

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20191104.003

Accession Date: 4-Nov-2019

Accession By: Ronan Scaife

Object name: DEC TZ86-TA cartridge tape drive

Vintage: c.1992

Synopsis: External DLT-III 6GB SCSI tape drive for DEC computers, S/N: CX42251455.

Description:

This item was an external DEC TZ86-TA 296MB “table-top” streaming cartridge tape drive with a SCSI-2 interface. It could store 6GB of uncompressed data or 12GB of compressed data on 1200 feet of 0.5” wide tape in a CompactTape DLT-III cartridge. A total of 56 pairs of tracks were written in a serpentine fashion at 100” per second, with tape reversals as needed. It had a 512kB cache, strong error correction, and could sustain read and write streams synchronously and asynchronously at 800kB/sec. It was compatible with tapes for TK85 and TK86 drives, and it was claimed also to be TK50/TK70/TK50Z/TZ30 media read-only compatible (the 280MB TK70 [1987] was a successor to the popular 94MB TK50 [1984] that had been used in PDP-11 and VAX computers).

The TZ86-TA was a desktop peripheral subsystem that connected via a single-ended ANSI-standard SCSI bus (max.length 6 metres) to a host, e.g. VAX 4000, 6000, VAXstation 3100, or a MicroVAX with a KZQSA or KFQSA adapters, in each case with some restrictions. It was supported by VAX VMS 5.3 onwards, as well as Windows NT.

Many thanks to Ronan Scaife (son of Prof.Garrett Scaife, Dept.Electrical Engineering, Trinity College Dublin) for donating this item, and also to Ronan for arranging for transport of this item to the collection.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
Click '*Accession Index*' (1st column listed) for related folder, or '*About*' for further guidance.
Some of the items below are more properly part of the other categories of this catalog,
but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20191104.003	DEC TZ86-TA cartridge tape drive. External DLT-III 6GB SCSI tape drive for DEC computers, S/N: CX42251455. c.1992.

References:

1. Wikipedia, *Digital Linear Tape*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Linear_Tape
Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
2. Hewlett Packard Enterprise, *DIGITAL TZ86 6GB DLT Tape SubSystem*, see:
https://support.hpe.com/hpsc/doc/public/display?docId=emr_na-c00336295
Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.

See that related documentation in the associated folder in this catalog.



