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Subject: 36 year old technology

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Thu, 20 Dec 2012 01:43:59 GMT

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Hi everyone, Possibly this one should go down in the dungeon, but it does relate to a "source". I had an interesting experience with some "old tech" gear today. I was reorganizing a closet and ran across a whole box of cassette tapes. Roughly 75 of them. One caught my attention and I wanted to hear it. OK, how am I going to do that. Out to the shed and bring in my 36 year old recorder. A high end unit from back then. Harman Kardon HK391. Made back when they were a first rate company. Complete with a hand signed copy of its performance charts. For those unfamiliar with it (likely nearly all of you) it was one of a very few that could deliver excellent performance. Not up to a high end reel to reel, but still a huge way above the average. 30HZ to 22K +/- 1 db at "0" level. All the bells and whistles, Dual capstans, Dolby B, C and HX Pro, LN, Chrome and Metal tape capability and had provisions to fine tune each to the tape you were using. Anyhow, I dusted it off, cleaned the heads and stuck in a tape. Behold it worked fine. I played a few 30-40 year old tapes and they were fairly good. When I made a new one with a chrome tape and dolby c. That is when the surprise occurred. It was really quite good. S/N at least as good as an LP and no audible artifacts (distortion, frequency anomalies and such). All in all a refreshing trip down audio memory lane.

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