

## **Pro-Digi 32-Track Playback Alert!**

***Do you or your artists have master recordings on Pro-Digi (PD) format reels? If so, they are at risk!!***

PD is a 32 track digital audio format that uses 1 inch tape. PD multitrack recorders manufactured by Mitsubishi and Otari were used extensively in Nashville from the late 1980s until the mid 1990s. The use of this equipment was ultimately supplanted by the DASH digital format, and then by the availability of Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software.

### **What is the problem?**

- No new PD format machines have been manufactured for over 20 years.
- No availability of spare parts for existing machines.
- Most importantly, there are no companies that can refurbish the playback heads.

### **Why should I be concerned?**

- If you have multitrack recordings in this format, usually on Ampex 467 Digital 1 inch tape, there is a high probability that you will not be able to re-visit your source recordings for additional purposes in the future (i.e., new mixes, surround mixes, etc.).
- If you have *unreleased* multitrack recordings in this format, which were never mixed or transferred to another format, they could be lost forever.
- PD format tapes exhibit the same “sticky-shed” syndrome as analog tapes, where the tape literally sheds the top layer from the back-coating of the tape during playback, ruining the tape.

### **How VeVa Sound can help**

- VeVa Sound has a complete workstation to transfer multitrack recordings from the PD digital format to Broadcast Wave Format (BWF) files.
- All transfers will be made digitally, at the tape’s original bit depth and sample rate, resulting in no signal loss. Whenever possible, the positional reference of the recording is also maintained.
- We will deliver 32 Broadcast Wave Files per reel, one file per recorded track of the tape, for each reel transferred.

### **Contact us**

We’re not in the business of fear mongering as we regularly migrate tapes and other media from the 1980s. Our position is simply that while we can still find tape machines for other formats, we don’t have the same flexibility with PD. As a result of a small installed base of PD machines, the ability to resource parts is rapidly going away. Once the resource parts are depleted (we have them now) migration will not be possible.

We are happy to provide *at no charge* a consultation of your holdings. From there, we can come up with an appropriate budget for those tapes deemed necessary to be transferred.

**Please contact us at (615) 385-1251, or email us directly ([jspencer@vevasound.com](mailto:jspencer@vevasound.com) or [jsarappo@vevasound.com](mailto:jsarappo@vevasound.com)) for additional information.**

Thank you,

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