Appendix A

Introduction	
	The appendix has four sections: SMPTE Made Simple, Key Combination Guide, Glossary, and Quick Reference Guide.
SMPTE Made Simple	
	Provides basic information and various applications using SMPTE time code.
Key Combination Guid	e
	Provides Key and Key Combination Identification Numbers for "stuck key" errors.
Glossary	
	An alphabetic list of terms used during the discussion of the KCU.
Quick Reference Guide)
	Graphical charts of the KCU Setup Options.

SMPTE Made Simple The Time Code Tutor from TimeLine

Introduction

When the television broadcast industry moved from film and live performance to prerecorded video production, a method was required to reliably synchronize and edit the new medium. Historically, film rushes were lined up at the clapper board and rubber stamped with footage numbers, and by default film was mechanically held in sync by the sprocket holes. Unfortunately, video tape had neither of these attributes. This created a problem of how to get the music, pictures, dialogue, and effects all to begin and run at the same time.

The solution was SMPTE time code. SMPTE is a signal with specific address information that can be recorded on audio or video tape and used to position them, accurately.

Why SMPTE?

In 1971, the <u>Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers</u> chose **SMPTE** to be the industry standard for synchronization. It became officially known as SMPTE/EBU Time Code when the society was joined by its' overseas counterpart, the European Broadcast Union (EBU). Since it is quite a mouthful, most people just say SMPTE.

What Can You Do with SMPTE?

There are hundreds of uses for SMPTE time code in every branch of audio production. They include records, video, film, advertising and industrials. Let's start with the how and why of some of the most basic applications.

Synchronizing Multiple Audio Machines

Imagine you are a recording engineer. You've just used up all the available tracks on your multitrack machine, but your project is nowhere near completion. How are you going to get some extra tracks? Use a second multitrack recorder.

The question is, "how do you lock the two machines so that the music plays back in perfect synchronization – first time, every time." You *could* try to hit the Play buttons on both machines at exactly the same moment and then cross your fingers, but the odds of this working even once are *very* slim.

The correct solution is to use SMPTE time code *AND* a TimeLine synchronizing system. It works like this: a TimeLine Lynx or Micro Lynx generates time code that is recorded onto the audio tapes. The time code is then used as a common reference point, the "glue" that holds the two machines in sync.

On playback, a SMPTE time code reader reads time code from one tape recorder and passes the timing data to a synchronizer connected to the other tape recorder. Based on this incoming time code, the synchronizer regulates the playback speed of the slave so that it always stays in perfect sync with the master.

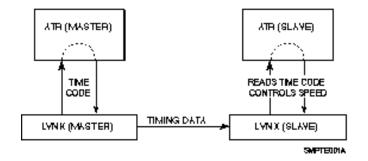


Figure Appendix A-1. Basic SMPTE Time Code Setup

This simple example is the basis for all SMPTE applications. For instance, if you are locking to film or video using a digital audio workstation or a sequencer, you'd just substitute the appropriate controlling device to suit the equipment for that application.

Locking to Picture

Suppose you have footage on videotape and you need to create an audio track to go with it. It could be music, dialog, effects, or all three. How do you lock the sound to picture?

Use SMPTE and a Micro Lynx or two Lynx modules, exactly as described in the previous audio example. SMPTE works just as well with video as it does with digital or analog tape. You can use SMPTE to lock video to analog, digital to analog, in fact, just about anything to anything; even sound sources that don't use tape.

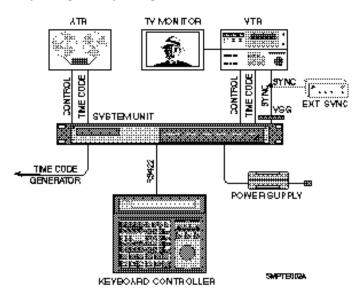


Figure Appendix A-2. Synchronize to Video

Mix Automation and More

If you have a MIDI sequencer and some synthesizers that you want to lock to your multitrack tape or to picture, the TimeLine Micro Lynx can translate SMPTE time code into the MIDI data that the sequencer needs to lock to tape.

SMPTE can be used to control just about anything that has micro processor intelligence – and what piece of audio gear doesn't these days? For instance, mixing console automation will run to time code and can therefore be locked to tape and other time code devices for complete system automation.

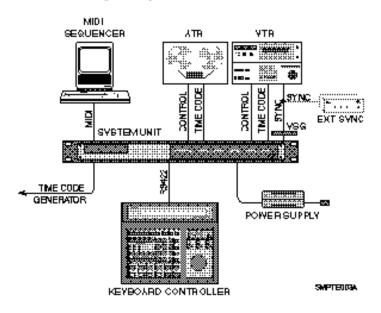


Figure Appendix A-3. MIDI Sequencer and Time Code

Complete Systems

The ultimate SMPTE application is the complete studio system. Just as two devices can be locked to a common time reference, so can a whole roomful: tape machines, consoles, synthesizers, effects processors, and hard disk recorders. With an efficient controller like the Micro Lynx Keyboard, all of these different machines can be operated as easily as a single set of transport controls. Later, we'll explain how SMPTE is used to build large, multi-machine networks for video editing and music recording.

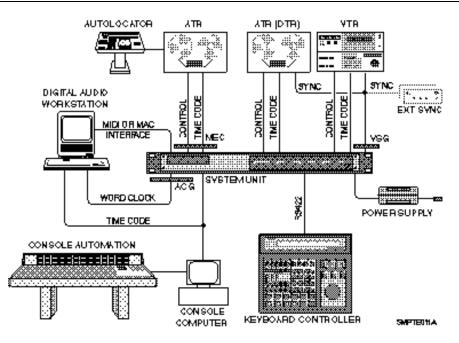


Figure Appendix A-4. Complete Studio System

How Does SMPTE Do It?

If you know precisely where a piece of program is and how fast it is playing, then it is possible to use this information to control other machines so that they are all in the right place at exactly the same time. SMPTE does just this, it is an absolute timing reference that indicates both the speed and position of a tape as it travels across a tape machine transport.

What You Can Do with a Speed Reference

Many pre-SMPTE sync codes could only indicate speed. The most widely used was control track or pilot tone. Pilot tone is an audio signal derived from a stable source, historically 60 Hz AC wall current. By reducing the voltage with a suitable transformer, the resultant continuous sine wave could be recorded on tape.

Machine speed is normally regulated by monitoring tach pulses from the tape machine's capstan motor. They indicate how many times the capstan revolves in a given time interval, just as an automobile's tachometer indicates how fast an engine is turning.

When playing a tape with pilot tone back, the sine wave on tape is compared with a reference sine wave coming from the wall current or some other guaranteed signal.

If the tape slows down, the frequency of the pilot tone, or the number of cycles that tick by each second, will decrease. If the tape speeds up, the frequency will increase. A controlling device, tied into the tape machine's capstan motor, senses the difference between the reference tone and the pilot tone on tape; and varies the speed of the tape machine motor to make the two match up again.

This process of matching tape machine speed to a stable reference is called resolving. The two sets of sine waves are brought *in phase* with one another, so they match up perfectly, peak for peak, trough for trough. Which is why this is sometimes called phase locked.

