



DLT™ Tape Drive Leader Re-Attachment/Replacment Procedure

WARNING: This procedure should only be done by trained personnel. Damage to the leader, tape head, or tape drive may occur if the leader is not installed and threaded properly in the tape drive.

Nylon gloves must be worn to protect the leader surface from oils of the skin which can cause drive failure. The tape head itself can be contaminated or damaged and the drive functionality may be adversely affected if this step is not followed.

1. Locate the two rectangular slots near the front of the plastic dust cover. Insert a small flat blade screwdriver into each slot, gently pry each tab, and lift the front of the cover. A third holding tab is located at the rear of the drive, which can be pried open with just the finger.

2. With the cover removed, gently rotate the take-up reel in a clockwise direction until the leader “Mushroom” tip is exposed.

3. ***Wear nylon gloves. Pull the leader to its full length and wipe the entire leader with a lint-free cloth pad dampened with isopropyl alcohol. DO NOT USE SOLVENTS. WIPE ONLY THE LEADER. DO NOT TOUCH THE ROLLERS OR THE HEAD.*** If the leader is not damaged and appears to be free of scratches it can be re-attached to the buckling mechanism of the drive; however, installing a new leader at this point is recommended.

4. Very carefully slide the leader in front of the head positioning the leader so that it enters the tape path and passes around all six (6) rollers. Each roller has a flange that holds the leader in alignment and the mushroom end of the leader will protrude into the rear of the drive receiver.

5. Gently pull the leader to its full length. Position the leader so that the buckling link arm aligns to the rectangular slot in the leader and gently pull back the buckling arm with the index finger so that the hook engages the slot. Release the mechanism and verify that the mushroom tip is in front of the buckling mechanism.

6. Verify that the leader is completely in the tape path and that it is between the flanges of each roller. Rotate the take-up reel clockwise about 1/8th turn (2 or 3 times) to seat the leader. Visually verify this.

7. Reinstall the plastic dust cover.

The information contained in these instructions has been extracted from the Quantum “DLT™ Tape Drive Self Maintainer Service Procedures” document dated Nov. 4, 1997.