

ABOUT THE TAPE CARTRIDGE

The TK50 tape cartridge is a 4 inch by 4 inch plastic cartridge that is inserted into the TK50 tape drive. It is labeled CompacTape.

The tape cartridge has a write-protect switch to prevent accidental erasure of important data. When the switch is moved to the left and the orange indicator is visible, data cannot be written to the tape.

Inside the cartridge is a 600-foot single reel of magnetic tape, on which data is stored. At the beginning of the tape is a plastic leader. There are some rules to follow about the tape cartridge.

- Do not drop the cartridge. This may cause the leader to be displaced, in which case the tape cartridge is unusable, and it may damage the drive. (See Chapter 2 -- Inspecting a Cartridge.)
- If the tape cartridge has been exposed to extremes of heat or cold, let it stabilize at room temperature for the same amount of time -- up to 24 hours.
- Do not touch any exposed portion of magnetic tape.

Table 1-1 lists the available documentation (other than this book) for the TK50 Tape Drive Subsystem.

In addition to these manuals, the system manuals that cover various Digital computer systems contain information on how to install, use, and fix the TK50 Tape Drive Subsystem. For example, if the TK50 tape drive subsystem comes packaged in a version of the Micro/PDP-11 computer, then the system manuals shipped with the Micro/PDP-11 have information relating to the TK50.