

Restoring 8-Track Capstans

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Start by taking the top cover off the unit when possible. You should be able to see the capstan shaft where it comes into contact with the tape. In some unit there may be a circuit board in the way. In this case you will need to do the cleaning through the front door of the unit. You will see a switch on the top back edge of the tape cartridge holder assy. Lifting this switch will turn the tape drive on and start the capstan spinning. With the capstan spinning, apply a cotton cleaning swab, soaked with the Capstan Restorer solution to “ONLY” the section of the capstan that contacts the tape. It will be the shiny section. Avoid getting the solution into either the top or bottom bearing of the shaft. Put enough solution onto the shaft to coat it all the way around. Release the switch and let the unit sit for 5 minutes.

If you have either our Head Cleaner or Rubber Cleaner, soak a cleaning swab in the solution. Again, activate the power switch and start the capstan running. Thoroughly clean the solution off the capstan shaft with the cleaner. Alcohol can also be used. Use several swabs to be sure the solution is completely cleaned off of the shaft.

Clean the head while you have it open and you are set to play some 8-tracks.