



Editing Tapes For Showing On MHAT

MHAT uses an automated playback system that is computer-controlled. It has special features for switching to a backup program source if it senses a loss of video signal, which can be triggered by tapes that are not completely recorded.

Tape decks need a few seconds to get up to speed; that is the reason for not starting the program at the tape's very beginning.

We measure the time from the beginning of the rewind tape to the start of the program, and tell the computer to start rolling tape exactly that many of seconds early, so the program will start at the advertised time. The amount of time between the start of the tape and the start of the program is called "pre-roll".

Some editors put a lot of fancy stuff at the beginning of the tape, like a "slate" (message with the program name, date, producer contact information, etc.), color bars, and/or a "countdown leader" (numbers counting down). Those are nice, and useful, but here is what we really need:

- Tape recorded continuously with video (black is best) from the very beginning¹
- A short time (5-30 seconds is ideal) to the program start. (Long pre-roll times cause problems – some tapes we receive roll several minutes before the program starts)

That's all it takes! Your attention to our needs will result in the proper presentation of your program and of those following it.

Thanks From MHAT's Engineering Department

¹ Please note that many VCRs and TVs show a blank blue or black screen instead of the "snow" that normally results from playing blank tape... so you can't always believe what you see on the screen.