Subject: Safe to play?
Posted by Leot55 on Fri, 01 Apr 2022 23:08:34 GMT
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Interesting situation here - my father found some old cassettes that he believes contain words of wisdom from the guys he served with in the military. He got married before being shipped to Vietnam, and the guys at basic recorded some advice for him. The problem is that the tapes look like they're in pretty bad shape. They're old and grimy. My question is, do I take the chance of playing them, or is it better to ship them to a professional who can determine whether they need converted instead. I'm tempted to give it a try, but I'd hate to wreck the tapes.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Madison on Sat, 02 Apr 2022 01:14:12 GMT
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From what you've shared, it looks like you have more than one tape. I think you should try to play one of them. If it works, great. If not, then you can send the mangled tape off with the others to see if the recordings can be salvaged. Play it loud enough that you can record it digitally at the same time. There's probably a machine that will do that for you, but I've never run across one.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Leot55 on Sun, 03 Apr 2022 00:14:37 GMT
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We've played the first tape. Some of it comes through, but it cuts out here and there. No big deal. It plays enough to get the gist of it. How cool that Dad found these tapes! We're having a blast playing them. They are grimy as can be. I'm surprised they play at all.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Madison on Sun, 03 Apr 2022 14:42:26 GMT
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I'm glad to hear that it worked out. I've sent some old reels off to have them turned into a modern format, and the quality was very hit-or-miss. Plus, it cost a fortune. It all depends on the quality of the source material, so it's probably not worth sending off a junked up tape. The pros are good, but they can't do magic.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by The Noise on Sun, 03 Apr 2022 23:15:47 GMT
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I'm glad they're working for you. You do know that you should probably clean the player after each

use, right? Under normal circumstances that isn't necessary, but these aren't normal circumstances.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Kingfish on Tue, 05 Apr 2022 03:12:36 GMT
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That is a really cool story, I'm glad things have worked out well so far. I ran across some old cassettes years ago in the upstairs of a historic building, but they weren't saveable I'm afraid.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Nouri on Tue, 05 Apr 2022 13:59:34 GMT
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Leot55 wrote on Fri, 01 April 2022 18:08Interesting situation here - my father found some old cassettes that he believes contain words of wisdom from the guys he served with in the military. If those are of at least halfway decent quality, you may have more than just personal memorabilia (not to downplay that).

Outlets like The History Channel would be interested in those. And by all means, they wouldn't be given away if you catch my drift.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Miami on Wed, 06 Apr 2022 04:28:39 GMT
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I would find a way to digitize them as soon as possible. They may work now, but I don't think they have much life left.

At the very least, take dictations.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Kingfish on Wed, 06 Apr 2022 04:32:46 GMT
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Miami wrote on Tue, 05 April 2022 23:28

At the very least, take dictations.

That's actually a sound idea. (Excuse the play on words).

It would be a shame if those messages were lost. It's all a part of history.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Curry on Sat, 09 Jul 2022 17:25:38 GMT
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That is equally interesting to me. My father used to be a circuit preacher, and I recall some old tapes of his sermons together with other good but oldies country songs by Skeeter Davis and Dolly Parton that I have been trying to save. I would appreciate having them converted and listening to those rare sweet voices again.

Subject: Re: Safe to play?
Posted by Kingfish on Thu, 30 Mar 2023 00:03:39 GMT
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You know, it's been many years, but I remember stores selling cassettes that were cassette player cleaners. Head cleaners. I'm sure you can still find them somewhere, but that would be perfect for cases like this one.