

# REMOTE-CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR BROADCASTING PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT VIDEO TAPE-RECORDER TYPE-SPECIFIC MESSAGES

Tech. 3245-E - Supplement 2

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## Introduction

Document Tech. 3245 describes the specification of a digital remote-control system for broadcasting production equipment. It defines completely the electrical/mechanical level (level 1), and the supervisory level (level 2), of the interface. The two remaining levels - the system service level (level 3), and the virtual machine level (level 4) - are defined only in terms of function and control message syntax.

Supplement 1 to Tech. 3245 completes the definition of the system service level by detailing the system service messages and, in addition, defines the virtual machine messages which are common to all types of virtual machine - the common messages.

The present Supplement defines the type-specific virtual machine messages which are applicable to video tape recorders. Type-specific messages applicable to other categories of equipment are defined in other supplements to Tech. 3245.

In order to implement a complete network, the system designer therefore requires:

Document Tech. 3245 - the general specification

Supplement 1 - system service and common messages

and one or more other supplements appropriate to the category or categories of equipment to be used.

The specification described in this Supplement has been developed jointly with the SMPTE, and is functionally identical to that to be published as an SMPTE Recommended Practice.



## Chapter 1

### General concepts

This chapter contains a general explanation of some of the concepts used in the formulation of the VTR type-specific message set. It constitutes tutorial information, and is intended to assist in the understanding of the specification in Chapter 2.

#### 1. Transport machine states

The transport mechanism of a VTR is considered as an independent state machine. Therefore the commands which control transport functions form a subset within the VTR-specific message set. These commands are called Tape Motion Commands ("TMC"). Each TMC causes a transition from one specific transport state to another and cancels the previous state, i.e. these functions are mutually exclusive.

TMCs include: STOP, STD PLAY, SHUTTLE, PREROLL SEARCH, SYNC, etc.

All tape motion commands are marked as such in the command description.

#### 2. Electrical machine states

Other VTR commands affect states of the electrical environment of the VTR. The functions controlled by them are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

### 3. Transport speeds

Some commands require a speed specification which is carried by the command in the form of a three-byte parameter. This parameter is intended to define the direction and absolute value of the desired speed that should be achieved as closely as possible by the real machine.

All commands with a speed parameter use the same format and coding. This is a three-byte signed number with a scale range defined so that

000000hex	represents still
010000hex	represents standard play-speed forward.
7F0000hex	represents approximately 127 times standard play-speed forward
FF0000hex	represents standard play-speed reverse
800000hex.	represents 128 times standard play-speed reverse.

It allows, theoretically, for speeds between -128 and approximately +127 times standard speed and a resolution of 1/65,536th of standard speed.

### 4. Record control

The recording function of the tape machine is fully controlled by the command pair ENTRY/EXIT. The form of record entry or exit is predefined by the command RECORD MODE. The tracks/channels affected by the command are defined by a parameter contained within the ENTRY/EXIT command.

### 5. Track and channel selection

Some commands and information fields refer to one or more tracks (or the associated channels) of the tape machine. The format used is the same in all cases and is defined in the description of the ENTRY and EXIT commands. The format allows for up to 16 audio tracks for future applications.

### 6. VTR information fields

The VTR dialect makes extensive use of the information field concept; some specific items of the VTR information field are described in the following sections.

## 6.1. TMC tallies

This Information field indicates the current state of the transport. As all possible states are commanded by TMCs, the code of the corresponding TMC keyword is used to identify them individually.

An additional byte indicates (tallies) the level of success, i.e. whether the commanded function is still in progress or already finished, and whether successfully or not.

## 6.2. Other command tallies

Commands which cause changes in any electrical machine state (non-TMCs) have a corresponding information field. When the information field is read, the response is tallied in the same format as that of the command.

Example: The command RECORD MODE SELECT is intended to preset the state of the recording electronics. The information field RECORD MODE TALLY may be read to obtain information about the record mode status, which will be tallied in the same format as that contained within the RECORD MODE SELECT command itself.

## 6.3. Tape code

There are several scales that may be used to identify a tape position, for example:

- longitudinal timecode,
- vertical interval timecode,
- tape timer 1,
- tape timer 2.

For tape search, editing and other automatic procedures one of these scales must be used. The selected scale is referred to as the TAPE CODE, and can be chosen by the TAPE CODE SELECT command. The functions mentioned above then refer to the TAPE CODE rather than directly to timecode.

There is a separate information field for each of the codes and timers mentioned above; the tape code actually selected, however, can also be read from the information field TAPE CODE.

## 7. Synchronization

Synchronization is one of the fundamental requirements of a tape machine. Synchronization means that the machine is programmed to pass:

- a specified point on the tape ( '\*where' ),
- at a specified point in time ( 'when' ), and
- locked to a specified speed ( 'how' ).

"Where": The point on the tape is called SYNC POINT. It is specified in terms of TAPE CODE, and is maintained in the information field SYNC POINT. The sync point is specified by applying a PRESET command to this information field.

"When": The point in time is defined by the instant of issue of the SYNC command. At a specified time period after the arrival of the SYNC command, the SYNC POINT must be reached. This time period is called PREROLL DURATION; it is maintained in the information field PREROLL DURATION, and is specified by applying a PRESET command to this information field.

Note that the PREROLL DURATION is reserved mainly for synchronization purposes; a greater PREROLL DURATION than required by the real machine may, however, be chosen for operational reasons (e.g., extended preview time).

"HOW" The speed at the SYNC POINT is defined by a value maintained in the information field SYNC VELOCITY; it is specified by applying a PRESET command to this information field.

