

Operating Instructions

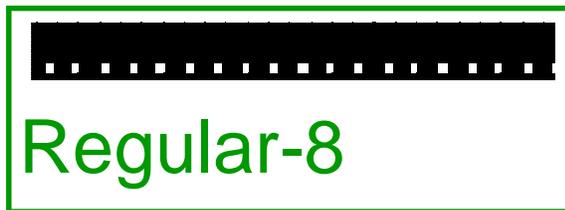
TVT-S8STS Tobin Video Transfer *Super-8 True Speed Sound*

Cautionary Notes:

1. The three motors are electronically switched and circuit failure could cause them to run prematurely. If working near potentially moving parts, first turn off the power with the rear switch.
2. The light emitter should not be looked at directly as it is very bright. Also, the TVT-8STS model emitter brightness is modulated to neutralize flicker in the video, and your eye sees this as flashing at a rate that could cause an epileptic fit in susceptible persons.



Basic Operation



Turn on the power with the switch on the right rear of the TVT-S8STS. Check that the left-hand switch is in the “Peak Auto” position, the knob to the right of it is in the upper “Auto” position or else pointing towards the right, and the right-hand rotary switch is in the “Normal Speed” position.

(Note: see page 9 for identification of the items on the front panel.)

Switch the unit to “Still” and note that there are no hairs or lint visible in the picture on the underscanned video monitor. If there are any, swing open the film gate and brush or blow out the

hairs. Switch back to “Stop” and close the film gate.

Check that the film is in fact Super-8. If it is magnetic sound film, the film itself (but not necessarily the white leader) will have a brown stripe on each edge, on the side facing to the left. Super-8 film has small sprocket holes and normally comes on a reel with a 1/2" (12.7mm) diameter center hole. Regular-8 film has larger sprocket holes and normally comes on a reel with a 5/16" (8mm) diameter center hole.

Threading:

Place the full reel of film on the right-hand “Supply Reel” spindle, matching up the slots in the reel hub with the spokes in the reel spindle. If the reel is correctly prepared, the perforations (sprocket holes) in the film will be towards you, with the emulsion side (the side with the picture) facing to the right, while the film is hanging down from the right-hand side of the reel. There should be about 4 feet (1.25m) of leader before the first picture. If any of this is not the case, return the film reel to the preparation department for correction.

If the leading edge of the film is mangled, trim it straight across in between perforations

and make extremely small bevels on the corners with scissors, if the film preparation department hasn't already done so. If it is bent or curled, flatten it.

Set the Speed knob to 0.5 or half speed. Switch to "Forward". While constantly holding down the "Push" lever with your left hand, feed the film into the upper channel with your right hand.

NOTE: There are two clear plastic windows below the film gate area. You should be able to see the white leader pass straight down past the left hand window. If it jams and starts to bunch up, immediately stop and switch to Reverse to back the film out for repair or flattening.

NOTE: After the film is seen to go straight down past the left hand window, a couple of seconds later you should see the film through the right hand window pass curving to the right.

After the film emerges from the bottom channel, release the "Push" lever. At this time you can increase the speed to the normal running rate, and lead the film until about 3 feet (1m) has emerged. (If you accidentally let go of the Push lever too soon, stop the machine and back out the film, to begin over.)

NOTE: Avoid contact with the take-up reel and the Manual Advance knob as they will be turning rapidly.

NOTE: After releasing the Push lever, you will see through the left-hand window that the white leader has formed a free loop curving over to the right and back. This free loop is necessary to isolate the intermittent film movement through the film gate, from the smooth movement required when it is passing over the sound playback head. If the free loop is the wrong size, the sound will not be in sync with the picture and may be garbled. See page 9.

Switch to "Still." (You can carefully apply a braking force to the take-up reel to slow down its spin, without sticking your fingers in the spokes.) Attach the film to the take-up reel, turning the reel clockwise a couple of turns, after leading it around the two round plastic guides.

Turn the Manual Advance knob counter-clockwise a few turns to ensure that the film advances intermittently through the film gate. Switch to "Forward" to preview the film. It should be right way up (people's heads and the sky at the top). The frameline (the dividing line between pictures on the film) should not be visible; if it is, adjust the "Framer" knob or screw while running, until it is not seen.

