

## VXA-2 and VXA-320 Manual Media Removal Procedure

**Important!** The procedure outlined in this document is only intended for IBM System x authorised servicers or IBM System x authorised service partners.

If the Media removal procedure described in this document is carried out by any other person the warranty of the product may be voided. IBM reserves the right to charge for any tape drive replacement that has to be made due to improper tape drive handling.

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This document describes how to remove any stuck cartridge from an IBM VXA-2 and IBM VXA-320 tape drive.

## Hardware needed

- 1x small flat-blade screwdriver, not bigger than 4 mm
- 1x Philips screwdriver

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## 1. Front Bezel removal instructions for an IBM VXA-2 tape drive

1. Use the blade of the small flat-blade screwdriver to unlatch the bezel side latches. For additional information see note 1 below.



2. Now open up the bezel by rotating it upwards towards the tape drive's top and remove it from the tape drive, disengage it from the upper tabs of the tape drive chassis and remove the bezel.



**Note 1:** Step 1 above:

Push the blade of a small flat-blade screwdriver gently onto the exposed back section (rear end of the metal chassis tab) of the black plastic latches on both sides of the bezel to release the latch from the metal chassis tab and pull the bottom of the bezel toward you as shown in the picture.

**Note 2:** The above picture is for an older (non-RoHS) VXA-2 drive. The newer drives have bezel like the VXA-320 which are attached with 2 screws.

**Caution:** For either version of the VXA-2 drive bezel, the **door** is part of the bezel and you must be careful during the re-installation of the bezel to prevent damage to the door.

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## 2. Front Bezel removal instructions for an IBM VXA-320 and VXA-2 (RoHS, FRU 19P4898) tape drive

1. Use the Philips screw driver and remove the screws on either side of the tape drive and save store the screws



2. Rotate the bezel upwards towards the tape drive's top. Disengage it from the upper tabs of the tape drive chassis and remove the bezel.

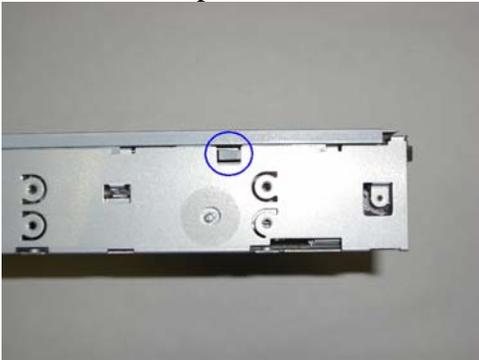


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## 3. Cover and media removal procedure

Information: The procedure for removing a data cartridge from a VXA-2 tape drive is identical to the VXA-320 tape drive. In this document the cartridge removal procedure is carried out with a VXA-320 tape drive.

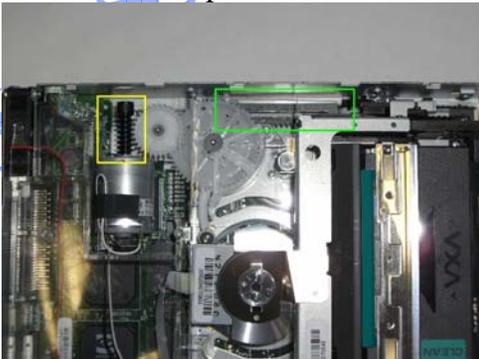
1. The tape drive's top cover is held in position by one tab on either side of tape drive. One tab is located at the front of the top cover and the other is near the end of the top cover. Push in on these tabs so that the top cover can be slide back toward the rear of the drive chassis. This will allow you to lift off the top cover.



2. Use the flat-blade screw driver and push the tab into tape drive.  
**Attention!** When pushing the tab into the tape drive make sure that you push it only so far into the drive that it will free up the hole which it is engaged into. Pushing it too far into the drive may damage the tape drive.



3. In order to disengage and remove the tape cartridge itself the metal bar – highlighted in the green frame - in the tape drive must be moved towards the end of the tape drive.