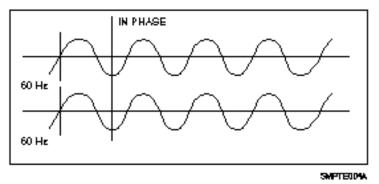


Figure Appendix A-5. Two Sine Wave Signals in Phase

Just as pilot tone on one tape machine is made to match the reference source, it can also be made to match pilot tone on a second master tape machine. Thus, pilot tone can be used to synchronize the speed of the two tape machines.

However, There Is a Problem:
 One sine wave looks exactly like another. While the slave machine can phase lock with the master, it has no way of knowing whether the master is playing the first verse or the third chorus or if the master is three-and-a-half seconds into a scene or right at the beginning. As a tool for synchronization, pilot tone is severely limited. The same is true for other *speed only* sync codes such as Frequency Shift Key (FSK) and Din Sync.

To work, master and slave must be carefully lined up at the beginning of playback and there's no way to run the machines accurately to the middle of the program material since the slave never knows where the master is, *only* how fast it is playing.

SMPTE: What You Can Do with a Speed and Position Reference

This is where SMPTE time code enters the picture. As we said, SMPTE indicates not only tape *speed*, but also tape *position*. SMPTE time code is a complex digital signal, equivalent to the simple, analog pilot tone signal with a unique number assigned to each cycle of the sine wave.

Time code is recorded onto tape as an audible signal – a rapid-fire series of *blips*. These blips are "read" by a microprocessor as a unique number: an address, consisting of separate numbers for hours, minutes, seconds and fractions of a second, called frames.

So, if you have a gunshot at the climactic scene of a suspense melodrama, SMPTE tells you exactly where the gunshot "lives;" what its address or location is on tape. SMPTE can say, "This gunshot occurs one hour, 31 minutes, 12 seconds and 19 frames into the film." This means you can shuttle to the exact spot on tape where that gunshot occurs, and replace the existing blast with a more convincing sample; one the sound effects engineer just acquired.

Think of what that means: the master machine can find *ANYTHING* on a tape, and all slave machines will chase the master to that very same spot. At this point, we're a long way from just locking one faceless sine wave with another and rolling from the top. We've moved into the realm of position accuracy.

Anatomy of a SMPTE Frame

A SMPTE frame or word consists of 80 bits that convey SMPTE's message of hours, minutes, seconds, and frames. Each bit is represented by a binary '1' or '0' that is specifically encoded for recording onto tape. The method used is called biphase encoding. This coding reverses the signal polarity halfway through a bit to represent a '1' and leaves the bit polarity unchanged to represent a '0'. A continuous string of these 80-bit words is recorded linearly along the tape to form the time code.

Let's look at the jobs the bits perform. Each frame is broken up into 16 groups of 4 bits and a 16-bit sync word.

- Eight 4-bit groups are assigned to the hours, minutes, seconds, and frame number.
- Eight 4-bit groups are user bits. They are reserved for information such as ID, reel numbers, session, dates or another time code number.
- The remaining bits form a sync word, to provide direction information and mark the end of the 80-bit frame.

- The time code reader uses the direction sense bits to determine whether the tape is running forwards or backwards.
- The sync word is a series of preset 1's that allow the speed and phase of two time codes to be read and compared by the Lynx or Micro Lynx module to establish synchronization.

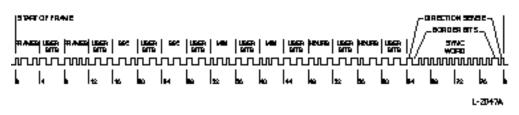


Figure Appendix A-6. Time Code Address

SMPTE words, one for each frame, are recorded along the length of the tape; hence the name Longitudinal Time Code (LTC). The code's design and organization make it suitable for use over a very wide range of play speeds, both forwards and backwards.

The frequency of the LTC signal is always proportional to the tape speed. However, the signal cannot be read in stop or freeze-frame mode. Consequently video frequently uses another form of time code: Vertical Interval Time Code (VITC), which can be reliably read in stop and at very slow play speeds.

Time Code Formats

There are 60 minutes in an hour; 60 seconds in a minute, but how many frames are there in a second? Frame rate is the term used to express the number of frames-per-second in SMPTE time code. Frame rate was originally measured as one-half the power line frequency.

Since there are different power line frequencies in the U.S. and Europe, time code has several different formats, defined by the frame rate used in each country.

National Television Standards Committee (NTSC)

Wall current in the U.S. has a frequency of 60 Hz, making 30 frames-per-second the standard frame rate for American black and white television.

Phase Alternate Line (PAL)

In Europe, the standard wall current frequency is 50 Hz. Thus we have another format: 25 frames-per-second or the PAL format, the standard for European color television.

Drop Frame (DF)

What about American color TV? When it was invented by RCA, they reduced the American black and white frame rate of 30 frames-per-second to 29.97 frames-per-second, to allow both color encoding and compatibility with existing black and white television sets. This became the standard color TV format for America.

The problem is that 30-frame time code running at this rate measures slightly slower than real time.

60 sec x 30 frames/sec	=	1800/min x 60 min/hr	=	108,000 frames
60 sec x 29.97 frames/sec	=	1798.2/min x 60 min/hr	=	107,892 frames
		Difference	=	108 frames

So for every hour, by the clock on the wall, the time code is 108 frames short. Just a few frames off might disastrously make your lead guitarist end his solo two chords early! To correct this, a time code format called Drop Frame (DF) was developed. Drop frame skips the first two frame counts in each minute (with the exception of minutes 00, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50) to force the time code to match the clock time.

Film

Film is our final consideration. It has run at a frame rate of 24 frames-per-second ever since Thomas Edison invented it. Although this is a "non-standard" time code, it is sometimes used in the field.

Different Frame Rate Formats

In summary, the important thing to remember is that SMPTE conveys two pieces of information: *tape speed* and *tape position*.

Frame rate, is the speed at which the code will run, and frame type (30/DF/25/24), is the way in which frame positions are counted.

30. Thirty frames-per-second can be drop frame (DF) or non-drop frame. If drop frame is selected, then the actual frame count is reduced by 108 frames-per-hour.

25. Twenty-five frames-per-second is the European standard.

24. Twenty-four frames-per-second is the film standard.

Counting Rate (Hz)	Counting Method (Frames-per-Second)	Displayed Time Accuracy	Application
24	24 frame	Real Time	Motion pictures and film
25	25 frame	Real Time	EBU standard for European television
29.97 ¹	30 drop frame ³	Real Time	NTSC standard USA & Japan
29.97 ¹	30 non-drop frame ⁴	0.1 % slow	USA & Japan
30.00 ²	30 drop frame ³	0.1 % fast	Non-standard
30.00 ²	30 non-drop frame ⁴	Real Time	USA & Japan

 Table Appendix A-1.
 Frame Rate Formats

- ¹ 29.97: Generated by all "color television" sync generators (i.e., almost all sync generators built after 1970). This is the speed at which a "black burst" signal runs (not to be confused with "black & white"). It is a standard color signal with a "color of black." *Use this* as your standard frame rate unless you are an expert and have a reason not to.
- ² 30.00: Usually available only in "internal crystal mode" of a time code generator, or from black & white television sync generators. *Don't use* this non-standard speed unless you are an expert and have a good reason. This is sometimes used in conjunction with motion picture film systems.
- ³ Skips 108 frames/hour at regular intervals.
- ⁴ Many users prefer 30 (full frame) counting because no numbers skip in the counting sequence, even though the elapsed time accuracy at 29.97 frame rate is slightly different from real time.

