



# Tech Info Library

## Apple Tape Backup 40SC: Third-Party Backup Speeds

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

Using Apple Tape Backup 40SC 2.0.1, what is the average access time for the drive if a user has it mounted on the desktop?

DISCUSSION -----

By "average access time", we assume that you mean the average transfer rate. Measuring the average access time for a tape drive would make little sense, since it's not a random access device. If one were to test this, it could take a very, very long time.

Apple does not publish any official numbers for this specification, but we were able to achieve .95MB per minute using Tape Backup 40SC version 2.0.1. This rating was calculated without the time required to rewind the tape at the beginning and end of the backup. Only the speed of writing to tape for a 20MB volume backup was used.

Backing up files is considerably slower and varies depending on the sizes and numbers of files. Third-party backup programs that are compatible with our tape drive are faster in file-by-file mode than Tape Backup 40SC 2.0.1.

Tape Backup 40SC cannot be mounted on the desktop. The Tape Disk INIT was designed solely for single-file recovery from backups created with the volume backup option. It was not created to provide another backup option, and will not perform this function, unless a volume backup already exists for it to work with. This is documented in the "Apple Tape Backup 40SC Owner's Guide."

SuperMac Technologies has released their equivalent of Tape Disk named TapeDriver. It appears to work with the Apple Tape Backup 40SC to allow mounting the tape on the desktop, even if the tape doesn't contain a volume backup. It is not compatible with Tape Backup 40SC 2.0.1 volume backups, though, and asks to erase any tape inserted that contains one. The INIT is

available on AppleLink by following this path:

3rd Party Connection

Third Party Software Updates

SuperMac

Mass Storage Support Files

TapeDriver

The two programs that we tested and found to be compatible with the Apple Tape Backup 40SC are Retrospect (Dantz Development Corp) and FastBack II (Fifth Generation Systems, Inc). Contact their vendors for more information. For more details, search the Tech Info library under company names for details.

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