



# SAMSUNG

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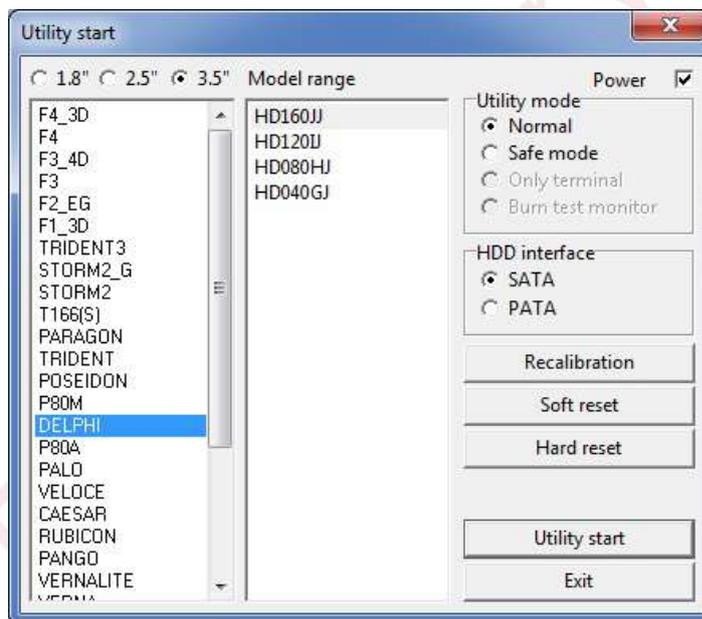
If after power-up a firmware initialization error occurs, then the terminal will display the code of that error, for example: LED 13 000. Error code values can be found in *chapter 11,12*.

Sometimes a HDD in error state just stops sending data to terminal. In such cases you can identify an error using the LED signals (please see *Fig. 9.9* for the connection scheme). Long signals denote the first digit of the code, short signals represent the second digit, i.e. code 13 will be output as one long and three short signals.

The «CR=LF» terminal button in the PC-Samsung utility must be depressed as it controls wrapping of the lines output by a HDD to terminal.

## 4. Launching the utility

After utility launch, it displays a «Utility start» window, which serves for selection of the operation mode. If the utility succeeds in reading HDD ID at the start, it will select the family corresponding to HDD firmware in the «HDD family» panel. Otherwise, the drive family selector will not be set and the «Utility start» button will remain inactive.



*Fig.4.1.*

**Attention!** Use the «HDD interface» panel to select SATA, if the drive uses that interface and has been connected to the tester complex via a PATA–SATA adapter. The step is important, because Serial ATA drives use a different format of read/write commands compared to commands in drives belonging to the same family but using the PATA interface.

There are four methods, which you can use to launch the Samsung utility:

- 1) **Normal** – the utility will start and read all necessary modules.
- 2) **Safe mode** – the utility will start but it will not try to access the modules in service area. Instead, it will load the default modules table and make just an attempt to read the technological drive ID (no access to SA surface occurs), which sometimes may be the default ID for VERNA and older drive families. The mode may be necessary in case of a knocking HDD, when a drive after a soft reset fails to reach readiness and so you have to set appropriate jumpers for work in Safe mode (*please see section 8.10.2*).
- 3) **Only terminal** – in that mode the utility has access to the drive exclusively by the terminal (not every drive family supported)
- 4) **Burn test monitor** – in that mode the utility only allows monitoring of a running Burn test; all technological tests are disabled. The utility reads nothing from the connected drive when it starts in that mode. You have to specify the running Burn test in a corresponding dialog before the utility displays its monitoring window; the step is necessary to load the respective Burn script into the monitoring window. If you click Cancel in the selection

dialog, the opened window will be empty and it will contain no test script. Please refer to *section 6.3* for details on the monitoring mode.

In Normal start mode, after precise drive family selection the utility will read the HDD ID, modules table and other additional information from service area, results of that procedure will appear in log.

