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1 VHS Camcorder Teardown

I obtained an RCA Super VHS camcorder for free on craigslist. These old VHS camcorders are commonly available on ebay, for \$30-40, at the moment. It was designed by a firm in Indianapolis, made in Japan and uses primarily hitachi parts.

1.1 Work Log

The camcorder is a work of art, but it's also sad. The complexity, and amount of work put in to this device, by the engineers who made it, followed by the assemblers who had to deal with the myriad boards... It's a mess. Within ten years of this camera being designed, it was obsolete. Was it worth it? Some people worked very hard to make a camcorder that become obsolete with the smaller mini DV cameras. I wouldn't have wanted that job.

1.2 What's inside

In this particular camcorder we get the following parts:

- Various motors for focus, zoom, shutter open / close
- Camera Lens Assembly and Image sensor
- Small image tube
- 14V NiCd charger (takes in 120V)
- various hardware, some inductors, and junk boards, gears, springs, etc...