

Mr. Anthony McCardell,
123 Fairway,
Nedlands, 6009.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

7th January, 1970.

Dear Mr. McCardell,

Your letters to Professor Jones and to the A.I.A.S. Sound Section have been passed to me and I regret the delay in answering. I have just returned from three weeks leave.

Some time ago I made extensive enquiries regarding a device for prolonging selected vocal tones of recorded songs on tape. My search led me to F.E. Kent, a technician in the Phonetics Department, The School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, 27 George Square, Edinburgh, who had experimented with such a device but with no real success.

I quote from his letter (9/12/65):-

"The most promising experiments involved a normal tape playback head fixed to an electronically controlled vibrating device such as the magnet and moving coil components of a loud-speaker with suitable manufacturer's modifications. You may find it useful to have experiments done on these lines by a technician, and if necessary I could elaborate on this, but must point out that we had very little success with it for reasons too many to enumerate.

The British Post Office Telephone Department and one or two private firms have experimented with some success with a revolving head mechanism, but this does not prolong the note, it only repeats short, selected notes or passages in rapid succession. The principle of this unit is to make a revolving wheel of suitable diameter with a recess round the circumference to hold the tape. The play-back head is fitted inside this recess and the tape held under tension. The wheel then revolves, playing back the parts of tape which come into contact with it. There are a great number of difficulties involved in this, but if you think this would be suitable, and care to write again, I will pass your query on to the company which has made most progress. I suspect that in addition to these difficulties, this device would prove to be very costly".

Enclosed is a copy of F.E. Kents' paper on "A Simple Tape-Loop Repeating Device" which may interest you. I prefer the Tandberg playback model with a foot pedal for my own notation work.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Alice M. Moyle
A.I.A.S. Research Fellow

Encl.
AMM:vap