Figure 1: TZ86-TA front three-quarter view

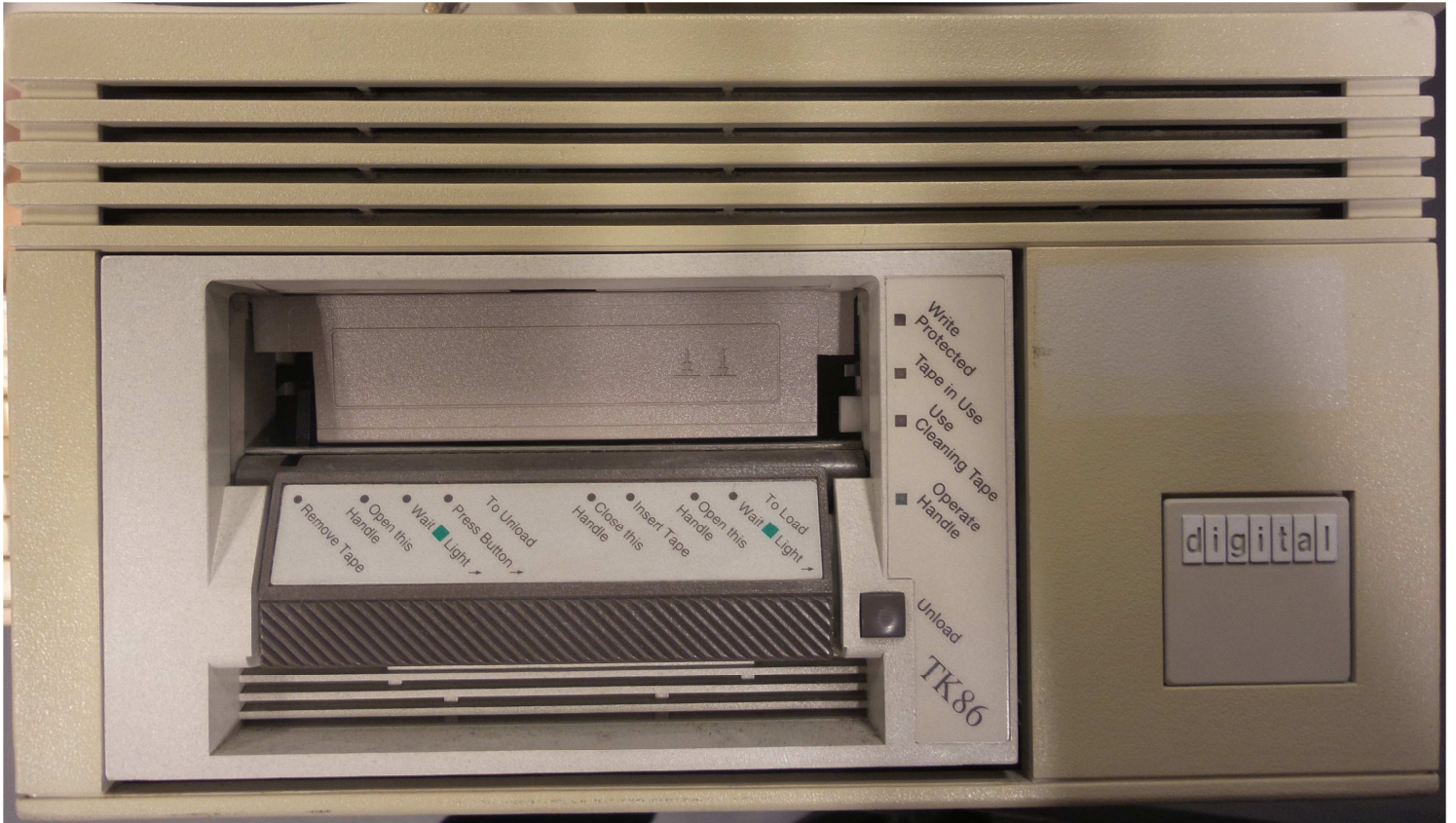


Figure 2: TZ86-TA front view



Figure 3: TZ86-TA top rear view



