

Reel to Reel Tape Handling and Storage

All analog tapes should be stored *tail out*. This allows for 1.) a better wind for storage and 2.) allows for a post echo print-through rather than a pre-echo print-through.

2.0 mm half track stereo is the recording industry's standard for stereo recordings on 1/4 inch analog audio tape.

Magnetic tapes should be stored vertically in a dust free environment, away from magnetic fields and in an environment that is 60 to 80 degrees F. with humidity between 50 and 70%.

The most common physical tape damage is 1.) edge damage from an uneven wind (scattered wind) and/or 2.) tape cinching (caused by poor tape tension, misalignment of the tape path on the tape deck and/or the use of a warped take-up reel during the winding process).

When handling audio tapes your hands must be clean and free of body oils, as dirt, grease, body oil and other contaminants will cause a chemical reaction with the oxide resulting in an audible degradation of the recorded audio signal. A reel of tape should be handled at the HUB and *not by the flanges*.

If you must handle tape (light to significant amounts of editing), it is advised that you clean your hands with 70% Isopropyl alcohol.