

Re: Sony TC-105 Reel-to-Reel Recorder

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Asimov wrote:>

- > *I have a small MONO portable German made machine with track switching*
- > *similar to that. It is a SABA TK125. When it was given the person*
- > *said*
- > *it was used by a missionary in Africa, whatever... Anyways, there is*
- > *only one output tube and only one speaker but it plays back 2 tracks*
- > *at a time in MONO. There is a switch to select between 1-2 or 3-4.*
- >
- > *The only odd thing is the DIN speaker socket has both speaker I and*
- > *II*
- > *labeled. BUT it is MONO, no doubt about it. After cleaning all the*
- > *axles and relay contacts it works nicely now. It is very*
- > *pre-transistor 50's looking, in modern green plastic not bakelite.*
- >
- > *A*s*i*m*v*
- >
- > *... That was a fascinating period of time for electronics*

Most 4 track mono reel to reels have a selector switch labelled 1-4, 3-2 and PAR (parallel). Position 1-4 (or 3-2), does **not** mean you hear both track 1 and 4 (or 3 and 2) together. It means that track 1 and 3 are the two tracks you use on side one, and after turning the reels over you still have 4 and 2 to use on the other direction. (On a stereo model, 1 would be left and 3 right. same for 4 and 2 on the second side).

Labelling of the positions can be different depending on manufacturer (grundig for example, often used the terms 1-2 and 3-4, but in reality they meant tracks 1-4 and 3-2, same quarter track system but i think they just simplified the names a bit for the end-user)

Quarter track r2r is not like cassette, there is a greater space width between the heads:

Track 4
Track 3 --Head
Track 2

Track 1 --Head

Unlike the stereo decks, It is not generally possible to record on both 1 and 3 at once on a mono deck as there is only one set of recording circuitry, which was coupled to either the upper or lower head depending on track selector position.

However, On playback, if the switch is set to PAR, it will feed the upper and lower head signals to the head amp, and hence play both tracks 1 and 3 (or tracks 2 and 4 if we're talking about side 2 of the tape). It is thus possible to hear left and right (together!) of a stereo tape on a mono quarter track deck.

Many mono decks had more than one speaker output, depending on how beefy their amps were. I have some mono tandbergs like that. Some also had a "free head output" which was an unamplified signal from whatever head was not being fed through the deck's internal amp at the time, theoretically enabling you to connect an auxiliary second head amp (and power amp, speakers etc) and get stereo.

hope some of that made sense ;-)
Ben