Figure 4: TZ86-TA rear view

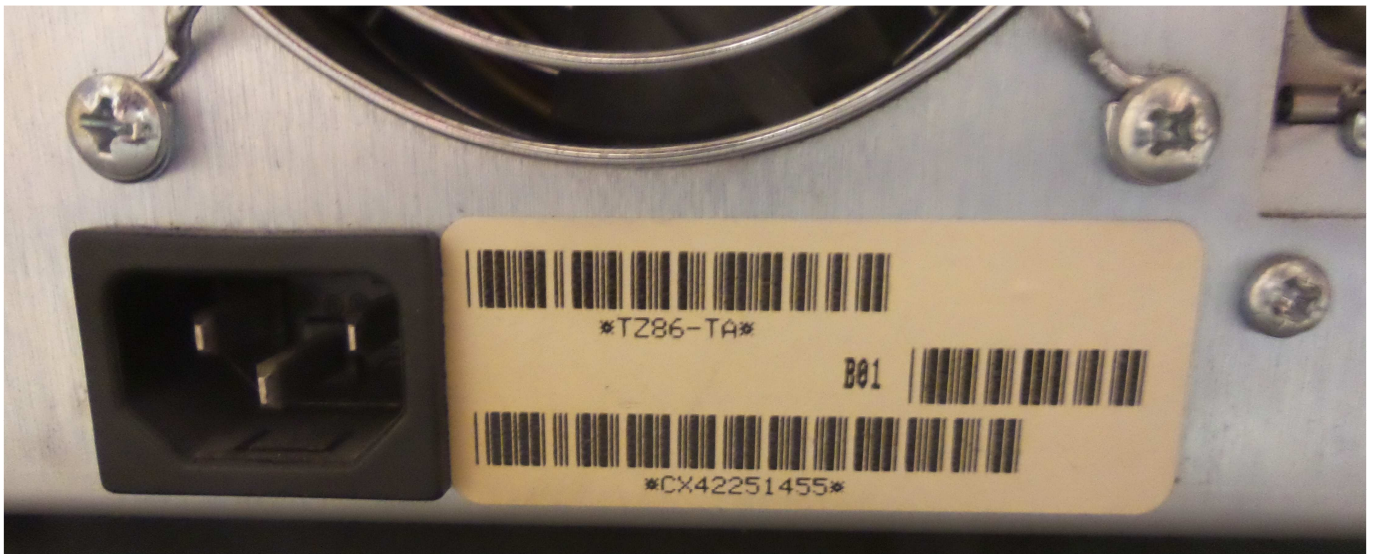


Figure 5: TZ86-TA manufacturing label

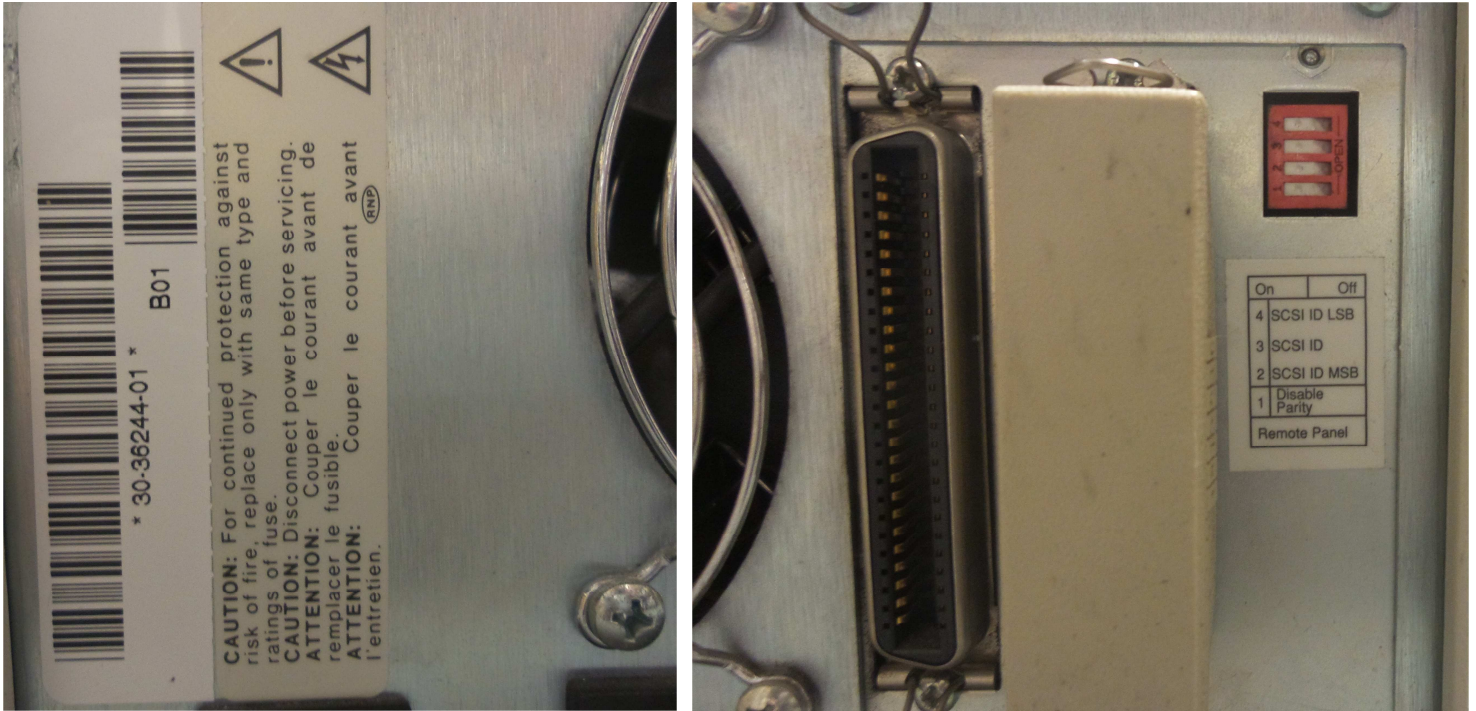