Samsung drives frequently remain «busy» if their pre-start internal diagnostics reveals damaged service data preventing a drive from work with user data area, e.g., corrupted translation modules (*see section 7.8.*). Such damage does not interfere with operations over the service area; therefore, a soft reset command sent individually to a drive makes it enter the «ready» state. Before pressing the «Utility start» button in the corresponding window, wait until the drive reaches readiness, and if it cannot do so, send a soft reset to make the drive initialize its parameters properly if the command succeeds. If a drive does not report ready after the command, it may mean errors in ROM or modules affecting the system start.

The utility uses technological ID to obtain the zone allocation table, service area SPT, Flash ROM version and the number of heads in a drive. You can modify some of those parameters in the «Utility status» dialog (*see section 5.1*). If the technological ID has not been read, the utility will use default SA SPT and the number of heads.

The utility reads the modules table from FIT module. If the reading procedure encounters an error or module structure parsing reveals internal corruption, then the utility will load to the table some values stored in it as constants. FIT module is found in some (not all) of Samsung drive families, and so the utility always uses the default modules table with them. You can switch between the employed tables of modules selecting the «Use the default modules table» or «Load modules table from HDD» options in the «Utility status» dialog (*see section 5.1*). Please refer to section for a more detailed description of the modules table.

After utility launch, its «Tests» menu provides access to the following features:

1) Utility status

2) Service information:

HDD resources backup

Work with ROM

- Read ROM via terminal
- Write ROM
- View information about ROM dump
- Module FIPS reading
- Module FIPS writing
- FIPS module clearing

Work with RAM

- HDD initialization with head map changing in RAM
- RAM head map editing

Work with BURN

- BURN test result report
- Write BURN resources to HDD
- Download file into HDD
- Start Burn-In test
- Resume Burn-In test

Work with service area

- Heads test
- SA structure test
- Read modules
- Write modules
- Reading service tracks
- Writing service tracks
- Table of zone translation
- Erase service area



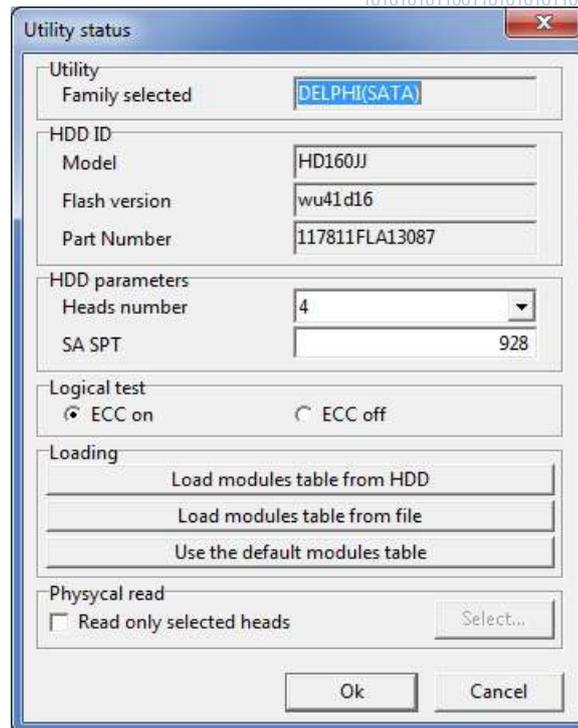


Fig.5.1.

If the utility used a default modules table during HDD initialization, in the «Utility status» window you can reload the modules table from service area on disk. You may also act to the contrary if the loaded modules table is invalid.

The option that allows you to enable or disable ECC is used during logical drive scanning (*see section 5.5.1*). ECC disabling turns off the error correction system; the number of revealed defects of magnetic surfaces can increase.

Select the option «Read only selected head» avoids reading utility service information on defective heads. Option is required in the case of reading service modules used to build head map in the «Data Extractor», as if trying to read data from a damaged drive head may hang.

## ■ 5.2. Work with terminal

### 5.2.1. Set COM port data transfer rate

This submenu contains the set of commands used to control the terminal connection with a drive.

