TRANSFER OF 1/2" TAPE TO MOVIES

Some of the large problems involved in the production of finished programs originally shot on half-inch can be solved by adding a large emeritment of money in transferring it to 16mm movie film. Upon transfer, the resultant product can be handled like a movie film in terms of editing and dubbing. 

The method generally used to transfer video to movie film is extremely simple, the tape is played onto a high quality monitor and filmed with a camera. Careful control must be made of the exposure and the scanning rate of the monitor and the lensing rate of the camera must be interlocked to prevent flicker or that familiar black bar that appears in the middle of a TV screen when a movie camera is pointed at one. Of the best places to make such a transfer is a company called Rombex Productions, 225 West 55th St., New York City 10019. Their rates are high—$11.00 per minute for a double system transfer with a minimum of ten minute segments but it is a tricky business to do well and produces unacceptable results.

There has recently appeared on the market a device called a Processing Amplifier originating from several different manufacturers which was supposed to be the "cure all" or easy way of overcoming this basic weakness in all "cable and 1/2" equipment. It is simply a matter of patching in or out, the device depending on whether you want to film or not. The technique of editing onto a 3400 (described elsewhere on this page) will still mean that 20% of the edits are not good enough to be transmitted.

Video Transferring with AV-3400

Transferring to 2" or playing back into a TV system can sometimes be accomplished under certain conditions: One condition is that the machine be reasonably stable and running on speed. Two is that the video recorded on half inch tape must be recorded with EIA sync information, as opposed to industrial sync, which is what we have when a recording is made using standard Sony video equipment. In summing up the above information, it would appear that not only the specific equipment, but also the technique of editing the AV-3400, the same difficulties will always be experienced when attempting to transfer to most Professional systems. This would also include 1" equipment using the Helical Scan format.

Another problem is that not all formats are equally well suited for video editing. The use of a high quality VTR is essential, as is the use of a high quality editing monitor. The technique of editing onto a 3400 (described elsewhere on this page) will still mean that 20% of the edits are not good enough to be transmitted.

Gordon Matsell

CABLE & 1/2"

Half-inch tape is easily transmitted on standard cable equipment, it is a matter of patching coaxial cable directly from the 3400 into the transmission set-up. In a series of tests conducted by the government in Winnipeg, half-inch was sometimes found to be superior to 1/2".