

*How to operate and enjoy*

*Your new audio/video receiver*

**KENWOOD**  
VR-2090/VR-2080  
*Users' Guide*

# Using Your New Kenwood Audio-Video Receiver

Welcome to the Users' Guide for your new Kenwood Audio-Video Receiver. This manual covers two models:

The **VR-2080** connects all your current audio and video components. It allows you to control them all with Kenwood's remarkable LCD remote—a graphical user interface without having to use your TV!

The **VR-2090** offers all the features of the VR-2080, and adds dual-room/dual-source operation, letting you play two different A/V sources independently in two different rooms! For a match made in “dual-zone heaven,” get the VR-2090 and Kenwood's dual-transport CD-2280M 200-Disc CD Changer.



## Safety Precautions

Prevent electric shock:

- Do not expose your receiver to rain or moisture.
- Do not remove the cover (or back). There are no user-serviceable parts inside. If your receiver requires repair, take it to an authorized service outlet.
- The following icons indicate the presence of uninsulated dangerous voltage that may be of sufficient magnitude to cause electric shock:



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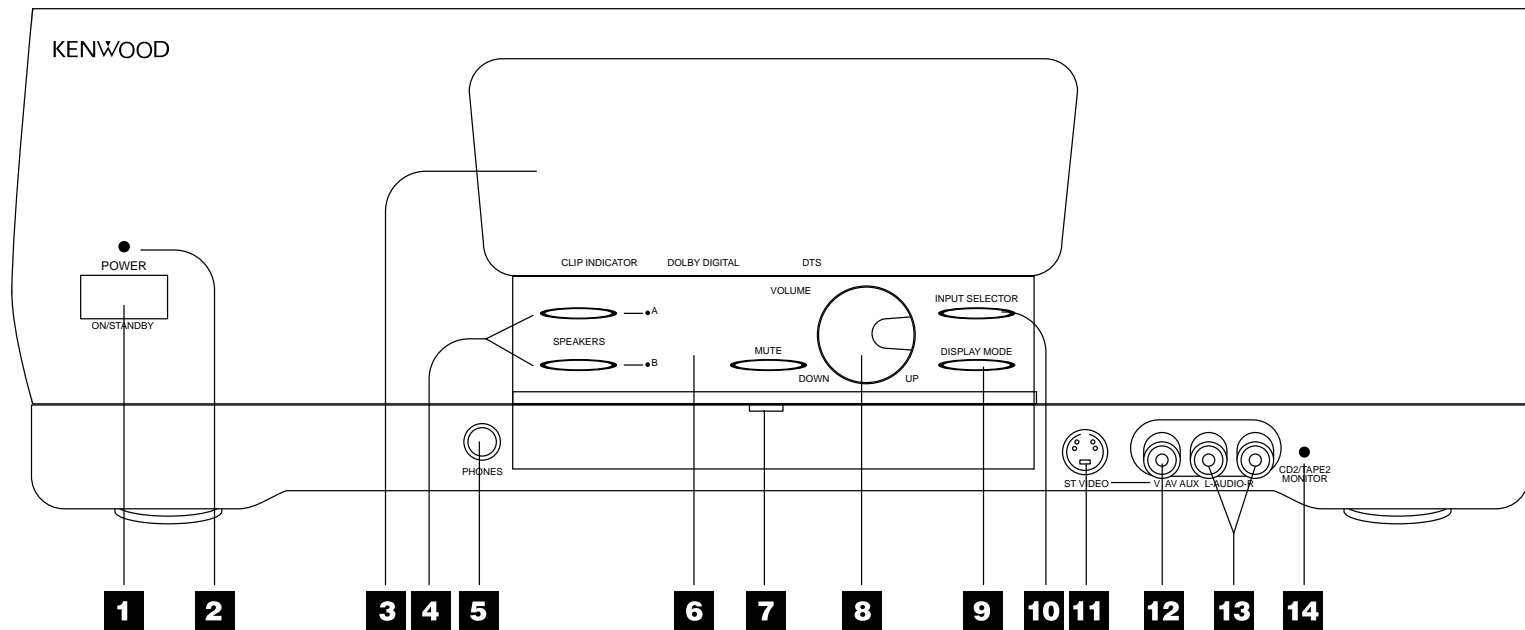
## Chapter One: Moving Around

Welcome to the Kenwood VR-2090/VR-2080 *Users' Guide*. This chapter explains the buttons and functions you can find on the front of the receiver and on the PowerPad. The chapter also includes an explanation of how to navigate the convenient graphical display on your new PowerPad.

It includes the following sections:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
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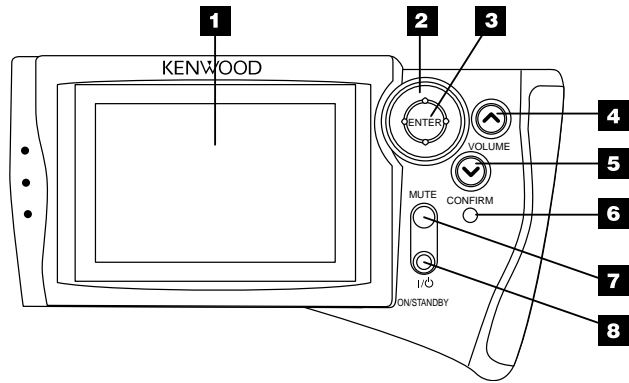
## What's on the Front Panel of Your Kenwood Audio - Video Receiver?



1. Power On/Standby button
2. Power indicator light
3. Display panel
4. Speaker selector buttons (see page 14)
5. Headphone jack
6. Mute button (see page 16)
7. IR indicator and transmitters (see page 68)
8. Volume control knob
9. Display Mode button (see page 44)
10. AV AUX input selector (see page 38)
11. AV AUX S VIDEO jack (VR-2090 only)
12. AV AUX composite video jack
13. AV AUX audio jacks
14. CD2/Tape 2 Monitor indicator light



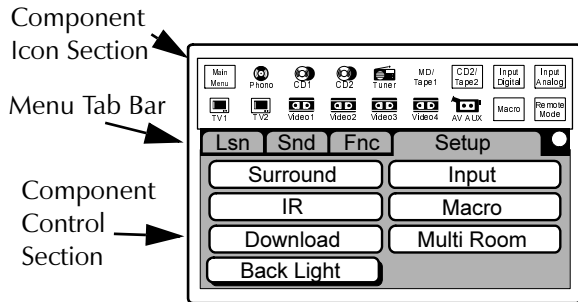
## What's on PowerPad?



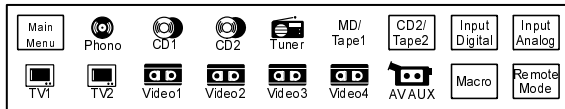
1. LCD display screen (see page 8)
2. Joystick (see page 11)
3. Enter button (see page 11)
4. Volume up button (see page 14)
5. Volume down button (see page 14)
6. Confirm button
7. Mute button (see page 16)
8. On/Standby button

### What's on PowerPad's Screen?

PowerPad's LCD display screen is divided into three sections: the Component Icon section, the Menu Tab Bar, and the Component Control Section. Use the joystick to navigate between icons in one section or move from an icon to any other icon in any section.



**The Component Icon Section:** Contains icons for each component you identified as being connected to the receiver, as well as the Main Menu icon. To listen to or control a component, select its icon. The Component Icon Section also contains icons for selecting a component's digital or analog connections and activating Macros.



#### Use this icon... to control this component or feature...



Main Menu



Phono

Turntable/Record Player



CD1

Primary CD Player (see page 29)

Use this  
icon...

## to control this component or feature...



CD2

Secondary CD Player (VR-2090 only, in Zone B; see page 60)



Tuner

Tuner (built into the receiver; see page 38)

MD/  
Tape1

Mini-Disc Recorder or Primary Tape Deck (see page 35)

CD2/  
Tape2

Secondary CD or Tape Deck (VR-2090 only, in Zone A; see page 60)

Input  
Digital

activate the digital input from a component

Input  
Analog

activate the analog input from a component



TV1

Primary TV (see page 26)



TV2

Secondary TV or cable/satellite control (see page 26)



Video1

the component you connected to the Video1 jacks on the receiver (see page 24)



Video2

the component you connected to the Video2 jacks on the receiver (see page 24)



Video3

the component you connected to the Video3 jacks on the receiver (see page 24)



Video4

the component you connected to the Video4 jacks on the receiver (see page 24)

**Use this icon...**

**to control this component or feature...**



Camcorder or VCR connected to the auxiliary jacks on the front of the receiver (see page 38)

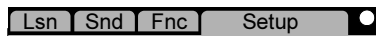


Activate a factory preset or custom macro (see page 44)



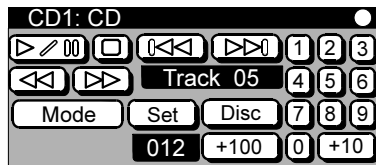
Activates "Direct Component Control", allowing you to select and control a component without changing the active input (see page 28)

**The Menu Tab Bar:** When you select the Main Menu icon in the Component Icon Section, the Menu Tab Bar displays tabs that access four different groups of features: Listen Mode selection, Sound adjustments, Functions and Setup menus (the name of the selected menu appears; the rest are abbreviated). When you select a component to listen to or control, the component's name appears in the Menu Tab Bar.



**The Component Control Section (CD control screen shown):**

When you select an icon in the Component Icon Section, a control screen for it will appear in the Component Control Section. The Component Control Section also displays the choices for the different tab selections in the Menu Tab Bar.



Using these features, your Kenwood PowerPad can store and display a large number of tasks, making it easier for you to access features. You get all the advantage of on-screen graphical display, without having to use a TV screen!

For more information on using these icons, see “How Do I Use PowerPad?” below.

## How Do I Use PowerPad?

Use your new PowerPad to control your new receiver and most components attached to it. PowerPad appears and functions a little differently from traditional remotes. Because it can control so many different components, it displays a separate set of controls for each component on an LCD screen. Use the joystick to move from place to place. Press the Enter button to select an icon, menu setting, or command button.