As a prerequisite for the use of the SYNC command, the tape must be placed at a park position which is calculated from the SYNC POINT and the SYNC VELOCITY as follows:

$$\text{SYNC POINT} - \frac{\text{PREROLL DURATION} \times \text{SYNC VELOCITY}}{\text{STANDARD VELOCITY}}$$

To achieve this park position the PREROLL SEARCH command is used and the VTR virtual machine must make the calculation automatically.

### 7.1. The SYNC command in the case of an "Ideal machine"

A better understanding of the function of the SYNC command can be had if it is considered in the case of an "ideal" machine.

- On the arrival of a SYNC command an ideal VTR would start immediately with no delay, fully locked and with the specified speed. Under these ideal conditions the machine would, at the PREROLL DURATION time later, be precisely at the SYNC POINT.
- A real VTR cannot start and synchronize immediately; it is therefore the responsibility of the virtual machine, and hence of the virtual machine manufacturer, to control the real machine in such a manner that the result is the same.

Measures taken in order to correct synchronization following the PREROLL DURATION period may include:

- on the receipt of a PREROLL SEARCH command, parking a few frames down the tape to match the average number of frames lost while coming up to play speed, and
- on the SYNC command, overriding the specified velocity using the tape speed override facility of the real machine to eliminate the remaining offset from the appropriate lock condition.

## 7.2. The CHASE command: an alternative means of maintaining synchronism

While the PREROLL SEARCH/SYNC commands may be used to run several machines in continuous synchronism (without changing their states and/or speed), the CHASE command is used to maintain synchronism as closely as possible where dynamic changes of the machines' state and/or speed occur.

This operation, however, requires one of the synchronous machines to be the master, while the others perform as slaves, and emulate all the movements of the master, even when in the SHUTTLE state.

The slaves must therefore be given precise information about the movement of the master. Such information is, in general, transferred by means of timecode, which is distributed continuously from the master to all slaves over a separate line. The bus cannot be used for this purpose due to its unpredictable delays.

The CHASE command specifies an offset between the timecode of the chasing machine and a reference. The reference is the timeline, which, in this case, will usually be programmed to use an "external reference time" as its source (i.e. the timecode of the master). See also the common message TIMELINE SOURCE.

## 8. Immediate and timeline modes

All VTR commands can be used in the "immediate mode", which causes their instantaneous execution; in this way they can be used to control even time-critical functions. As the transfer of a message over the bus within a given time slot cannot be guaranteed, however, the immediate mode is not recommended for such applications.

Wherever possible, time-critical commands should be queued on the timeline, using the command facilities provided by the common message set. Activities requiring synchronous operations between several VTRs are best suited to the "timeline mode" of operation, which allows for the pre-programming of sequences of time-critical functions (e.g. SYNC, ENTRY and EXIT commands). In general, time-critical functions refer to the timelines of the individual virtual machines, which themselves are synchronized by a system time transmission from the bus controller in response to a REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION command.

For certain time-critical applications (for example, editing), it is essential that all machine internal clocks are synchronized to the station field phase sequence. In order to achieve this phasing, the machine internal clock will be advanced by as many frames as necessary following receipt of the TIMELINE RUN command. When all virtual machines in a session achieve this in the same way (for example, when they are all VTRs), there is no difficulty.

A problem does arise, however, if there are non-VTR participants within a session (ATRs, for example). They would have no reason to advance the machine internal clock in accordance with a video sequence and a mixed operation of VTRs and non-VTRs would therefore not necessarily run synchronously.

There are two approaches which might be taken to resolve this problem.

If the bus clock which resides in the bus controller runs synchronously with the video phase sequence, no correction of a machine internal clock following a TIMELINE RUN command need take place.

Alternatively, if this approach is not possible, the controlling device may gain information about any correction of the clocks within the system by READING the information field TIMELINE CORRECTION TALLY from all virtual machines involved and comparing them with each other. If this results in differing tallies, the controlling device can take that into account when calculating events for the timeline.

In the case of a known synchronous bus clock the TIMELINE CORRECTION TALLY may be used by the controlling device for fault diagnosis on the machine internal clocks.

## 9. Sample command sequences

The following sections show samples of typical command sequences in immediate mode as well as in timeline mode. These sequences describe only some of the applications of the command set; there is no obligation on the part of system designers to use precisely these sequences.

### 9.1. Immediate mode

#### 9.1.1. Search and play

some time before initial action:

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<PRESET> <SYNC POINT> <time value>

initial action:

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when TMC TALLY has been "SEARCHed, successfully"):

<STD PLAY>

On the STD PLAY command the VTR starts. It reaches the SYNC POINT after approximately the PREROLL DURATION.

If the VTR is required to start at the SYNC POINT location (using no preroll) the TARGET SEARCH command should be used. Synchronization is not then guaranteed.

Note that the PREROLL DURATION and the SYNC POINT once loaded, need not be reloaded until changed.

**9.1.2 Search and synchronize**

some time before initial action:

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<PRESET> <SYNC POINT> <time value>

<PRESET><SYNC VELOCITY><speed value>

initial action:

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when TMC TALLY has been "SEARCHed, successfully"):

<SYNC>

On the SYNC command the VTR starts. It reaches the SYNC POINT after precisely the PREROLL DURATION.

Under control of the virtual machine, the TSO function of the VTR may be used to find the appropriate lock.

Synchronization of the VTR in response to the SYNC command is guaranteed; however:

- in PAL the VTR will be advanced by one frame, when necessary to be in accordance with the P-phase, and
- the colour framer will advance the VTR by as many frame a as necessary.

This sequence can be used for the synchronous operation of multiple VTRs only when delivery of the SYNC command can be guaranteed within a reasonable time slot (e.g. one field).

Note that the PREROLL DURATION, once loaded, need not be reloaded until changed.

