

# Tape Cartridge

## What is it?

A Tape Cartridge is a small, rectangular, plastic housing for tape. It contains 1/4-inch wide tape that is slightly larger than regular audiocassettes. The Tape Drive copies files from the computer onto Tape cartridges. This device is also called a tape backup. The tape cassettes look like music cassettes that you would buy at a music store. They are used to back up data files on the computer. They also can make a copy of your application program. Most people with tape backups make a copy of their work every day. Tape Cassettes can be purchased with large capacities (1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB), so the entire contents of your hard drive can easily fit onto one tape.



## Tape Drive

A Tape Drive is a device that moves magnetic tape so that the data can be read from, or written to, the tape. It is used to read from and write data and information on to a Tape Cartridge. The tape drives are also called as Tape Backup Units. It may be built into the computer or stand on its own. Tape Drives can be mounted internally or used externally (connected to the computer by a cable). The external drive is more expensive, but can be used with more than one computer.

## Types of Tape Drives

**QIC Drive** (Quarter-Inch Cartridge, storage capacity 4 GB of data) most common type of tape drive that is used. It is also the least expensive.

**Travan Drive** (Storage capacity 8 GB of data) can also use QIC cartridges. This drive is newer and has the ability to store more information than the QIC drive.

**DAT Drive** (Digital Audio Tape, storage capacity 10 GB of data) and the most expensive, but also currently the fastest and most reliable of all of the tape drives.

## Applications

A Tape Cartridge can be used for purposes like:-

### Transfer Data

It can be used to move a large numbers of files. They are also used to transfer large amounts of information between computers.

### Backup Data

The Tapes are used to backup data i.e. keeping a copy of files in case original files are damaged or stolen. Tape backups are good for storing away rarely used files and data, providing more room on the computer for storage and other applications. For archiving or backing up the entire contents of

your hard drive, a Tape Cartridge is a good bet.

### **Freeing up Hard Disk space**

These help in freeing up space by storing the archived files from the memory, so that they can be removed from the hard disk creating more storage space.

### **Helps in Organizing and Managing Files**

Tape drives come with specific backup programs to help organize and manage the files stored on the drive. The backup programs can be configured to run automatically. It can also let you backup information at increments (only those files that you have changed) or a full backup that will back up all your files.

### **Facilitates Compression**

The tape drive also can have what is called compression. The compression allows you to squeeze together data so that it can store more information on your tape. In compression, the amount of information compressed is also determined by the type of file that you are backing up. A text file will compress more than a graphics file.