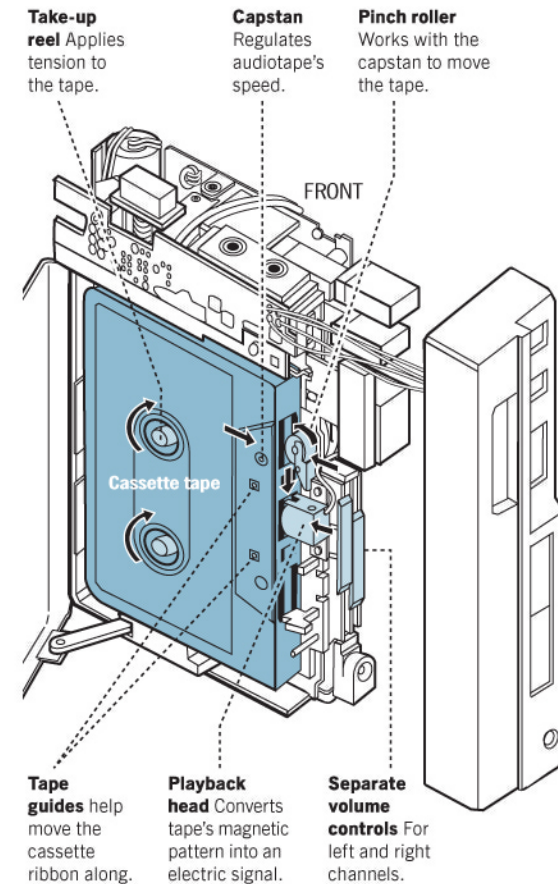
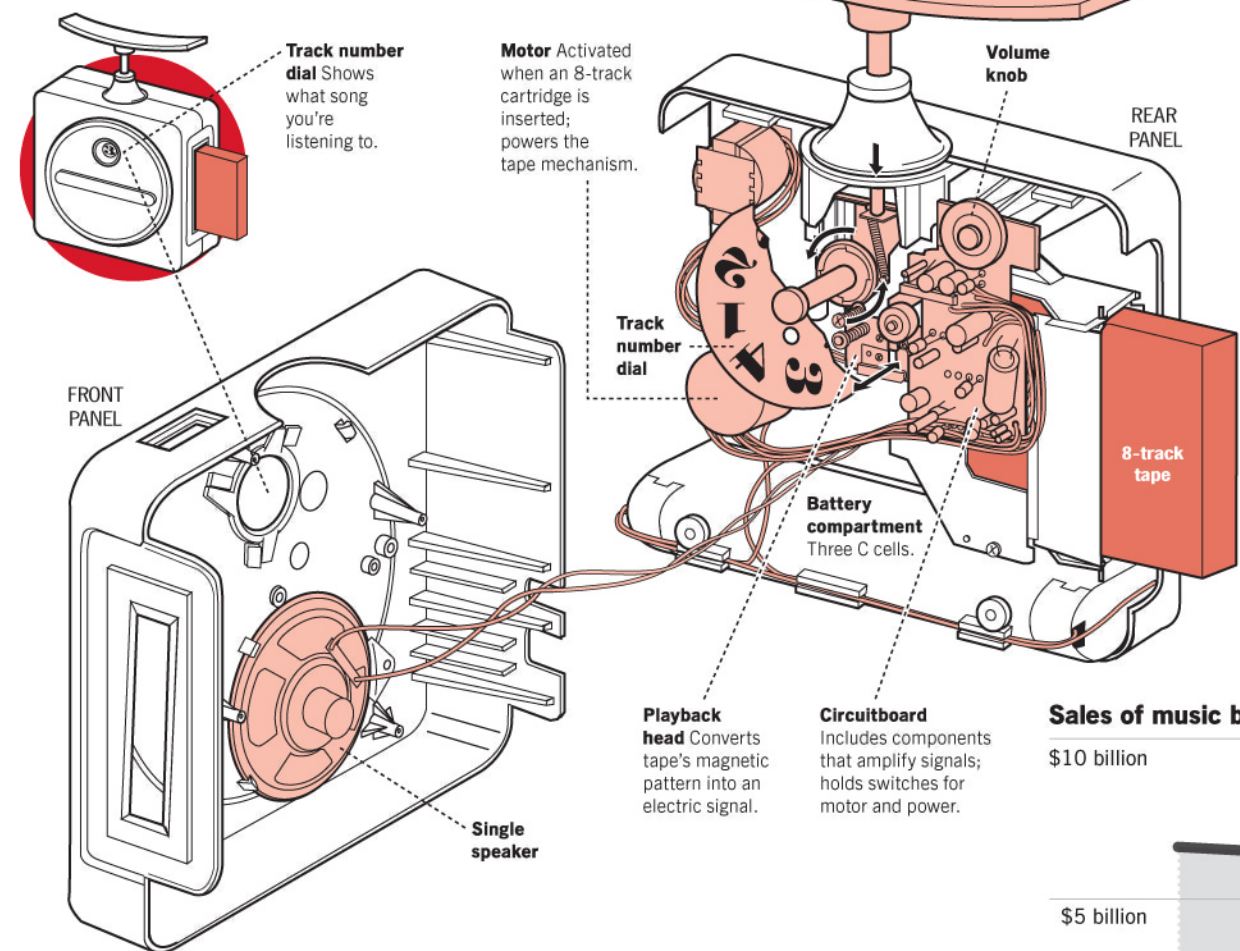
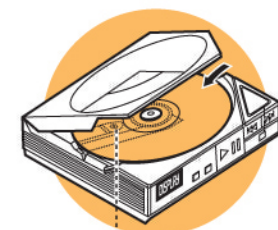
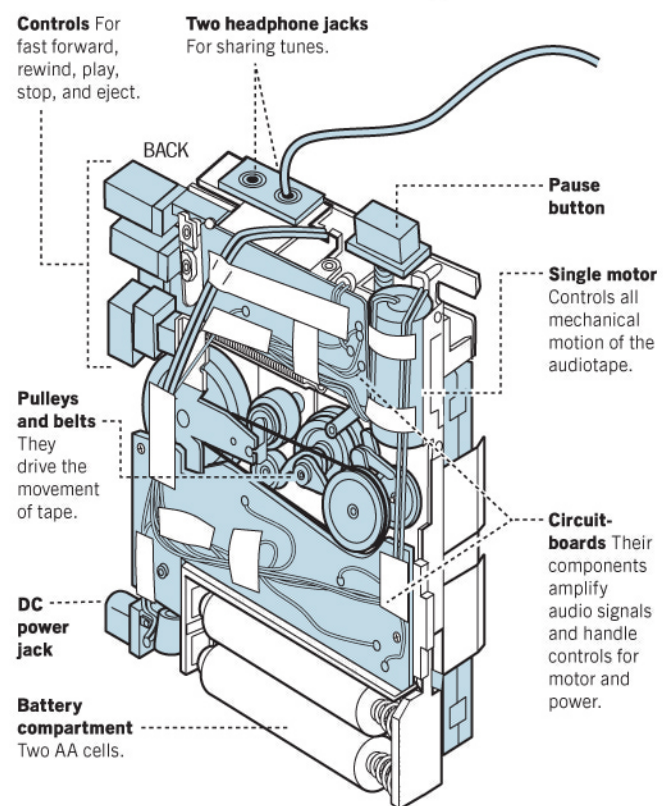