VITC

Vertical Interval Time Code (VITC) is another form of SMPTE that is used only with video, and is printed horizontally at the beginning of each field, as part of the video signal. Longitudinal Time Code (LTC) is printed linearly along an audio track.

Unlike LTC, VITC cannot normally be added to a video tape after the picture has been recorded. It must be recorded with the video signal when the original tape is generated.

Each picture has 525 lines (625 for PAL). To facilitate picture clarity, the lines are divided into two interlaced (odd and even) fields. This means that 262 even lines are scanned, then the scanner returns to the beginning of the picture and scans the 263 odd lines. As the lines are scanned, a number of lines at the top and bottom of the picture are never displayed; they are "blank" space. These lines are available to store information. VITC is recorded on two of these spare lines, at the top of each field. One complete VITC data word is recorded on each line.

VITC uses a 90-bit data word instead of the 80-bit data word used by LTC. The extra bits are used to provide error correction and to prevent bad time code values from being read. VITC allows accurate reading of tape position even when the tape is stopped in freeze frame, which is something that LTC can't do. VITC is often used in conjunction with LTC in applications that involve both audio and video.

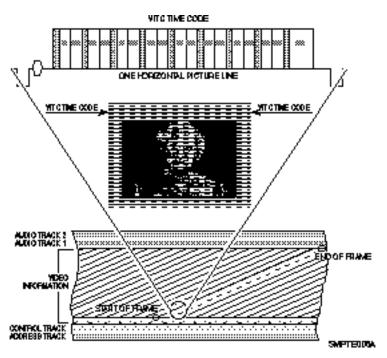


Figure Appendix A-7. Video Tape and VITC Time Code

SMPTE, MIDI and MTC

MIDI is not the same as SMPTE, even though both are binary codes. They each carry very different types of information.

SMPTE, as we've seen, answers the questions "Where are we," and "How fast are we going?" MIDI however, answers an equally vital but totally different question, "What do we do now?" It answers that question for synthesizers, drum machines, and other electronic music devices. MIDI is the language that a computer uses when it tells a synthesizer, "Play middle C, play it <u>mezzo forte</u>, and play it ... *now*!"

But when is *now*? If we're talking about playing back an electronic composition in concert, *now* is a relative term. *Now* might be the third beat of the fourteenth measure, and whether that beat hits at 10:31 or 10:32 PM is something no one usually notices. However, if that beat has to coincide with the cocking of

an assassin's pistol in a feature film thriller, or coincide with a soul-wrenching wail from a vocalist on audio tape, it becomes necessary to pin *now* down.

The traditional way is to slave a MIDI sequencer to SMPTE. Many popular sequencers can read incoming SMPTE and lock their musical tempos (their beats-per-minute) to the time code.

It works beautifully, but it leaves the film or TV composer with the awkward situation of flitting continually between two highly dissimilar sets of numbers. While his sequencer counts beats and measures, his work print, cue list, director's instructions and everything else that pertains to the visual side of the equation, all talk of hours, minutes, seconds and frames. The two sets of numbers never coincide neatly, forcing the composer to pull all sorts of tricks on his sequencer.

MIDI is a computer code that uses 8-bit data words or bytes that cannot contain SMPTEs 80-bit word. This is the reason for the invention of MIDI Time Code (MTC). MTC, quite simply, takes SMPTE time code and translates it into the MIDI data format. To translate SMPTE into MIDI, the MIDI time code format transmits a MTC message byte every 1/4 frame. The first two 1/4 frame bytes contain only the frames. The next two MTC bytes convey the seconds, the next two the minutes, the next two the hours, and so forth.

This whole process takes exactly two SMPTE frames to complete. As soon as one complete SMPTE address is transmitted, the MTC generator updates the time code by 2 frames and starts again.

The TimeLine Micro Lynx and Lynx System Supervisor Unit can take SMPTE from a master tape and generate MTC. Thanks to this, the film/TV composer can now use a cue-sheet style program, as well as conventional music, and if desired, deal exclusively in the realm of hours, minutes, seconds, and frames.

Although SMPTE and MTC are not the same thing, they make a powerful combination when the Micro Lynx or System Supervisor puts them together.

Using SMPTE

Any SMPTE time code application involves three basic functions. First you need a generator to produce the actual SMPTE signal that goes onto tape. Second, you need a reader to read the SMPTE time code from tape. Finally, there's the job itself – what you want to accomplish.

SMPTE can be used with a resolver, to ensure that a single tape machine runs at a consistent speed. It can also be used with an autolocator that stores a number of SMPTE addresses in memory and chases to those addresses on command, or when you want to lock one or more devices to a master tape machine with a synchronizer.

In the early days, a different device was quite often required to perform each of these functions. Today, TimeLine has several products that perform them all: the Lynx Time Code Module with a Keyboard Control Unit, compact, high-end, high performance units; and the Micro Lynx, a high performance project or smaller studio system.

Things To Know About Generating Time Code

Time code, generated and striped on tape, must ultimately be played back and read, so you must determine the optimum level for your master tape before generating the time code. Master tapes are generally printed at about -6 dB. If you print code at too low a level, the reader will have trouble reading it, but if you print it too hot, it will bleed audibly onto adjacent tracks. For this reason, many engineers leave a guard band – a blank track next to the time code track – even when printing at the correct level. To remove the need for leaving two blank tracks (one track on either side), time code is usually printed on the outermost track in multitrack formats (i.e., track 24 on a multitrack machine).

In video and digital audio applications, always make sure that the time code generator and machines are properly referenced together when printing time code. Your generator <u>must</u> be connected to the same external video sync signal as the video or digital machine, otherwise, when synchronizing, the video machine's will start off in the right place, then slowly drift apart.

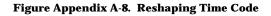
With digital audio machines, the sample rate or word clock must be locked to the time code. This is normally done by using a video sync signal as a common timing reference for the generator and the digital machine. Set both to "EXT VID" before printing time code. If you do not have a sync pulse generator, the Micro Lynx Video Sync Generator (VSG) option card can be installed and used to generate a referenced composite sync signal for your video or digital machine.

Specific types of video sync include black burst, color bars and composite. These video sync signals are often collectively called *house sync*, or the signal that's universal throughout the production facility or house. To reference your generator to video sync, set it to "EXT VID" mode and connect a video sync signal. This ensures that the tapes you are striping will have a common reference and on playback will sync properly.

Reshaping Time Code

Reshaping, or cleaning up the time code signal, should always be performed when dubbing time code from one tape to another. If you simply copy time code from one tape to another without reshaping, it will deteriorate quickly due to generation loss and will eventually become unusable. Reshaping is not recommended when the time code on tape has begun to deteriorate badly.

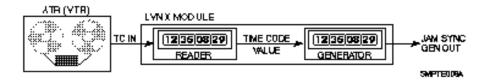




When reshaping, existing code is passed through the reader, which puts out "squared-up" code. If a tape has been copied several times or is very worn, then it is likely that the time code will have dropouts or bad spots that a time code reader will not be able to read. The reshape output of a time code reader can only put out a clean copy of its input. So if the code drops out completely, the reshaped output will have a corresponding dropout. To overcome this, the code must be regenerated rather than reshaped.

