A look back: maxon DC motors in analogue tape recorders.

1977: The Commodore PET computer is first sold; Atari released its Video Computer system; The Porsche 928 is unveiled at the Geneva Motor show; and Uher-Werke released the SG 630 hi-fi tape recorder (with 4 maxon DC motors inside).

In the late ’70s, maxon motor were consulted for their innovative DC motors for use in a hi-fi tape recorder. Two brushless DC motors operated the shaft that drove the tape head mechanism. What was considered 39 years ago to be cutting edge technology, was the two maxon DC motors that drove the large 27cm spools of tape. One motor constantly pulled the tape and the second motor slowed the tape down to avoid tangling the ribbon. The “new” ironless windings were praised for having low inertia compared to conventional motors of the time. A servo-gearhead motor was used for the “Omega-loop” of the tape to record the audio. In a few short years, this equipment was superseded by digital technology and eventually dropped off the market altogether. Maxon DC motors are still used in high-end record players, such as the Kronos, that has two maxon DC motors in the turntables.

For more information on maxon DC motors and servo gearheads please call +61 2 9457 7477.

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