

405X, 4923, 4924, 4081 TAPE DRIVE MAINTENANCE

In order to insure reliable operation of Tape Drives (especially compatibility between products) in the field, a few procedures should be followed:

1. Calibration - The importance of proper Tape Drive calibration cannot be overemphasized. All Tape Drives MUST be fully calibrated, on installation, when a drive is repaired, and when a defective drive is exchanged with a replacement drive. Tape Drive calibration should be routinely checked whenever the equipment is being serviced for other than Tape Drive problems. Tape Drives should only be exchanged when defective; a drive requiring an alignment and head cleaning is not considered defective.
2. Calibration Tape Handling - It is essential that the calibration tape be handled with care. It should be wrapped in foam for protection against vibration and shock. Prior to use, it should be allowed to adjust to ambient temperature and be "restacked" by cycling it in the Tape Drive. Occasionally your calibration tape should be compared to an office "standard" calibration tape. A new alignment tape (P/N 067-0781-02) has been set up. Changes are mechanical to the package to improve reliability. It is suggested these new tapes be used instead of the old style.
3. Cleaning - The Read/Write heads should be periodically cleaned with isopropol alcohol. This is a must to avoid buildup of contaminants which can cause Read/Write errors.
4. Media - If other than Tektronix tapes are being used, insure they are certified media. Tapes should also be "restacked" before initial use, and then from time to time, to insure correct tape alignment and tension within the cartridge. The method to perform this restacking on a 4051 has been documented in Tekniques Vol. 1 #7 and Vol. 2 #5.
5. Test Equipment - Recommended test equipment should be used when performing a tape alignment. Insure, also, that the test equipment is properly calibrated; this is especially necessary for accurate tape speed adjustment.
6. Tape Alignment Kit - A tape alignment kit (P/N 006-3396-00) has been set up which includes an alignment tape, a manual and a small test fixture. The alignment tape has some physical changes in the mechanical package to provide better reliability. The test fixture will allow easier and more accurate head skew and height alignments. The manual (070-3385-00) describes procedures for alignment of 405X, 4081, 4923, 4924 tape drives.

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