

The following is a short description of a way to use **tob** combined with **mt**.
Set the name of the tape in the **TAPE** environment variable like this

```
export TAPE=/dev/nftape
```

such that we don't have to mention the name of the tape in each command.
The **export** command can be put in your **/etc/rc.d/rc.local** file.

Before you use the tape at all it should be formatted. Go to DOS and do that or buy preformatted tapes.

Retention the tape before you use it—this is strongly recommended by the manufacturer of my tapes:

```
mt retension
```

To make a full backup in the beginning of the tape be sure that the position of the tape is at the beginning of the tape

```
mt rewind  
tob -full <volume>
```

If you later want to add to the tape set the position to the end of your valid data before you execute the **tob** command

```
mt eod  
tob -diff <volume>
```

If you want to list the contents of the third backup made on the tape position the tape at the beginning of the file after the second backup; i.e. the third backup

```
mt rewind  
mt fsf 2  
tob -verbose
```

If you want to list the contents of the last backup on the tape position the tape at the beginning of the last file; i.e. in the beginning of the last backup

```
mt eod  
mt bsf 1  
tob -verbose
```

Notice that many of the positioning commands of **mt** does not move the tape immediately, the tape is first moved when you execute the read or write command for the tape (**tob** or **afio** or whatever you use directly).