



Dear Readers,  
Today we're helping  
you make holiday  
gifts. Making gifts is  
way better than just  
buying them.

Beakman & Jax  
Woodbury, Tennessee

Beakman or Jax  
P.O. Box 30177  
Kansas City, MO 64112  
Questions, name & address

Your mom or dad probably drives to work, and that takes a lot of time.

A nice gift would be a way you could be with them on the freeway. So read a book out loud into a tape recorder to make a book on tape!

A book on tape is something that will last for years and bring joy to whoever gets it.

Really. Even more joy because it came from you, and has your voice on it.

*Beakman*  
Beakman Place

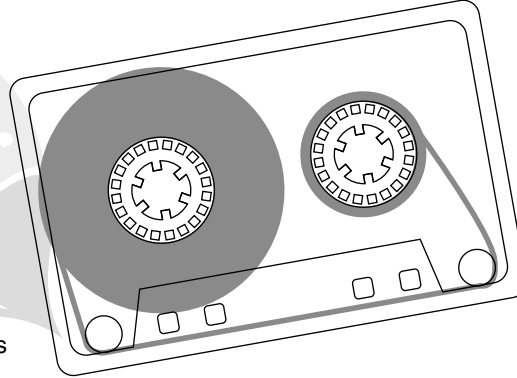
The first tape recorder didn't use tape. It used long thin wire. It was invented in 1900 by Valdemar Poulsen.

In 1930, German scientists invented the tape we use today. Back then the tape was on big rolls.

In 1964 the Philips company in Holland invented the cassette. It's pretty much a holder for the tape. People use cassettes all over the planet. If you don't have a cassette recorder, borrow one.

Think of a book your parents read out loud to you. That might be a great book to read out loud to your mom or dad in their car. Put a cassette in the recorder, open the book, hit the record button and start reading out loud.

Remember there is no such a thing as a wrong way to do this. You might



think you've made a mistake, but this gift is a chunk of you, and nothing about that can be a mistake. It's impossible.

You get to be all artsy and creative here. You might want to make sound effects. You might want to play music in the background. Do *whatever* you want. The gift *is* you, so you decide.

Remember to say "*I love you*" at the end of your reading. That's like the prize at the end of the book.

## WHY DOESN'T IT SOUND LIKE ME?

When you listen to yourself on tape, it might not sound like you. But it is.

Sound from your tape recorder travels through air to get to your ear drum. We hear almost everything this way.

When you talk, that sound moves through your muscles and bones to your ear. That changes how it sounds *to you*.

Everyone else hears your voice through the air — they hear what the tape recorder hears.

P.S. from Jax: To hear how sound changes when it moves through stuff instead of air, put your ear on a table and clink a glass with a fork. Listen through the air and compare the differences.

