

VLBA ACQUISITION MEMO #381

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To: VLBA Data Acquisition Group

From: Alan E.E. Rogers

Subject: Minutes of Recorder Telecon held 20 April 1994 at 1300 EDT

Attendees: NRAO,AOC Haystack
Steve Blachman Roger Cappallo
Bill Brundage Hans Hinteregger
Barry Clark Alan Rogers
George Peck
Jon Romney

1. Tape loop dropping

While most tape loop dropping is the result of transport problems (many of which have now been fixed - like poorly adjusted vacuum sensor switches and interference from elapsed time counter) there may still be some additional conditions which need to be identified. Hans has recommended that, when possible, the transport and tape path should be examined before reloading a tape following an unexpected loss of vacuum. In some cases, the vacuum loss may be the result of a section of stretched tape.

2. Slipping capstans

Some capstans, especially the older design, pick up dirt or become glazed and then slip. Once the capstan starts slipping, the capstan often becomes even more prone to slip. In most cases, the problem is rectified by cleaning the capstan. If possible, the older capstans should be exchanged for the newer design.

3. Recorder firmware

Steve Blachman asked Roger to look into the apparent delay in the resetting of a status bit following a long tape positioning operation and to look into the worst case expected timing in the detection of synchronization. Roger promised to provide the "end-to-end" timing. It is suspected that the transport control software which talks to Roger's firmware may still contain some old delay patches which can be removed with the current version of the firmware.

4. Flange forcing

Hans reported that the reels from Acrometal made according to the new spec. (with 10 mil less flange separation at the rim) are indeed superior. George reported that the transfer of tapes onto the new reels is going well, but expressed some concern about loading a tape when the self-packing supply reel is almost empty. In some cases the tape is caught between the flanges and fails to load without some manual intervention.

5. Damaged reels

Some of the Acrometal reels arrived damaged. One had a broken flange and two more had chipped flanges. These damaged reels will be returned.