**9.1.3. Search, synchronize and insert edit**

some time before initial action:

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<PRESET <SYNC POINT> <time value>

<PRESET><SYNC VELOCITY><speed value>

<RECORD MDE> <"insert">

initial action:

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when the TMC TALLY has been "SEARCHed successfully"):

<SYNC>

at ("entry point" - "record delay"):

<ENTRY> <appropriate channels>

at ("exit point" - "record delay"):

<EXIT> <appropriate channels>

The controlling virtual machine must "know" the record delays of the VTR9 and correct for them.

In "assemble", edits and previews differ only in the RECORD MODE parameter.

This sequence can be used for the synchronous operation of multiple VTRs only on the condition that the transfer of the SYNC, ENTRY, and EXIT commands is guaranteed within a reasonable time slot (e.g. one field).

## 9.2. Timeline mode

### 9.2.1. Search and play

some time before initial action:

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<CLEAR EVENT> <0>

<STOP TIMELINE> (optional)

<PRESET> <SYNC POINT> <time value>

<PRESET><SYNC VELOCITY><speed value>

initial action:

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when TMC TALLY has been "SEARCHed, successfully"):

<REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION>

<DEFINE EVENT>

<TIMELINE> <"timeline sync point" - "preroll duration">

<STD PLAY>

Note that the "timeline sync point" in the value of the timeline when the SYNC POINT has been reached approximately; it must be calculated from the instantaneous timeline value transmitted by the bus controller in response to the preceding REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION command.

In this case it is actually easier to use the immediate mode which allows for VTR PLAY at a specific time from commands given much earlier.

### 9.2.2. Search and synchronize

some time before initial action:

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<CLEAR EVENT> <0>

<STOP TIMELINW (optional)

<PRESET> <SYNC POINT> <time value>

<PRESET><SYNC VELOCITY><speed value>

initial action:

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when TMC TALLY has been "SEARCHed successfully"):

<REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION>

<DEFINE EVENT>

<TIMELINE> <"timeline sync point" - "preroll duration">

<SYNC>

Note that the "timeline sync point" is the value of the timeline when the SYNC POINT has been reached precisely; it must be calculated from the instantaneous timeline value transmitted by the bus controller in response to the preceding REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION command. For editing it is generally desirable to introduce no unnecessary waiting times; therefore it is suggested that ("timeline sync point" - "preroll duration") be substituted in the DEFINE EVENT command by (instantaneous timeline value + some frames to compensate for transmission delay).

It is the responsibility of the controlling virtual machine to ensure that the SYNC command is placed on the timeline at a point such that the SYNC POINT and the timeline SYNC POINT coincide in respect of the colour framer and/or the P-phase (in PAL).

If this is not done, the situation described in 9.1.2 will occur, which may result in inexact edits.

This implies preference for a system in which the system time, which presets all timelines, is synchronized to reference colour frame (or in PAL, at least to P-phase).

**9.2.3. Search, synchronize, and Insert edit**

some time before initial action

<PRESET> <PREROLL DURATION> <time value>

<CLEAR EVENT> <0>

<STOP TIMELINE> (optional)

<PRESET> <SYNC POINT> <time value>

<PRESET><SYNC VELOCITY><speed value>

<RECORD MODE> <"insert">

initial action

<PREROLL SEARCH>

final action (not earlier than when TNC TALLY has been "SEARCHed, successfully"):

<REQUEST TIME TRANSMISSION>

<DEFINE EVENT>

<TIMELINE> <"timeline sync point" - "preroll duration">

<SYNC>

<DEFINE EVENT>

<TIMELINE> <required timeline value>

<ENTRY> <appropriate channels>

<DEFINE EVENT>

<TIMELINE> <required timeline value>

<EXIT> <appropriate channels>

The VTR virtual machine is responsible for the compensation of any inherent delays, so that the specified functions happen on the designated field. This allows the controlling virtual machine to talk to the VTR in a generic fashion. Thus type C, type B, U-matic, and Quad VTRs will all be set by exactly the same commands, and will all edit on the same field.

Split edits require multiple ENTRY and/or EXIT commands stacked on different points of the timeline by using multiple DEFINE EVENT c ends.

In "assemble", edits and previews differ only in the RECORD MODE parameter.