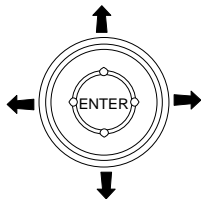
Only units previously identified and connected to the receiver will appear as icons on the display screen. If you are “missing” an icon on your display screen, make sure you have identified the component to the PowerPad. For more information on identifying components to the PowerPad, see “Chapter Two: Setting Up PowerPad” in the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

Before we talk more about how to navigate the LCD screen, there are some things you should know about how the PowerPad is powered. PowerPad is always on. It never turns off unless you remove its batteries; however, the display screen on the PowerPad goes dark when it is not in use, much like a screen-saver on a computer.


## How Do I Move Around?

1. Press any button to turn on the PowerPad display.
2. The icon that is currently selected and ready to be activated will either blink or be surrounded by a blinking square “highlight box”.

3. Push the top, bottom, left, or right side of the Enter/joystick button as many times as necessary to move to the icon you want to select:



You can maneuver quickly through the screens by "wrapping around" from edge to edge. For example, if you're at the bottom of PowerPad's screen and want to get to the top, moving the joystick down one push will wrap the active icon off the bottom edge of the screen and up to the top of the screen. Moving off the right edge wraps over to the left side, etc.

4. Press down on  to select the active icon and its available settings. Remember that only the input icons previously identified and connected to the receiver will appear on the PowerPad display.

## Chapter Two: Using PowerPad

Your new receiver comes with the easiest—and most unusual—remote you've ever seen. Its palm-sized illuminated screen displays clear icons and menus. Use the fingertip joystick to highlight your selection, then just press the joystick to activate. Because PowerPad maintains two-way communication with your receiver, it shows the result of your action right on its screen.

PowerPad is a universal remote that can control hundreds of components, and is the first of its kind to offer infra-red compatibility with X-10, Lutron lighting, and Makita drapery control systems, making it perfect for controlling even the most elaborate home theater system.

PowerPad will never become obsolete: if you buy a new component not on the list of components it controls, don't worry. Call a special toll-free number, tell the operator your component, and then hold PowerPad up to the phone: it will download the new codes automatically.

This chapter contains the following sections:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| How Do I Adjust the Sound?                  | page 14 |
| How Do I Operate Components?                | page 24 |
| How Do I Adjust PowerPad's Display?         | page 43 |
| How Do I Perform Several Actions At Once?   | page 44 |
| How Do I Control Home Automation Equipment? | page 51 |

## How Do I Adjust the Sound?

You can control and adjust a variety of sound settings using the receiver's front panel or PowerPad.

### Turning the Speakers On

To turn the Zone A speakers on, press SPEAKER A on the receiver's front panel. The red light indicates that the speakers are on.



To turn the Front B (or with the VR-2090, the Zone B) speakers on, press SPEAKER B on the receiver's front panel. The red light indicates that the speakers are on.

**VR-2090:** If you select SPEAKER B (Zone B) while listening to a surround mode in Zone A, the sound in Zone A will automatically revert to stereo. If you manually select a surround mode while SPEAKER B is on, SPEAKER B (Zone B) will automatically shut off.

**VR-2080:** If you select SPEAKER B while listening to a surround mode, the sound will automatically revert to stereo. If you manually select a surround mode while SPEAKER B is on, SPEAKER B will automatically shut off.

### Adjusting the Volume

Use one of the following methods to adjust the volume.

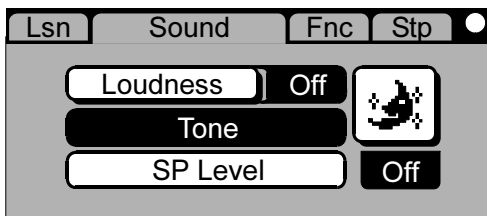
- Turn the volume knob on the front panel of the receiver.
- Press  or  on PowerPad.

### Adjusting the Loudness (Front Left and Right Speakers Only)

The Loudness control increases the bass and treble at low volume control settings. This adjusts to the way the human ear hears sound at quiet volumes, retaining music's fullness and sparkle.



1. Access the Main Menu and select the Snd tab:

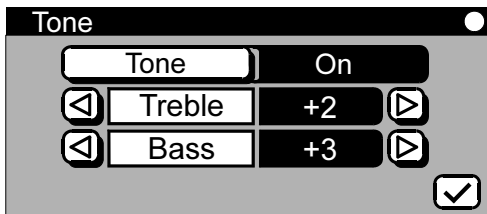


2. Select Loudness to turn the loudness setting on or off.

### Adjusting the Tone (Front Left and Right Speakers Only)

Use the Sound menu to adjust the bass or treble tone of your front speakers manually. In addition to setting bass and treble tone adjustment values, you can completely bypass the tone control circuitry for a purer sound.

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Snd tab.
2. Select Tone to open the Tone menu:

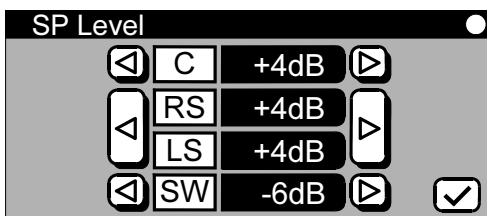


3. Select Tone to turn the tone settings on or off.
4. Select the left (←) or right arrow (→) next to a tone setting (treble or bass) to adjust it.
5. Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.

## Adjusting Speaker Levels

You can use the Sound menu to temporarily adjust the speaker levels of your center speaker, surround speakers, and subwoofer. For example, if a particular movie has dialog that's hard to understand, you can temporarily increase the center channel volume just for that movie. For more information on adjusting speaker levels permanently, see Chapter Two: Setting up PowerPad in the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Snd tab.
2. Select SP Level to open the SP Level menu:



3. Select the left (⏪) or right arrow (⏩) to adjust the volume of the desired speaker:
  - C = Center Speaker
  - RS = Right Surround Speaker
  - LS = Left Surround Speaker
  - SW = Subwoofer
4. Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.

These settings automatically return to 0dB whenever you select a different source component or turn the receiver's power off.

## Muting Sound

Use one of the following methods to temporarily mute the sound:

- Press the Mute button on the receiver's front panel.

## How Do I Adjust the Sound?

- Press the Mute button on the right of PowerPad, immediately above the On/Standby button.

Use one of the following methods to cancel muting:


- Press either Mute button again.
- Adjust the volume control on either the receiver or PowerPad.

### Balancing Volume Extremes

Any time you don't want to experience the loud and soft volume extremes of recorded sound (for example, late at night), use Kenwood's volume balancing feature to reduce volume extremes. This feature keeps loud, dramatic sound from being too loud (perhaps disturbing family members or neighbors) while ensuring that you can still hear whispered dialog or other soft sounds.

Volume balancing only works if you are listening to a Dolby Digital program that has been encoded with special compression data.

To balance volume extremes:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Sound tab.
2. Select  until the balancing sounds right to you:
  - OFF for normal balancing
  - 1 for quieter balancing
  - 2 for quietest balancing (the least difference between the loudest and quietest sound)
3. Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.

## What are Listen Modes?

You can experience true home-theater sound with your Kenwood Audio-Video Receiver. This receiver incorporates several listen modes to let you enjoy surround sound with a wide variety of program sources. Each produces multiple channels of surround-sound, but each does it differently.

- **Stereo:** Stereo listen mode provides standard stereo sound to the front left and right speakers.
- **Dolby 3 Stereo:** Use Dolby 3 Stereo for systems that do not have surround speakers. When in the Dolby 3 Stereo mode, surround information is redirected to the front left and right speakers. This mode is designed for use with Dolby Surround sources, but can also improve sound imaging and definition for programs that are not Dolby Surround encoded.
- **Dolby Pro Logic:** Dolby Pro Logic is a specially encoded 4-channel surround format designed to provide theater-like surround sound from Dolby Surround encoded sources (such as videotape and LaserDisc software that are marked with the Dolby Surround logo). It offers excellent sound movement across the front of the room and a surround ambiance that seems to immerse you in a movie. Your receiver is equipped with a Dolby Pro Logic surround decoder to let you enjoy the wide variety of currently available Dolby Surround home video software.
- **DSP (Digital Signal Processing):** DSP allows you to create your own custom surround sound environments and use them with any source (except Dolby Digital and DTS). You can select the ambience of an Arena, Jazz Club, Stadium, Cathedral or Theater, and then modify the parameters to 'fine-tune' the environment to your taste. (See "Applying Digital Signal Processor (DSP) Effects" on page 22 for details about making DSP adjustments.)
- **Dolby Digital (AC-3):** Dolby Digital uses an encode/decode process based on its theatrical digital surround sound technol-

ogy. The five main channels are full-frequency and independent, so sound can completely envelop you or soar anywhere in the room, just like at the movies.

Compared with Dolby Pro Logic, Dolby Digital has more clarity, greater surround envelopment, and more realistic sound movement between channels.

Although a full set of speakers (front left and right, center, surround left and right, and a subwoofer) is required for true Dolby Digital surround sound, this receiver lets you enjoy Dolby Digital program sources, even if you connect fewer speakers.

- **DTS (Digital Theater System):** DTS has five full-frequency channels that create effects nearly identical to those in a theater. Sounds seem to zoom from one place to another or entirely surround you. Like Dolby Digital, DTS has much-improved clarity, surround and sound movement capability compared with Dolby Pro Logic. This listen mode is available on CD, LD, and DVD media. DTS is a strictly digital format that can be supplied **only** by a CD, LD, or DVD player that supports DTS sound. If you attempt to listen to DTS encoded media through the analog connections to your new receiver, you will experience digital noise (loud static).

## NOTES

You cannot select the Input Analog mode if you are playing DTS-encoded media.

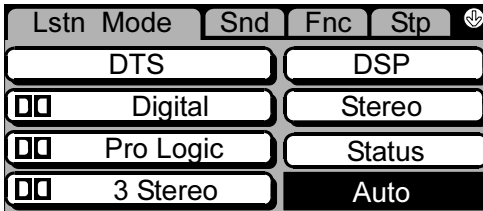
(VR-2090 only) You cannot listen to DTS-encoded media in Zone B.

When playing DTS-encoded media, wait until DTS appears on the receiver display before proceeding.

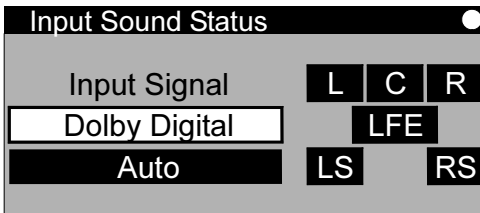
## How Do I Adjust the Sound?

