

9) Wade

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY
Green Bank, West Virginia

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MEMO TO: G15D Computer Users
FROM: C. M. Wade
SUBJECT: Use of the MTA-2 Magnetic Tape Unit

At present, we have only a single roll of magnetic tape for the MTA-2 accessory. Since up to 300000 words may be recorded on this tape, it should be adequate for all of our present requirements. However, if several people use the same roll of tape concurrently, serious confusion is inevitable unless a very definite and inflexible procedure is followed in recording information.

Blocks of information on the tape are identified by file numbers, which may take on values from 0000 to 3000. File numbers impressed on the tape must be in serial order; thus a block numbered 1761 may be preceded by one numbered 1432, but not by one numbered 1848. To avoid difficulties, successive blocks on our tape shall be numbered serially, starting with file number 0101.

The following procedure, suggested by Dr. von Hoerner, should be followed in recording data on magnetic tape:

- 1) Find the last file number recorded in the log book; for example, 0134.
- 2) Search the tape for this number:
08 1870
15 0134
- 3) Write your data on the tape:
08 1870
12 ADDR
- 4) Write the new file number:
08 1870
13 0135
- 5) Enter the new file number in the log book.

If, by mistake, you write over information previously recorded on the tape, please inform the persons affected at once!

The log book referred to above is not the regular G15 log book, but separate book labelled "MTA-2 Log".