

# VCR COMMANDER™

MODEL UX23A



## OWNER'S MANUAL

PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

### INTRODUCTION

The VCR Commander works with your X10 cameras and wireless motion sensors to record video on your VCR. When your motion sensor is activated and turns on a camera, the VCR Commander automatically starts your VCR and records the action. Your VCR will stop recording after five minutes of inactivity from the motion sensor. The VCR Commander turns your X10 cameras into a comprehensive video surveillance system.

#### X10 Wireless Technology, Inc. Limited One Year Warranty

X10.com, a division of X10 Wireless Technology, Inc. (X10) warrants X10 products to be free from defective material and workmanship for a period of one (1) year from the original date of purchase at retail. X10 agrees to repair or replace, at its sole discretion, a defective X10 product if returned to X10 within the warranty period and with proof of purchase. If service is required under this warranty: Call 1-800-442-5065, visit [www.x10.com](http://www.x10.com), or e-mail [support@x10.com](mailto:support@x10.com).

For help or more information on setup, please visit: <http://www.x10.com/support>

X10.com, a division of X10 Wireless Technology, Inc.  
3824 North 5th St., Suite C,  
North Las Vegas, NV 89032.

UXC23A-2/03

2

### Before you start

Before you set up the VCR Commander make sure that your camera is set up and that you can record its picture on your VCR. If you have a wireless camera, the wireless video receiver's video output should be connected into a Video In jack on your VCR. If you have a wired camera, it will be connected directly into the Video In jack on your VCR. Check your VCR's manual for assistance.

### BASIC SETUP

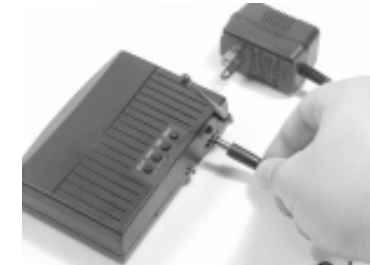
When you are setting up your VCR Commander, it's important that you have all of the parts you need ready. During the set up process, you'll need to follow the steps exactly as described, without waiting too long in between steps.

- 1 Make sure you have your VCR Commander, its power supply, its infrared emitter cable, a motion sensor, and your VCR's remote control handy.

**Important:** the VCR Commander will not learn commands if the IR emitter cable is plugged in.

### Basic Setup, cont.

- 2 Connect the power supply (model D9100) to the VCR Commander and plug it into a wall outlet.



- 3 Remove the battery cover from your Motion Sensor. Put two AAA batteries in the motion sensor.

### Basic Setup, cont.

- 4 Press and hold PLAY until the red light stays on.



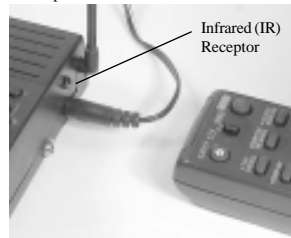
- 5 Press the HOUSE button on the motion sensor. The red light on the VCR Commander will go out. This motion sensor will now start your VCR Commander. Point the motion sensor away from where you are working and away from motion so that you can set up the rest of the system.



5

### Basic Setup, cont.

- 6 Position your VCR remote control about one inch away from the back of your VCR Commander, pointing at the infrared (IR) receptor.



- 7 Press and hold REC until the red light stays on. The VCR Commander is now in Learn Mode.



6

### Basic Setup, cont.

- 8 Press REC on the VCR Commander and release it. The red light blinks quickly and then stays on. Press the Record button on your remote and keep pressing until the red light on the VCR Commander briefly goes out and comes back on solid. This means that Record has been learned.



- 9 Press STOP on the VCR Commander and release it. The red light will blink quickly and then stay on. Press the Stop button on your remote and hold it down until the red light on the VCR Commander briefly goes out and comes back on. This means that Stop has been learned.

7

### Basic Setup, cont.

- 10 Plug the IR emitter cable into the back of the VCR Commander.



- 11 Remove the plastic from the adhesive backing from one of the infrared emitters and press it onto the VCR you are going to control. Attach the emitter cable near the spot on the VCR where you usually point your VCR remote control. See page 14 for more help with this.



8

## BASIC OPERATION

### Testing the System

Now that you have set up your VCR Commander, you are ready to test the system. Your VCR should be on and have the camera selected as its video source. Place the motion sensor in a location where you want it to detect motion. Leave that area and wait one minute for the motion sensor to settle. Walk past the motion sensor. The red light on the motion sensor will blink and activate the VCR Commander. The VCR Commander will tell your VCR to record. Leave the motion sensor's area. Your VCR will stop recording after five minutes.

### Using the VCR Commander

Once you've programmed and tested everything, using the VCR Commander is easy. When you want to use the VCR Commander, make sure that you turn your VCR on and change the video input so that it can record your camera. After that it's all automatic!

### Checking the VCR Commander Status

The red light on the top of the VCR Commander lets you know what the VCR Commander is doing:

- While the VCR Commander is waiting for motion, the red light blinks slowly, about every one and a half seconds.
- When motion is detected, the red light blinks quickly, about every half-second.
- While VCR Commander is recording, the red light blinks about every second.

9

## Troubleshooting

### VCR Commander Won't Learn VCR Commands

If you have trouble getting your VCR Commander to learn VCR commands, first make sure that the IR emitter is **not** connected while you are trying to learn. Put new batteries in your VCR remote control. You can also try changing the position of the VCR remote when learning. You may need to change the angle that you are pointing the remote, move it closer to the VCR Commander, or move it farther away.

After you've made some adjustments, follow the setup steps again. Timing is important, so don't wait too long between steps. If you wait too long between steps when programming, the VCR Commander will "time out" and you will need to start over.

If an error occurs while programming, the VCR Commander's beeps and its light will flash. Repeat the setup procedure.

