

# Re: Bulk erase methods

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-07/msg01736.html>

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- *From:* Al <[no.spam@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no.spam@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 14 Jul 2005 14:08:53 GMT
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In article <[pan.2005.07.13.22.18.03.757605@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:pan.2005.07.13.22.18.03.757605@xxxxxxxxxxx)>, Rich Grise <[richgrise@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:richgrise@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

> On Wed, 13 Jul 2005 16:57:58 +0000, Guy Macon wrote:  
>  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> Naveed wrote:  
>>>  
>>>"Guy Macon" <[\\_see.web.page\\_@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:_see.web.page_@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote...  
>>>>  
>>>> Barry Lennox wrote:  
>>>>>  
>>>>> On 11 Jul 2005 15:45:50 -0700, bigcat@xxxxxxxxxxx wrote:  
>>>>>>  
>>>>>> What methods can be used to bulk erase a lot of floppies? I dont have  
>>>>>> one of those nice big electromagnets, and was wondering if anything  
>>>>>> else to hand could be used. I presume 2 seconds in a microwave with a  
>>>>>> load to prevent sparking is too risky, though I should try one.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Cant think of anything else that causes a strong enough mag field...  
>>>>>>> any ideas?  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Old magnetron magnets will do the job very nicely.  
>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>> Magnets do indeed destroy data, but if that's all he wants to do  
>>>>>>>>> a bonfire is even better. If he wants to re-use the floppies he  
>>>>>>>>> would be better off with something that creates an alternating  
>>>>>>>>> magnetic field.  
>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>> If the magnet was attached to a drill running at low speed then that would  
>>>>>>>>>> cause an alternating magnetic field.  
>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>> Excellent point.  
>>>>>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>>>>>> Which brings up the question, what is the optimal frequency?  
>>>>>>>>>>>> With an electromagnet you get 50/60 Hz unless you go to a lot  
>>>>>>>>>>>> of effort to get another frequency – and it works well – but

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- > > with a motor/magnet it's easy to pick a frequency.
- >
- > The frequency is irrelevant. The point is to have a strong enough
- > magnetic field to line up all of the little magnetic thingies in
- > the media, and then turn them all around on the next half-cycle.
- >
- > A permanent magnet will line up all the little thingies, but then
- > you've got a magnet bias that could introduce confounding factors
- > when re-using the media.
- >
- > Anyway, with the AC field (hey, there's a usage of AC that we
- > didn't consider in the "Tastes Great-Less Filling" ACDC thing!),
- > just twirl the magnet fast enough that it can sweep the field
- > over the media once or twice.
- >
- > Then, the secret is, slowly move the moving magnet ( or half
- > a transformer, or whatever) away from the media, and as the
- > alternating field gets weaker and weaker, reversing fewer
- > and fewer thingies, until on the average, there's no
- > residual magnetism in the media.
- >
- > It's the same principle with CRT degaussers, but they use
- > a PTC thermistor in series with the coil. Press the degausser
- > button on your monitor – see the pretty patterns? And how
- > they decay? That's the principle that ends up with
- > negligible residual magnetization. I know there's a whole
- > nother jargon here, but, come on! :-)
- >
- > Anyway, Hope This Helps!
- >
- > Cheers!
- > Rich
- >
- >

Years ago, bulk magnetic tape erasers were sold for erasing reel-to-reel magnetic tapes. You might be able to find one in an antiques store ;-)

and use it for your purpose.

Al

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- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**

- ◇ *From:* Michael A. Terrell

- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**

- ◇ *From:* Keith Williams

- *References:*

Re: Bulk erase methods

- ◆ **Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* bigcat
- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* Barry Lennox
- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* Guy Macon
- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* Naveed
- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* Guy Macon
- ◆ **Re: Bulk erase methods**
  - ◇ *From:* Rich Grise

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