Switch to "Reverse" and run until the picture is all back on the supply reel and there is about 1 foot (.3m) of leader film between the supply reel and the film gate, then switch to "Stop." Push the "Reset" button to zero the footage counter. Note that while running in reverse you will likely get blurring or travel ghost, as the shuttering is optimized for running forward.

Start the video recorder. Switch the TVT-S8STS to "Forward" and you will be recording the film on video.

Loop Loss:

The film should be inspected, repaired and cleaned before it comes to you for transfer. In case a bad splice or multiple damaged perforations causes loss of the lower film loop and an increased upper loop, this will cause a chattering noise and the picture will start jumping up and down, along with garbled sound. Turn the "Loop Restorer Knob" sharply to the right and let it fall back, to reset the loops. If this doesn't work, turn to "Stop" and also stop the video recorder. Turn the Ratcheting Sprockets to reset the upper film loop to midway between the clear plastic guide rails, and so that the lower film loop is curving to the right and back again as seen through the left-hand window as set with the Loop Restorer Knob. Then resume the transfer.

For a high grade transfer, running the repaired film should resume from an earlier scene change in the film, doing a video “assembly edit” using a video recorder with a flying erase head. Note that it may take about a foot for the picture and sound to become steady, so back up the film to a foot before the start of the desired scene.

At the end of the film, switch to “Stop” and stop the recorder. Record the film length count for billing purposes, if your company charges by the foot or meter.

Attach the end of the film straight across to the supply reel, without going through the sprockets and gate, and turn the reel a couple of turns counter-clockwise. Switch the Rewind “On” and monitor closely because the film rewinding is very fast, and when the film is fully rewound turn the Rewind switch “Off” immediately. Remove the supply reel after it stops, and you are now ready to transfer the next reel.

Two flickerless speeds are included: 18 FPS (frames per second) for most home movies, and 24 FPS for commercially prepared films. To choose which, use the right-hand switch. “Normal” refers to 18 FPS and “Pro” refers to 24 FPS. The additional slow 9 FPS speed can be used to locate a place in the film or to check threading, but it is not usable for transferring owing to uncorrected “travel ghost” which is vertical blurring of the image. Since the two speeds coincide exactly with standard filming rates, no adjustment of the speed or audio pitch is required, by either an external harmonizer or computer software.

Installation

Connect the TVT-S8STS machine to a suitable video recorder. This is often a Mini-DV (digital video) or else DVD (digital video/versatile disc) recorder, or less commonly these days a VHS (video home system) machine. There are two video output jacks on the front of the machine. Both can be used at the same time if desired:

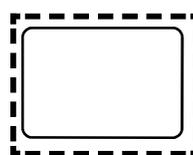
- The S-Video (“Separate”-video) Y/C output may give a cleaner video signal in many cases, as the luminance (brightness or Y) and chrominance (color or C) signals are sent through separate wires and will not interfere with each other, and thus not cause odd artifacts to appear in the picture. This preferred connection is with the Mini-DIN 4-pin cable supplied.
- The conventional video output is used in case the recorder lacks an S-Video input. The jack is a professional BNC type, so use the supplied BNC to BNC locking cable to connect to commercial video equipment. Use the BNC to RCA phono type cable or adapter supplied, to connect to consumer equipment.

Connect the audio output of the TVT-S8STS into the audio input of the associated recorder. For consumer equipment, use the supplied RCA Phono type cable. For a stereo recorder, use the supplied Y-Cord to feed the signal into both inputs. For connecting to broadcast grade equipment with balanced audio input, use an XLR cable instead (not included.)

Plug the TVT-S8S into a source of 100 to 240 volts AC (alternating current) at 50 or 60 Hz (Hertz, or cycles per second.) For safety and to minimize electrical interference the third wire should be grounded (earthed.) Turning on the unit will cause the footage counter to light up, and for black video to be output.