Your receiver can detect and switch between these formats automatically. To check the Surround Play status:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Lsn (Listen) tab:



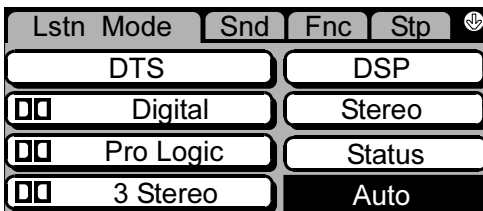
2. Select Status. This displays the Input Sound Status screen, which shows the signal being displayed.




During Dolby Digital playback, the program's encoded channel configuration is shown using the L, C, R, LS, RS and LFE icons.

To set the listen mode manually:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Lsn (Listen) tab:





2. Move to  and press it until “Manual” appears under Status.
3. Select a listen mode.

## NOTES

- The available surround modes may be restricted depending on the input signal. DTS and Dolby Digital are only available if a DTS or Dolby Digital signal is present at the digital input. For more information, see Chapter Four: Troubleshooting.
- If you turn off the receiver, turn off the speakers, or switch to the analog connections, the digital input mode is reset to “auto.”
- When you use “Digital Auto” mode with certain DVD and LD players, performing operations such as “Skip” or “Stop” may momentarily interrupt the output. This could switch the “Listen Mode” automatically to the surround mode intended for the input signal if you have manually selected a different listen mode.

### Switching to Analog Input

To fully enjoy the sonic benefits of specially-encoded 2-channel DVD audio discs played on a compatible DVD player, or if you are listening to a tape deck or turntable/record player, you must set the receiver’s input to Analog. To do so, select . “Analog” appears in the Input Signal display on the receiver.

When you are finished listening to analog media, set the receiver’s input back to digital. To do so, select the  icon.

## NOTES

See Chapter 3: Using PowerPad in Multiple Zones for more information about the analog inputs.

## Applying Digital Signal Processor (DSP) Effects

The DSP mode creates the reverberation components (elements of sound echoed in various spaces) which determine the feeling of presence. Since DSP uses digital processing, it can produce these effects without spoiling the sound quality of the original music source.

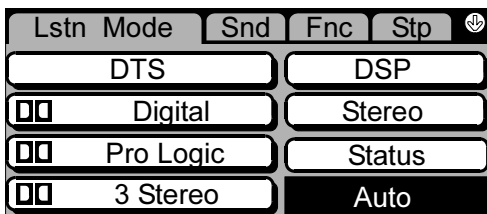
The DSP mode lets you add the atmosphere of an arena, jazz club, stadium, cathedral or theater from any PCM or analog input source. These modes are particularly effective when used with stereo program sources like CD, television, and FM radio. You might enjoy trying the STADIUM or ARENA mode the next time you watch a sporting event or concert.

You can adjust the following elements to create a customized environment:

- The WALL parameter lets you adjust the brightness of the sonic environment according to your preference.
- The ROOM SIZE parameter lets you adjust the size of the sonic environment according to your preference.
- The EFFECT level lets you adjust the amount of DSP “presence” in the sonic environment according to your preference.

To set a DSP effect:

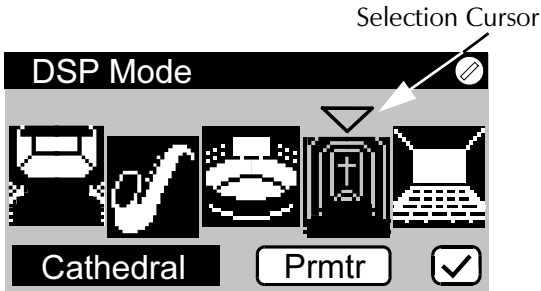
1. Access the Main Menu and select the Lsn (Listen) tab.




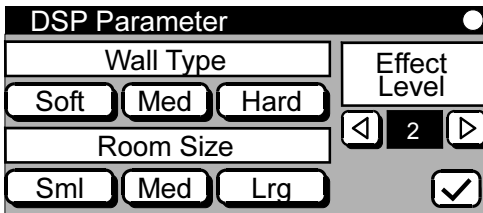
2. Set the input (digital or analog) as described in “Switching to Analog Input” on page 21.



3. Select DSP.



4. Use the Joystick to move the selection cursor to a DSP mode and press .
5. (Optional) Select Prmtr (Parameter) to adjust the wall type, room size, and effect level to your taste.



6. Select the item to be adjusted:
  - Wall Type changes the quality of the simulated walls.
  - Room Size switches the simulated room size.
  - Effect Level adjusts the amount of DSP presence in the overall sound.

### What if I Want to Use Headphones?

Insert your headphone jack into the receiver jack. Adjust the sound as described earlier in this chapter.









If you want to listen to a Dolby Digital or DTS program through headphones, select the stereo listen mode, or switch the speaker selectors off.

## How Do I Operate Components?

Your PowerPad makes it easy for you to control the different components connected to your receiver. Its easy-to-use LCD screen provides a choice of command buttons similar to those found on the components' own remotes. Use these buttons to control your home entertainment equipment by following these easy steps:

1. Choose the icon for the component you want to operate from PowerPad's control screen
2. Select a button on the component's control screen.

When you connected your components and identified them to PowerPad, you set up a relationship between the icons on PowerPad's screen and your home entertainment system:

| I should use this icon...   | to control this component... |
|---|------------------------------|
| <br>TV1      |                              |
| <br>TV2     |                              |
| <br>Video1 |                              |
| <br>Video2 |                              |
| <br>Video3 |                              |
| <br>Video4 |                              |

**I should use  
this icon... to control this component...**

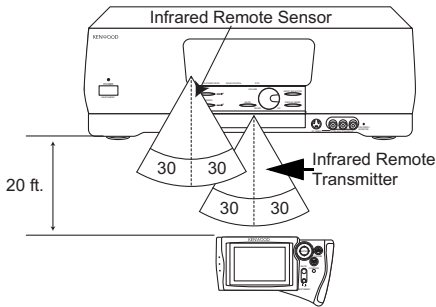


MD/  
Tape1



As you use PowerPad, remember that this manual only gives instructions for operating PowerPad with a particular component. It is not intended to explain how your components work—for that information see the manuals that came with your components.

Your new PowerPad operates in the following range:



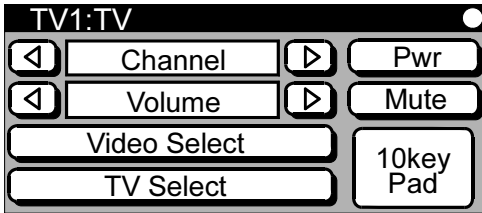
If you use PowerPad outside of this range, PowerPad's display may show incorrect information, or may not operate. As you use PowerPad, be aware of the following:

- When PowerPad's operating range gets shorter or PowerPad displays a low battery alarm, replace all four batteries.
- Do not install the receiver where direct sunlight or high-frequency fluorescent lighting can shine directly into the infrared remote sensor. This can damage your new receiver.

## TV

To operate a standard TV:

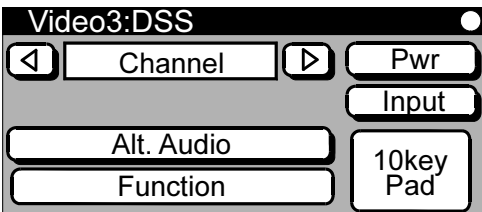
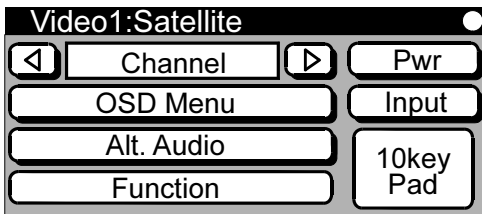
1. Press the TV icon to which you assigned the TV. This accesses the TV controls:



2. Use this screen as your TV remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

To operate satellite TV (DSS or tuner):

1. Press the Video icon to which you assigned the satellite TV receiver. This accesses the satellite controls:

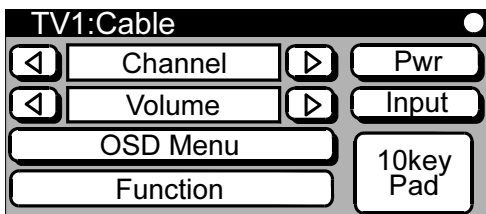


## How Do I Operate Components?

- Use one of these screens as your satellite TV remote (depending on the service you receive). The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.
  - The OSD Menu accesses the satellite tuner's on-screen menu system.
  - Alt. Audio activates the alternate audio tracks (if available).

To operate cable TV:

- Press the TV or input icon to which you assigned the cable TV tuner. This accesses the cable TV controls:

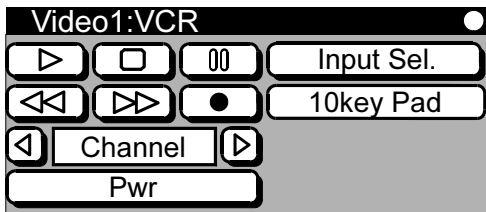


- Use this screen as your cable TV remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon. The OSD Menu accesses the cable tuner's on-screen menu system (if available).

## VCR


To operate the VCR:


- Press the Video icon to which you assigned the VCR. This accesses the VCR controls:



2. Use this screen as your VCR remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

To record a program:

The Remote Mode  icon allows you to operate your VCR for recording without selecting it as an input.

1. Select the input icon corresponding to the component you want to record from (such as your cable TV tuner).
2. Press . The available input icons will flash. While they are flashing, select the component you want to record with (such as Video 1, if your VCR is connected there). PowerPad will display that component's controls.
3. Set the VCR to record. If you are recording from a DVD player, laser disc player or another VCR, start the VCR recording first, then use the input selector (not Remote Mode) to select and play the source component.

For more information on recording with your VCR, see your VCR instruction manual.

Here are some helpful hints for recording:

- If you're recording from a digital source, select the source component, then set the listen mode to Stereo. Home VCRs can only place two channels of sound on a tape, and this enables the receiver to "downmix" from Dolby Digital or DTS multi-channel sound. For more information on setting listen modes, see "To set the listen mode manually:" on page 20.
- If you're recording from a digital source, any action other than adjusting the volume may cause the sound to "clip" on the recording.

