

OPEN REEL TAPES

About Open Reel

Open Reel (reel to reel) tapes come in many different sizes, formats and recorded speeds. Reels range from 3" to 10½" in diameter and can contain up to 3,600 feet of ¼" wide tape.

It is almost impossible to guess just by looking at it, how long an open reel tape will play for. It could have been recorded at a speed of 1⅞, 3¾, 7½, or 15 inches per second, 2 or 4 track, mono or stereo. There were also 'long play', 'double play' and 'triple play' tapes where thickness was reduced to allow extra length.

To illustrate the point, a 'standard play' 7" reel containing 1200 feet of tape, recorded as 2 track stereo at 15 ips, would play for around 16 minutes, whereas the same reel filled with 'triple play' tape and recorded as 4 mono tracks at 1⅞ ips, would last for almost 13 hours!

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 called '*sticky shed syndrome*'. This means that the tape needs to be 'baked' for several hours in order to stabilize the oxide adhesive and make it playable. IF this is necessary, we can undertake the procedure for a small extra charge.

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