## Chapter 2

### VTR type-specific messages (virtual machine type is 02h)

#### 1. Index of keywords, mnemonics and information field names

Hex	Message keyword	(mnemonic)	Hex	Information field name	(mnemonic)
40	not used		40	not used	
41	STOP	STOP	41	LTC FROM TAPE	LTFT
42	VARIABLE PLAY	VAPL	42	VITC FROM TAPE	VIFT
43	STD PLAY	STPL	43	SELECTED TAPE CODE	SETC
44	STEP	STEP	44	USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC	UFTL
45	VISIBLE FAST	VFST	45	USERBITS FROM TAPE VITC	UFTV
46	SHUTTLE	SHUT	46	T T 1 (tape timer 1)	TTON
47	TAPE SPEED OVERRIDE	TSPO	47	T T 2 ( <b>tape timer 2</b> )	TTW
48	READY SELECT	REDS	48	READY TALLY	REDT
49	SERVO REFERENCE SELECT	SRES	49	SERVO REFERENCE TALLY	SRET
4A	RECORD MODE SELECT	REMS	4A	RECORD MODE TALLY	RENT
4B	ENTRY	ENTY	4B	CHANNEL RECORD STATUS	CRES
4C	EXIT	EXIT	4C	CHANNEL RECORD MASK	CREM
4D	TAPE CODE SELECT	TACS	4D	TAPE CODE SELECTION TALLY	TACT
4E	TARGET SEARCH	TASE	4E	SYNC VELOCITY	SVTY
4F	PREROLL SEARCH	PRSE	4F	PREROLL DURATION	PRDU
50	SYNC	SYNC	50	SYNC POINT	SPNT
51	COLOUR FRAMER SELECT	CFRS	51	COLOUR FRAMER TALLY	CFRT
52	EDIT FIELD SELECT	EDFS	52	EDIT FIELD TALLY	EDFT
53	CHASE	CHAS	53	not used	
54	TCG LTC TIME SOURCE SEL	TLTS	54	TCG LTC TIME SOURCE TALLY	TLTT
55	TCG VITC TIME SOURCE SEL	TWS	55	TCG VITC TIME SOURCE TALLY	TWT
56	TCG LTC UB SOURCE SEL	TLUS	56	TCG LTC UB SOURCE TALLY	TLUT
57	TCG VITC UB SOURCE SEL	TWS	57	TCG VITC UB SOURCE TALLY	TVUT
58	EJECT/UNTEREAD	EJCT	58	not used	
59	not used		59	not used	
5A	not used		5A	TAPELENGTH	TLTH
5B	not used		5B	PARKING ACCURACY	PARK
5C	not used		5C	SYNCHRONISM ACCURACY	SYAC
5D	not used		5D	not used	
5E	TRACKING SELECT	TRKS	5E	TRACKING SELECTION TALLY	TRKT
5F	ANTI-CLOG CONTROL	ANCC	5F	ANTI-CLOG CONTROL TALLY	ANCT
60	PRESET	PRST	60	not used	
61	not used		61	TMC TALLY	TMCT
62	not used		62	VELOCITY TALLY	VELT
63	not used		63	TIMELINE CORRECTION TALLY	TLCT
64	not used		64	not used	
65	PLAYBACK CHANNEL SELECT	PLCS	65	PLAYBACK CHANNEL TALLY	PLCT
66	CHANNEL MUTE SELECT	CMUS	66	CHANNEL MUTE TALLY	CMUT
67	TAPE/EE SELECT	TEES	67	TAPE/EE TALLY	TEET
68	not used		68	TIMECODE TO TAPE LTC	TTTL
69	not used		69	TIMECODE TO TAPE VITC	TTTV
6A	not used		6A	USERBITS TO TAPE LTC	UTTTL
6B	not used		6B	USERBITS TO TAPE VITC	UTTV
6C	not used		6C	PRESETTABLE TIME SRC LTC	PTSL
6D	not used		6D	PRESETTABLE TIME SRC VITC	PTSV
6E	not used		6E	PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE LTC	PUSL
6F	not used		6F	PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE VITC	PUSV

## 2. Keywords

*General notes: 1. All tape motion commands (Indicated below as "TMC") are mutually exclusive.*

*2. in all cases, the temporal order of entries and exits must be preserved.. Thus an entry received later in time at the same position on timeline will cancel an existing exit.*

40 not used

41 STOP (TMC command)  
causes the controlled VTR to stop as soon as possible; indeterminate picture.

Format: <STOP>

42 VARIABLE PLAY (TMC command)  
causes the controlled VTR to enter continuously variable playback mode with specified direction and speed.

Format: <VARIABLE PLAY>  
<SPEED> 3-byte signed binary number: 2's complement

scale: 000000hex - still  
010000hex - standard play-speed forward.  
7F0000hex = approximately 127 times standard  
play-speed forward  
FF0000hex - standard play-speed reverse  
800000hex - 128 times standard play-speed reverse.

43 STD PLAY (TMC command)  
causes the controlled VTR to enter field-locked real time playback mode, colour framed as selected, with specified direction and speed.

Format: <STD PLAY>

44 STEP (TMC command)  
causes the controlled VTR to move the tape a specified number of fields forward or backward, with respect to its current position, only while in TMCs: STEP, TSO, VISIBLE FAST (STILL) or VARIABLE PLAY (STILL).

Successive commands are cumulative until next TMC other than STEP.

Format: <STEP>  
<FIELD NUMBER> 1-byte signed number; range: -128 ... +127



## 4B ENTRY

cause a start of insertion on the specified channel(s) [track(s)]

Format:           <ENTRY>  
                  <CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 - audios 1 16 respectively

Logic: 0 = channel not affected  
       1 = channel turned on or stays on

*Notes: 1. In "assemble; all channels" mode the channel bits have no meaning.  
       2. Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

## 4C EXIT

causes a termination of an insertion on the specified channels(a) track(a)

Format:           <EXIT>  
                  <CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic: 0 = channel not affected  
       1 = channel turned off or stays off

*Notes: 1. In "assemble; all channels" mode the channel bits have no meaning.  
       2. Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

## 4D TAPE CODE SELECT

selects the type of code for all succeeding messages that refer to "TAPE CODE".

*Note: As LTC, VITC, T T 1 and T T 2 are also contained in an item of the VTR-specific INFORMATION FIELD, they may be accessed by READ command at any time, even if not selected as TAPE CODE by the command TAPE CODE SELECT.*

Format:       <TAPE CODE SELECT>  
               <CODE TYPE> 1-byte special binary code:

                  00h = longitudinal timecode (= default)  
                   01h = vertical interval timecode  
                   02h = T T 1  
                   03h = T T 2  
                   04h = auto TC  
                   FFh = as selected locally

- 4E    TARGET SEARCH (TMC command)  
 causes the controlled VTR to move to a defined tape position in accordance with the TAPE CODE.

Format:       <TARGET SEARCH>  
               <TAPE CODE> (type TIME; field referenced)

*Note: The type of TAPE CODE is selected by the command TAPE CODE SELECT.*

- 4F    PREROLL SEARCH (TMC command)  
 causes the controlled VTR to move to a tape position determined from the duration of the PREROLL TIME in advance of the SYNC POINT and the SYNC VELOCITY, in accordance with the TAPE CODE.

