

1. We have a couple of playback decks including an *Otari* model ARS-1000 that was salvaged from a radio station when they went to CDs. The deck has been refurbished and works very well. Short-time speed stability (wow and flutter) and signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) are probably the most important things to look at when selecting or comparing recorders or playback decks. The wow and flutter should be as small as possible while the SNR should be high. Look for “wow and flutter” of 0.2% or less at 7.5 inches per second tape speed and an SNR of about 50 dB or better. Used equipment can be found on *eBay* and good brand names to look for include *Teac*, *Sony* and *Tandberg*.

2. Sound cards are not created equal. For a fairly comprehensive comparison go to (<http://www.pcavtech.com/soundcards/compare/index.htm>). The site operator, Mr. Arnold Krueger, tests the cards and posts his findings. We like the *Turtle Beach Santa Cruz* card (it has a score of 7 with 5 being the best) and the *Waveterminal 192X* (it’s not rated but it does up to 24-bit sampling at up to 192 kHz). Also check out the cards at (<http://www.tracertek.com>).

3. There are many programs which you can use to copy the sound card output to your hard drive. Among other, we use the following: *CoolEdit Pro* (in May 2003 *Adobe* bought the *Syntrillim* software and *Cool Edit Pro* became *Adobe Audition*), *Dart XP Pro* (*DARTech*, Inc., 7400 Metro Blvd #350, Edina, MN 55439. 800-799-1692. (<http://www.dartpro.com>) and *Sony Sound Forge 8*, (<http://www.sony.com/mediasoftware>).

4. Buy the best quality cables you can afford! Cheap cables have insufficient shielding to keep noise and power line hum out of your audio. If you have gotten this far, you have already spent quite a few dollars getting set up for restoration so get good cables. Primarily, we use *Dayton Audio Cables* from *Parts Express* (<http://www.partsexpress.com>). *Radio Shack Goldline Cables* are pretty good too. (<http://www.radioshack.com>)

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