Monitoring

A color video monitor should be used to help you best oversee the transfer operation. We recommend that the picture monitor be connected to the output of the recorder, so the tape or disc playback can be spot-checked for quality. We also suggest the use of an "Underscan Monitor" which enables the entire video signal to be seen by the operator. Such a monitor can be recognized by an Underscan-Normal switch. (In the underscan position, the active video area is bordered with black.)



Conventional TV
or Monitor Cuts
Off Picture



Underscanned
Monitor Shows
All The Video So
No Surprises

This is because ordinary monitors and TV sets have varying degrees of "overscan." The picture is larger than the picture tube, so the edges are cut off. The amount of underscan is not well standardized, may not be centered, may be out of adjustment, and may hide defects that could be seen on a different TV set. For example, the film may be out of frame so that the frameline is visible on some receivers but not others. Or, a piece of lint may be lodged on the edge of the aperture and working its way into the frame. To guarantee that the frameline or hairs will not be visible to anyone, no matter how their TV set may be adjusted, the transfer process should be watched with an underscan monitor so the entire video signal can be seen. There can be small artifacts on the extreme edges, such as dirt specks stuck to the aperture, which will not be a problem as the customer will not see the entire video frame on his TV set.

When demonstrating the process or results to the public, the monitor should be switched back to the Normal position to prevent misunderstandings or long explanations.

If an Underscan monitor is not available, you can manage with one having Pulse Cross (Pulse Delay.) This puts the corners of the picture in the middle of the screen. It is possible to use this function to check for framing and hairs although it is less convenient and can be confusing.

It is also possible to use a device called a Line Doubler or Scaler, and a conventional SVGA CRT computer monitor with size adjustments, to accomplish a similar underscanned result instead of buying a more expensive underscanning video monitor. However, there will not be a single button for switching between the underscan position and normal, and the left or right edge of the picture may be missing some of the area that would be visible on a true underscanned video monitor.

Other Needs

Film will be received from the public in various states of disrepair, with bad splices, winding turned over on the reel, being mounted on the wrong type reel or the wrong way out, no leaders, etc. and a facility must be provided for making the footage ready for transfer. This requires at the minimum a pair of film rewinds, with adapters if needed for super-8 reels, a supply of film leader and empty reels, a film splicer, and a way of cleaning excess dirt off the film. Ideally there will be a light box for looking through the film, and a light above the editing bench to reflect light off the film.

Refer to the first section of these instructions for a description of how the film should be wound on the reel. There should be at least 4 feet of leader in good condition on the start for proper threading of the TVT-S8STS, and enough leader on the end to thread the film cleaning device for cleaning and lubricating the film prior to transfer. Torn film sprocket holes and crooked splices should be removed to prevent transfer problems.

Small rolls should be spliced together for fast and efficient transfer. A properly made cement splice, using fresh cement, is preferred. The smoothest transit of splices occurs when you have made a beveled splice using an (unfortunately discontinued) Agfa or Bolex splicer, where the total thickness at the splice is about the same as unspliced film. (Fuji Single-8 and K-Mart Focal film was on polyester base and must be tape spliced.) When making tape splices, ensure that the sprocket holes are not covered up and the tape is on straight, on both sides of the film.

NOTE: The multiple bends in the film path of the TVT-S8STS puts greater demands on the integrity of cement splices. If they are weak owing to using old cement, or not being fully scraped, these are more likely to pop apart than in most silent equipment with a simpler path.

We suggest using 400 foot (122 meter) reels, and cans or 7" size white 1/4" audio tape boxes. Usually if 8 small 50' rolls of super-8 film is wound on each reel, this will enable two of the reels to fit on each 1 hour tape or disc with minimum waste and no need for time-consuming tape editing or overlaps. Mark the leader on the head (beginning) of the reel with the customer's name or job number, and the reel number, to avoid mixups. Leader with a matte finish can be written on with pencil, while shiny leader can be marked with a Sharpie or India ink. Ensure that the cleaning step does not remove the reel identification. Storage cans should be ventilated for slight air circulation, to prevent film deterioration from "vinegar syndrome." Advise the customer to keep his film in a cool, dry, dark place to prevent fungus growth. You want the film to be in good condition so you can transfer it again when the next super generation of video equipment formats makes the present transfer obsolete. :-)

NOTE: Super-8 mechanisms are fussy about splices, compared to regular-8 ones. If your cement splices of super-8 cause lost loops, change the direction of splicing by winding the film right to left on the bench while splicing, instead of left to right, so you are scraping the outgoing film instead of the incoming one. Having the splice accordingly lap the other way (so the sharp leading edge of the thick splice rubs against the mechanism's pressure plate instead of hitting the bottom of the minimally undercut aperture plate opening) will give more reliable running.