—FORTUNE graphic by Hiram Henriquez and John Tomanio;
research by Doris Burke and Daniel Kumin

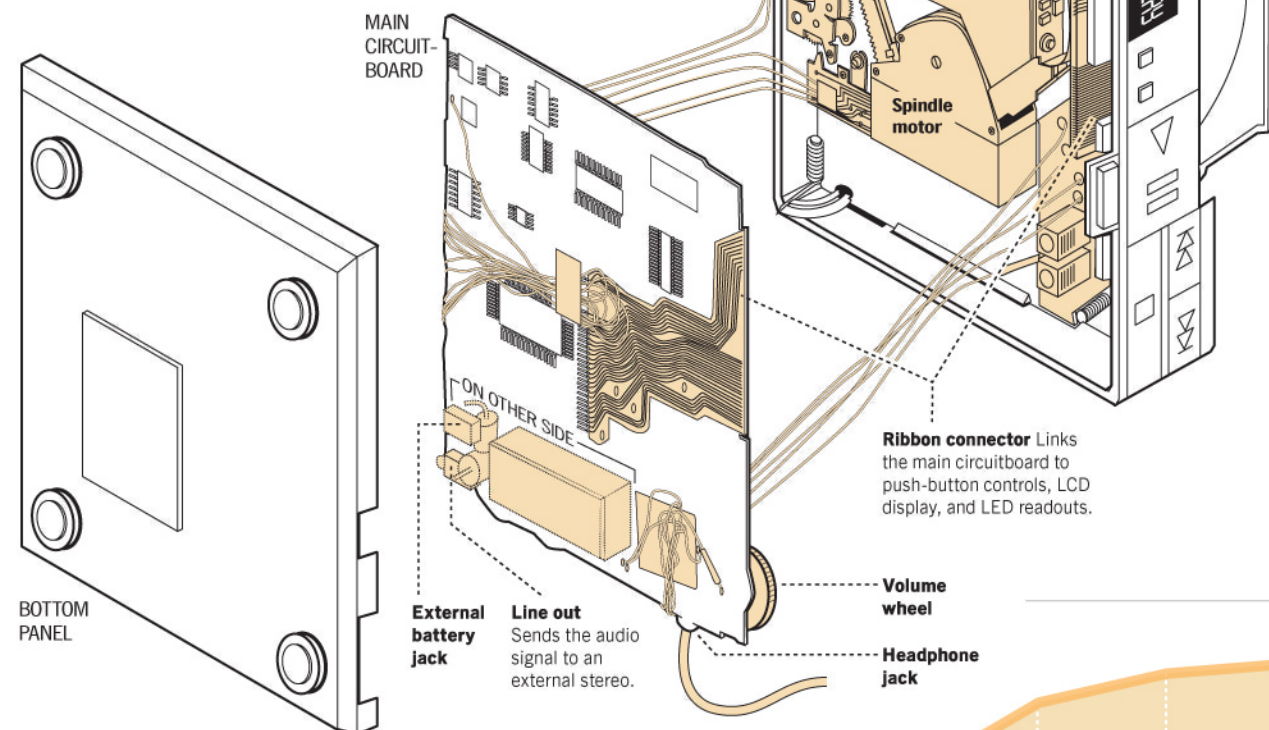
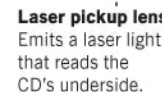
1972 Designed to look like a detonator, it's the most collectible portable 8-track player of the 1970s.



1979 *The first mass-market player, and Sony's biggest hit since the Trinitron.*



1984 *CDs are everywhere!*
Portable music makes the leap from analog to digital.



2007 The heralded device is the first to combine a music player, phone, and computer.

