

From Brian Hodgson to Ray White, 22 February, 2005:

The Workshop used a Reflectograph for speed change. This had a tilting cone on the capstan and only went from 3.75 to 7.5 ips [inches per second]. The next speed change machine was the Leever-Rich 8-track, which was continuously variable from 7.5 to 30 ips, though at first it appeared to be continually variable due to a design fault, later rectified.

The Radiophonic Workshop never had a Brenell multitrack. I had the Type 19 at my own studio, Electrophon, and never tried the mini-Brenell. As I said, it was chosen simply because it was cheap. It is pointless to compare Studer and Brenell. Studer is and was the Rolls Royce and Brenell the Reliant Robin, both in terms of reliability, speed accuracy and constancy and recording quality. The price difference was the same order of magnitude.

When the Radiophonic workshop eventually went multitrack seriously it used Studers, as did the rest of the BBC. The Brenell would simply not have been good or reliable enough for serious professional use.

NOTE: Daphne Oram only used Brenell machines outside of the BBC.