Regeneration or Jam Sync

Jam Sync, is a generator function that is a better alternative to reshaping. It is used to create a new time code that is related to an existing time code on tape. It is extremely useful for repairing a break in an existing time code track, or creating a continuous time code track from an edited or discontinuous track. Code is read up to the last "good" address. Then the generator uses the next consecutive address to generate new code.





Jam sync is used extensively in video editing; where different pieces of tape, each with different time code, are spliced together. Jam sync provides the resulting program with continuous time code. TimeLine's Micro Lynx and Lynx both have manual and automatic jam modes, that quickly and simply let you repair or create new time code tracks to overcome the problems that are detected with bad code.

About Time Code Readers

A Wide Band Reader, such as the Lynx Time Code Module or Micro Lynx, reads time code even at the high tape speeds used for Fast Forward and Rewind. Wide band reader capabilities are essential, since SMPTE addresses provide the only accurate means of locating positions on tape.

If time code on tape becomes unreadable, the TimeLine readers automatically search for the next best sync source on tape. After SMPTE, the reader searches for serial time code, then pilot tone, and finally tach pulses that are derived from the rotation of the tape machine's capstan motor.

Synchronizer Essentials

A synchronizer reads time code from two or more machines; then by manipulating the speed of each machine's capstan, it forces the two machines to play tape at the same speed. This process is called locking. The Micro Lynx system offers the following synchronization mode.

Phase or Sync Lock

Phase or Sync Lock emulates the old control track or pilot tone method of synchronization. The TimeLine system reads the time codes and synchronizes the transport, taking into account any deliberate offsets. Once the system is locked, the slaves only use the speed information that is derived from the time code, and specific time code addresses are ignored.

This allows the tape machines to stay in lock even if the time code relationships change. The time code change is reported, but the synchronizer makes no corrective action. This is the normal method of operation.

Advanced Applications

Video Editing

Video editing is the process of assembling raw footage into a finished television program. Shooting the raw footage is part of what's called television production. Video editing is part of the post-production process. Consider an average television program, perhaps a sitcom or a documentary. The action constantly shifts from one scene to another, moving indoors, outdoors, all over the place. Within a given scene, the perspective also shifts (i.e., from one camera to another, each shooting the scene at a different angle).

In editing, there are multiple video machines, each loaded with footage of different scenes, shot by different cameras. The potential for chaos is great. Fortunately, there's SMPTE time code. Each reel of raw footage is striped with SMPTE, and each frame has a specific and unique location or address. In some cases, both LTC and VITC are on the tape.

During editing, selected scenes of raw footage are transferred onto a master video tape, one after another in sequence, as they will appear in the finished show. The master video tape, as its name implies, contains the master or program time code.

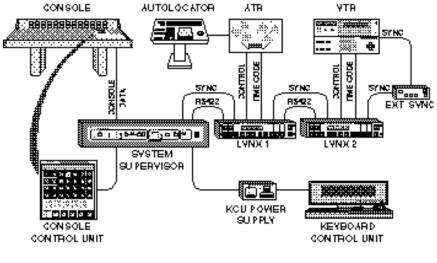
A video editor, locks the source video machines loaded with raw footage to the master video machine. Additionally, one or more audio tape machines may be locked to the master. These contain the production audio: the dialog and incidental sounds recorded during shooting of the raw footage.

	Video editing is normally a two-stage operation. First comes offline editing. The person editing the show receives work tapes, i.e., copies of all the raw footage, with time code "burned in" so that it's visible in one corner of the picture. Any footage initially shot on film, is usually transferred to video at this point. From the work tapes, a basic sequence of scenes is selected. For example, the second scene should be the bar room brawl that occurs, say, between addresses' 05:40:59:11 and 05:44:12:22 on one of the raw footage reels. In the finished program, this scene needs to start exactly six minutes, five seconds and nine frames (00:06:05:09) into the show and run to 00:09:18:20.
	When all the scenes have been sequenced in this manner, an Edit Decision List (EDL) is compiled. The EDL is a complete, comput- erized directory of the location of the scenes in the show, along with the addresses locating each scene in the raw footage.
	Later, when the project moves to online editing, the EDL can be downloaded and the final video master assembled from the origi- nal raw footage, which has been pristinely sitting aside while the work tapes endured the rigors of offline editing.
Audio-For-Video	
	Just like the raw video footage, all the audio elements that go into a video production must be assembled. This procedure is generally known as audio-for-video or audio post-production. There are several different branches of audio post, since there are many different types of sound sources that go into a typical video show.
	First, there's production audio, which is dialog and sounds re- corded during shooting. Often, incidental noises on the set, flubbed lines, and other uncontrollable aspects of the shoot make the production audio unusable. Which brings us to the three main branches of post-production audio.
	For dialogue, there's Automated Dialog Replacement (ADR) in which actors re-record production dialog in the controlled acoustic environment of a sound studio. This replacement dialog is re- corded onto audio tape that is locked to a video work print, which the actors carefully watch as they read their lines.
	Second, is Foley (named after the man who invented it), the process whereby an abundance of "real-life" sounds, i.e., footsteps, coat zippers, car door slams, etc., are recorded by specialized actors called Foley walkers. They also make their recording while watching a work print that's synchronized, by SMPTE and a TimeLine synchronizer to an audio tape machine that records the sounds they make.

Third, are sound effects. This is mainly the spectacular stuff – explosions, rocket blasts, gunshots. Today, most sound effects work, as well as some Foley, is created using digital audio samplers. Samplers are devices that can be locked to SMPTE through MTC or MIDI.

Then there's that all-important audio element – music. This is supplied by the composer, who works to rough cuts (preliminary edits) of the finished show and ultimately to the finished video master. The composer may record real instruments onto audio tape that is locked to picture using SMPTE and Lynx modules, or he may work with MIDI instruments that are locked to tape by a Micro Lynx or Lynx System Supervisor.

Ultimately, there are a number of different Audio Tape Machines (ATRs) or film dubbers with the finished music, dialog, and effects. These ATRs are locked to the video master using a TimeLine system controller, such as the Keyboard Control Unit or Console Control Unit. Then the multiple audio sources are balanced by a mixing console to provide a finished audio master for the program. Because this can be quite an elaborate process, many modern post-production facilities use automated mixing consoles, which store mix data, such as fader moves, mutes, etc., in computer memory. These automated systems can also be locked to the video and audio tape machines via the Lynx System Supervisor and Lynx console interfaces.



SMPTEO10A

Figure Appendix A-10. Automated Mixing System

The Modern Electronic Recording Studio

Today, many record projects and other music recording applications are as elaborate as video post-production, with the number of machines involved and the use of SMPTE time code. Two multitrack tape machines are typically locked together by the Micro Lynx to provide enough audio tracks for instruments and vocals. Some productions require more than two interlocked multitracks. Console fader automation is also the norm for record mix downs, and an absolute necessity for "dance" mixes.

In addition, many projects also involve virtual tracks. Virtual tracks are MIDI synthesizer and drum machine parts that are synchronized to tape, and played back "live" in real time, rather than being recorded onto multitrack. The Micro Lynx provides the all-important SMPTE to MIDI translation.