*Note. PREROLL TIME, SYNC POINT and SYNC VELOCITY are part of the VTR-specific INFORMATION FIELD.*

Format:       <PREROLL SEARCH>

- 50    SYNC (TMC command)  
 causes the controlled VTR to start, and synchronize after the PREROLL DURATION when the tape will be at the SYNC POINT and travelling at the SYNC VELOCITY.

*Notes: 1. SYNC POINT and SYNC VELOCITY are part-of the VTR-specific INFORMATION FIELD, and must be predefined by a PRESET command before execution.*

*2. The tape must be positioned and tallied previously by a PREROLL SEARCH command.*

*3. If the SYNC VELOCITY is standard play speed, the VTR reverts to STD PLAY after attaining sync.*

*4. In PAL the VTR will be ADVANCED by one frame when necessary, to be in accordance with the P-phase, and the colour framer will ADVANCE the VTR by as many frames as necessary.*

Format:<SYNC>

- 51    COLOUR FRAMER SELECT  
 selects the colour framer mode

Format:       COLOUR FRAMER SELECT>  
               <MODE>       1-byte special binary code:



- 00h = hold
- 01h = run independently, starting with the value contained in information field item PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE LTC
- 02h = run with external unspecified source
- 03h = run with the regenerated value of the LTC timecode as source (also contained in information field LTC FROM TAPE) until a record ENTRY of the LTC track; then continue independently, running with the time value most recently read from tape; i.e. "Jam-sync" function
- 04h = run with regenerated VITC timecode from tape as source (also contained in information field VITC FROM TAPE); i.e. "copy" function
- 05h = run with TAPE CODE as source (also contained in information field TAPE CODE)

## 55 TCG VITC TIME SOURCE SELECT

selects the time source for the VITC timecode generator of the controlled VTR.

Format: <TCG VITC TIME SOURCE SELECT>  
<TIME SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:

- 00h = hold
- 01h = run independently, starting with the value contained in information field item PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE VITC
- 02h = run with external, unspecified source
- 03h = run with the regenerated value of the VITC timecode as source (also contained in the information field VITC FROM TAPE) until a record ENTRY of the VITC track; then continue, independently, running with the time value most recently read from tape; i.e. "Jam sync" function
- 04h = run with regenerated LTC timecode from tape as source (also contained in information field LTC FROM TAPE); i.e. "copy" function
- 05h = run with TAPE CODE as source (also contained in information field TAPE CODE)

## 56 TCG LTC USERBIT SOURCE SELECT

selects the userbit source for the LTC timecode generator of the controlled device.

Format: <TCG LTC USERBIT SOURCE SELECT>  
 <USERBIT SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:

- 00h = no userbits; i.e. all set to zero (= default)
- 01h = userbits from information field item PRESETTABLE USERBIT SOURCE LTC, which may be preset by a PRESET command
- 02h = userbits from external, unspecified source
- 03h = userbits continuously copied from the LTC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC)
- 04h = userbits continuously copied from VITC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE)

57 TCG VITC USERBIT SOURCE SELECT  
 selects the userbit source for the VITC timecode generator of the controlled device.

Format: <TCG VITC USERBIT SOURCE SELECT>  
 <USERBIT SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:

- 00h = no userbits; i.e. all set to zero (= default)
- 01h = userbits from information field item PRESETTABLE USERBIT SOURCE VITC, which may be preset by a PRESET command
- 02h = userbits from external, unspecified source
- 03h = userbits continuously copied from the VITC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE VITC)
- 04h = userbits continuously copied from the LTC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE)

58 EJECT/UNTHREAD (TMC command)  
 eject for cassette or unthread where applicable.

Format: <EJECT/UNTEREAD>

59 not used

5A not used

5B not used

5C not used

5D not used

5E TRACKING SELECT  
selects tracking mode.

Format:       <TRACKING SELECT>  
              <MODE>       1-byte special binary code:  
  
                          00h = FIXED (= default)  
                          01h = AUTO  
                          FFh = as selected locally

5F ANTI-CLOG CONTROL  
switches the anti-clog mechanism on/off.

Format:       <ANTI-CLOG CONTROL>  
              <MODE>       1-byte special binary code:  
  
                          00h = ON (= default)  
                          01h = OFF  
                          02h = extended  
                          03h = immediate tension release  
                          FFh = as selected locally

60 PRESET  
presets the named information field to the given value.

Format:       <PRESET>  
              <PERMITTED INFORMATION FIELD NAME>  
              <VALUE>       format and coding defined by the INFORMATION NAME  
                                  (see Section 3: Information fields)

Permitted information field names for VTRs are:

TT 1  
TT 2  
SYNC VELOCITY  
PREROLL DURATION  
SYNC POINT  
TAPELENGTH  
PARKING ACCURACY  
SYNCHRONISM ACCURACY  
CHANNEL RECORD MASK  
PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE LTC  
PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE VITC  
PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE LTC  
PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE VITC

61 not used

62 not used

63 not used

64 not used

- 65 PLAYBACK CHANNEL SELECT  
selects the playback/monitoring channels.

Format: <PLAYBACK CHANNEL SELECT>  
<CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic: 0 = playback channel (= default for all channels)  
1 = monitor channel (audio)  
record channel (video)

*Note: Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

- 66 CHANNEL MUTE SELECT  
selects auto mute function.

Format: <CHANNEL MUTE SELECT>  
<CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic: 0 = mute enabled  
1 = mute disabled

*Note: Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

- 67 TAPE/EE SELECT  
selects the tape/electronics switch.

