

OPEN REEL TAPES (NAB CENTRE)

About (NAB) Open Reel

Open Reel tapes with a NAB centre usually originate from a professional recording situation. This type of reel is found on ¼", ½", 1" and 2" wide tape, the latter three being almost without exception multi-track recordings. The master tape is normally the one we would be dealing with and is most commonly ¼" 2 track format which plays in one direction only. Obviously the recording speed can still be anything from 1⅞ ips upwards, but for the best quality, this is typically 7½ or 15 inches per second.

We have various machines capable of playing the ¼" NAB tapes, both 2 and 4 track at any of the standard speeds.

Transfer of audio

Your tape is assessed for it's format, played on a suitable deck and recorded into a computer programme. Next the file is processed, including optimising the levels to provide the best playback volume and (where appropriate) inserting markers to allow searching for specific tracks. When this is complete, the programme is 'burnt' to a disc and a simple text label printed and fitted. Finally, the CD is tested for correct operation and supplied with a library case.

It should be noted that a recordable CD can hold an absolute maximum of 80 minutes, so longer running times will require more than one CD.

There is an issue with SOME old open reel tapes (typically originating from the 1980's and 90's), called '*sticky shed syndrome*'. This means that the tape needs to be 'baked' for several hours in order to stabilize the oxide adhesive and (usually) make it playable for long enough to copy.

Please ring us on **01329 238522** for further details.