MIDI is also the protocol used to automate effects processors, such as digital reverbs, harmonizers, etc. These MIDI devices can change programs mid-song, and even perform real time individual parameter changes mid-program. Some mixing consoles, particularly those designed for personal use and project studios also have MIDI automated switching or mixing features.

In short, just about every device in the recording studio – tape machines, consoles, effects processors, and electronic instruments, can now be automated using SMPTE, and MIDI, and the appropriate TimeLine equipment. Thus the Electronic Recording studio is created.

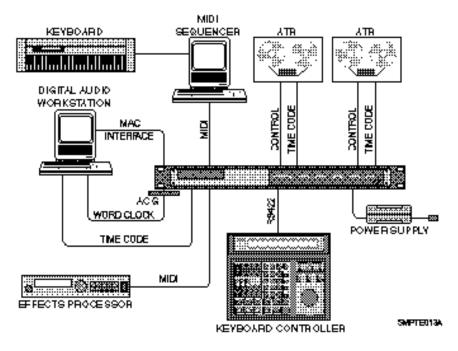


Figure Appendix A-11. The "Modern" Electronic Studio

SMPTE and the Digital Audio Workstation

The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) is an important tool for post-production and music recording. The DAW records, edits, manipulates and mixes multiple tracks of audio in a single digital environment. Like the biosphere, it's a self contained, selfsufficient system; but at some point, it must sync with the real world. Digital audio workstations must eventually be slaved to picture or a master tape machine.

This can present a problem. DAWs are always referenced to their own internal sample rate clock. The workstation can use time code to locate and park at a specific SMPTE address. When that address comes up on the master tape, it goes into play; but it's running "wild," locked to nothing but its own internal clock. In short, we're back to something only just a little better than the scenario presented in the beginning: attempting to press two start buttons on two machines at the same time and crossing our fingers.

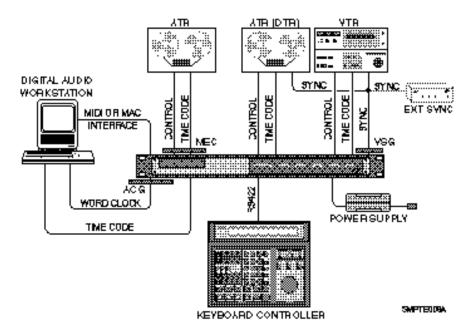


Figure Appendix A-12. Micro Lynx with a Digital Audio Workstation

An excellent solution to the problem is offered by the Micro Lynx Digital Audio Clock Generator (ACG) Card option. It provides a means of referencing the digital audio workstation to the master time code, using word clock (sample rate) data or AES/EBU digital audio bit stream, which contains timing data. The ACG card generates a *digital audio* clock that is locked to the Micro Lynx system reference, and DAW uses it to lock and run its internal sample rate clock. It's even possible to varispeed the master tape. The Digital Audio Clock Card automatically adjusts the ACGs word clock rate. If the tape speeds up or slows down, the DAW will adjust to match the new play speed (within the limits of the disk system).

As we enter the digital era, time code continues to be an important, practical solution to multiple equipment communication and control.

The SMPTE Future

SMPTE Time Code and MTC are already being used for applications far beyond their original purpose. Outside the worlds of music recording and video post-production, SMPTE is used to automate light shows at rock concerts, control laser beams at theme park attractions, and trigger flashpot explosions.

Its uses are many and they will continue to grow as time goes on. HOWEVER, the basics of SMPTE will never change. Now that you know them, you're ready for the future.

Key and Key Combination Identification Numbers

K080 OR K600

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
0	STOP + RW
1	STOP + FF
2	EDIT
3	REPLAY
4	ROLLBACK
5	ALL STOP
6	CUE
7	LOC
8	CUE + LOC
9	REC
10	PLAY + REC
11	PLAY + REH
12	PLAY (>)
13	STOP (■)
14	FF (>>)
15	RW (<<)
16	SUBFR
17	BS
18	MINUS (-)
19	PLUS (+)
20	RCL
21	STO
22	EQUAL (=)
23	CAPT
27	MEM
28	LIST
29	EVNT
30	TRAN
31	TRKS
32	RDY
33	POLL

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
35	SETUP
36	FILM
39	SYS
42	END
43	CUE
44	SRC
45	REF
47	IN
50	F6
51	F5
52	F4
53	F3
54	F2
55	F1
56	OUT
58	REDO
59	LOOP
62	STAT
63	GRP
64	8
65	9
66	00
67	CLR
68	SHTL OR ENTER
69	JOG OR NEXT
70	TRIM OR LAST
71	MEM + CAPT
72	0
73	1
74	2
75	3

Keyboard Control Unit 09/08/00

Appendix

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
76	4
77	5
78	6
79	7
82	F
83	E
84	D
85	С
86	В
87	А
130	GRP + F
131	GRP + E
132	GRP + D
133	GRP + C
134	GRP + B
135	GRP + A
136	CLR + 0
137	CLR + 1
138	CLR + 2
139	CLR + 3
140	CLR + 4
141	CLR + 5
142	CLR + 6
143	CLR + 7
144	CLR + 8
145	CLR + 9
154	CLR + END
155	CLR + CUE

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
163	RDY + E
164	RDY + D
165	RDY + C
166	RDY + B
167	RDY + A
170	CLR + F6
171	CLR + F5
172	CLR + F4
173	CLR + F3
174	CLR + F2
175	CLR + F1
176	CLR + RDY
177	CLR + POLL
179	CLR + SETUP
183	CLR + SYS
188	CLR + LIST
190	CLR + TRAN
191	CLR + TRKS
194	SETUP + F
195	SETUP + E
196	SETUP + D
197	SETUP + C
198	SETUP + B
199	SETUP + A
239	REH
242	CLR + EDIT
246	CLR + CUE

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
156	CLR + SRC
157	CLR + REF
158	CLR + OUT
159	CLR + INPT
162	RDY + F

KCU 300

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
0	0
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	00
11	CLR
12	MINUS (-)
13	PLUS (+)
14	EQUAL (=)
15	STO
16	RCL
17	CAPT
18	SUBFR
19	TRIM
20	BS
23	А
24	В
25	С
26	D
27	E
28	F
29	TCG
30	F1
31	F2
32	F3
33	F4
34	F5
35	F6
40	SETUP
41	SYS
42	TRAN
43	EVNT
44	LIST
45	MEM

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
46	BLANK KEY
47	FILM
50	GRP
51	SOLO
52	LOOP
53	BANK
54	RDY
55	TRKS
60	IN
61	OUT
62	REF
63	SRC
64	CUE
65	END
70	LOC
71	CUE
72	ALL STOP
73	ROLLBACK
74	REPLAY
75	EDIT
76	RW (<<)
77	FF (>>)
78	STOP (■)
79	PLAY (>)
80	REH
81	REC
82	JOG
83	SHTL
95	CUE + LOC
96	STOP + RW
97	STOP + FF
98	PLAY + REH
99	PLAY + REC
144	CLR + 0
145	CLR + 1
146	CLR + 2
147	CLR + 3
148	CLR + 4
149	CLR + 5
150	CLR + 6

Appendix

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
151	CLR + 7
152	CLR + 8
153	CLR + 9
154	CLR + 00
160	CLR + CUE
161	CLR + EDIT
162	CLR + RDY
163	CLR + SYS
164	CLR + TRAN
165	CLR + TRKS
166	CLR + SETUP
167	GRP + SYS
168	POLL
169	MEM + CAPT
177	CLR + F1
178	CLR + F2
179	CLR + F3
180	CLR + F4
181	CLR + F5
182	CLR + F6
186	CLR + IN