Format: <TAPE/EE SELECT>  
<MODE> 1-byte special binary code:

00h = AUTO (- default)  
01h = TAPE  
02h = EE  
FFh = - as selected locally

68	not used
69	not used
6A	not used
6B	not used
6C	not used
6D	not used
6E	not used
6F	not used

### 3. Information fields

*Note: The items of the INFORMATION FIELD are accessed by the common messages READ, UPDATE, CYCLE or SIMULTANEOUS READ.*

*They are tallied by the common messages INFORMATION FIELD ITEM RESPONSE or SIMULTANEOUS READ RESPONSE.*

*These commands use the format:*

*<KEYWORD><PARAMETER NAME>*

*and*

*<KEYWORD><PARAMETER NAME><PARAMETER VALUE>*

*where the PARAMETER NAME uses the FIELD NAME specified below*

*and the PARAMETER VALUE carries the FIELD CONTENTS specified below.*

*Several names/values may be grouped together by means of a BEGIN/END construct.*

*At power-up the content of information fields is not specified.*

40 not used

41 LTC FROM TAPE  
contains the longitudinal timecode value most recently read from tape.

Format: <LTC FROM TAPE>  
<CODE VALIDITY>

1-byte special binary code:

00h = valid LTC  
01h = derived LTC  
FFh = not valid LTC

<TIME VALUE> standard "time" format

## 42 VITC FROM TAPE

contains the vertical interval timecode value most recently read from tape.

Format: <VITC FROM TAPE>  
<CODE VALIDITY> 1-byte special binary code:

00h = valid VITC  
01h = derived VITC  
FFh = not valid VITC

<TIME VALUE> standard "time" format

## 43 SELECTED TAPE CODE

contains the time value of that code (LTC, VITC, etc.) which has been most recently selected by the TAPE CODE SELECT command.

Format: <SELECTED TAPE CODE>  
<IDENTIFIER> 1-byte special binary code:

00h = LTC  
01h = VITC  
02h = T T 1  
03h = T T 2  
04h = auto TC  
FFh = invalid

<TIME VALUE> standard "time" format

## 44 USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC

contains the LTC userbit contents most recently read from tape.

Format: <USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC>  
<UB SPECIFICATION> 1-byte special code:

bits 0,1: 0,0 - content of userbits unspecified  
1,0 - content of userbits is eight-bit character set conforming to ISO 646 and ISO 2022  
0,1 - unassigned  
1,1 - unassigned  
bit 2: 0 - unassigned  
1 - content of userbits is secondary time data in standard time format  
bits 3-7: 0 - set to 0 until assigned

<UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7> 4 bytes, each consisting of two  
<UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5> 4-bit nibbles, each containing one  
<UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3> UB group  
<UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>  
(MSnibble)

*Note: UB 1 is the UB group which comes first on the tape.*

- 45    **USERBITS FROM TAPE VITC**  
contains the VITC userbit contents most recently read from tape.
- Format:        <USERBITS FROM TAPE VITC>  
                  <UB SPECIFICATION>        for format description, see  
                  <UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7>    "USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC"  
                  <UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5>  
                  <UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3>  
                  <UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>
- 46    **T T 1 (tape timer 1)**  
contains the instantaneous counting status of tape timer 1.
- Format:        <T T 1>  
                  <TIME VALUE>                standard "time" format
- 47    **T T 2 (tape timer 2)**  
contains the instantaneous counting status of tape timer 2.
- Format:        <T T 2>  
                  <TIME VALUE>                standard "time" format
- 48    **READY TALLY**  
tallies the status set by the READY SELECT command.
- Format:        <READY TALLY>  
                  <SWITCH>        boolean value:    00h = OFF  
  01h = ON
- 49    **SERVO REFERENCE TALLY**  
tallies the status set by the SERVO REFERENCE SELECT command.
- Format:        <SERVO REFERENCE TALLY>  
                  <MODE>        1-byte special binary code:  
  00h = auto select  
  01h = video in  
  02h = external ref input
- 4A    **RECORD MODE TALLY**  
tallies the status set by the RECORD MODE SELECT command.
- Format:        <RECORD MODE TALLY>  
                  <MODE>        1-byte special binary code:  
  00h = record disable  
  01h = insert  
  02h = assemble; all channels  
  03h = assemble; channel selectable  
  04h = rehearsal  
  05h = crash record

## 4B CHANNEL RECORD STATUS

tallies the status of the recording channels controlled by the ENTRY and EXIT commands.

Format: <CHANNEL RECORD STATUS>  
<CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic: 0 = not recording  
1 = recording

*Note: Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

## 4C CHANNEL RECORD MASK

tallies the status of a record mask that enables/disables a single channel, or all channels, for recording.

Format: <CHANNEL RECORD MASK>  
<CHANNELS> 3-byte bit mask:

bit 0 (lsb) = video  
bit 1 = sync track  
bit 2 = VITC  
bit 3 = reserved  
bit 4 = reserved  
bit 5 = reserved  
bit 6 = reserved  
bit 7 = LTC  
bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16=respectively

Logic: 0 = enabled (= default)  
1 = disabled

*Note: Bits 0-7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

## 4D TAPE CODE SELECTION TALLY

tallies the code currently selected by the most recent TAPE CODE SELECT command.

Format: <TAPE CODE SELECTION TALLY>  
<CODE TYPE> 1-byte special binary code:

00h = longitudinal timecode  
01h = vertical interval timecode  
02h = T T 1  
03h = T T 2  
04h = auto TC

## 4E SYNC VELOCITY

contains a velocity used as the synchronization velocity for the SYNC command

Format:       <SYNC VELOCITY>  
               <SPEED>       3-byte signed binary number; 2's complement  
               scale:       000000hex = still  
                           010000hex = standard play-speed forward  
                           7F0000hex = approximately 127 times standard play-speed  
   forward  
                           FF0000hex = standard play-speed reverse  
                           800000hex = 128 times standard play-speed reverse.

