

How to Make Reverbatape Tape Loops

by Bob Borgeson

I have found that regular cassette tape is far too narrow to use on the Reverbatape unit, so after a bit of hunting found that the eight track tapes that used to be so popular, are the perfect width for use in the unit. You can purchase a tape cartridge at an Audio Store and pay full price, or do as I did, found some in a "Thrift" or resale store and paid fifty cents for the whole thing. It doesn't matter what was recorded on it previously as it will be erased by the unit the first time it goes across the heads. No lubricant is needed for these tapes. There is enough tape in a cartridge for at least 40-50 tape loops.

HOW I MAKE TAPE LOOPS

Pull out enough tape from the cartridge to have at least 21 - 23 inches and cut it off. You will need a smooth board or other hard surface that can stand some cut marks. You will also need a roll of Scotch Brand tape, a ruler, and a razor blade or sharp utility knife.

Make a loop and align the ends with about 1 1/2" - 2" overlap. Use 2 pieces of scotch tape to hold the recording tape to the board about 1" from the overlap. Make finger loops on the scotch tapes that will stay free so you can easily remove the tape later.

IMPORTANT ---- Measure loop carefully so that it is 18 1/2" - 19" long after being cut. Make cut through both overlapping tapes at once at a minimum 45 degree angle. This will eliminate thumping sound as tape passes over heads.

While tape is still held in position put the cut butt ends together (do not overlap). Use a piece of Scotch tape about 1 1/2" long place it over the butted ends. Be sure you put the Scotch tape on the recording tape on the side away from the recording side. Press down firmly for good adhesion. Then use your razor blade or knife and cut the Scotch tape as closely as possible along the recording tape.

Then take the completed tape off the board using the finger loops. Do this slowly and carefully. Also remove the hold down tapes from your completed Reverbatape. -- "Voila" you should have a tape good for quite a few hours of playing time.

Note from Pete Stark: The glue on regular tape has a tendency to ooze with time; this can glop up the tape heads and cause problems. If possible, try to get splicing tape from Radio Shack or an electronics / audio store, and use that instead.