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
192	GRP + A
193	GRP + B
194	GRP + C
195	GRP + D
196	GRP + E
197	GRP + F
198	GRP + TCG
200	RDY + A
201	RDY + B
202	RDY + C
203	RDY + D
204	RDY + E
205	RDY + F
208	SETUP + A
209	SETUP + B
210	SETUP + C
211	SETUP + D
212	SETUP + E
213	SETUP + F
214	SETUP + TCG

# on Screen	Stuck Key or Combination
187	CLR + OUT
188	CLR + REF
189	CLR + SRC
190	CLR + CUE
191	CLR + END

24	'24' refers to both the film-standard speed and code type.
25	'25' refers to both the EBU/PAL speed and code type.
29.97	'29.97' refers to a SMPTE frame rate only, in frames-per-second.
30	'30' refers to a SMPTE frame rate only, in frames-per-second.
Address	SMPTE/EBU time code address. Also referred to as time code value. A specific and unique address in the time code data stream.
	A set of SMPTE or EBU time code numbers indicating a specific position on tape. A complete SMPTE address includes hours, minutes, seconds, and frames.
ADR	Automated Dialog Replacement. A technique for replacing production dialog in the studio.
AES/EBU	A professional standard for the high speed transfer of two channels of digital audio data. Developed jointly by the Audio Engineering Society (AES) and the European Broadcast Union (EBU).
Amplitude	Signal displacement from a zero point. The amplitude of an analog signal is the measurement of voltage increase or decrease.
Analog Audio	The "traditional" means of recording and reproducing sound, using fluctuating electronic voltages to replicate audio waveforms.
ATR	Audio Tape Recorder.
Autolocator	A device that can hold multiple tape locations in memory and chase to those locations on command, using SMPTE addresses, tach pulses, or control track pulses to find a desired point on tape.
Bandwidth	The frequency range of a signal.
Binary Numerical System	A system for expressing numerical values using two digits, 0 and 1. The binary system is used in digital audio, SMPTE, MIDI, and other microprocessor-related data formats.
Biphase Encoding	The way in which SMPTE time code gets encoded onto tape. It

expresses binary '1' and binary '0'.

Biphase encoding reverses the signal polarity halfway through a bit to represent a '1' and leaves the bit polarity unchanged to represent a '0'.

- **BIT** Short for BInary digiT; a number which is either one or zero.
- **Blanking Interval** The blanking interval occurs at the end of a frame. Video information is absent during the blanking interval. The interval occurs when the CRT electron gun scanner goes from the bottom right corner of the screen to the beginning of the next field in the top left corner.
 - **BNC** Bayonet-Nut Coupler. Used for the connection of video and high frequency clock signals.
 - **Byte** A group of related binary data or a word, which can be read, interpreted, and acted on by a microprocessor. A byte is made up of bits, which can be either a 0 or 1.
 - **Capstan** On a tape recorder the motor driven spindle that drives the tape across the heads. A synchronizer controls the capstan motor to keep the tape in sync.
 - **Code Type** See Time Code Type
 - **Configuration** See Setup Mode. The process of defining the user-selected operational parameters, such as defining a specific transport or lifter-defeat mode.
 - **Control Track** A synchronizing signal on the edge of a tape, which provides a reference for tracking control and tape speed.
 - **CPU** Central Processing Unit. A computers central microprocessor, responsible for all system logic and memory organization.
 - **DAW** Digital Audio Workstation. Usually refers to a computer-based, hard disk recording and editing environment.
 - **Decibel (dB)** The unit of measurement used to describe a sounds amplitude. The measurement is relative and logarithmic.
 - **DF** Drop frame. See drop frame
- **Differential Input** Input amplifier that is designed to amplify the difference between two signals and reject common signals.

Differential Output Output amplifier designed to provide two signals that are

completely identical but with opposite phase.

Digital Literally "using digits". A Computer is a typical digital device.

- **Digital Audio** Audio signal that has been converted (digitized) into a stream of binary numbers for storing or transmitting, that are equivalent to the original analog audio signal.
 - **Display** Numeric display. Time Code/Message Display.
- **Drop Frame** Drop frame is one of the two SMPTE code types, and is the NTSC color television standard. When using this code type, 108 specific frame numbers are "dropped" for each hour of time code. See the Appendix for more detailed time code information.
 - **EBU** EBU time code is a 25-frame code running at 25 fps.
- **Edit Decision List (EDL)** A list, either on paper or in computer memory, of time code addresses indicating successive scenes of source video footage that make up a complete program.
 - **EDL** See Edit Decision List.
 - **ERR** Error or offset error. Indicates that the display shows the difference between the actual position of the machine in relation to where the system expects it to be.
 - **EXT VID** A source of external video sync used by the synchronizer as a timing reference. Can be color black, black burst, color bars or composite sync.
 - **Filter** A digital or analog process which has the effect of removing unwanted frequencies from an audio signal.
 - **Foley** The process of adding incidental sounds, such a footsteps, door slams, etc., to a video program or motion picture.
 - Format See Time Code Format.
 - **Frame** A single image on a motion picture film or a television picture formed from two interlaced fields. One complete video scanning cycle, one complete SMPTE time code word.
 - **Frame Lock** Frame lock maintains synchronization between the Master and Slave transports, using the position information available in the time code address.

	video tape. Film and different types of video all have different frame rates.
	3030 fr/sMonochrome TV, & audioNTSC 29.97 fr/sColor videotape, TV operationsPAL25 fr/sEuropean TV, European Broadcast, & audioFilm24 fr/sFilm cameras & projectors
Frequency	The number of wave cycles that occur in a given period of time (one second). The unit of measurement is the Hertz (Hz).
Generate	Running the system time code generator so that time code is available at the rear panel GEN OUT jack.
Generator	A time code generator. Each synchronizer has a time code generator. This generator receives its speed reference from one of the internal or external sources.
GEN REF	Generator reference. May also be referred to as reference source.
Groups	A group of machines that have a defined positional relationship. Machines are placed in group mode for synchronization. Machines in a group will operate together as if they were a single transport.
GRP	See Groups.
Guard Band	A track of multitrack tape adjacent to the sync track (such as SMPTE or Control Track), which is left unrecorded in order to prevent the time code from bleeding onto the audio program material.
HH:MM:SS:FF	Hours:Minutes:Seconds:Frames. A SMPTE time code address or value.
Initialize	Completely clear the synchronizers RAM. Press and hold the CLR key while you power-up the module.
INT XTAL	A system speed reference that is derived from the unit's internal crystal. This reference should be selected when an external reference (video or word clock) is not required.
Jam Sync	A technique used to start a time code generator from another running time code. It can be used to recreate missing time code or to external existing time code on tape.
Jam Time Code	The Jam Time Code or Jam Sync function. See Jam Sync.
КСО	Keyboard Control Unit. TimeLine's external machine control unit. The KCU provides centrally-controlled access to all synchronizers in a system.

LCD Liquid Crystal display. The KBD display is of this type.

LED Light emitting diode.