This is the same coding as in the argument of the VARIABLE PLAY command.

Default is standard play-speed forward.

## 4F PREROLL DURATION

contains the preroll time used in advance of synchronizing processes.

Format:       <PREROLL DURATION>  
               <TIME VALUE>                               standard "time" format

## 50 SYNC POINT

contains a TAPE CODE value used as the SYNChronization POINT for the SYNC command.

Format:       <SYNC POINT>  
               <TIME VALUE>                               standard "time" format

## 51 COLOUR FRAMER TALLY

tallies the status of the colour framer selected by the COLOUR FRAMER SELECT command.

Format:       <COLOUR FRAMER TALLY>  
               <MODE>       1-byte special binary code:

bit 7:	0 = OFF	- 2 field lock NTSC
(msb)		- 4 field lock PAL/SECAM
	1 - ON	- 4 field lock NTSC
		- 8 field lock PAL/SECAM
bit 6:	0 = normal lock	
	1 = inverted lock	
bits 3 - 0	= nibble contains binary number, which specifies an offset from the lock specified above, in units of fields	

- 52 EDIT FIELD TALLY.  
tallies the status act by the EDIT FIELD SELECT command.

Format: <EDIT FIELD TALLY>  
<MODE> 1-byte special binary code:  
00h = start of field 1 always  
01h = start of field 2 always  
02h = at next vertical in i~diate mode, or determined by field bit of  
timeline if in timeline mode  
FFh = as selected locally

- 53 not used

- 54 TCG LTC TIME SOURCE TALLY  
tallies the status of the timecode generator for the longitudinal timecode selected by the TCG  
LTC TIME SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <TCG LTC TIME SOURCE TALLY>  
<TIME SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:  
00h = hold  
01h = running independently, started with the value contained in  
information field item PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE  
LTC  
02h = running with external, unspecified source  
03h = running with the regenerated value of the LTC timecode as  
source (also contained in the information field LTC FROM  
TAPE) until a record ENTRY of the LTC track; then  
continuing independently, running with the time value most  
recently read from tape, i.e. "jam=sync" function  
04h = running with regenerated VITC timecode from tape as  
source (also contained in information field VITC FROM  
TAPE); i.e. "copy" function  
05h = running with TAPE CODE as source (also contained in  
information field TAPE CODE)

- 55 TCG VITC TIME SOURCE TALLY  
tallies the status of the timecode generator for the vertical interval timecode selected by  
the TCG VITC TIME SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <TCG VITC TIME SOURCE TALLY>  
<TIME SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:  
00h = hold  
01h = running independently, started with the value contained in  
information field item PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE  
VITC  
02h = running with external, unspecified source  
03h = running with the regenerated value of the VITC timecode as  
source (also contained in the information field VITC FROM  
TAPE) until a record EMY of the VITC track; then  
continuing independently, running with the time value most  
recently read from tape, i.e. "Jam=sync" function

- 04h = running with regenerated LTC timecode from tape assource (also contained in information field LTC FROM TAPE); i.e. "copy" function
- 05h = running with TAPE CODE as source (also contained in information field TAPE CODE)

## 56 TCG LTC USERBIT SOURCE TALLY

tallies the status of the timecode generator for the longitudinal timecode selected by the TCG LTC UB SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <TCG LTC USERBIT SOURCE TALLY>  
<USERBIT SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:

- 00h = no userbits; i.e. all set to zero
- 01h = userbits from information field item PRESETTABLE USERBIT SOURCE LTC, which may be preset by a PRESET command
- 02h = userbits from external, unspecified source
- 03h = userbits continuously copied from the LTC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC)
- 04h = userbits continuously copied from the VITC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE =VITC)

## 57 TCG VITC USERBIT SOURCE TALLY

tallies the status of the timecode generator for the vertical interval timecode selected by the TCG VITC UB SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <TCG VITC USERBIT SOURCE TALLY>  
<USERBIT SOURCE> 1-byte special binary code:

- 00h = no userbits; i.e. all set to zero
- 01h = userbits from information field item PRESETTABLE USERBIT SOURCE VITC, which may be preset by a PRESET command
- 02h = userbits from external, unspecified source
- 03h = userbits continuously copied from the VITC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE VITC)
- 04h. = userbits continuously copied from the LTC timecode from tape (also contained in information field USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC)

58 not used

59 not used

5A TAPELENGTH  
contains the length of the loaded tape.

Format        <TAPELENGTH>  
                 <TIME VALUE>        standard "time" format

5B PARKING ACCURACY  
contains a time value that determines the accuracy of parking processes performed by certain commands, e.g. TARGET SEARCH, PREROLL SEARCH

Format:        <PARKING ACCURACY>  
                 <FIELDS>        1-byte unsigned number

*Note: FFh (as locally specified) shall be used in the PRESET command only. It shall not be used in an INFORMATION FIELD ITEM RESPONSE.*

5C SYNCHRONISM ACCURACY  
contains a time value that determines the accuracy of synchronizing processes, i.e. it specifies the maximum allowed offset error at the SYNC POINT.

Format:        <SYNCHRONISM ACCURACY>  
                 <FIELDS>        1-byte unsigned number

*Note: FFh (as locally specified) shall be used in the PRESET command only. It shall not be used in an INFORMATION FIELD ITEM RESPONSE.*

5D not used

SE TRACKING SELECTION TALLY  
tallies the status act by the TRACKING SELECT command.

