

The Small-Scale Tape Recorder that Pioneered Small-Scale, Lightweight Technology

Registration No.	Number 00218		
Registration Date	September 13, 2016	Registration Category	Category 1

Name (Model, etc.)	Ultra-small compact cassette tape recorder TC-50
Location	Shinagawa, Tokyo
	Sony Archives
Owner (Custodian)	Sony Corporation
Manufacturer (Company)	Sony Corporation
Year Manufactured	1968
Year first appeared	1968
Reason For Selection	The tape recorder, which followed on from the open-reel machines, was accompanied by an ongoing series of developments to not only improve performance, but also to make it smaller and easier to use. The emergence around the mid-1960s of a new magnetic tape called the compact cassette triggered greater advances in reducing the size of these machines. This device, with a built-in microphone necessary for recording, was developed as a small-scale tape recorder to be operated with one hand. This model played to the strengths of the compact cassette, serving as a starting point for later miniaturization and personalization of audio devices.
Registration Standard	1-B (Show a uniquely Japanese scientific or technological development from an international perspective.) 2-B (Made a notable contribution by facilitating an epoch-making advance in Japan's economy and place in the world.)

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