- Lifter A tape transport's head lifter mechanism. Tape machines normally lift the tape off the heads when in wind (FFW/RWD). The synchronizer intelligently controls the machines lifter operation, to read time code when required.
- **Local Transport** The machine or transport that the synchronizer is connected to and controlling.
 - **Lock** The transport is synchronized with the system reference GEN REF.
 - **LTC** Longitudinal Time Code. Time code information encoded in binary coded decimal (BCD) form which is recorded as an audio signal on a designated track of a VTR or an ATR.
 - **Machine** Machine refers to the generic concept of tape record/playback hardware.
- **Machine Control** The wide ranging field of transport control. This covers basic transport operation, synchronization and more complex functions such as electronic editing.
 - **MACROS** Preprogrammed or user programmed keys permitting complex key sequences to be stored and executed by pressing a single key. Sometimes known as smart keys.
 - **MIDI** Musical Instrument Digital Interface. This serial data language is used by microprocessors in synthesizers, sequencers, drum machines, signal processors, and computers. It provides musical pitch and rhythm information, synthesizer performance parameters, song position markers, stop/start/continue commands for sequencers and computers, and synchronizing data called MIDI Clock, which is based on 24 pulses per quarter-note. MIDI is frequently used with SMPTE for sync-to-tape functions.

MIDI is transmitted between microprocessors at 32.125 kBits per second. It can also be used by lighting systems and mixing consoles.

- MIDI Time Code A MIDI system real time message that assigns a unique address for a specific moment in time. MIDI Time Code takes two frames to transmit a complete address in bursts of data that are transmitted every 1/4 frame.
- **Motion Controls** The basic set of six transport control keys (Play, Stop, Rec, Reh, Rwd & FF) and the six additional transport control functions (Loc, Cue, Allstop, Rlb, replay & Edit).
 - **MTC** See MIDI Time Code.

Multitrack A tape machine, analog or digital which has more than two audio

tracks.

N/A Not available. Not active. Not applicable.

- **Non Drop Frame** NDF or ND is one of the two SMPTE code types and is the black & white television standard. When using this code type, every frame of time code is counted in real time. See the Appendix for more time code information.
- **Non-contiguous** Not a continuous, predictable sequence. i.e., 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 is a non-contiguous number sequence.
 - **NTSC** A system of coding color information for television transmission used primarily in the USA and Japan. Named after the National Television System Committee.
 - **Offset** Offset is the difference between two time codes at the point at which they are to be synchronized. Offsets are subframe-accurate and are displayed using the HH:MM:SS:FF format. Offsets are always applied to the slave machines.
 - **Oversampling** A process by which a computer interpolates between adjacent digital audio numbers to provide in-between values and reduce quantization error.
 - **PAL** Phase Alternate Line. PAL is another name for the 25 time code format, which is the standard for European color and B&W television.
 - **Phase Lock** A mode of synchronizer operation that uses phase information derived from SMPTE time code and, after initial synchronization, ignores specific frame addresses. It is also called Sync Lock.
 - **Pilot Tone** The Pilot output signal is a sinusoidally-shaped output, which is always two times the frame rate of the time code that is being referenced or generated.
- **Post-production** Activities that take place after the raw footage has been shot for a video program or motion picture. Includes video editing and a number of audio processes, such as ADR, Foley, and mixing.
 - **Production** The initial stages in the making of a film or television program, which includes the shooting of raw footage and recording of production audio.
 - **RAM** Random Access Memory. The module's configuration parameters are stored in battery-backed RAM. And recalled each time the unit is turned on.
 - Rate Frame rate or speed. See Frame Rate or Speed.
 - **REF SRC** Reference source. The signal that is used to determine the rate

that the generator and synchronizer will run at. The reference source can be thought of as the system time base. The reference source can be internal crystal, external video, MAINS, or external pilot tone or the time code reader (VSO).

- **Register** The generator register is the module's memory buffer that holds numeric time code values that are entered or captured. Each synchronizer also has reader, sync point, offset, user bit and error registers.
- **Reshape** The output signal is the same as the input signal, but it has been reshaped with correct rise time values and a fixed voltage output. This type of output does not correct for bit or timing errors.
- **Resolving** A technique for regulating the play speed of a tape machine by matching the rate of pulses recorded on tape with a pulse rate from another stable source or a master tape machine.
 - RLB See Rollback.
- **Rollback** The rollback function is used to rewind machines by a predetermined amount from the current position. The default rollback time is 15 seconds.
 - **S-PDIF** A consumer standard similar to AES/EBU for the high speed transmission of digital audio data. Jointly developed by Sony and Philips.
- **Sequencer** A device that can record performance data for synthesizers and other electronic instruments and then, on playback, pass that data on to the instruments so that they'll play what has been recorded. Modern sequencers use MIDI as their communications protocol.
 - **Serial** A type of computer interface where all data is sent down a single wire or pair of wires one bit at a time. Examples of serial interfaces are RS422 & RS232.
- **Serial Port** The physical computer connection through which serial data is transmitted and received.
- **Setup Mode** The process of defining the user-selected operational parameters, such as defining a specific transport or lifter-defeat mode.
 - Shuttle Fast-wind. Fast-forward or Rewind.
 - **SMPTE** Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. An industry standards committee. The group responsible for developing SMPTE time code.
 - SOLO Literally "using alone". A tape transport in solo will be controlled

by itself, without affecting other transports in the system.

- **Speed** Speed, Frame Rate and Rate are synonymous. Time code speed is counted in frames-per-second (fps). SMPTE time code has two speeds: 30 fps and 29.97 fps.
 - **SU** See System Unit
- **SUBF UBITS** Sub frame user bits.
 - Sync Lock See Phase Lock.
 - **Sync Word** Included at the end of every 80-bit time code word is a 16-bit Sync Word. The sync word provides direction and Phase-lock speed information, and marks the end of each time code word.
- **Synchronizer** A device that reads time codes recorded on two or more tape machines, compares the codes, and adjusts the machine's tape positions and speeds based on the results of that comparison.
- **System BUS** When two or more synchronizers are used to form a system, a communications link must be established between the modules. This is done by looping from one module to the next, via the RS422 ports on the rear panel of the system unit.
- **System Unit** The rack mounting part of the Micro Lynx machine control system. The unit contains the control (CP) and machine control (MC) microprocessors.
 - **TCA** Time Code Address. The HH:MM:SS:FF bits of the TC word.
 - **TCG** See Time Code Generator.
- **Time Code Format**Time code format defines both the frame rate and code type being
used. Example: To describe a time code format as 30 NDF is to
say that the frame rate is 30 fps and the code type is non-drop
frame. Simply saying either 30 or drop frame defines only part of
the SMPTE time code.
- **Time Code Generator** A special signal generator designed to generate and transmit SMPTE time code at one of the international formats and rates.
 - **Time Code Reader** A counter designed to read and display SMPTE time code.
 - **Time Code Type**The word "type" is the key to understanding this phrase. Type
defines the counting method that is employed by the time code
module. There are two SMPTE types: 30 (also called non-drop
"ND" or non-drop frame "NDF") and drop frame (DF). EBU and
film types are the same as their respective speeds, 25 and 24.
 - **Toggle** To toggle is to consecutively press a key several times in order to

step through a series of choices.

