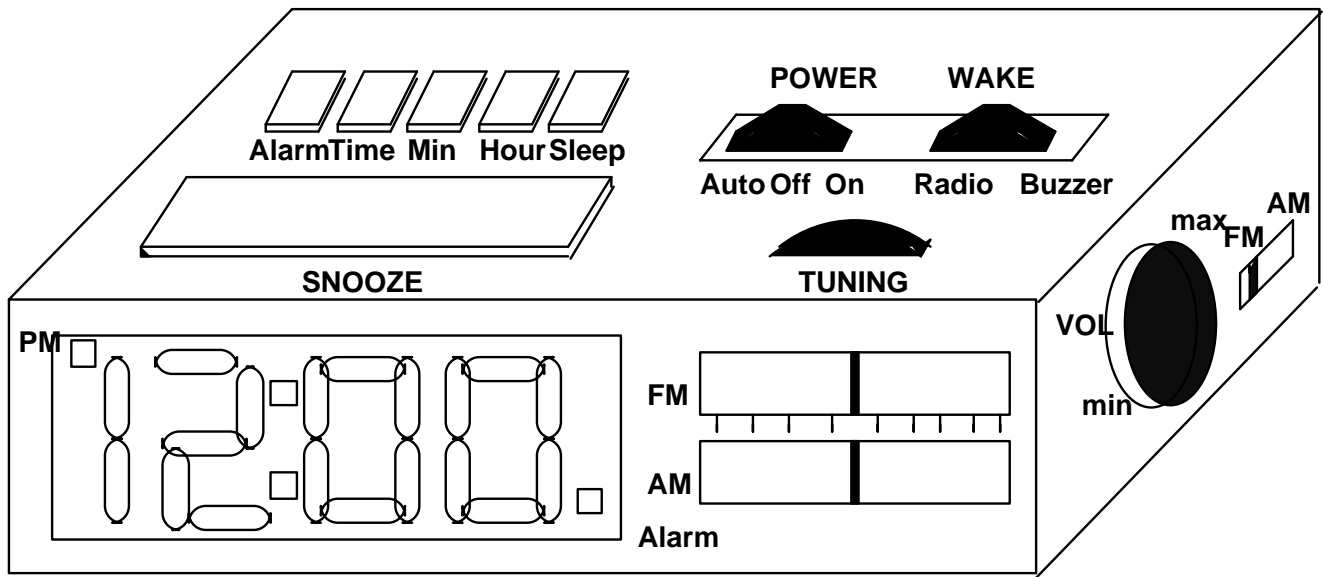


Product Evaluation for Cosmos Clock Radio



Description

The "Cosmo AM/FM clock radio" has alarm, radio alarm, radio, automatic radio turn-off, and snooze modes of operation. Time is displayed digitally using LEDs with PM indicated by an illuminated dot. The lower dot is illuminated when the device is in an alarm mode. The five buttons at the top are labeled 'alarm', 'time', 'hour', 'min', 'sleep'. The displayed time or the time associated with 'alarm' or 'sleep' functions are set by simultaneously depressing the button for the function to be set and advancing the displayed time to the desired hour using the 'hour' button and the desired minute using the 'minute' button. The snooze bar which silences the alarm for 5 minutes is located in front of these buttons. The slide switch on the left is labeled 'power:' 'auto', 'off', 'on'. The slide switch on the right is labeled 'wake:' 'radio', 'buzzer'. Tuning is accomplished using a thumb wheel. Volume and "AM/FM" switch are on the right side of the case.

Difficulties in Using

1) I have had difficulties in setting the time and the alarm. There are 5 buttons to choose from (10 combinations of 2) only 1 of which is appropriate at any one time. I often set the alarm with the lights out. The alarm button is easy to find because I remember that it is at the far left. The hour and minute buttons are hard for me to remember because they are embedded in the middle of the row. I always just push buttons until I get the hours or minutes to change. I often go past the setting I want and have to cycle all the way back through. I always set the time with the lights on to make sure I'm setting the right function. Once I tried to set the alarm and reset the time instead. My most frequent error is forgetting what the dots mean because I cannot

read the labels in the dark. On several occasions I have set the alarm to a PM time instead of the AM time I want to get up. My reasoning is that the dot should come on for AM the same way the dot comes on for the alarm because that's the time people usually want to set an alarm to get up (to set the clock correctly I should turn on all its dots)

2) I always make errors with the slide switch when I try to turn the alarm off. It is much easier to overshoot and turn the radio on than it is to stop the switch in the center. Sometimes I cycle several times between the radio and the alarm before I can get it turned off. If I hit the snooze bar which is an easy way of silencing it, it will sometimes come back on after I thought I had turned it off because the detents aren't strong and it is difficult to tell when it has "snapped" into the center position.

3) I have never used the sleep feature and would rather have fewer buttons to deal with for setting the alarm and time or at least have the hour and minute buttons at the extreme right.

4) The easiest and most distinct control is the AM/FM switch on the side which I rarely use.

Good Features

1) The snooze bar is difficult to confuse with any of the other controls and is very easy to operate

2) The alarm button which is the most frequently used 'set' control is easy to locate at the extreme left of the 5 buttons.