



**BMX-2 Tape Coupler Interfaces the STC 2922 Tape Drive**

Zetaco has completed integration evaluation of our BMX-2 Tape Coupler with Storage Technology Corporation's Model 2922 Magnetic Tape Drive. Tips for successful integration follow.

Model 2922 is a dual density tape drive, capable of recording and reading ANSI-compatible tape in Phase Encoded (PE) format at 1600 bpi, and Group Coded Recording (GCR) format at 6250 bpi. The 2922 has a tape speed of 50 ips start/stop and 100 ips streaming.

The 2922 allows remote density select (1600/6250 bpi) via the BMX-2 hardware and minicomputer software.

The 2922 does NOT support remote speed select or remote inter-record gap length select with the BMX-2 Coupler. These features must be selected via jumpers within the tape drive unit, or via the operator panel when in diagnostic mode.

The two options on tape speed are 50 ips start/stop, and 100 ips streaming. Options on selectable inter-record gap length are:

6250 bpi -- .3, .6, or .9 inches  
1600 bpi -- .6, .9, or 1.2 inches

Reference the STC 29XX tape drive technical manuals for details of speed selection and selection of various inter-record gap lengths. Zetaco does not recommend a particular selection, but suggests 50 ips for daily usage, and 100 ips for file back-up. Start with the minimum gap size and extend it if excessive reposition cycles occur.

Because our evaluation and testing on this drive are only recently completed, the Configuration Program for the BMX-2 does not list the STC 2922. Follow the configuration steps for the STC 2921, which is in the Program. Two choices are available:

S3 -- Remote Density Select  
S4 -- Manual Density Select

Either choice is acceptable.

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