

Teac's New Semipro Model



The Equipment: Teac 3300-10, a two-speed (7½ and 3¼ ips) quarter-track stereo tape deck (with recording and playback preamps; less power amplifiers and speakers) handling reels up to 10½ inches. Dimensions: 15¾ by 15¾ by 9¼ inches. Price: \$499.50. Manufacturer: Teac, Japan; U.S. distributor, Teac Corp. of America, 733 Telegraph Rd., Montebello, Calif. 90640.

Comment: Those readers familiar with the Teac A-1230 [HF test report, April 1971] may, at first glance, think they recognize the 3300. The layout and control operation are all but identical; only the NAB reel capacity of the 3300 stands out as against the 7-inch maximum handled by the A-1230. A closer look will turn up the larger meters of the 3300 and its tape-tension switch next to the speed switch. But these differences only hint at the true individuality of the 3300.

Or rather the 3300 series, which consists of three models all within the \$500 bracket: the 3300-10 reviewed here; the 3300-12, which is identical except for its half-track heads; and the 3300-11, which has the same heads as the 3300-12 but operates at 15 and 7½ ips. For home purposes, it is the 3300-10 that should attract the lion's share of interest—though half-track recorders are popular among European recordists because of their slightly better (by 2 dB in this case according to Teac) signal-to-noise ratios.

Comparison of the lab tests shows the 3300, however similar in operation to the A-1230, to be a new and significantly better unit, justifying Teac's characterization of the 3300 series as "semipro." Speed accuracy and wow-and-flutter figures are exceptionally good. While linearity and distortion figures are similar to those measured for the A-1230 at 7½ ips, they are considerably



Motion control group at right consists of three buttons and one three-position lever switch. Outside buttons control direction; left button is used in fast mode only, selected by moving switch to left-hand position. Unit can be put into recording mode by pressing right motion button and record button simultaneously, with the three-position switch set to either "play" or "pause," but only if at least one of the record-mode switches below left VU meter is turned on. As we have commented in the past, these buttons provide a welcome record-defeat function, helping to prevent accidental erasure of recorded tapes.

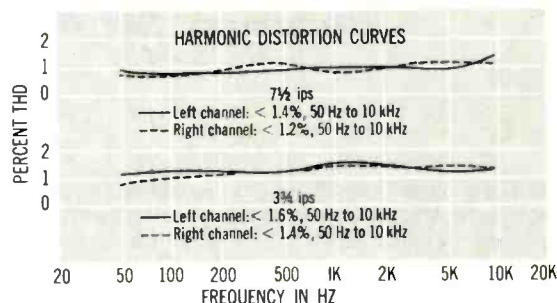
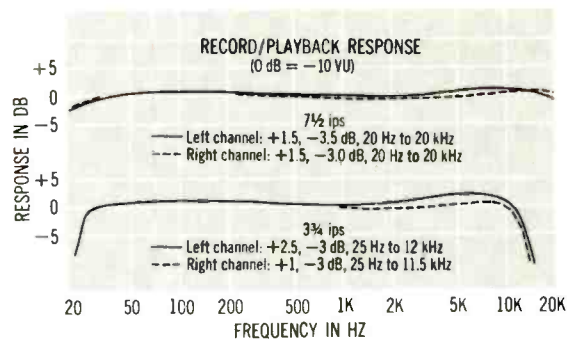
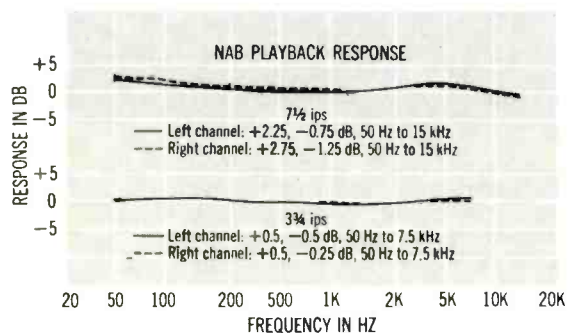
better at 3¾ ips and among the best we have seen at this speed in any tape equipment. At every turn the measurements on the 3300 are at least as good as those for the A-1230; generally they are better.

The photographs describe the unit's operation more clearly than words can. Motion controls fall into two groups: the turns indicator, speed switch, and tension switch below the feed reel; and the group consisting of three buttons plus one lever switch toward the lower right of the face plate. The three buttons are for reverse, stop, and forward—the reverse operative only in the fast-wind mode since this is not a bidirectional deck. The lever switch selects mode: fast wind, pause, and play (or record). During recording the pause position can be used to stop the tape without disengaging the recording circuitry; returning the switch to the play position allows the recording to continue. In playback the pause has the same effect as touching the stop button; the switch must be returned to play and the forward motion button pressed before the pinch roller will engage and before the tape will move.

Other controls are the record interlock button below the mode switch, a bias switch with positions for recording either on low-noise or on standard tape, recording-defeat switches for each channel, and a tape/source monitor switch. These controls run along the bottom of the front panel and are flanked by mike jacks, headphone jack, and power switch. To the left of the VU meters are level controls for microphone and line inputs and for output—each a ganged double knob allowing individual adjustment of left and right channels. Line connections are made on the back of the unit—which becomes the bottom when the accessory feet (supplied) are attached and the unit placed horizontally.

The solidity of construction and luxurious "feel" of the solenoid-operated controls are matters that we have commented on before in reviewing Teac decks and are hallmarks of the Teac line. If we have any complaint about the unit, it is the difficulty of cueing up tapes to a precise point—for re-recording over, or physically editing out, a mistake for example. This lack of a playback cue control is shared by other Teac models whose continuing popularity argues against the importance of such a control to a great many users. Be that as it may, we consider the 3300 to be an open-reel deck presenting an excellent value for users whose overriding concern is with maximum quality in the reproduction of taped sound.

CIRCLE 144 ON READER-SERVICE CARD



Teac 3300-10 Additional Data

Speed accuracy 7½ ips	105 VAC: 0.07% fast 120 VAC: 0.07% fast 127 VAC: 0.07% fast
3¾ ips	105 VAC: 0.27% fast 120 VAC: 0.27% fast 127 VAC: 0.27% fast
Wow and flutter 7½ ips	playback: 0.03% record/playback: 0.04%
3¾ ips	playback: 0.05% record/playback: 0.08%
Rewind time, 7-in. 1,800-ft. reel	1 min. 34 sec.
Fast-forward time, same reel	1 min. 33 sec.
S/N ratio (ref. 0 VU)	
playback	L ch: 55 dB R ch: 54 dB
record/playback	L ch: 53 dB R ch: 53 dB
Erasure (400 Hz at normal level)	64 dB
Crosstalk (at 400 Hz)	
record left, playback right	50.5 dB
record right, playback left	50.0 dB
Sensitivity (for 0-VU recording level)	
line input	L ch: 109 mV R ch: 92 mV
mike input	L ch: 0.40 mV R ch: 0.35 mV
Accuracy, built-in meters	L ch: 1 dB high R ch: 1 dB high
IM distortion (record/play, -10 VU)	
7½ ips	L ch: 1.8% R ch: 1.8%
3¾ ips	L ch: 2.5% R ch: 2.2%
Maximum output (preamp or line, 0-VU)	L ch: 0.7 V R ch: 0.7 V