

# 1977 - 1982 Corvette: Service Bulletin: Care and Maintenance of Tape Players and Cartridges

**Subject:** Care and Maintenance of Tape Players and Cartridges

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CHEVROLET MOTOR DIVISION  
General Motors Corporation  
Product and Safety Activities Dept.



## Chevrolet Dealer Service Information Bulletin

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Subject: CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF  
TAPE PLAYERS AND CARTRIDGES

Attn: Service Manager

TO: ALL CHEVROLET DEALERS

This bulletin is being issued to promote better understanding in the care and maintenance of tape players by technicians and owners.

### CARTRIDGE MECHANICS

Eight track tapes are one of the most intriguing inventions of the last quarter century. Did you ever wonder how they work? Below you'll find a pictorial as well as a work description of the tape drive mechanism for most 8-track tapes. In addition, you'll see why it is important to purchase high quality tapes to safeguard the player.

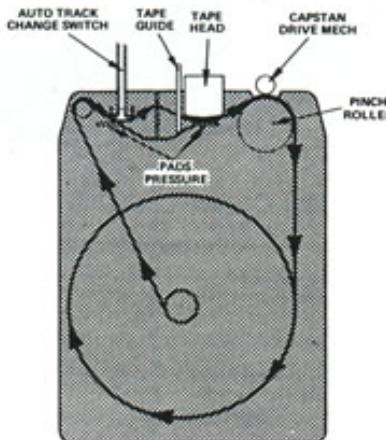


FIGURE 1

As shown in Figure 1, the 8-track cartridge consists of a continuous loop of tape. The tape is constantly being pulled from the middle of the reel and taken up on the outside.

When the metal foil splice passes by the AUTO-TRACK CHANGE switch, the selection is automatically changed. For example: if program 1 was being played, the head will "step down" to program 2.

From this discussion, you can see the real need for protecting the exposed tape surface at all times. Any dirt, liquid, extreme heat or cold that tapes are exposed to will eventually result in a loss of natural lubrication and a buildup of impurities in the cartridge.

#### CROSSTALK

Crosstalk is defined as the undesirable pick-up of tracks other than those being played, caused by poor head height adjustment or use of old or poor quality tapes.

The tape industry agreed long ago on the exact location and width of each track, the guard band between each track, and the reference from the bottom of the tape to the first track (see Figure 2).

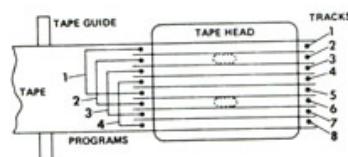


FIGURE 2

Delco's tape players are equipped with a tape guide (see Figure 2) that functions to provide an original reference point according to tape manufacturer's specifications. Some tapes are not given the recording care that high quality tapes must undergo. If you have some tapes that exhibit crosstalk while other known good tapes play fine, the fault does not lie within the tape player.

#### PLAYER CARE

Residue buildup from the constant contact of tape to capstan and head is unavoidable. The owner is responsible for regular maintenance of his player.

Clean the tape head and capstan after every 100 hours of use with a cotton swab and rubbing alcohol (see Figure 3). To clean all areas of the capstan, energize the player on-off lever by inserting a 7/8" thick by 7/8" wide by 6" long stick. Several tape head and capstan cleaning tapes are available. Be sure that you use a non-abrasive device.

Never force tapes into the player. The tape stripper device can be damaged, allowing tape to wrap around capstan.

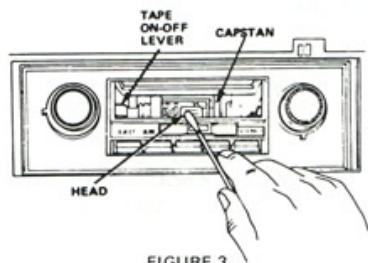


FIGURE 3

#### CARTRIDGE CARE

Unless the tape is being played, never leave it in the player. The cartridge rubber pinch roller will remain against the capstan (tape movement mechanism) and take a "set". The next time that the unit is turned on, tape may spew into the machine due to the indentation in the pinch roller.

Direct sunlight, dust, extreme heat, or cold will prematurely age expensive tapes due to drying out the lubricant or stretching the tape.

- Always store tapes in the original protective slip case in a cool, clean and dry place.
- Never touch the tape nor attempt to open the cartridge.
- Life expectancy of most good tapes is 100 hours.
- Never use spliced tapes.

#### BEFORE OPERATION

A good habit before inserting a tape is to inspect the tape, viewable in the end of the cartridge. Any tape with imperfections (sticky substances, dirt, tears or other obvious faults) should not be used (see Figure 4).

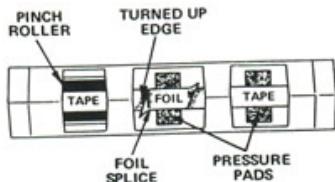


FIGURE 4

A new tape may have an excess of adhesive at the splice or the splice may be poor. If this adhesive is deposited on the capstan at initial insertion, tape may spew into the machine or wrap around the capstan. Tape cartridge manufacturers are responsible for this type of failure. Obtain warranty by returning the defective tape in its original slip case to the manufacturer.

NOTE: Addresses are given on all reputable brand tapes. Old tapes may also spew out. Using poor quality tapes can result in tape wrapped around the capstan, loss of tape with no guarantee of replacement, and a repair bill to remove the tape and clean the player.

#### TO OPERATE

Fully insert tape cartridge (label side up and open end forward) through the swing-away radio dial. DO NOT FORCE TAPE.

The radio switches automatically to tape as you insert the cartridge. Without further control operation, the unit plays continuously through all four programs in the cartridge until ejected.

To change selections on the tape program depress the PROGRAM pushbutton.

Always EJECT a tape before either turning off car or radio. EJECT tape by pulling on volume control knob or depressing EJECT or REMOVE pushbutton (if auto-eject exists, otherwise simply pull cartridge from player).

There normally are four causes for damaged tapes - none of which is caused by the machine or the dealership.

1. Defective Tape Cartridge.
2. Cartridge left engaged in player.
3. Old or abused cartridge.
4. Lack of proper maintenance of player.

Online URL:

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