## How Do I Operate Components?

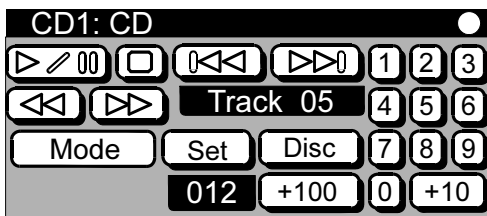
- You cannot record from the component you are using to record. For example, if you're recording on a VCR connected to the VIDEO1 jacks, select a source other than Video 1.
- If your source is a camcorder or other video unit, refer to the instruction manual for the particular unit you're recording from.

## Kenwood 200-Disc CD Changer

Kenwood 200-Disc CD Changers have many different features that make them ideal compliments to your Kenwood Receiver. Some changer models can store disc and track titles for all loaded discs, and then download this information to your Receiver for display on PowerPad's screen. Others can play two different CDs in two different rooms at the same time with the VR-2090. You can easily activate all these features using just a few of PowerPad's buttons.

To play CDs using PowerPad:

1. Select the CD1 icon. This accesses the CD controls:



2. Use this screen as your CD remote.

For more information on operating a CD player from another room, see "Chapter Three: Using the Remote in Multiple Zones".

## Displaying Disc and Track Titles

Some Kenwood 200-Disc CD Changers allow you to easily search for and select a particular CD or song by title from any disc you've loaded into the unit. PowerPad can display these disc and track

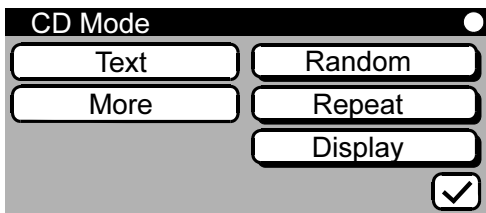
titles on its LCD display, allowing you to choose discs and songs by title in a few simple steps.

## NOTES

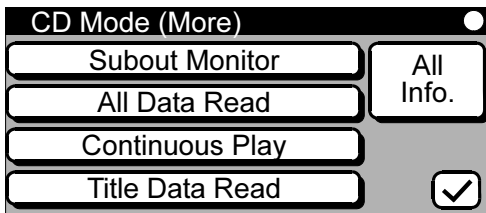
You have to assign disc and track titles to the discs in your CD player before you can transfer them to PowerPad. See your CD player's instruction manual for more information about assigning disc and track titles.

To read the loaded disc titles and store them in PowerPad:

1. Select the CD1 icon.
2. Select Mode. This accesses the Mode commands:



3. Select More. This accesses additional mode commands:



4. If you haven't already done so on the CD Player, select "All Data Read". This reads all of the disc and track title information into the CD Player's memory.



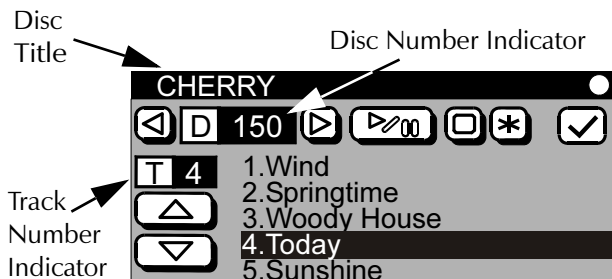
## How Do I Operate Components?






- Set PowerPad down so that its IR transmitter window is aiming at the receiver's IR transmitter window. Select Title Data Read. **Do not** move PowerPad while it is reading data. This process may take some time, depending on how many CDs you have loaded. When the IR light on the receiver goes out, it is done sending the information to PowerPad, and you may move PowerPad. PowerPad's memory now contains the titles of every CD in the changer that has been titled.
- Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.





If you rearrange or add new CDs to the changer, you will need to repeat this process. Otherwise, this information is stored in PowerPad permanently.

To play discs and tracks by title:

- Select the CD1 icon.
- Select the Text icon. This accesses the Text screen.



- Titles of all discs in the changer are displayed in numerical order.
- Use the up () or down arrows () to scroll through the discs by their titles. Use the left () or right arrows () to scroll through the discs numerically.
- When you've highlighted the disc you want to play, select .

6. The track titles for that disc are displayed in numerical order.
7. If you want to play the disc from the beginning, select .
8. If you want to play the disc from a particular track, use the up () or down arrows () to scroll through the track titles.
9. When you've highlighted the track you want to begin playing, select .

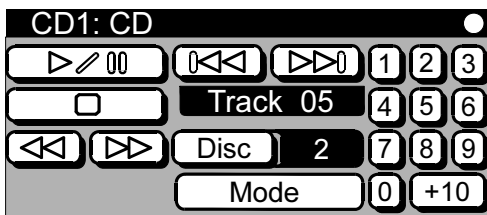
## NOTES

The track title information is not stored permanently in PowerPad. Each time you select a CD to play you have to download its track title information.

### Single or Rotary CD Player

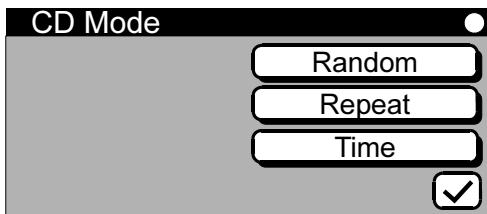
To operate a single CD player:

1. Select the CD1 icon. This accesses the CD controls:



2. Use this screen as your CD player remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

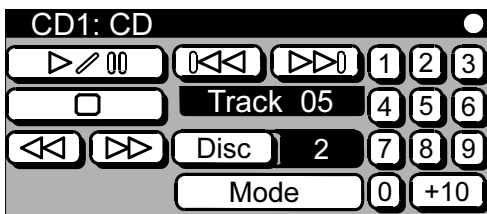
3. Select Mode to see commands for more tasks:



4. Select a button to use that feature. Press  to return to the main CD player controls.

To operate rotary CD players:

1. Select the CD1 icon. This accesses the CD controls:

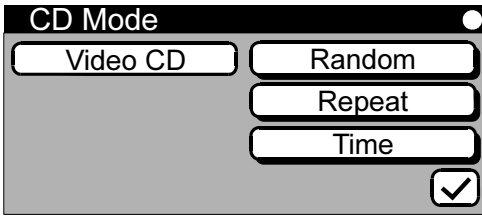


2. Use this screen as your CD player remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

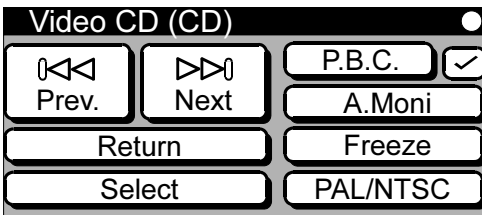
To play Video CDs (if your CD player supports the Video CD format):

1. Select the CD1 icon.

2. Select Mode. This accesses the mode commands:



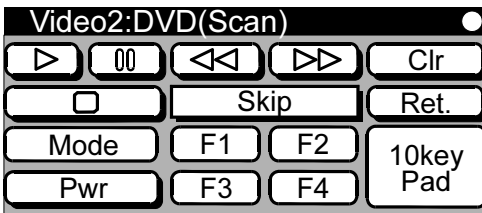
3. Select Video CD. This accesses the Video CD controls:



4. Use this screen as your Video CD player remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.
5. Select  to return to the main CD player controls.

## DVD Player

1. Select the icon you assigned to your DVD player. This accesses the DVD controls:



How Do I Operate Components?

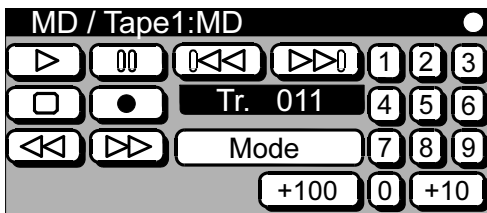
- Use this screen as your DVD player remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

If you are listening to an analog DVD music disc, you will need to switch the input from Digital Input to Analog Input. For more information on switching input, see “Switching to Analog Input” on page 21.

### MD Recorder or Tape Deck

To operate a MD recorder:

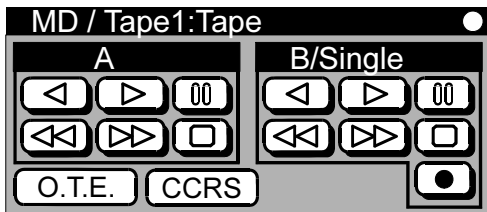
- Select the MD/Tape 1 icon. This accesses the MD recorder controls:



- Use this screen as your MD recorder remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

To operate a Tape Deck:


- Select the MD/Tape 1 icon. This accesses the tape deck controls:



2. Use this screen as your tape deck remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.
  - O.T.E.: One-Touch Edit
  - CCRS: One-Touch CD Recording

See your cassette deck instruction manual for more information.

To record a music source using either the MD or tape recorder:

1. Select the input icon corresponding to the component you want to record from (such as your CD player).
2. Press . The available input icons will flash. While they are flashing, select the MD/Tape 1 icon. PowerPad will display the component's controls.
3. Set the recorder to record. If you are recording from a DVD player, laser disc player or VCR, start the MD recorder or tape deck recording first, then use the input selector (not Remote Mode) to select and play the source component.

For more information on recording, see your MD recorder or tape deck instruction manual.



**Digital to Digital Recording:** The digital signal input through any DIGITAL IN jack is output digitally at the optical jack. Be sure you have connected a cable from the OPTICAL (DIGITAL OUT) jack on the receiver to the MD recorder's digital input. For more information on this connection, see "Connecting Your MD Recorder or Primary Tape Deck" on page 18 of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

Dolby Digital and DTS signals cannot be recorded.

**Digital to Analog Recording:** Analog audio tape can only contain two channels of sound. The receiver can “downmix” from Dolby Digital or DTS 5-channel sound. You can manually set the listen mode to enable this downmixing. For more information on setting listen modes, see “To set the listen mode manually:” on page 20.