Figure 6: TZ86-TA rear view closeups

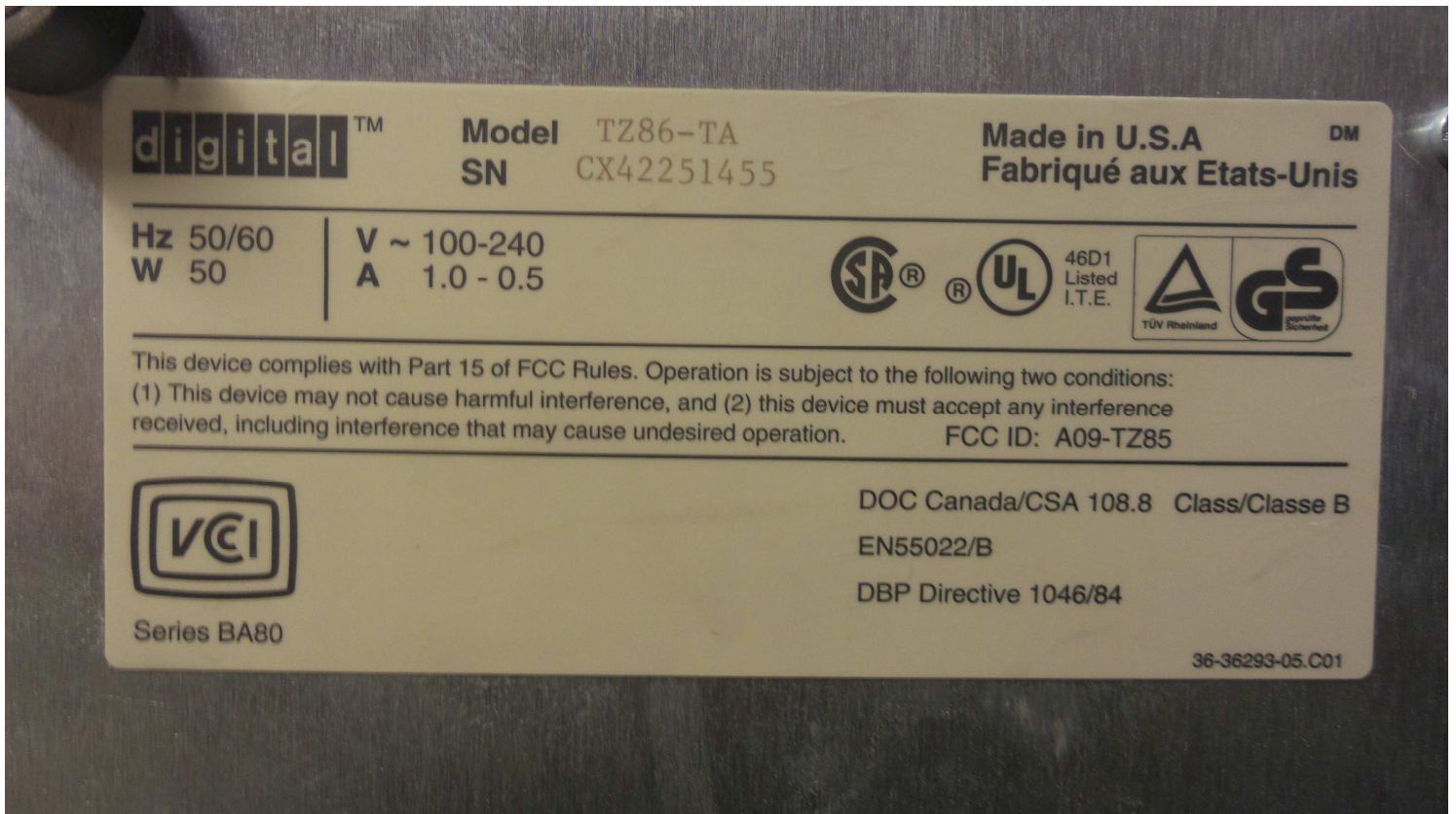


Figure 7: TZ86-TA manufacturing label (underneath)