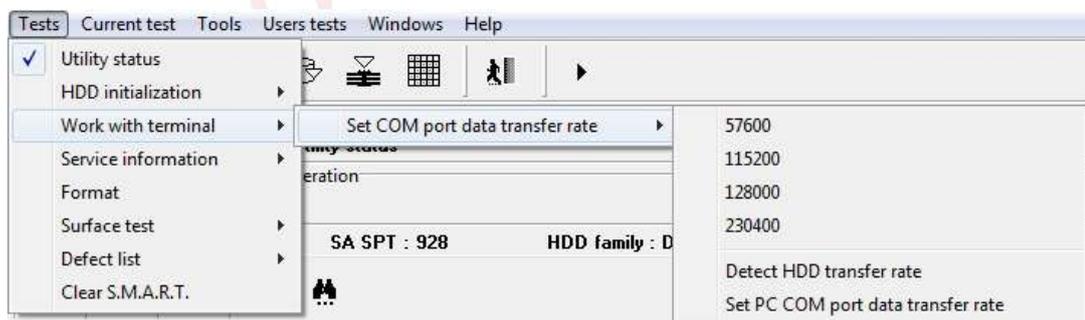


Fig.5.2.

The command to «Detect HDD transfer rate» allows you to identify the current data exchange rate of the drive terminal automatically, and configures the current COM port rate as appropriate.

The functionality for switching of the COM port baud rate allows changing the data exchange rate of drive interaction with the terminal.



In order to perform the procedure, you should connect your HDD to terminal (*see section 3*): ROM contents will be read using the DF command with two options: the first one specifies the initial address, the second stands for data length in words. As soon as the command is issued, the drive returns a ROM dump. The utility will convert the received data and verify its checksum.

ROM reading dialog offers to store ROM contents in a respective profile folder: <HDD Profile>\Data\ROM or to database. When reading to a profile folder, you can enable the option, which makes the utility ignore checksum errors – it means that despite checksum errors the resulting file will be created in the specified folder anyway.

ROM reading takes up to 2 minutes.

The utility displays progress in its information panel.

**Attention!** You can considerably speed up ROM reading via terminal by increasing the COM port exchange rate (*see section 5.2.1*).

### 5.3.2.2. Write ROM

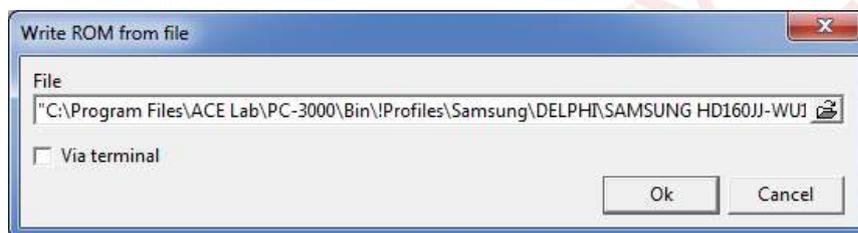


Fig.5.5.

ROM recording in Samsung drives is performed using the standard «92h» command or the terminal «DN» command. The procedure of ROM recording in a drive is managed by a special program (loader) containing microcode, which the utility automatically appends to the dump to be written before the drive boots up. Loaders for various drive families may differ; they may also vary within a family depending on the PCB type or revision. Please keep that in mind selecting the drive family, P/N or Platform Id before ROM recording because incorrect selection may result in corruption of the data stored in ROM chip.

When ROM is recorded via ATA, you can monitor the progress of the procedure in terminal. First, «E» will be output indicating the beginning of ROM erase process, then «P» will indicate the start of recording (programming), finally «V» will appear as the recorded data are verified. After successful completion «OK» will be output to the terminal and the drive will switch to the «BOOT» mode. In case of recording failure the error code will be output to terminal and ATA registers.

