

From: David Buell
Subject: Re: Info posted
Date: January 8, 2022 at 10:03:06 AM CST
To: Martin Theophilus <martin@r2rtx.org>

Hi Martin!

Thanks for adding me to the Stories page! What an honor!!

Just for your amusement, here are pictures of a few of the tape machines I've owned. Yeah, I was that weird kid that took pictures of his stereo equipment...

Sadly, I no longer have any of these machines.



This is the first machine that I owned (besides my dad's Zenith, with a "magic eye" level indicator). A Concord 776D(?) auto-reverse (sensing tape) machine. Later when the electronics died, I took them out, bought replacement PB head (my pre-amp had a Tape Head input with different equalizations) and made it into a PB only and one direction deck.



d

Roberts 997. Based on an Ampex 600-2. Tube electronics. Really enjoyed this machine. A little finicky, but very easy to work on.



Staying with the brand, a Roberts 420X. I got lots of use out of this machine recording the band I was in during high school and college. It even survived getting stolen and recovered!



(not my machine, but it was identical to this one that I found

doing a picture search)

Sometime during this era, I purchased an Ampex 400 with a 350(?) electronics in a stand-up console from Sellars Co. Recording Studio. It was a full-track mono machine, so I didn't have much use for it and sold it soon after. I found it interesting that the capstan and pinch roller was on the left side of the head stack, so it "pushed" instead of "pulled" tape through the heads.



I fell in love with a Crown 700 2-track that my Junior High School owned, so I had to have this one when it came up for sale. Both my favorite and most aggravating machine, the Crown SX-822, 2-track. A favorite for its sound, large VU meters and its high speed FF and RW, and most aggravating because the motion control logic used a light bulb and counter-rotating discs with holes in them to sense speed and direction. Everything worked well until one of those bulbs burned out. If you were in FF or RW when this happened, you now had a tape flying everywhere!!



Finally, a shot of my stereo system in my college apartment. You can see the Crown, a Teac 3340, a Revox 4 channel mixer (for the Teac), Technics TT, Crown IC-150 preamp, SAE Mk IIIa power amp, Pioneer tuner and a Soundcraftsman graphic EQ. All

that fed a pair of JBL 4313 speakers.

Again, thanks for the adding me to your site and I look forward to hearing from you, wherever you get the time...

Cheers!!

David