## Turntable

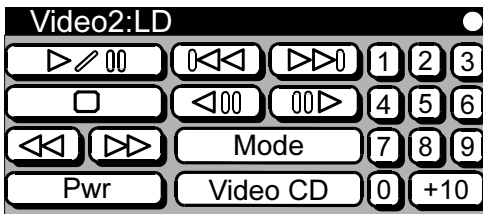
To operate a turntable/record player:

1. Select the Phono icon to set the turntable as the speaker source.
2. Play your records as normal. Please note that you cannot control the turntable with PowerPad; you must still operate the turntable manually.

## Laser Disc Player

To operate a laser disc player:

1. Select the icon you assigned to the laser disc player. This accesses the laser disc controls:



2. Use this screen as your laser disc player remote. The available buttons may vary depending on the setup code you assigned to this icon.

## Camcorder or Additional VCR

To operate auxiliary video input (e.g., a camcorder or a VCR):

1. Select the AV AUX icon to set the camcorder or VCR as the input source.
2. Play your camcorder or VCR as normal. Please note that you cannot control these components with PowerPad; you must still operate them manually.

## Second CD Player or Tape Deck

These instructions are for operating a second CD player or tape deck from a single-zone installation (VR-2080) or from Zone A (VR-2090). For more information on operating components in a multi-zone setup, see “Chapter Three: Using PowerPad in Multiple Zones”.

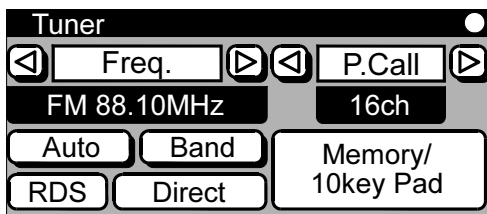
To operate a second CD player or tape deck:

1. Select the CD 2/Tape 2 icon. The commands appear for the component you connected to this jack set and identified to PowerPad.
2. Use the available commands as your CD player or tape deck remote.

## Tuner

To tune in to a radio station:

1. Select the Tuner icon. This accesses the tuner commands:





## 2. Tune in the station:

- Select Band to switch from FM to AM.
- Select Auto to switch from Auto tuning to Manual tuning. Select Manual tuning if you experience interference due to weak radio signals. (Stations are received in mono during manual tuning.)
- Select the left (⏪) or right arrow (⏩) next to Freq. to tune in a station.
- Select the left (⏪) or right arrow (⏩) next to P. Call to cycle through any stations stored in memory. For more information on storing stations in memory, see “Storing Radio Stations in Memory (optional)” on page 37 of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

**RDS (Radio Data System) VR-2090 Only:** RDS (Radio Data System) is a system where radio stations transmit digital data for FM broadcasts along with the broadcast signal. Tuners and receivers designed for RDS reception can extract the data from the broadcast signal for use with various functions such as automatic display of the station name.

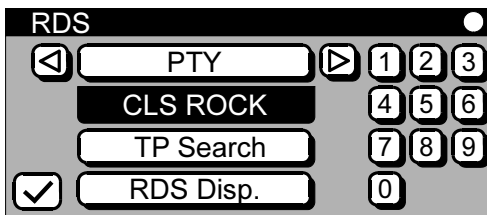
### RDS Functions:

- You can search for programs of a specific type using Program Type Identification Search (PTY).
- You can automatically tune to a station broadcasting traffic information.
- You can view information about a station:
  - the station name
  - any text data transmitted by the station
- You can automatically select stations providing RDS and FM broadcasting and store them in the preset memory (up to 40 stations can be preset). For more information about storing sta-

tions, see “Storing Radio Stations in Memory (optional)” on page 37 of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

To search for a specific type of music or radio program:

1. Select RDS from the Tuner commands. This accesses RDS commands:



2. Select PTY.
3. Select the program type you want using one of the following methods:
  - Select the left (◀) or right arrow (▶) to cycle through the program types until the type you want appears. The program types cycle in the order shown in the table below.
  - Use the number pad to enter the number of the program type you want. (Not all program types have a number.)

| # | Program Type Name | Receiver Display |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 4 | News              | NEWS             |
|   | Information       | INFORM           |
| 9 | Sports            | SPORTS           |
| 0 | Talk              | TALK             |
| 7 | Rock              | ROCK             |

| # | Program Type Name     | Receiver Display |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|
|   | Classic Rock          | CLS ROCK         |
|   | Adult Hits            | ADLT HIT         |
| 8 | Soft Rock             | SOFT RCK         |
|   | Top 40                | TOP 40           |
| 2 | Country               | COUNTRY          |
|   | Oldies                | OLDIES           |
|   | Soft                  | SOFT             |
|   | Nostalgia             | NOSTALGIA        |
| 3 | Jazz                  | JAZZ             |
| 1 | Classical             | CLASSICL         |
|   | Rhythm and Blues      | R & B            |
|   | Soft Rhythm and Blues | SOFT R & B       |
|   | Foreign Language      | LANGUAGE         |
| 6 | Religious Music       | REL MUSIC        |
|   | Religious Talk        | REL TALK         |
|   | Personality           | PERSNLTY         |
| 5 | Public                | PUBLIC           |
|   | College               | COLLEGE          |
|   | Weather               | WEATHER          |

4. Select PTY twice.

## How Do I Operate Components?

- If the tuner cannot find the program type you want, “NO PROGRAM” appears under PTY and on the receiver display. The display returns to its original screen after several seconds.
- If the tuner locates a station playing the program type you want, reception begins. The display changes to show the station name.

To change to a different program type, repeat Steps 1 through 4 above.

To cancel the program search, select the PTY icon during the PTY search.

To search for a station broadcasting traffic reports:

1. Select the Tuner icon.
2. Set the receiving band to FM.
3. Select RDS.
4. Select TP Search.

To cancel the program search, press the TP Search icon during the TP search.



TP Search cannot be performed if you have manually stored 40 stations in memory. Use the Auto Memory function (see “Storing Radio Stations in Memory (optional)” on page 37 of the *Connections and Setup Guide*).

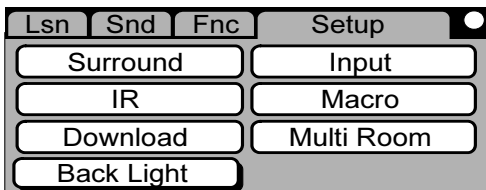
## How Do I Adjust PowerPad's Display?

### How Do I See PowerPad in the Dark?

You can use your PowerPad in the dark. When you turn on the back light, your PowerPad screen will light up, making navigation easier if you need to operate PowerPad in dim or nonexistent light.

To use PowerPad in the dark:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Stp (Setup) tab:



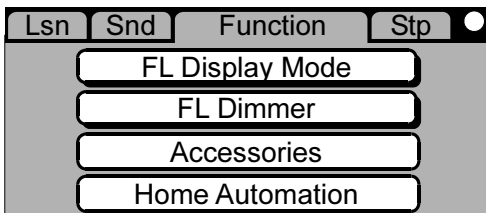
2. Select Back Light. To turn off the light and return to normal display, select Back Light again.

### NOTES

Keep the Back Light turned off during normal use to maximize the life of your batteries.

### Using PowerPad to Dim or Brighten the Receiver's Front Panel

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab:



2. Select FL Dimmer until the display's brightness is adjusted to the level you want.

## Changing the Front Panel Display Mode

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab.
2. Select FL Display Mode until the display mode that you want appears.

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| A: Connected Component | Input Type          |
| <b>DVD</b>             | <b>DGTL</b>         |
| B: Input Terminal      | Connected Component |
| <b>Video 4</b>         | <b>DVD</b>          |
| C: Listen Mode         |                     |
| <b>Dolby Digital</b>   |                     |

## How Do I Perform Several Actions at Once?

Four macros are pre-programmed for system activation:

- all video sources on
- all video sources off
- all audio sources on
- all audio sources off

There are three more custom macros that you can program to complete several operations with one button push.


### Using Macros

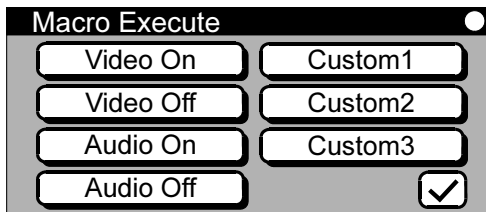


The VR-2090 has “Perfect Macro” capability. This senses if video components connected via the composite jacks, Kenwood audio components (configured in the SL16 control mode) connected via system control cables, and TVs or video monitors with an optional power sensing device attached are on or off, and will ensure that the macro works properly.

For example, you run the Video On macro. PowerPad will turn the receiver and all of your video components on. If your TV is already on when you run the macro, Perfect Macro will keep it on.

For more information about using a video power sensing device, see Chapter Three of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

1. Select . This opens the macro commands:



2. Select a macro. Because the VR-2090 has Perfect Macro, the pre-programmed macros work a bit differently on the two receivers (the custom macros work the same):

| Macro    | Action with VR-2090  | Action with VR-2080   |
|----------|--|---|
| Video ON | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Turns receiver on (if it's not already on)</li><li>2. Turns on all video components connected via composite jacks that are not already on</li><li>3. Leaves on any video components connected via composite jacks that already are on</li><li>4. Turns on a TV with an optional power sensor attached</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Turns receiver on (if it's not already on)</li><li>2. Turns on all video components that are off</li><li>3. Turns off any video components that are already on</li></ol> |

| Macro     | Action with VR-2090  | Action with VR-2080   |
|-----------|--|---|
| Video Off | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver off</li> <li>2. Turns off all video components connected via composite jacks that are not already off</li> <li>3. Leaves off any video components connected via composite jacks that already are off</li> <li>4. Turns off a TV with an optional power sensor attached</li> </ol>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver off<br/>(To turn the video components off, select Video On again. This will turn off any video components that are on.)</li> </ol>                           |
| Audio On  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver on (if it's not already on)</li> <li>2. Turns on all Kenwood audio components (SL16-configured) connected via system control cables that are not already on</li> <li>3. Leaves on any Kenwood audio components (SL16-configured) connected via system control cables that already are on</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver on (if it's not already on)</li> <li>2. Turns on any audio components that are off</li> <li>3. Turns off any audio components that are already on</li> </ol> |



| Macro          | Action with VR-2090  | Action with VR-2080   |
|----------------|--|---|
| Audio Off      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver off</li> <li>2. Turns off all Kenwood audio components (SL16-configured) connected via system control cables that are not already off</li> <li>3. Leaves off any Kenwood audio components (SL16-configured) connected via system control cables that already are off</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Turns receiver off</li> <li>2. To turn the audio components off, select Audio On again. This will turn off any audio components that are on.</li> </ol> |
| Custom 1, 2, 3 | Performs actions you programmed. (See "Programming Macros" on this page.)  | Performs actions you programmed. (See "Programming Macros" on this page.)   |



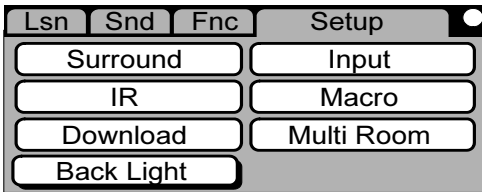
When you activate a macro, you must aim PowerPad at the components the macro is controlling for the entire time it takes to transmit all of the macro commands.