To pass control to the loaded firmware, the drive power must be switched off and then on again. Please see below a sample terminal log of a PALO HDD after successful ROM recording.

```
...
EPVOK
BOOT>
```

ROM loading options:

- 1) **Via terminal** – ROM dump will be recorded through terminal using the DN command.
- 2) **Disable checking HDD Platform Id** – the option is available for Trinity drives only. It disables the hardware check of firmware version (Platform Id). The option allows you to avoid the «Invalid Platform Id» error while writing a ROM to a board with incompatible firmware. Please keep in mind that recording of incompatible firmware may result in breakdown of the control board.

**Attention!** While writing to ROM you have to ensure that the versions of ROM and overlays in service area match. Otherwise the drive will be unable to reach readiness after ROM recording with subsequent power switch off and on.



- 4) **Total number of burn test errors, stepwise** – summed-up number of Burn test performance errors per every step of the test taken from the ELOG module.
- 5) **Burn test error log** – ELOG module data containing a list of all (but for 0x7F) errors revealed while a Burn test was running.

While parsing the ELOG module, the utility does not take into account records of RCC (0x7F) errors. Supposedly, these are recoverable errors, i.e. errors after which a drive can recover using its standard internal means (ECC algorithm). The number of such errors frequently surpasses the number of all the other ones many times. When a drive generates its defect lists, it also takes into account all types of errors except for 0x7F.

#### 5.3.4.2. Write BURN resources to HDD

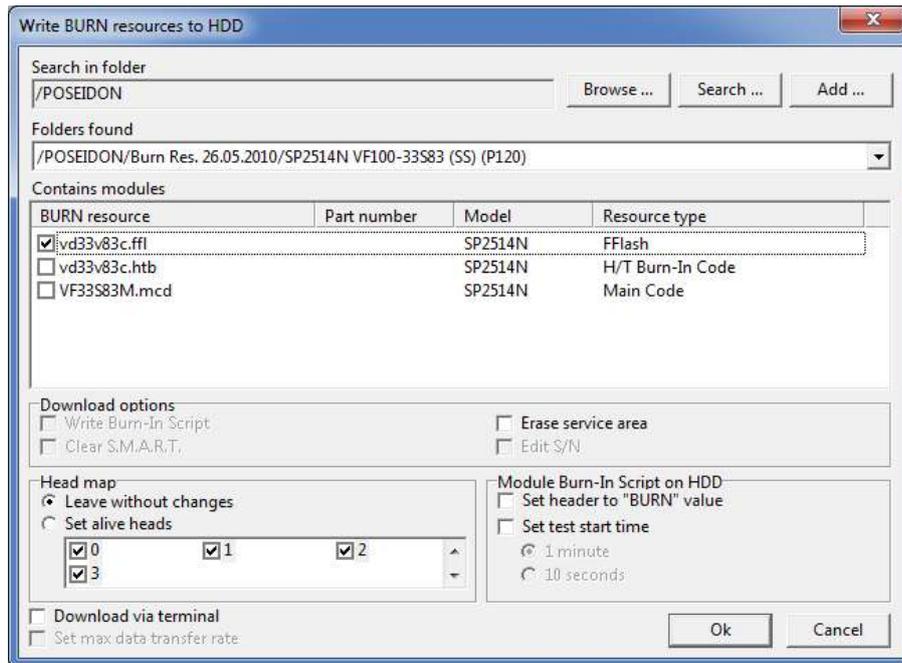


Fig.5.7.

The mode is designed to search for – and load into drive the codes for BURN-In test (Burn Code, HTBI Code, H/T Code, FFlash), or code for the normal operation mode (Main Code). Please see *section 9.11.2* for cases, when one of those codes has to be used.

Use the «Search...» button to find the necessary folder. Depending on the drive family, you will see an offer to enter the model or four initial figures of Part number (see the number on top of HDA case). The values can already be entered if they have been specified in the utility, then you will just have to reconfirm them. Select the search method and press «Ok».

