> *heat, cold, vibration,*
>
> *heat? > dirt,*
>
> *dirt?? scratch the surface too much and its over, put a dent in there and*
> *the disk wont play anymore*
>
>

Dirt != Scratch. Yes scratches are bad, but they have to be fairly deep to trip up a good player. As long as they're on the front side they can be polished out as well.

> *right, mostly non contact but there are DVDs made to wear out after a few*
> *plays arent there? the rental ones?*
>

There were some with degradable dye that came out for a short while, it was a ridiculous idea and was quickly scrapped. Even the writeable DVD's are supposed to last 10-20+ years, pressed discs should last much longer unless they're defective and delaminate.

> *yes, but so can a faulty DVD player. I had one do it, sounded like a*
> *blender going off and the disk was ruined*
>

Pretty rare though, I've seen this exactly once, failed capacitor in the PSU of a cheap Apex player caused it to eject while the disc was spinning. I can't count the number of tapes I've had destroyed by a VCR when the takeup spool didn't wind, threading mechanism jammed, etc.

>
> *compact, better digital picture, more features but VHS is more rugged, mag*
> *tape recording technology is out there, its like why didnt the US switch*
> *over to the metric system? Its this or that, so much better? When I*

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design

- > *mechanical assemblies, its exclusively with US measures, not metric.*
- >
- > *video tape works, there are too many tapes to convert over to disk, they are*
- > *and will be like the cassette. 8 track and records? They were great but*
- > *the media wore out too fast.*
- >

Switching to the metric system (would have been nice) would require a huge overhaul of the entire infrastructure, factories with machine tools, textbooks, measuring devices, road signs, gas pumps, etc. The switch to DVD is almost complete, new movies all come out on DVD first, VHS is an afterthought and goes to the bargain bin. Something new will come along eventually but I suspect there will be backward compatibility as it's not hard to implement. Our existing DVD collections will play on modern players many years ahead.

- > *What happens when the vcr gets dirty? clean it. if the DVD mechanism gets*
- > *dirty? maybe once or twice it can be cleaned, then its scrap. Lasers burn*
- > *out, so side by side the vcr transport is more rugged, people stick with*
- > *what works.*
- >

If the laser burns out, throw away the player and pick up a new one with the latest features for \$50–\$75. They last as long as VCR's, unless you buy a \$1500 professional deck or are lucky enough to have a high end Sony or Panasonic from the early 90's. It'd be nice if "people stick with what works" but in america that seems not to be the case, people hop on the latest and greatest bandwagon. I tend to stick with what works when I can, but in this case something else came along that was clearly superior. I could still ride a horse to work if I wanted, but it's hard to argue that it would work better than taking a car.

- > *Im betting on the vcr for many years to come, DVD? it will probably fade*
- > *when something better comes along, they are great for what they do, but*
- DVDs
- > *are not a replacement for the vcr*
- >

Bet what you want, but it's pretty clear VHS is the one that's fading. DVD is outselling VCR's 10 to 1. I wish you luck making a living repairing them but urge you to proceed cautiously. I haven't had someone bring me a VCR to fix in at least 5 years and when I have picked up even reasonably nice Hi-Fi units I can only get \$15–\$25 for them in good working condition. 5 years ago I was getting \$100 for them, and I could get \$25 for even a low end cheapy, today I can't even give away something that's not 4 head hi-fi, ended up throwing away an old Funai and gave a Panasonic 2 head fully working with a remote to the local thrift store after trying unsuccessfully to give them away for free for several weeks. If you like the technology that's great, keep and maintain some nice units for yourself, I have a couple of high-end

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Sony's I fixed up, but in the end I don't remember the last time I've used them.