### VCR Commander Won't Operate Your VCR

If your VCR Commander still won't start recording, you may need to change the IR Emitter's position on your VCR.

First, try to figure out where your VCR's IR receptor is. Usually it's under a translucent piece of plastic on the front of your VCR, so you might be able to see it through the front of the case. You can also block different parts of the front of the VCR with a book to see if the VCR remote works when that part is blocked. If the remote doesn't work when you block a particular part of the VCR, then it's likely that the IR receptor is there. Move the VCR Commander's IR emitter and attach it in that area.

13

## ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

### Clearing VCR Commands

Here's how to clear VCR commands from VCR Commander:

1. Press and hold the PWR button on the VCR Commander until the light stays on (if you have a VCR Commander 2 it will also beep).
2. Release the PWR button. The red light will flash for about 8 seconds and then the light will turn off. All VCR commands are now cleared from memory.

### Clearing the Motion Sensor Code

You can clear the motion sensor you programmed into the VCR Commander:

1. Press and hold the PLAY button on the VCR Commander until the red light stays on.
2. Release the PLAY button. The light will stay on.
3. Press PLAY again. The light will turn off and the motion sensor code will now be cleared from memory.

### Installing Batteries

After you have set up your VCR Commander, you can install four C cell alkaline batteries (not included) in the battery compartment on the bottom of the VCR Commander. Leave the VCR Commander connected to power when inserting the batteries, or your learned commands will be lost.

10

## Troubleshooting, cont.

### My VCR Turns Off When Motion Is Detected

Do not program the VCR Commander to send the VCR's On/Off (Power) command. Most VCRs turn on or off every time they receive this command. If you teach the VCR Commander the Power command, you can end up turning your VCR off instead of recording. Instead, make sure you leave your VCR turned on when you want to use the VCR Commander.

### VCR Commander Won't Learn Record

Some VCR remotes use a combination of buttons to send the Record command. For example, you may need to press Record twice to record. When learning, press the button(s) on your remote that you normally use to record.

### FCC Caution

THIS DEVICE COMPLIES WITH PART 15 OF THE FCC RULES. OPERATION IS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING TWO CONDITIONS:

- (1) THIS DEVICE MAY NOT CAUSE HARMFUL INTERFERENCE, AND
- (2) THIS DEVICE MUST ACCEPT ANY INTERFERENCE RECEIVED, INCLUDING INTERFERENCE THAT MAY CAUSE UNDESIRE OPERATION.

**NOTE:** Modifications to this product will void the user's authority to operate this equipment.

14

## Additional Options, cont.

### Programming Multiple Motion Sensors

The VCR Commander works with up to four X10 wireless motion sensors. To setup additional sensors, put batteries in them. Start by programming the first motion sensor:

1. Press and hold the UNIT button on the front of the sensor (inside the battery compartment) until the light on the motion sensor comes on solid.
2. Release the UNIT button. Then press it once and release it quickly.
3. Press UNIT again and hold it down. The light will go out after a second, and then flash twice after 2 seconds.

This motion sensor is now set up as Unit 2. Repeat these steps for each additional motion sensor you have, adding an additional press and release of the UNIT button each time, in step 2. You are now ready to program these motion sensors into the VCR Commander:

1. Press and hold PLAY on the VCR Commander until the red light stays on.
2. Press the HOUSE button on the motion sensor. The red light on the VCR Commander will go out. This motion sensor will now start your VCR Commander. Point the motion sensor away so it can't see motion. Repeat this process for all the motion sensors you are going to use.

11

## Additional Options, cont.

### Using Home and Away Modes

The default mode for the VCR Commander is the Away Mode. In Away Mode, your VCR Commander performs normally — recording on your VCR automatically when motion is detected and stopping after five minutes of inactivity.

The Home Mode of your VCR Commander is designed so that the activity in your home or business won't be recorded. In Home Mode, the VCR Commander does not tell your VCR to record when there's motion.

To put your VCR Commander in Home Mode, press and hold the STOP button. When you press the button initially, the VCR Commander will beep briefly. After you've held the button for about three seconds, the VCR Commander will make a long beep. It is now in Home Mode. To restore the VCR Commander to Away Mode, repeat the same steps.

12

## Accessories



### Ninja Pan 'n Tilt

Increase the viewable area of your camera by 400%. The standard XCcam2 records everything within a 60° x 60° field of view. But with the Ninja Robotic Mount, you get sweeping 240° x 130° views.

### Vanguard Pan/Tilt/Zoom

X10's premier video surveillance solution. Has superior image quality, a high powered zoom, and pan and tilt motion. You can operate the camera through walls using the supplied remote control.



### XRay Vision

Monitor your home from any city in the world! With XRay Vision Software you can monitor your home from any computer with an Internet connection. E-mail video snapshots to your personal account or view them on your own secure Web Site.



Visit [x10.com](http://x10.com) for more details.

15

## Home Control

X10 remote controls are your gateway to a world of useful control and automation solutions built by X10. Why enter a dark room when there is a simple and affordable solution that can keep you safe and secure? From a simple remote control that can turn on a lamp, to a full-blown automation system, X10 provides you with all the products you need. With the right components in your X10 system, you can have all of these powerful options at your control:

- Enhance the color, brightness and detail of your camera's subject by adding more light automatically.
- Give your home a secure appearance by scheduling when lights and other electronics turn on and off.
- Distribute audio and video to stereos and televisions using wireless technology.
- Turn on house lights while sitting in your car.
- Schedule sprinkler systems.
- Control your lights and electronic devices using your personal computer.

X10's control and automation products are easy to install and extremely affordable. Visit [X10.com](http://X10.com) today for more information on the latest products to build and enhance and your X10 system.



16