Subject: Re: Dumb question
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 01 Nov 2010 21:14:21 GMT
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What's "breaking down?" Unless they're exposed to heat or magnetic fields, they should last a long, long time. I mean, I don't consider them to be impervious - they're particularly vulnerable to heat and magnetic fields, and frictional loss will wear out a tape after lots of plays. But if stored where they aren't exposed to heat and magnetism, they'll generally outlast us. I have dozens of 30 year-old casette tapes that are in great shape, and sound just like they did in 1980. Some of them have been played probably 30 to 50 times, maybe more.

All that said, you can always play those precious tapes "one last time" to transfer them to sound files on your computer. Then put them on a CD and store the source tapes in a safe place.