The search results will appear in the «Folders found» dropdown menu with the contents of each folder displayed in the «Contains modules» field. Each folder on the lowest level contains just one set of resource files. For drives belonging to V11P, VICTOR, PUMA, VICTORPLUS, VERNA, VERNALITE, and VANGO families you will have to select the folder according to the label on drive's back end (see Fig 9.7). For newer drive families the folder name may indicate the corresponding firmware version for selection of the resources.

**Attention!** Available startup options may vary depending on the selected drive family.

#### Write Burn-In Script, Write Overlay, Write Geometry Script, Write Downsize Geometry Script

The option is available when a Burn-In Script (Overlay, Geometry Script, Downsize Geometry Script) is present in the list of the selected resource. Burn-In Script (Overlay, Geometry Script, Downsize Geometry Script) will be loaded to drive before or after (in F1\_3D and earlier families) the resource selected in the list is loaded.



HDD models may stop the spindle during the procedure. For procedure completion, you will have to switch the HDD power supply off and on again.

While disabling heads in 2.5" drives you may encounter a situation when a command to modify the heads map makes a drive disable wrong heads, or a drive may leave them enabled altogether. This behavior is caused by an error in the firmware of classic 2.5" drives: a drive defines its heads map correctly only when its ROM contains the default heads map. To prevent such situations, you are advised to load HT or FFlash code having indicated all heads as enabled before you proceed to disabling heads in 2.5" drives. Then the drive ROM will contain the default heads map. After that you will have to repeat HT/FFlash code recording, this time with the necessary map for your purposes.

You can verify the current heads map using the command to «Display heads map» (see section 5.3.2.3).

#### 5.3.4.3. Download file into HDD

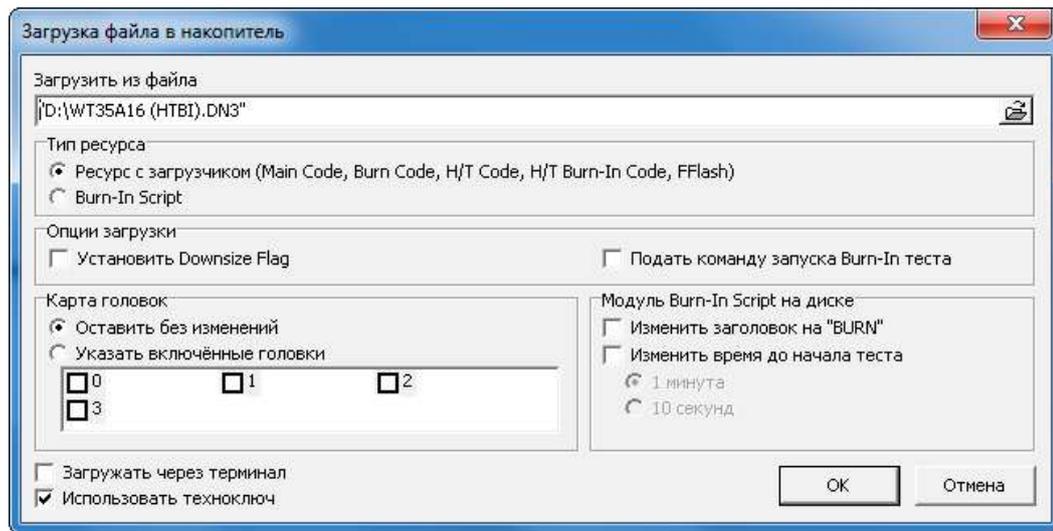


Fig. 5.8.

The mode is designed to allow loading of an arbitrary file to a HDD. You should use it in cases, when you have your own resources containing BURN-In tests that are not found in the database resources. In that case, you are advised to use the manufacturer's tables of Samsung HDD for selection of test codes necessary for a specific drive. Please note that H/T or FFlash code has to be written to a HDD when heads map is modified. Form appearance may be various depending on drive family.

Several resource types loading are supported:

- ◆ **Resource with loader** – necessary to choose when Main Code, Burn Code, H/T Code, H/T Burn-In Code, