

Goblet-Shattering Ad Titillates Tape Giants

LOS ANGELES - Imagine the surprise of three tape industry ex-ecutives when they read their lat-est memorandums from their promotion - advertising departments. They read:

"We're breaking glass. We hope it sells tape."

Sound farfetched?

In one form or another, that was the message flowing to mil-lions of consumers from Memorex, Ampex and Sony. Unlikely as it may sound, just such a cam-paign is being waged in executive suites of three giant tape manufacturers.

In the meantime, while glass is being broken in Redwood City (Ampex), Sun Valley (Sony) and Santa Clara (Memorex), another tape manufacturer in Gardena (Audio Magnetics) claims it is too busy to break glass but it is breaking records.

All year long the three giants have beaten the drums for their quality tape. Now it's turning into a fistfight.

Memorex fired the first salvo when it introduced its cassette tape with a print and network television c a m p a i g n shattering glass. It boasted, "We found a singer who could maintain the pitch necessary to shatter glass and projected bis voice with enough volume to vibrate a glass to its shatter point."

Ampex fired back.

Ampex fired back. It introduced its extended fre-quency cassette, but warned con-sumers: "Don't wear your glasses" (when you try the tape). Presum-ably it will shatter the glass. Not to be outdone, Sony boasted its tape could "shatter glass for less money, much less than other glass-shattering brands "

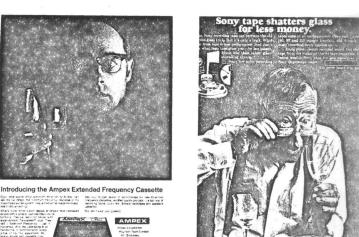
glass-shattering brands." And finally, Audio Magnetics, which had this message to dealers: "It all depends on whether you want to sweep up broken glass or clean up at the cash register." It said: "While our competitors

are busy breaking glasses, we're breaking (sales) records. We're selling more compact cassettes than our glass - shattering competitors combined . . . and that's where it's at.'

Memorex, in an effort to phrase the last word, came back with the following ad:

"Memorex makes tape that can shatter glass. So what?"

Many agree. So what?



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