

Sony VCR repair in Atlanta -- seeking good tech

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2005-02/0715.html>

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Date: 02/07/05

Date: 6 Feb 2005 20:56:18 -0800

I have a Sony SLV-696HF VCR that won't playback or record. I can take any tape (recorded by others, commercially recorded, anything) and it plays back only garbage video (looks like blank tape to me) but perfect audio. If I record on a tape in that deck and then playback on another good deck, the tape shows nothing (don't know about audio). I already tried a head cleaner :)

Some scouring on the net resulted in finding the following on <http://www.anatekcorp.com/faq/archvcr.htm> :

> *Question:*

> *Sony VCR #SLV-700HF no playback. Video unit will record fine (played back on another vcr). Jail bar picture. No signal output on IC801 on RP-149 pcb pin #20 + voltage does not vary from record to playback as it should. Sound is perfect. Does this chip go bad or am I overlooking another circuit? Logic voltages are ok.*

> *Answer:*

> *I found IC801, part#8-759-046-75 to be causing the jailbar playback. After replacing the IC on the head preamp voltage on pin #23 varied from record/playback as it should. Make sure you replace the ground shields around the pcb!!!! If you don't it still looks like you have a problem (noisy picture, no color, looks like tracking off or dirty heads!)*

This is the closest thing I found to my problem, although I can't even record so it's not the same. Further, my model is a 696 not a 700, but that's real close :)

If anyone has any specific tips, or knows that the above path applies to my model, I'd love to hear it. I'm an electrical engineer so I just need to be pointed in the right direction with a few troubleshooting steps. It's otherwise a great VCR so I'd like to salvage it if possible rather than just buy a crappy new one that'll eat tapes in 18 months.

Barring tech tips, can anyone recommend a good VCR repair shop in the Atlanta area? Sony doesn't list any authorized repair shops, just says they'll exchange it from their factory "with a comparable model". I'd

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rather find a good local guy and give him my money to do a likely easy
fix on an otherwise solid machine.