Conditioning Mark 5 Disk Modules
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The stand-alone SSErase program can be used to condition a set of
disks.   There are two settable parameters:

 -m sets the message level (range -1 to 3, default 1)
 -c sets conditioning (0 for FALSE, 1 for TRUE, default is FALSE)

  For example:

   SSErase   -m 0   -c 1

goes through the conditioning process on whatever disks it
finds, up to 16 at a time in both banks.   Conditioning amounts
to a read-write cycle through the whole set of disks.   With the
message level set to 0, debug prints a progress report every minute.
The progress report is the number of bytes per bus remaining to be
read or written in the current read or write cycle.

The Mark5A or Mark5B control program must not be running;
kill Mark5A (or Mark5B) before running SSErase.

Conditioning disks is recommended before recording,
especially if they are to be recorded at 1024 Mb/s.

 Typical conditioning times:

```
                                  average
  GB                    minutes    Mb/s
  ----                  -------    ----
120                     100        1H40M       317 Western Digital (40 MB/s)
2*120           100     1H40M       621 Western Digital (40 MB/s/drive)
3*120           100     1H40M       960 Western Digital (40 MB/s/drive)
4*120           103     1H43M      1243 W-D 4 Masters (39 MB/s/drive)
8*120=960       152     2H32M      1684 Western Digital
  16*120                278        4H38M      1842 Western Digital

164.7           116     1H56M       377 Hitachi (47 MB/s/drive)
8*164.7=1317        205     3H25M   1711 Hitachi

185.2           140     2H20M       353 Hitachi (40 MB/s/drive)
8*185.2=1482    231     3H41M      1711 Hitachi (44 MB/s/drive)
16*185.2                430        7H10M      1838 Hitachi

200                     160        2H40M       333 Western Digital (42 MB/s/drive)
8*200=1600              260        4H20M      1641 Western Digital
16*200          465     7H45M      1835 Western Digital

250                     173        2H53M       385 Hitachi (48 MB/s/drive)
2*250=500               173        2H58M       768 Hitachi 2 Masters (48 MB/s/drive)
4*250=1000              178        2H58M      1500 Estimated 4 Masters
8*250=2000              306        5H06M      1700 Hitachi, Maxtor, WD
16*250          580     9H40M      1839 Hitachi

300                     197        3H17M       406 Maxtor (51 MB/s/drive)
2*300                   197        3H17M       812 2 Masters (51 MB/s/drive)
4*300                   207        3H27M      1547 4 Masters (48 MB/s/drive)
6*300                   337        5H37M      1426 Master-Slave pairs
8*300=2400          370     6H10M      1730 Maxtor Maxline III
16*300          695    11H35M   1843 Maxtor Maxline III
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8*320=2560            385         6H25M       1775 Western Digital
16*320          742   12H22M     1840 Estimated

8*400=3200            493         8H13M        1730 Estimated
16*400          925   15H25M     1844 Seagate

8*500=4000            616   10H16M             1730 Estimated
16*500          1163  19H23M    1840 Estimated

8*750=6000            924   15H24M             1730 Estimated
16*750          1744  29H04M    1840 Estimated
```

These times are approximate for the typical case; but, if any of
the disk drives in the module has a problem, times can be longer.

If conditioning takes longer than a few minutes more than the time
listed above, then the slow drive or drives should be replaced
before the 8-pack is used at 1024 Mb/s. The performance statistics
reported by 'SSErase -c1' can be used to identify the slow drive
or drives. A suspicious module should always be retested because
disks might have been improved by the conditioning process.
Note that a slow, but fully functional, 8-pack is OK to use at 128,
256, and 512 Mb/s.

See the "get_stats" and "start_stats" commands in the "Mark 5A
Command Set Memo" <http://web.haystack.mit.edu/mark5/command5a.pdf>
for an explanation of the meaning of the SSErase STATS: numbers.
Note that SSErase does not report the <replaced-block-count>,
which has no meaning when conditioning.