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Subject: Tascam 80-8 problem

Posted by [Claude R. LeMasters](#) on Wed, 31 May 2006 13:04:01 GMT

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I have a Tascam 80-8 1/2" deck, that I bought used in 1993. It's been used off and on, but lately I've switched back to it as I like the sound better than digital. I have a few newer Quantegy 456 tapes that work with no problem at all. However, I recently tried to use some of the old tapes that came with the deck, and the deck does not want to rewind or fast forward these tapes. It seems to play them ok. The reels are the same size and filled to the same capacity as the new tapes. I noticed a lot of deposit on the rollers from the old tapes and keep them clean. I know that these tapes were used in the past on a 16-track deck, and my only thought is that maybe that deck would tape tighter on the reels, but that's probably wrong. I don't want to damage the motors, but if I can get these tapes to work, it would be cheaper than buying more new tape. The tapes and the deck have always been kept in an air-conditioned room, and the old tapes appear to be in excellent condition. Does anyone have any idea what is causing the problem? Thanks, Claude

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Subject: Re: Tascam 80-8 problem

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 31 May 2006 14:08:48 GMT

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I'll bet the clutches are slipping. You might want to check them and see, clean first and if that doesn't work, replace 'em or shim them with thicker tensioning spacers.

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Subject: Re: Tascam 80-8 problem

Posted by [Claude R. LeMasters](#) on Wed, 31 May 2006 15:11:02 GMT

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Thanks. I also found an article about 70's and 80's Ampex 456 tape that talked about a problem with the composition that causes it to absorb moisture over time, which makes it sticky. I'm not qualified to start doing maintenance on the deck, so as long as it works with the newer tape, I'll probably leave it as it is. If I have to take it to the shop, I'll pass on your message to the tech. Thanks for your help.

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