

## Optimizing Performance Of Your DLT Drives And Inspecting Your Media

1. DLT Drives are very sensitive as to correct power specially on more recent model as 7000 and 8000, If you are installing the unit for the first time, make sure that the power supply for the unit can output a minimum of 3 amps on both the 5 and 12 volt lines
2. Please inspect any tapes that you might be using with your DLT drive, If the cartridge is damaged, or if the cartridge leader is in the wrong place – DO NOT USE IT – You could lose the leader in your DLT Drive, Rendering the drive inoperable. A cartridge inspection procedure is described below.

### When should you perform a visual mechanical inspection (VMI) on a DLT tape cartridge?

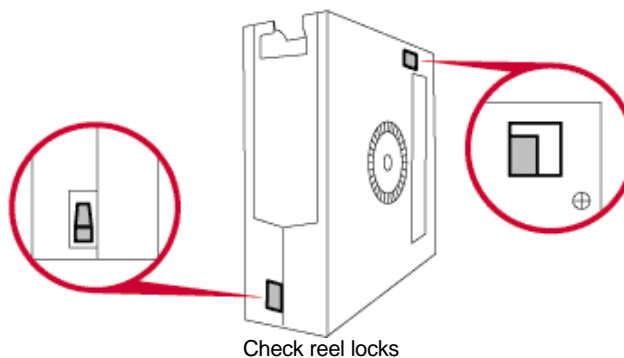
You should do a VMI:

- Whenever you load a tape cartridge
- If a tape cartridge is dropped or subject to some hard physical shock
- If the DLT tape drive becomes inoperable after loading a tape cartridge
- If you receive a shipment of tape cartridges that show any sign of shipping damage

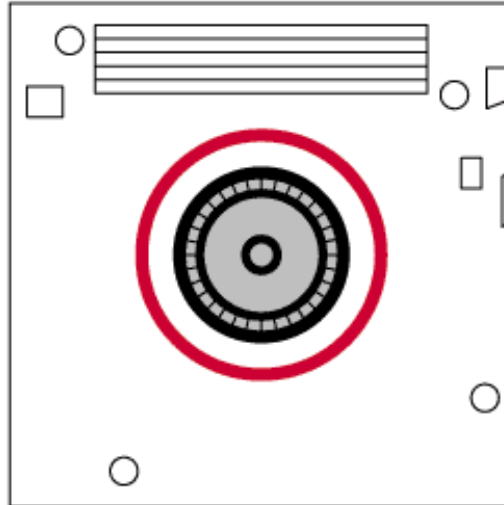
### VMI Inspection Procedure

If the cartridge does not pass the following inspection, do not use it:

1. Inspect the exterior of the cartridge for any obvious cracks or physical damage. Look for broken or missing parts.
2. Gently shake the tape cartridge. Listen for any rattling or sounds of any loose pieces inside the cartridge. If you hear anything loose inside, do not use the cartridge.
3. Hold the tape cartridge so that the end of the cartridge that is inserted into the DLT tape drive is facing you. Check to make sure that both reel locks on the cartridge are visible. One reel lock is located on the end of the cartridge that is inserted into the drive. The other is on the bottom of the cartridge.

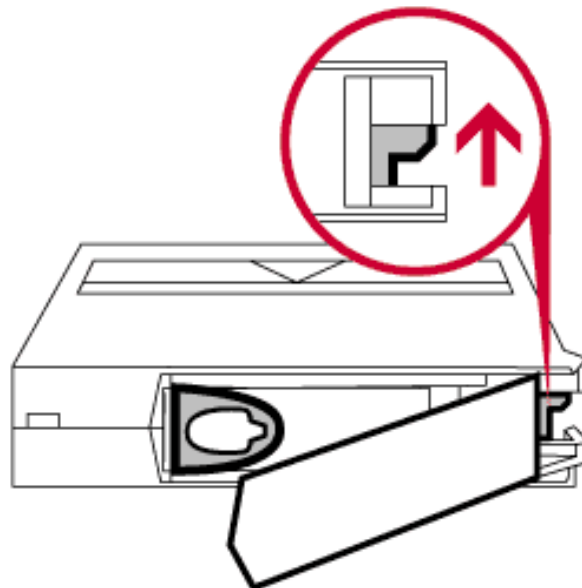


4. Confirm that the spring-loaded hub on the bottom of the cartridge is centered. Press the hub to ensure that the spring is functioning properly.

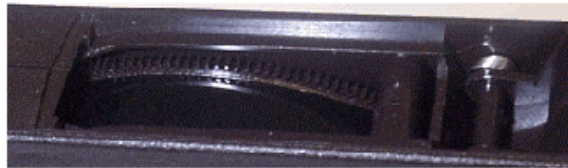


Inspect the spring-loaded hub

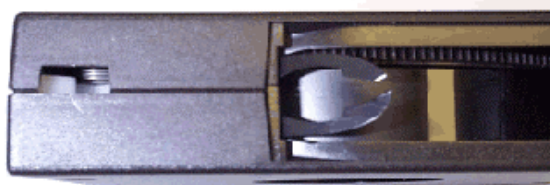
5. Open the tape cartridge door and check that the tape leader is in the correct position. To open the cartridge door, use your thumb to lift the tab and swing the door open. The loop should stick up about an eighth of an inch when viewed from the edge; the loop must be a closed loop. If the loop is torn, bent, pulled in, or not sticking up about an eighth of an inch, do not use the tape cartridge.



Check tape leader



*Example 1:  
"Swallowed" tape cartridge leader*

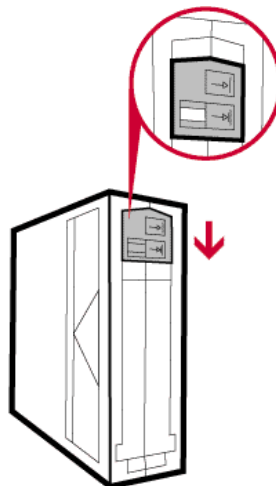


*Example 2:  
Torn or broken leader loop*



*Example 3:  
Tape is loosely wound*

Examples of Tape Cartridges with Damage



Check write-protect switch

6. Verify that the write-protect switch is enabled and undamaged. The switch should snap smartly back and forth, and a small orange rectangle should be visible when the tape cartridge is set to provide Write Protection (data on the tape cannot be written over).

By following general handling procedures, conducting careful visual inspections of tape cartridges on a regular, ongoing basis, and making sure that tape cartridges are stored within their environmental limits, you will greatly reduce any chance that you will experience problems with your tape cartridges or cause damage to your DLT tape system.

Respect your media as much as you do your data.