

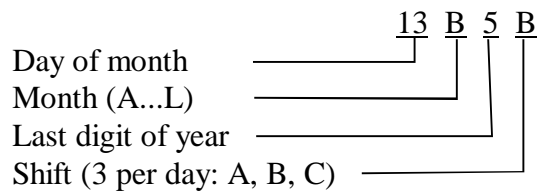
1999-12-17

## Date Codes on Audio Tape from Ampex

I had an inquiry recently about the date codes used by Ampex for their blank audio tape stock. I understand that there are still “old timers” at the Quantegy (nee Ampex) plant in Opelika Alabama. Someone could call there, and maybe get “the real scoop” from them.

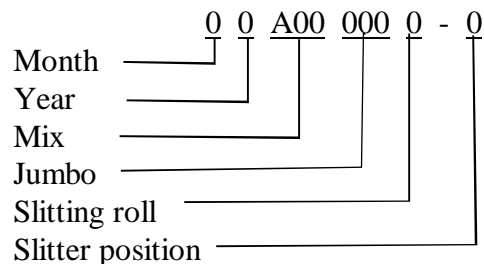
Meanwhile, the best that I have is the following, transcribed from my undated notes. Considering that the example is dated 1975, I would guess that it is from around then. It was surely from some Ampex Tape person. Note also that the year is given (such as “5”), but the decade is not given (whether 1965, 1975, 1985, etc).

The date code for “narrow” tapes (probably meaning 1/4 inch width) reflects the “packout” date – that is, when the tape was packaged for shipment. The date codes don't say anything about the manufacturing lot, date, etc.



So 13 B 5 B would be 75-02-13, 2<sup>nd</sup> shift.

On wide tapes (presumably 1/2...2 inch widths, but my notes don't say), it is probably also a “packout” date. The wide tape code was this:



Currently, Quantegy tapes carry a date code that appears to be a 2-digit year plus a 3-digit day-of-the-year.

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