After each reel is spliced and repaired, it is rewound through the film cleaner device on to the proper reel, which restores the reel to being heads (beginning) out instead of tails (foot or end) out, and sent to the transfer room. Note: When using a liquid cleaner, view the rewinding film by reflected light to make sure it is dry again before it is wound up, or else the film may dry with "shoreline" marks on it. You can wind quite fast if not using an excessive amount of solvent.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Film that is not lubricated will cause noisy unsteady running and can lead to film damage. Even some newly processed films are returned unlubricated, owing to laxity or environmental concerns by the processing lab. The cleaning fluid should have a small amount of wax dissolved in it to provide lubrication for smooth transport through the TVT-S8STS or through the customer's projector. A suggested amount is a lump of candle wax or beeswax the size of a pea ground up and dissolved in a pint (half liter) of solvent. Cleaning solvents that are widely used include methyl chloroform (*toxic fumes*), perchloroethylene (dry cleaning fluid) (*toxic fumes*), Freon TF (*ozone depleting*), or 99% isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol) (*flammable*). There are also commercially mixed film cleaners with lubricant. Cleaning must take place in a ventilated area. Some users report that using Pledge Beeswax furniture polish sprayed on a rag, with the film wound through it while still damp, does an excellent job of lubrication.

Exposure Correction

The correction uses your choice of Peak or Center-Weighted Averaging sensing, for optimum results from a variety of original moderate over- and under-exposure conditions. This is selected with the Peak - Manual - Average switch to the left of the rotary Auto - Manual knob. Peak sensing is recommended for reasonably well-composed film, maintaining the mood of the film. Average sensing is used for film that is strongly backlit (shooting into the sun) or that is dark and also has a light source (movie light or bright window) near the edge of the screen, or that is very badly overexposed. A minimum brightness level can be set with the Manual knob, to prevent over-reacting to flashbulbs going off and the like.

For critical transfer for fussy customers who are willing to pay extra, the brightness can also be set fully manually. This latter option usually means that the video must be edited later, to remove the overlap when starting and stopping the TVT-S8STS for each brightness correction, as manual correction is much slower than the peak-sensing automatic.

Theory of Operation

The **conventional** means of film to video transfer uses a projector with a specific number of shutter blades, attached to the mechanism and rotating with it. One blade is used to obscure the film while it is being quickly pulled down to the next frame; additional equal blades are used to get the desired interruption rate, which must be a whole multiple of the video field rate. The blade complement might be either 2, 3, 4 or 5, depending on speed and video standard. That is, for 24 FPS (frame per second) transfers to NTSC (USA type) video the projector will have 5 blades. For running at 20 FPS you would need 3 blades. This type machine will usually give more or less flickerless results at only one speed. Some old equipment requires that the operator frequently tune the speed to minimize flicker and complaints. Usually the running speed is quite inaccurate compared to the original amateur filming rate, leading to complaints. Flutter from the stretchable drive belt and claw return spring gives some residual flicker even if the speed is nominally correct. Take-up and rewind spindles are friction coupled and will eventually wear out. Lamps are expensive and can be hard to find, and frequently burn out. The unit has no, or a poorly performing, exposure correction ability, leading to complaints.

In the **TVT-S8STS** however there is specially timed electronic shuttering in place of a physical shutter. This permits precisely correct multiple speeds to be obtained without any flicker. The brightness of the light source is specially modulated to neutralize the flicker that you would otherwise get at speeds that are not harmonically related to the video scan rate.

The NTSC (USA video) models and the PAL (European video) models both run at 9, 18 and 24 FPS.