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4. This is done by using the Philips screwdriver and turning the screw at the back right hand side of the tape. See the yellow frame in the previous picture. Turn the screw into the below indicated direction. (When viewed from the right side of the drive, this will be in a clockwise direction).



Observe that the tape guides also are slowly moving in their slots toward the front of the drive which is removing tension from the tape and creating slack tape. **Stop turning the screw.**

5. Now the tape media has to be spooled back into tape cartridge case to remove the slack tape. This is done by turning the white gear at the bottom of the tape drive toward the right (counter-clock wise when viewed from the top).



Once the stack in the tape is taken up by turning the white gear toward the right, continue turning the screw with the Philips screwdriver in the clockwise direction as outlined in step 4 until you see the slack tape build up again as the tape guides move toward the front of the drive. Repeat steps 4 and 5 until the you see the cartridge start to raise up and the cartridge loader begin to move forward towards the front of the drive.



At this time, you can stop this step as the tape is spooled back into the cartridge.

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6. Now carry on with turning the screw driver as outlined in step 4. During the process the metal bar will move towards the end of the tape drive and the tape drive will slowly disengage from the tape drive and will be ejected from the tape drive.



## 4. Replacing the non RoHS VXA-2 tape drive bezel

**Attention!** If the VXA tape drive does not load or eject tape cartridges, the bezel may have been installed incorrectly.

**CAUTION:** Attempting to force the door open with the bezel installed incorrectly may result in damage to both the bezel and drive requiring factory repair.

To correct this problem, remove and reinstall the bezel.

Bezel removal and improper reinstallation of the bezel can permanently damage the drive.

Follow these bezel installation instructions to ensure trouble free insertion and ejection of tape cartridges.

1. Insert the bezel's upper tabs into their respective openings at the top of the tape drive chassis so that the notches catch on the drive chassis. The top of the tape drive can be identified by the grid of ventilation holes in the cover and by the product description labels. The bottom of the drive does not have ventilation holes. Hold open the bezel's door by inserting one index finger through the door opening and continue to hold it open as you lower the bottom of the bezel down to allow the side latches to engage, making sure that the door is positioned in the cartridge loader opening where the tape would be inserted.





**IMPORTANT!** You will need to keep the door open until the bezel has been fully seated to be sure that the door is positioned behind the door opening mechanism.

2. Ensure that the bezel aligns properly with the bottom edge of the tape drive and that the clips on the tape drive's side are in the correct position with the bezel's tabs. Once the bottom of the bezel is correctly orientated, you can remove your finger and allow the door to close. The door should open and close freely with no binding.



## 5. Replacing the VXA-320 and VXA-2 RoHS (FRU 19P4898) tape drive bezel

1. Insert the bezel's upper tabs into their respective openings at the top of the tape drive chassis so that the notches catch on the drive chassis. The top of the tape drive can be identified by the grid of ventilation holes in the cover and by the product description labels. The bottom of the drive does not have ventilation holes.



2. Slowly rotate the bezel down until it engages with the tape drive's chassis and also lines up correctly with the tape drive's chassis bottom. Make sure the holes in the chassis align with the holes on the bezel sides.

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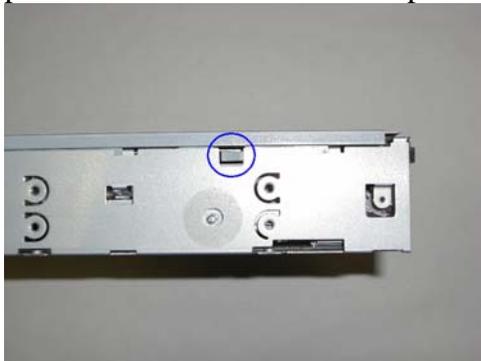
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3. Now insert the screws and screw them tight to the chassis with the Philips screw driver.



## 6. Cover replacement procedure

Reinstall the top cover of the drive and slide it forward making sure the front of the cover fits underneath the top edge of the bezel. The tape drive's top cover is held in position by one tab on either side of tape drive. One tab is located at the front of the top cover and the other is near the end of the top cover. Gently pull these tabs out so that the top cover will be secured in place.



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