### Programming Macros

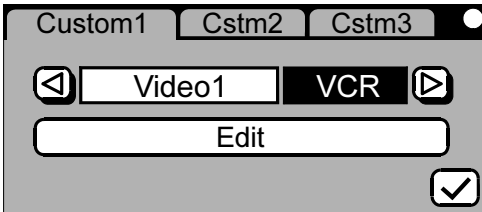
You can program your own macros (up to three) as well as use the pre-programmed ones provided by Kenwood. This section describes how to program a sample macro that will include all the actions necessary to watch a movie on your VCR.

## How Do I Perform Several Actions at Once?

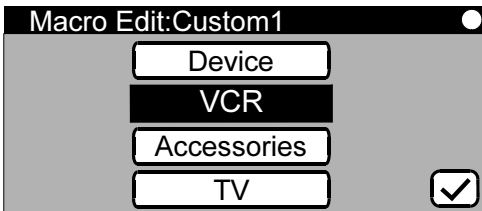
1. Insert a tape into the VCR.
2. Access the Main Menu and select the Setup tab:



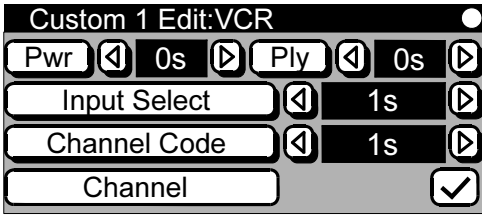
3. Select Macro to access the macro setup commands:



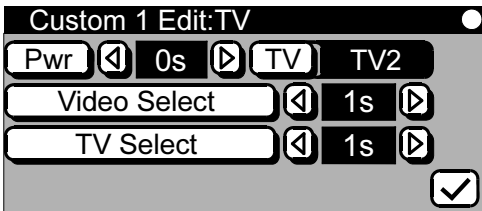
4. This example will be stored as Custom1. If you wanted to store the macro as Custom2 or Custom3, you would select that tab here.
5. Select the left (⏪) or right arrow (⏩) to select the input component (the component that will send sound to the speakers and video to the TV). For this example, select Video1: VCR.
6. Select Edit to access the edit commands:



7. Select Device to access the VCR commands:



- a. Select the left (←) or right arrow (→) next to Pwr (Power) to set the number of seconds that should pass before the receiver turns on the VCR. For this example, set it to 3s (three seconds).  
To bypass a function, set its time to "--".
  - b. Select the left (←) or right arrow (→) next to Ply (Play) to set the number of seconds that should pass before the VCR starts playing the tape you inserted. Set it to 7s (seven seconds).
  - c. Select  to save your settings and return to the edit commands.
8. Select TV to access the TV commands:



- a. Select the left (←) or right arrow (→) next to Pwr (Power) to set the number of seconds that should pass before the receiver turns on the TV. Set it to 1s (one second).

## How Do I Perform Several Actions at Once?

- b. Select TV until TV1 appears, since you will be watching the movie on the TV connected to TV1.
  - c. Select the left (⏪) or right arrow (⏩) next to Video Select to set the number of seconds that should pass before the TV switches to the video input the receiver is connected to. Set it to 5s (five seconds).
  - d. TV Select switches between your TV's different antenna inputs (if your TV has separate antenna and video selectors). For this macro (and always, if your TV has a combined video/antenna selector), set it to "--", which bypasses this function.
  - e. Select  to save your settings and return to the editing commands.
9. Select  to return to the macro tabs.
10. Select  again to return to the setup menu.

## NOTES

Suggestions for custom macro command timings:

Because PowerPad can only transmit one command at a time, stagger the timings of the various Custom Macro settings so that the commands are given at different times (TV on at 2 seconds, VCR into play at 3 seconds, etc.).

Use the shortest times practical when setting up a custom macro. This will minimize the amount of time you have to aim PowerPad at the components while executing the macro.

When you are ready to run the macro, follow the instructions under "Using Macros" on page 44.

## How Do I Control Home Automation Equipment?

Your new PowerPad comes pre-programmed with codes to control home automation products manufactured by X-10, Lutron, and Makita. These products enable you to use PowerPad to dim lights, close or open drapes, and operate non-audio/video equipment.

PowerPad's control feature works using built-in screens specially designed to emulate the operation of X-10, Lutron, or Makita equipment remotes. These features require no setup to work with the compatible products listed.

Simply aim PowerPad at the component you want to control, then press the icons and settings for the tasks you want to perform. Do **not** aim PowerPad at your Kenwood receiver—none of the home automation devices are connected to it.

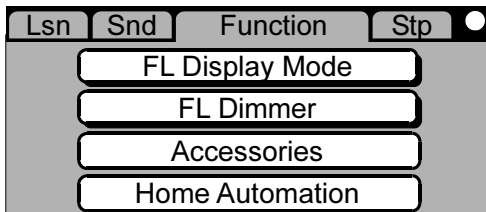
### X-10 Home Automation

Using an X-10 Home Automation System, you can operate various items in your home with just a few buttons on your PowerPad. Dimming lights and turning any non-audio/video equipment on or off is an easy task with X-10. All that is required is an X-10 IR converter and X-10 lamp control modules, which are sold separately.

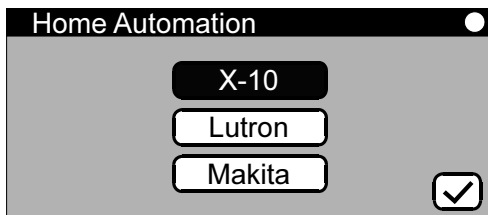
For more information, see the manual for the particular device you want to control.

To run your X-10 Home Automation System using PowerPad:

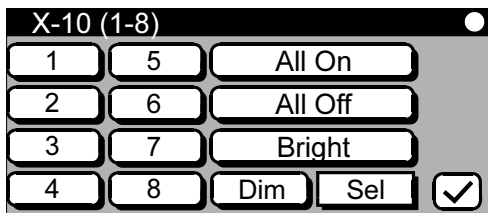
1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab:



2. Select Home Automation to access the Home Automation commands:



3. Select X-10 to access the X-10 commands:



4. Select the numbered button that corresponds to the X-10 module you want to control. For more information, see your X-10 manual.
  - The "Dim" button dims lamp modules.
  - The "Sel" button means Select. Use this button to move back and forth between this group of buttons and the next eight buttons (9-16) on PowerPad.

The X-10 IR-543 Converter is compatible with your PowerPad. Contact X-10 at [www.x-10.com](http://www.x-10.com), or at [X10@x10.com](mailto:X10@x10.com). In addition Radio Shack also sells a compatible converter (product number RSU 10037703).

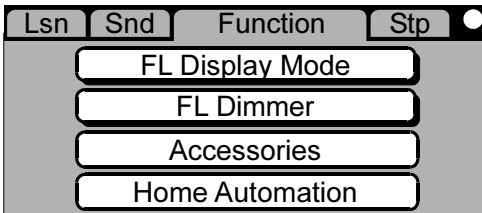
## Lutron

Your PowerPad can dim or brighten indoor lighting using the Lutron Spacer System or Lutron GRAFIK Eye components, which are sold separately.

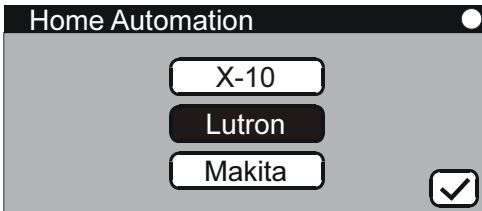
For more information, see your Lutron manual.

To operate your Lutron controls using PowerPad:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab:

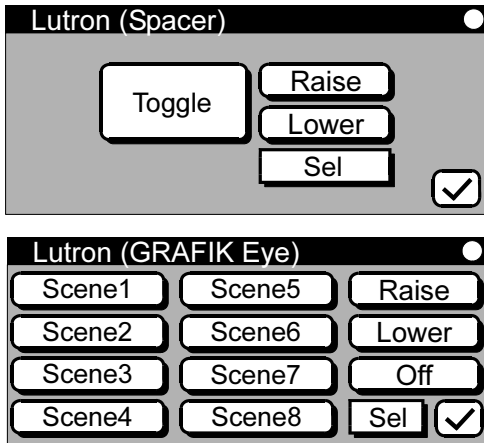


2. Select Home Automation to access the Home Automation commands:



## How Do I Control Home Automation Equipment?

3. Select Lutron to access Lutron Commands. Use the “Sel” button to access either the Spacer or Grafik Eye control screens, depending on which system you use.



4. Use PowerPad’s screen as your Lutron remote. Refer to your Lutron manual for more information on these commands.

Lutron models SP-HT-WH, GRX-IT, and GRX-8IT are compatible with your PowerPad. Contact Lutron at:

Lutron Electronics Co., Inc.  
7200 Suter Road  
Coopersburg, PA 18036-1299  
800-523-9466  
www.lutron.com



## Makita

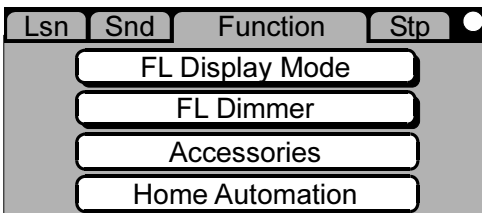
You can use your PowerPad to open drapes or blinds in your home. Your PowerPad completely replaces these Makita Automatic Drapery Opener System remotes:

- ZZRC10
- ZZRC20
- ZZRC30
- ZZRC60

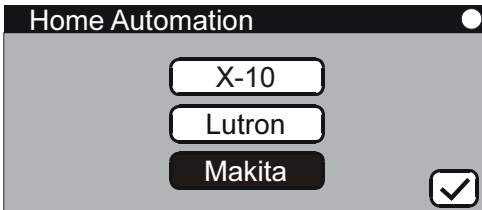
For more information, see your Makita manual for the particular component you want to control.

