

# Schober Organ Notes No. 81

## OVERTURE

*Disclaimer: We accept no responsibility for any unfavorable consequences resulting from following our advice*

### OVERTURE

I hope that you all had a great summer. I am still in Vermont because of matters and problems that I have to take care of here, so unfortunately I again have to postpone publishing the photos of the Reverbatape conversions to an endless loop made from an eight track tape cartridge. Warren Jones who made one of the conversions kindly sent me a second set of photos one of which was supposed to share a page with a photo of my conversion. Unfortunately some of my material is here, some in NY and I want to publish both photos on one page since color copies are costly, consequently the delay. I also have to postpone the article about Jim Ramsey. I want to run it past Laura Ramsey, and again because my materials are kept at two different places, I cannot find her new address. Does anyone have it? Her address used to be in New Jersey, now it's in Connecticut, but I don't have it here. If anyone has it, please let me know what it is.

Because of matters that I have to address here, this issue will again be a little late. In the future I will try to get Organ Notes into the mail in a more timely manner. You should know that any delay is strictly my responsibility. If you have any questions about when ON will be sent out please contact me. Again I also want to ask you to contact me if I don't get back to you on any question or request. The reason is that I tend to lose notes or forget things because of the two locations that I operate from.

### SASE'S AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

When you send me SASE's, please don't forget to put the stamps on the envelope and also send three extra stamps (for copying costs). If you forget either the three extra stamps, or if you forget to stamp the SASE's, I will let you know in a note with your next copy of Organ Notes. I won't send a separate letter as it does not pay to use one stamp to ask for three. I also want to mention that I will get your mail whether it is mailed to my NY or VT address, however depending on where I am, it might take several weeks for mail to reach me. If writing SASE's is a problem, you can just send me a check (the amount is on your "SASE's DUE NOTICE").

### REVERBATAPE LOOPS

When Schober changed from an long endless loop cartridge to the 19" loop, they said in their literature that this loop was made of special tape and that the "splice" was welded. Here is what they said: It's from 24RVSM3 (1968) and 24RVSM3 (1965), THE SCHOBBER REVERBATAPE UNIT RV-3 SERVICE MANUAL. In part ". . . The Schober Tape Loop TL-3 is made of a very special tape on which the magnetic oxide is held in an exceptionally strong binder. The wearing away of the oxide during the life of the tape is a very slow process, and when it does come off it "dusts" instead of forming a "gunk". This prevents lost oxide from clogging the heads and gumming up other parts of the machine. The oxide dust will stay on areas of the upper faces of the magnetic heads that the tape does not contact. However, unless there is an enormous buildup of oxide, none will remain where the tape actually touches the head face at the gap or working area.

"The tape loops are treated with a special lubricant for long life. This treatment may give some areas on the tape an oily appearance. This is normal. The treatment is not oil. Do not try to wipe it off.

"The splice in the tape is made by a special "welding" process which, unlike splicing tape, does not increase the thickness of the tape at the splice point and will not gradually pull apart or "cold flow" due to the constant tension on the tape. The tape is smooth and not stiffened at the splice point, so that it flows through the machine as though it were made as one continuous loop. (To our knowledge, no tape manufacturer is actually able to make an endless loop. ) The oxide at the splice point is smooth and continuous, minimizing the possibility of a "dropout" every time the splice passes over the magnetic heads. . .

"I was trying to find out what tape they used and also how to weld it. Since our member Warren Jones has done such a great job with the making of air bags for the Theatre Schober "puff of air" presets, I thought I would ask him. His reply was that he did not know Schober had "welded" the loops and that the loops he purchased in 1973 were spliced in the standard way (with splicing tape).

From correspondence between Walter E. Arnoldi and Schober in 1968 I found that Walter had complained about the weld in some of his TL-3 tape loops which had failed after only a few hours of service, whereas those where the weld did not fail, lasted for over 700 hours. In correspondence of 1970 I see that Walter was sent TL-3S loops (standard splice, no longer welded). These were supposed to be changed every 100 hours. They were "sandwich" type tape and supposed to eliminate wear to the tape heads. Walter found that three out of five of these new loops were poor in that they left something (invisible) on the heads immediately which severely decreased output of the Reverbatape. Schober could not explain the problem. Walter tested more loops and Schober seems to have fixed the problem. It seems that Schober gave up on the weld and the long life tape and switched to a "sandwich" tape where the oxide is coated with a thin coat of plastic so as to avoid the oxide from wearing down the head. The disadvantage is that the plastic wears off and the tape has to be replaced more often. I would guess that the first batch of the new loops that Walter got had a problem with the coating. Today's audio tape is of the sandwich type, so making loops from standard tape of today seems to be OK.

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