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MAGNETIC RECORDERS

SERVICE BULLETIN

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1. Tape Slippage. Various users have reported that the tape slows down near the end of the program. This occurs if the capstan idler pressure is not great enough, and of course becomes worse at the end of the reel where the hold-back tension is highest. The condition is further exaggerated if a small RTLA type reel is used in which case the hold-back tension is even higher.

Effective capstan idler driving force is reduced as the capstan idler gradually picks up the lubrication with which Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company type 111 tape is treated. (This lubrication is quite important, as it reduces flutter and head wear, permits more uniform head contact and therefore less high frequency amplitude variation, and any tendency for the tape to "squeak". This "squeaking" sometimes occurs at the 7.5" speed when using the small reels and is very objectionable.) For this reason, the capstan idler should be cleaned with ethyl alcohol at least once each week. Also, great care must be taken to see that oil from the capstan does not reach the capstan idler. Not only will this contribute to slippage, but oil will ruin the capstan idler tire. Follow the instructions in Service Bulletin #8 to prevent oil leakage.

To test for proper capstan idler pressure, hold the tape while the machine is running in the Play position. The idler pressure should be sufficient to just deform the tape. The pressure can be increased as described in the instruction book. Care must be taken to avoid overloading the capstan idler solenoid if audible hum is to be avoided. Such hum has no effect on the performance of the recorder.