To operate your Makita device using PowerPad:

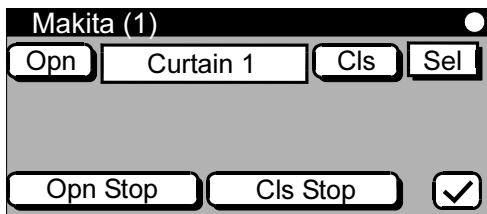
1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab:



2. Select Home Automation to access the Home Automation commands:



3. Select Makita to access the Makita controls:



4. Use this screen as your Makita remote. If you want to control more than one Makita device, press Sel to cycle through the additional screens. You can control up to six Makita devices. Refer to your Makita manual for more information on these commands.

For more information, contact Makita at:

Makita USA Inc.  
14930 Northam Street  
La Mirada, CA, 90638-5753  
800-851-0537 (telephone)  
714-522-8194 (facsimile)  
Makitaapd@aol.com

The products and companies listed previously are not owned or affiliated with Kenwood in any way. Please contact these companies directly for further information or to find a retailer near you.

### **Accessories Control**

Powerpad is also programmed with eight Kenwood-exclusive accessory control commands. These commands can be used in conjunction with computerized home automation equipment that is capable of learning IR codes. Once the Kenwood code is learned by the home automation equipment, PowerPad can be used to activate the equipment.

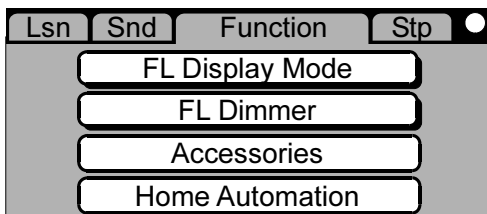
How Do I Control Home Automation Equipment?

These accessory codes can also be included in PowerPad's three Custom Macros. See "Programming Macros" on page 47 for more information.

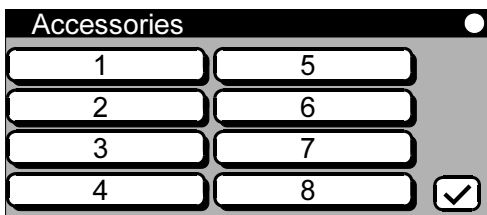
See the manual for the home automation equipment for specific information about programming PowerPad's accessory codes into the home automation system.

To access the accessory codes:

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Fnc (Function) tab:



2. Select Accessories to access the commands:



3. Select the number corresponding to the code that you entered into the home automation equipment.

## Chapter Three: Using PowerPad in Multiple Zones

The VR-2090 offers dual-zone output and control, which enables you to use a single receiver to control components and speakers for two rooms (or zones). Due to its advanced features and controls, you can listen to music in one room while a movie plays in the other!

Depending on your tastes and budget, you can set up one of the following “sound scenarios” to make full use of the VR-2090’s capabilities:

**No additional amplifier for Zone B:** You can use the VR-2090’s Speaker B output for Zone B. This allows you to listen to full surround sound in Zone A only, or in stereo or Dolby 3 Stereo in Zone A when Zone B is active. The sound in Zone B will always be in stereo.

**Stereo amplifier for Zone B:** You use an additional stereo amplifier for Zone B (connected to the VR-2090’s Second Room Pre-outs). This allows you to hear full surround sound in Zone A even if you are also listening in Zone B. The sound in Zone B will always be in stereo.

**Dolby Pro Logic Receiver for Zone B:** You use an additional Dolby Pro Logic receiver for Zone B (connected to the VR-2090’s Second Room Pre-outs). This allows you to listen to full surround sound in Zone A and Zone B, even if you are using different sources in the two rooms at the same time.

This chapter covers only multiple-zone operation of the VR-2090. See Chapter Two for general operating instructions.

## How Do I Switch Control Modes?

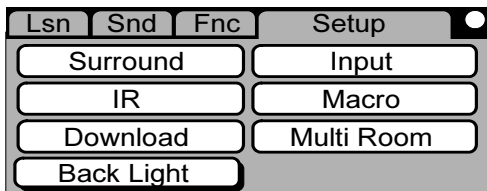
You can use PowerPad to operate your receiver and source components from two different zones. To do so, you need to switch control modes to control the components from each zone. To make operations from Zone B easier, we recommend that you purchase a second PowerPad. That way you can leave one PowerPad in Zone A that is always set up for Zone A operation, and another PowerPad in Zone B that is always set up for Zone B operation.



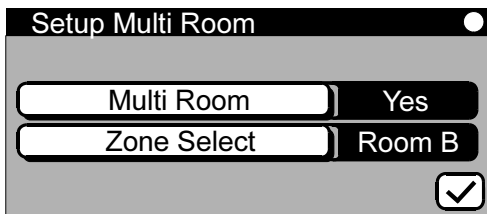
Some system control features are not available when the PowerPad is set up for multi-room control.

To switch control modes for Zone A or Zone B:~

1. Access the Main Menu and select the Setup tab:



2. Select Multi Room so the display reads "Yes" to access multi-room commands:



3. Select Zone Select until the zone you want to control is displayed:

## How Do I Operate Components?

- Room A controls components connected for Zone A.
- Room B controls components connected for Zone B.

If you buy a second PowerPad, set one to Zone A (and keep it there) and one to Zone B (and keep it there).

## Why Don't I See All My Components?

Your Kenwood PowerPad displays icons for each of the components in your home audio-video system that you have identified to the PowerPad. If you have not identified a component to the PowerPad, its icon will not appear. For more information on identifying components to the PowerPad, see "How Do I Identify Components?" on page 35 of the *Connection and Setup Guide*.

When you switch zones, only components controllable in that zone will show up as icons on PowerPad.



Components connected via digital jacks only cannot be listened to in Zone B. We recommend that you connect the analog jacks of all components. You must use PowerPad's Input Analog icon to select the analog jacks of any component you want to listen to in Zone B.

## How Do I Operate Components?

General instructions for operating any component are given under "How Do I Operate Components?" on page 24. Some operations, however, are a little different depending on the zone you are in. The following section discusses how components may operate differently in different zones.

### Operating Components in Zone A

To select the speakers for Zone A, press the button for Speakers–A on the front panel of the receiver.

To set up the remote to control Zone A components, follow the instructions under “How Do I Switch Control Modes?” on page 59.

To control a second CD player from Zone A, use , unless you are using the Kenwood 200-Disc CD Changer (see below).

The Kenwood 200-Disc CD Changer is specifically designed to work with the VR-2090 in a dual-zone environment. Since it contains two CD players, one can play in Zone A while the other is playing simultaneously in Zone B. Use CD1 to control the changer for Zone A and CD2 to control the changer for Zone B.

### Operating Components in Zone B

If you are using the receiver's Speaker B outputs to power the speakers in Zone B, press the button for Speakers-B on the front panel of the receiver to activate the speakers in Zone B. The Listen Mode in Zone A will automatically switch to stereo when you turn Speakers B on.

To set up the remote to control Zone B components, follow the instructions under “How Do I Switch Control Modes?” on page 59.

If you are using the Kenwood 200-Disc Changer, you can only read track title data from the loaded CDs. Be sure to have read all data from the CDs in Zone A before trying to read track titles in Zone B. For more information on reading text playback data, see “Displaying Disc and Track Titles” on page 29.

## Chapter Four: Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting is how you determine what part of a complex system (like a home theater system) is at fault when the system isn't working how you think it should. When you troubleshoot a system, you diagnose a problem by examining and eliminating possible causes until there's only one left. Troubleshooting is easiest when you start with the most obvious, most common, and most likely and work from there.

Diagnosing your own problems can save you time and aggravation—the better you understand how to troubleshoot and adjust your own system, the less time you have to:

- spend on the phone with a customer service representative
- do without your receiver because it's "in the shop"

There are some basic steps to good troubleshooting:

1. **Verify the exact conditions when the problem occurs.**

This is the most important step in troubleshooting. Whether you fix it yourself or have to describe it to a technician, you are much more likely to really solve the problem if you know the exact circumstances surrounding the problem. For example, if you don't hear anything through the speakers, it's useful to know if it only happens when you are listening to CDs.

Knowing that eliminates the speakers themselves as part of the problem. The more you know about when a problem occurs, the more likely it is that you or the technician can solve it.

2. **Check each part of the signal's path from source (such as a CD player) to speaker.**

You may also want to test the assumptions you made in step 1: maybe you haven't listened to your MD recorder in a while—is there no sound from it as well? This step will really help narrow down the possible causes. Test all your connected components and eliminate the ones where the problem doesn't



occur. When you're done with this step, you'll probably have found the problem.

3. **Go over all component connections slowly and methodically. Double-check the settings on your remote.**

Wrong or loose connections are the most likely cause of the most common home entertainment problem: no sound. Use the *Connection and Setup Guide* to double-check your connections for each component. This is especially important with VCRs, tape decks, MD recorders, and equalizers, where it's very easy to swap the "play" and "record" connections.

For the VR-2090/VR-2080, you should also check your Power-Pad settings carefully. Did you set the input to the correct component (you can also check the front panel of the receiver)? Are you monitoring a different zone than you are in? Are you trying to listen to an analog source using a digital connection?

4. **Cables (especially old ones) go bad more frequently than components do.**

Always suspect the cable before its component. For one thing, it's easier to test: simply swap the cable with one connected to a component you know *is* working. If the problem component works now, it was the cable. You can generally purchase new cables at most home electronics stores, or via the Internet.

5. **User error is more likely than component failure.**

You probably don't want to hear this, but it's true. Use this manual to go over the steps to operate the receiver. Refer to the other components' manuals as well.

