



Common signs of problem tapes

3/4" U-matics with "sticky shed"

Most 3/4" with sticky shed problems will have a **RECORD DATE** between **1975 - 1985**.

Sticky shed can jam, crease, scratch/score, damage and rip tapes -
As well as clog or damage machine heads.

3/4" Tapes from '75 - '85 that almost always have sticky shed are:

"MADE IN SWITZERLAND"

(shed usually severe)



(Identified on tape door only)

AGFA

(shed usually very bad)



(Identified on door, label or shell)

SONY

(shed usually bad)



(White lettering on door- Note: Sony with blue lettering does not usually have sticky shed)

SONY 3/4" with sticky shed often **smell** like "**crayons**" or "**wax**"

"MADE IN SWITZERLAND" 3/4" or **AGFA** often **smell** like "**dirty socks**"

Another 3/4" tape from '75 - '85 that has sticky shed is:

AMPEX

(shed usually very bad to severe)



AMPEX cassettes can be black, grey or black bottom w / clear grey top (as in picture)
black bottom w / clear grey top will almost always have sticky shed
AMPEX 3/4" often marked with: BCA

AMPEX 3/4" with sticky shed usually **HAS NO SMELL!**



Common signs of problem tapes

3/4" U-matics with "white powder"

A common problem with **SCOTCH** or **3M** tapes from 1975– 1985 is **WHITE POWDER**. White powder does not cause tapes to stick but scratches tapes, blocks signal and causes major head clogs. (Note: Tapes that are subject to "sticky shed" can also have white powder)

SCOTCH or 3M



Cassettes can be white or Green/Grey- Green/Gray cassettes are more likely to have white powder

Identifying Code



Back of Scotch/3M cassette usually says UCA

Inside of 3/4" Deck



Inside of 3/4" deck after running tape with white powder (Deck cannot be cleaned with "cleaning cassette")

Betacam (oxide only) tape with "sticky shed"

Most Betacam tapes with sticky shed are not associated with a particular record date. While some SONY Betacam (BLUE shell) may have sticky shed, most appear to be OK.

The **Betacam** tapes that almost always have sticky shed are in **RED** cassettes:

AMPEX



Actual AMPEX Betacam tape that jammed, mangled, stretched and ripped when played before cleaning and treatment

Betacam usually have

STICKY SHED



Sticky shed residue on tape at left that caused cassette to jam and seriously clogs heads (Deck cannot be cleaned with "cleaning cassette")

All tapes with physical damage should be repaired before playback

For more information:
Call: (973) 777-5055
E-mail: admin@specsbro.com
Visit: www.specsbros.com