Format:        <TRACKING SELECTION TALLY>  
                 <MODE>        1-byte special binary code:

00h = FIXED  
01h = AUTO

5F ANTI-CLOG CONTROL TALLY  
tallies the status of the anti-clog mechanism, which is controlled by the ANTI-CLOG CONTROL command.

Format:        <ANTI-CLOG CONTROL TALLY>  
                 <SWITCH STATUS>    1-byte special binary code:

00h = ON  
01h = OFF  
02h = extended  
03h = immediate tension release

60 not used

61 TMC TALLY

tallies the current transport motion command of the VTR, and specifies its success in accomplishing the command.

Format: <TMC TALLY>  
 <KEYWORD> 1-byte value that contains the keyword of the last commanded TMC from either immediate or timeline mode.

<SUCCESS LEVEL> 1-byte special binary code:

00h = trying; transition in process  
 01h = successful  
 02h = failure; this tally should be supplemented by an ERROR message as appropriate

62 VELOCITY TALLY

tallies the current transport velocity. Note that this is the true velocity in all TMC modes.

Format: <VELOCITY TALLY>  
 <SPEED> 3-byte signed binary number; 2's complement  
 scale: 000000h = still  
 010000h = standard play-speed forward.  
 7F0000h = approximately 127 times standard play-speed forward  
 FF0000h = standard play-speed reverse  
 800000h = 128 times standard play-speed reverse.

this is the same coding as in the argument of the VARIABLE PLAY command.

63 TIMELINE CORRECTION TALLY

tallies the number of fields advanced by the-machine internal clock following a TIMELINE RUN command.

Format: <TIMELINE CORRECTION TALLY>  
 <FIELDS> 1-byte signed binary number

64 not used

65 PLAYBACK CHANNEL TALLY

tallies the status of the playback channels selected by the PLAYBACK CHANNEL SELECT command.

Format:     <PLAYBACK CHANNEL TALLY>  
           <CHANNELS>         3-byte bit mask:  
                   bit 0 (lsb) = video  
                   bit 1 = sync track  
                   bit 2 = VITC  
                   bit 3 = reserved  
                   bit 4 = reserved  
                   bit 5 = reserved  
                   bit 6 = reserved  
                   bit 7 = LTC  
                   bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic:     0 = playback channel  
            1 = monitor channel (audio)  
                   record channel (video)

*Note: Bits 0=7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

66     CHANNEL MUTE TALLY  
 tallies the status of the auto mute function selected by the CHANNEL MUTE     SELECT  
 command.

Format:     <CHANNEL MUTE TALLY>  
           <CHANNELS>         3-byte bit mask:  
                   bit 0 (lsb) = video  
                   bit 1 = sync track  
                   bit 2 = VITC  
                   bit 3 = reserved  
                   bit 4 = reserved  
                   bit 5 = reserved  
                   bit 6 = reserved  
                   bit 7 = LTC  
                   bits 8 - 23 = audios 1 - 16 respectively

Logic:     0 = mute enabled  
            1 = mute disabled

*Note: Bits 0=7 form the least-significant byte; this byte is transmitted last.*

67     TAPE/EE TALLY  
 tallies the status of the tapeelectronics switches controlled by the TAPE/EE select command.

Format:     <TAPE/EE>  
           <SWITCH>           1-byte special binary code:

00h = AUTO  
 01h = TAPE  
 02h = EE

- 68 TIMECODE TO TAPE LTC  
contains the current longitudinal timecode value being generated by the timecode generator.
- Format:     <TIMECODE TO TAPE LTC>  
              <TIME VALUE>       standard "time" format
- 69 TIMECODE TO TAPE VITC  
contains the current vertical interval timecode value being generated by the timecode generator.
- Format:     <TIMECODE TO TAPE VITC>  
              <TIME VALUE>       standard "time,, format
- 6A. USERBITS TO TAPE LTC  
contains the current userbits contents being generated by the timecode generator to go with the longitudinal timecode.
- Format:     <USERBITS TO TAPE LTC>  
              <UB SPECIFICATION>       for format description, see  
              <UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7>   "USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC"  
              <UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5>  
              <UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3>  
              <UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>
- 6B USERBITS TO TAPE VITC  
contains the current userbit contents being generated by the timecode generator to go with the vertical interval timecode.
- Format:     <USERBITS TO TAPE VITC>  
              <UB SPECIFICATION>       for format description, see  
              <UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7>   "USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC"  
              <UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5>  
              <UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3>  
              <UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>
- 6C PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE LTC  
contains a time value that can be PRESET and be used to start the LTC timecode generator by selecting it in a TCG LTC TIME SOURCE SELECT command.
- Format:     <PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE LTC>  
              <TIME VALUE>       standard "time" format
- 6D PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE VITC  
contains a time value that can be PRESET and be used to start the VITC timecode generator by selecting it in a TCG VITC TIME SOURCE SELECT command.
- Format:     <PRESETTABLE TIME SOURCE VITC>  
              <TIME VALUE>       standard "time" format

- 6E PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE LTC  
contains a userbit pattern that can be PRESET and be used by the LTC timecode generator by selecting it in a TCG LTC UB SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE LTC>  
<UB SPECIFICATION> for format description, see  
<UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7> "USERBITS PROM TAPE LTC"  
<UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5>  
<UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3>  
<UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>

- 6F PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE VITC  
contains a userbit pattern that can be PRESET and be used by the VITC timecode generator by selecting it in a TCG VITC UB SOURCE SELECT command.

Format: <PRESETTABLE UB SOURCE VIM  
<UB SPECIFICATION> for format description, see  
<UB GROUP 8/UB GROUP 7> "USERBITS FROM TAPE LTC"  
<UB GROUP 6/UB GROUP 5>  
<UB GROUP 4/UB GROUP 3>  
<UB GROUP 2/UB GROUP 1>

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