- **Track** A place for the storage of audio information. Analog tape recorders have one or more physical tape tracks. MIDI sequencers and digital audio workstations provide areas of memory to store control or audio data.
- **Track Select** The process of enabling (arming) specific tape machine tracks for recording.
 - **Transport** Transport refers to a part or subassembly of a machine, i.e., a transport connector or a transport cable.
 - **TRS** Tip Ring Sleeve. A 1/4", balanced termination plug or jack. Typically wired T = +, R = -, S = shield.
 - **Type** See Time Code Type.
 - **UB** See User Bit.
 - **User Bit** Each time code frame or word consists of 80 bits that convey SMPTE/EBU time code information. Thirty-two of those bits are user bits, and are available for storing information such as IDs, reel numbers, session dates or another time code number.
 - **Value** Values are generally time code addresses. They may also be a custom user bit IDs.
- **Video Sync** A reference video signal generated by an extremely stable source. This signal is used to control the speed of video machines, digital audio machines and is used as a timing reference to ensure accurate synchronization.
- **Virtual Tracks** Used to describe any circumstance whereby the method for reproducing audio tracks is not directly analogous to the linear tape track format. Hard disk systems (DAW's) and MIDI sequencers are typical examples.

MIDI performance commands can be stored in a sequencer. Because the sequencer can "play" these parts in real time, synchronized to tape, they can be regarded as extra or "virtual" tracks, not on the tape, but present nonetheless.

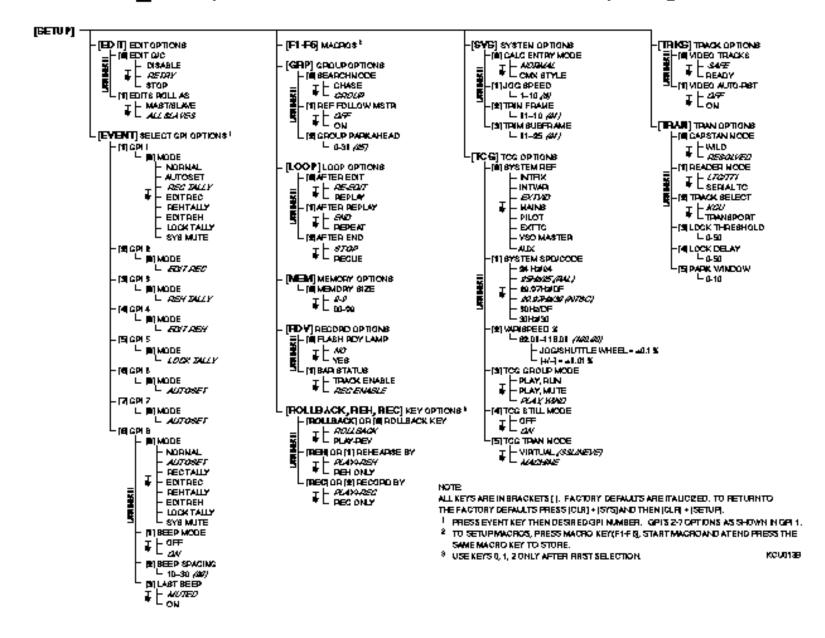
- **VITC** Vertical Interval Time Code. An alternative to the LTC format of SMPTE time code. It is recorded in the blanking interval of the video signal, which is not used for the picture.
- **VSO** Variable Speed Override. Variable Speed Oscillator.
- VTR Video Tape Recorder.

Wideband A signal that is distributed over most or all of the frequency

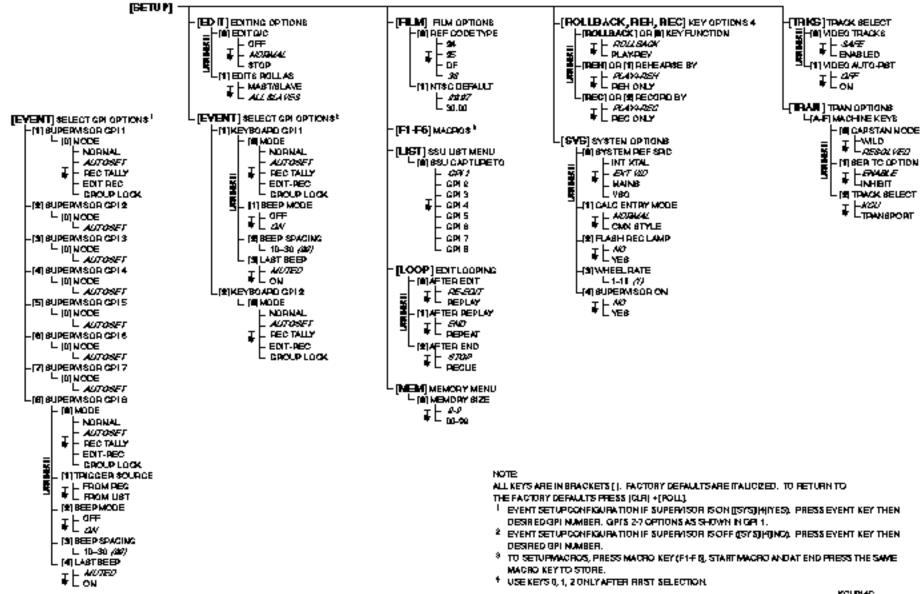
spectrum. A wide band input amplifier is capable of processing signals that are well outside the audio bandwidth.

- **Word Clock** An extremely stable synchronization signal that is used to control the rate at which digital audio data is converted or transmitted.
- Workstation See DAW.

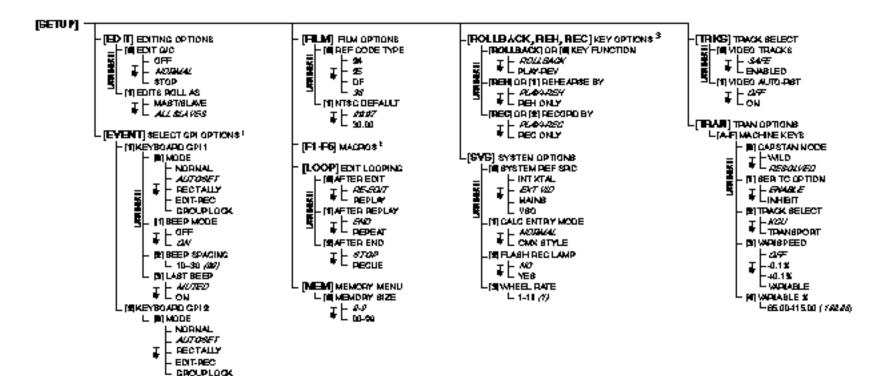
TIME INE Keyboard Control Unit, 3.00 Series Software, Setup Configuration



TIME INE Keyboard Control Unit, 080 Series Software, Setup Configuration



TIME NE Keyboard Control Unit, 600 Series Software, Setup Configuration



NOTE

ALL KEYS ARE IN BRACKETS []. FACTORY DEFAULTS ARE ITALICIZED. TO RETURN TO THE FACTORY DEFAULTS PRESS [CLR] + [POLL].

PRESS EVENT KEY THEN DESIRED GPI NUMBER.

2 TO SETURMACROS, PRESS MACRO KEY (F1+F 8, START MACRO AND AT END PRESS THE SAME MACRO KEY TO STORE.

9 USE KEYS 0, 1, 2 ONLY AFTER RRST SELECTION.

KCU018B