

VIDEO TOOLS AND TIPS

TECHNIQUES FOR MAKING CLEAN EDITS

There are several different approaches currently popular for making precise, clean edits with half-inch and one-inch helical scan videotape equipment. In each method it is necessary to roll back the tape on both the playback and record decks an equal amount from the point where you choose to make your edit so that when both machines are started simultaneously the record deck has sufficient time to synchronize with the control track of the playback deck before the selected edit point is reached. It takes a few seconds for the record deck to match its speed exactly to the playback deck, and capstan servo editing depends on 1) identical speeds, and 2) control track pulse synchronization. Both tapes must be rolling for at least eight seconds in order to lock up properly.

The following methods are examples for achieving accurate manual backspacing:

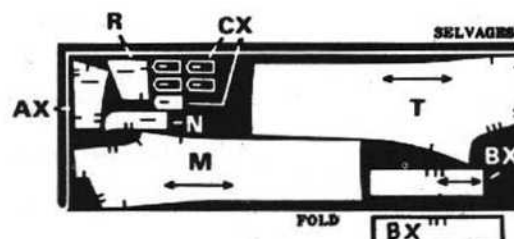
(Contact Videographe, 1604 Saint Denis, Montreal, 129, Quebec, Canada, for information on their *automatic* backspacing device. Also, look forward to another editing aid which Morty Schiff of Woodstock Community Video is devising by building a control track counter which can count an equal number of control track pulses on both record and playback decks in forward and reverse modes.)

«»

Terms:

playback deck=master deck=original pre-recorded tape material

record deck=slave deck=edit

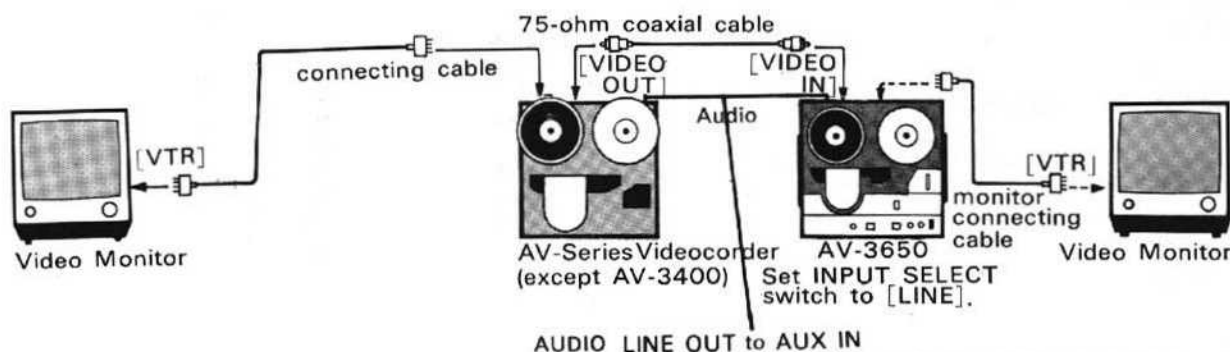


#1—YELLOW GREASE PENCIL METHOD: Advice from Andy Mann

Having had hours of practice, I have had little trouble with the technical end of editing videotape. I am printing these instructions in hopes that you may be able to cut down your editing time and come to enjoy working with the equipment a bit more.

(d) Make the third timing mark over the audio head and wind the tape back by hand until the 3rd timing mark is over the erase head. The tape has been backed up 6 seconds.

(e) Make the fourth and final timing mark over the audio head and back up the tape until the mark is over the erase head. The tape has been wound back 8 seconds from the point (X) where the edit will be made.



1. Hook up all equipment as shown.
2. Plug in A/C power cords.
3. Thread tape on record (slave) deck, being sure to leave about 30 seconds to leader.
4. Thread and play original tape on playback (master) deck. Check tracking, adjusting tracking control if necessary.
5. Mark the tape on the record (slave) deck. Turn off power before marking tape. Turn function lever to pause.
 - (a) Mark an X on the tape over the erase head.
 - (b) Make a timing mark on the tape over the audio head. (Each of the 4 timing marks should be a recognizable symbol. For instance 1=, 2=, 3=, 4=.
 - (c) Make the second timing mark over the audio head, and wind back the timing mark back to the erase head. The tape has been wound back 4 seconds.

(d) Mark the original tape on the playback (master) deck. Turn off power before turning function lever to pause.

- (a) Make the first timing mark over the audio head and wind back the mark to the erase head.
- (b) Make 3 more timing marks over the audio head, and wind each mark back to the erase head as it is made. Both decks are now cued-up at a point on the tape where it is 8 seconds of rolling time prior to the point where the edit is to be made.

7. Both decks remain in pause/still position. Turn on the power switches on both decks.

8. When ready to make the edit:

- (a) Throw both decks into FORWARD at the same time.
- (b) Quickly hit the edit button on the record (slave) deck.
- (c) Focus attention on the running tape on the record (slave) deck. Put your finger on the record button.
- (d) When the X is directly over the erase head, hit down the record button HARD! The best edits are made with a sharp snap of the button.