Individual direct drive torque motors are used for take-up and reverse/rewind reel functions, eliminating slipping clutches.

The light source is a wide-spectrum white LED (light emitting diode) that should last for years. The output is of all wavelengths of visible light, and there is little or no IR (infrared) or UV (ultraviolet) radiation present to heat, fade or burn the film. Its brightness is controlled to automatically even out badly exposed film. (There is however no hope for the very worst film you will see!)

Other Information

The TVT-S8S has a “Mechanism Hours” timer to measure how long the main drive motor and the mechanism have been running. This only advances in the Forward and Reverse modes. The count is remembered without need for batteries when the unit is turned off. A time interval for servicing the drive motor, magnetic head and mechanism has not yet been established.

Cleaning the sound parts:

If the audio has a muffled quality, there may be a dirt buildup on the magnetic head. To reach it, remove the sound cover. To clean, push down and hold the “Push” autoloading lever to raise the black plastic pressure pad from the head, then clean the head with a very small tip cotton swab that has been moistened with a mild solvent such as isopropyl alcohol.

A dirt or oil buildup on the rubber sound drum can cause “wows” in the sound. To clean it, give it a spin and lightly apply the cotton swab and solvent while it is turning by flywheel action.

If cleaning the head does not cure muffled audio from a sound film that is known to be good, the head may need adjusting or replacement.

If the TVT-S8STS has been used for a long time, the head and pressure pad may be slightly worn down. This can cause garbled sound and loss of the lower loop owing to inadequate friction, causing the film to slip past the head and not wrap around the rubber sound drum. Up to a point, this can be fixed by filing down the pressure pad lifting pin, enabling the pressure pad to travel to a lower position and restore normal friction.

Service adjustments:

- After long use, the white balance of the LED and camera module could change. To reset the white balance, turn to “Still” and “Peak Auto” without film but with a 0.7ND neutral filter or 20-25% transmitting piece of perforated metal in the light path. On the **1CCD** camera: Observe the C output on an oscilloscope or waveform monitor in a darkened room and adjust the two left-hand pots on the back of the Camera module for minimum color subcarrier. Be very careful when adjusting these tiny and delicate pots so they are not damaged or torn loose. On the **3CCD** camera: Push the “White” button on the camera rear. The screen should then display the word “OK” for a few seconds after the new balance has been set.
- Automatic exposure setting should be quite stable. Current optimum factory setting is .85 volts p-p with no film in the gate. Average film will then reach about 100 IRE while “all white” overexposed film will peak around 85 IRE. The “Average” setting is for .75 volts with no film. Voltage readings are peak to peak, and will be double if measuring an unterminated output.
- Focus, centering and magnification are factory set and locked in place, and should not be disturbed. A focus jig is available from TCS for re-setting these on the 1CCD camera. Do not disturb the sound head adjustments.
- In case of odd symptoms, first check the output voltage of the switching power supply modules. These should be +12, —12 and +24 volts DC, $\pm 5\%$. The voltage should change little no matter what settings are made to the operating controls. The 24 volt supply may sag momentarily while the drive motor starts running.
- If dust accumulates on the optics it should be removed with a clean camel’s hair brush or air blower. Fingerprints must be removed immediately with lens cleaner and lens tissue, following the instructions included with them.

- After long use, if the fixed plastic film guides show excess wear, they can be loosened, rotated 1/5 to 1/4 turn and re-tightened to get a fresh wearing surface. This can be done three or four times.
- A multiplicity of often confusing technical options is available with the 3CCD camera. Refer to the camera instruction book for adjustment information. We recommend not touching any of the adjustments found in either the menu or sub-menus as this can cause improper operation of the TVT-S8STS, or no picture output at all. If changing a setting, write down what it is initially so you can go back to it and restore normal operation. Our correct settings are stored in all four File menus, 1, 2, 3 and 4 so if one is spoiled you can go to another File number instead. Exposure to natural background radiation can cause light pixels to appear in the picture. These can be minimized with the Pixel Correct function described in a PDF file on the website.

Suggested Sources of Supplies

<http://www.urbanskifilm.com>

