

Public Invents New Uses for Magnetic Tapes

New York — (UPI) — A thin ribbon of tough plastic coated with iron oxide particles is causing a gradual but loud revolution in the nation's cultural, educational and family life. The ribbon is magnetic sound recording tape.

Use of tape recorders is now becoming so widespread that the public is inventing new and ingenious ways of using tape that were never dreamed of by the original developers.

Dr. W. W. Wetzel, an executive of the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing company, which produces most of the world's magnetic recording tape, estimates there now are more than 3 million tape recorders in use in the United States.

"We producers of sound are constantly amazed at the new and unusual uses that are reported to us daily for our products," Wetzel said. "It's not necessary for us to keep working out suggestions about how sound tape can help to solve various problems. We can't compile these uses as fast as we receive reports on how people make effective use of the tape to serve their particular needs."

Among the scores of examples of how sound tape is used, Wetzel listed these: —Dentists are using sound tape as an audio analgesia on patients. The pain-killing device features music played over a stereo tape recorder. The patient holds two knobs on his lap, and adjusts the volume. One knob controls the volume of the music and the other controls the sound of a waterfall that is turned on if the patient begins to feel pain.

—At Nashua, Iowa, the Rev. Glenn L. Utterback gives each couple married at his Little Brown Church in the Vale a tape recording of the complete marriage ceremony. Being able to play back the wedding is believed to help in weathering marital storms. —Chickens Like Music —Tape recordings of rock 'n' roll piped into a chicken farm in Alabama are said to make the chickens lay more eggs.

—Cows give more milk at a dairy farm in South Carolina when they hear soft dance music, according to their owner, and a nurseryman in Mississippi maintains that his flowers grow better to the tune of taped music. —Tape recorders used in the classroom help facilitate study of foreign languages, permit teachers to provide individualized instructions to various groups learning at different rates of speed, or through pre-recorded lectures by experts to give specialized instruction that is not normally within the ability of the teacher.

Probably one of the newest uses for tape is "sleep learning," which involves using a pillow speaker attached to a clock-controlled tape recorder. The speaker's volume is just loud enough to reach only the ear of the sleep learner and the sleep tape is repeated over and over during the night.

There is an interesting discussion of this process in "Learn While You Sleep," a recent book by David Curtis. Subconscious Functions. In this book, Curtis says "The subconscious functions while we sleep and it has been proven that it can be directed into channels of our choice."

He tells how sleep-learning techniques have improved memory, trained children, speeded up learning, taught languages with correct pronunciation, raised school marks, increased music appreciation, eliminated mental blocks, upped capacities of salespeople, eliminated nightmares and insomnia, and aided people to become relaxed and adopt positive attitudes. Curtis claims that at least 8,000 college students supplement their daytime work with sleep-study.

Electronic Fishing Line Is Developed

San Francisco — (UPI) — Bad news for fish and good news for fishermen is a new "electronic fishing line" developed by U. S. Steel Corp.

The line, or warp as fishermen call it, was made in Worcester, Mass., and is being tested on an exploratory fishing vessel off the Pacific coast.

The device tells fishermen the exact depth of their nets, whether the nets are on the bottom, the ground speed of the trawl and the size of the catch. The fish just don't have a chance.

The Barrett Park Zoo on Staten Island has one of the world's largest collections of snakes and other reptiles.

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