6. **Instruction manuals are your friend.**

A good rule of thumb is to check the manual when something doesn't work how you expected it to. If you read the manual before calling the store or taking the component back, you may find the solution to your problem much more quickly.

The rest of this chapter presents some common problems, grouped by type, and the steps you can take to resolve them.

## Sound

### **I don't hear any sound at all**

Check that:

- The volume is set at the proper level. See “Adjusting the Volume” on page 14 of this manual.
- Mute is OFF. If the MUTE indicator on the front of the receiver is blinking, MUTE is ON. See “Muting Sound” on page 16 of this manual.
- The proper input (e.g., CD player, Tuner, etc.) has been selected on the PowerPad. See “How Do I Operate Components?” on page 24 of this manual.
- The CD2/Tape2 monitor input has not been selected. (If it has, the CD2/Tape2 monitor indicator on the receiver's front panel will be lit). See “What's on the Front Panel of Your Kenwood Audio - Video Receiver?” on page 6 of this manual.
- The input mode matches the input signal (e.g., analog vs. digital) that has been set. See “Switching to Analog Input” on page 21 of this manual.
- The correct Listen Mode (e.g., Auto) has been set for the digital input. See “What are Listen Modes?” on page 18.
- The correct speakers have been activated. See “Turning the Speakers On” on page 14 of this manual.

### **I can't hear sound from one or more of the speakers, or the sound is abnormally low**

Check that:

- All of the speaker wires are connected tightly. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- All of the speakers have been activated in the Setup Speakers menu. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- The individual speaker levels are set properly. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

- The CD2/Tape2 monitor input has not been selected. (If it has, the CD2/Tape2 monitor indicator on the receiver's front panel will be lit). See "What's on the Front Panel of Your Kenwood Audio - Video Receiver?" on page 6 of this manual.
- The correct speakers have been activated. See "Turning the Speakers On" on page 14 of this manual.

### **I can't hear sound from my surround or center speakers**

Check that

- The proper surround play mode (Dolby 3 Stereo, Dolby Pro Logic, DSP, DTS or Dolby Digital (AC-3)) has been selected. See "What are Listen Modes?" on page 18 of this manual.
- All of the speaker wires are connected tightly. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

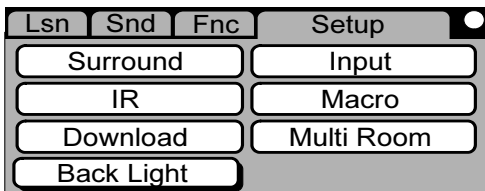
### **I can hear sound only from the center speaker when Dolby Pro Logic or Dolby 3 Stereo is selected**

Check that the program (e.g., TV show, radio station, VCR tape) is in stereo. Programs in mono play only through the center speaker when the receiver is in the Dolby Pro Logic listen mode.

### **Sound from one (or more) of my components is abnormally loud or soft**

Adjust the analog input level for that component:

1. Select the icon for the component. For CD1, Video2, Video3, and Video4, also select the Input Analog icon.
2. Access the main menu and select the Setup tab:



3. Select Input.
4. Select Input Level. Every time you select the button the volume will cycle between 0dB, -3dB, -6dB and back up to 0dB. Select the level that best matches that of the other sources.
5. Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.

### **I can't hear any sound in Zone B**

Check that:

- The volume in Zone B is turned up. See "How Do I Switch Control Modes?" on page 59 of this manual.
- The Zone B speakers are turned on. See "Turning the Speakers On" on page 14 of this manual.
- The source is connected via an analog jack set (digital inputs are not sent to Room B). See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- Analog has been set as the input type. See "Switching to Analog Input" on page 21 of this manual.

### **I can't hear sound from some of my laser discs**

Check that the disc contains a digital soundtrack (the disc's cover will bear a "digital sound" logo). Some older laser discs contain only analog soundtracks. If the disc does not have a digital soundtrack, change the input type to Analog. See "Switching to Analog Input" on page 21 of this manual.

### **There wasn't any sound recorded on tapes made on my VCR or tape deck**

Check that:

- The audio cables are connected properly for the component.
- Analog has been set as the input type. Digital input cannot be used as source for recording to analog media (such as VHS or audio tape). See "Switching to Analog Input" on page 21.

### **The initial sound is intermittent or non-existent when I start to play from a Dolby Digital DVD source**

- Some DVD players simply have intermittent start-up sound.
- Check that the correct digital cable is being used. The cable must be a *digital* coaxial or optical cable. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

### **With a Dolby Digital program, the loud sounds aren't very loud and the quiet sounds aren't very quiet**

Check that volume extremes are not automatically being balanced. See "Balancing Volume Extremes" on page 17 of this manual.

### **All I hear is loud static when I play DTS discs**

Check that Digital has been set as the input type. DTS discs do not output analog sound. See "Switching to Analog Input" on page 21.

### **I hear a hum when I select the PHONO input**

Check that:

- The audio cables are connected securely to the Phono jack set. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- The turntable is grounded on the receiver. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

## **Video**

### **I can't see the program I'm playing on the TV**

#### **There wasn't any video output to my VCR when I recorded**

- Check that the video source and TV are connected via the same type of connectors. S-Video input signals cannot be transmitted via composite (standard) connections and vice versa.
- Check that the correct video input on the TV is selected.

## PowerPad

### **I don't see icons for all my components**

You must identify components for PowerPad control for them to appear in the icon bar on PowerPad. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

### **I don't see icons for all the components I set up**

Some of the component icons appear only when PowerPad is set up to control Zone A and some appear only when PowerPad is set up to control Zone B. See “Why Don't I See All My Components?” on page 60 of this manual.

### **When I select a component icon, I don't see any commands**

- When you start PowerPad for the very first time, all the possible icons appear. If you select any of them, there will be no commands in the command area. You must set up PowerPad before you can begin controlling components. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- Re-enter the setup code for the component. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

### **My PowerPad is slow to respond—sometimes I have to press buttons or select commands several times**

- If PowerPad is in sleep mode (the screen is blank), the first button press “wakes it up”. The second press performs the action.
- Your PowerPad supports 2-way communication with the receiver. If the green light on the front of the receiver is lit, PowerPad is receiving information. It cannot transmit your new command until it is finished receiving information from the receiver.

### **My PowerPad is not responding**

- Make sure you are within the operating range for PowerPad. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

- Replace the batteries. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- If you're using an IR receiver, make sure it is connected properly and turned on. See Chapter Three of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

## Receiver/Tuner

### **My receiver won't turn on and the STANDBY indicator is flashing**

Your receiver is in the "protection" mode.

Check that:

- The speaker system's impedance is not too low. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- The speaker wires are not short-circuited. Test the wires as follows to find the shorted wire and replace it:
  - Turn off the receiver, disconnect the positive and negative speaker wires of the RIGHT FRONT speaker from the receiver, and turn the receiver back on.
  - If the STANDBY indicator stops flashing, replace this wire.
  - If the STANDBY indicator does not stop flashing, turn off the receiver, reconnect the speaker wires, and repeat the first step for the next speaker.
  - Continue until you have isolated and replaced the shorted wire.

See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

- The speaker input level is not too high. See Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.

If none of the above solutions work, reset the microprocessor:

1. Turn the receiver off.
2. Unplug the receiver.

3. Plug it back in while pressing and holding the Power On button (you may need someone else to help you do this).

The following settings are cleared:

- The component set as input (Tuner is selected by default)—see “How Do I Operate Components?” on page 24 of this manual
  - The volume setting (-66dB is selected by default)—see “Adjusting the Volume” on page 14 of this manual
  - The tuner’s receiving band (FM is selected by default)—see “Tuner” on page 38 of this manual
  - The tuner’s frequency (87.5MHz is selected by default)—see “Tuner” on page 38 of this manual
  - The tuner’s preset memory—you will need to reset your stored radio stations (see Chapter Two of the *Connections and Setup Guide*)
  - The surround setting—see “What are Listen Modes?” on page 18 of this manual.
4. Reset the cleared settings.

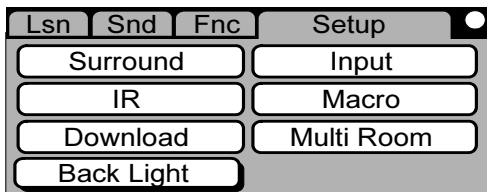
**The CLIP indicator on the receiver’s front panel flashes red continually, or stays red for more than 1 second at a time**

Lower the analog input level for the source component you’re listening to. (Setting the proper input level eliminates distortion that occurs if a source component’s output level is too high. When this happens, the front panel CLIP indicator will flash red continually or remain red for periods of 1 second or longer. Occasional brief flashing of the CLIP indicator is okay).

1. Select the icon for the source component. For CD1, Video2, Video3, and Video 4, also select the Input Analog icon.



2. Access the main menu and select the Setup tab:



3. Select Input.
4. Select Input Level. Every time you select the button the volume will cycle between 0dB, -3dB, -6dB and back to 0dB.
5. While the source component is playing, reduce the Input Level to -3dB. If the CLIP indicator still flashes frequently or remains lit for 1 second or longer, reduce the Input Level again to -6dB.
6. Select  or any input icon to return to the main screen.

### I can't access any RDS (Radio Data System) functions

- Make sure your receiver is a VR-2090 and that your PowerPad is set to Model 1; the VR-2080 does not support RDS. See "Selecting the Model Type" on page 31 of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- Confirm that the radio station is broadcasting RDS.

### I can't receive a radio station

Check that:

- The appropriate antenna is connected. See Chapter One of the *Connections and Setup Guide*.
- The broadcast band is correct. See "Tuner" on page 38 of this manual.
- The tuner is set to the correct frequency. See "Tuner" on page 38 of this manual.

### **I'm getting a lot of static/interference**

- Check whether the receiver or antenna is too close to a TV or other electrical appliance.
- Adjust the antenna for best reception.
- If you live in an area with weak FM signals, consider an amplified or rooftop FM antenna (available at any home electronics store).

### **When I press a key to tune to a preset station, the receiver does not respond**

Check whether:

- The receiver has been unplugged for more than three days. If it has, your settings were cleared from the receiver's memory. See "My receiver won't turn on and the STANDBY indicator is flashing" on page 69 of this manual.
- The Tuner input is selected. See "Tuner" on page 38 of this manual.

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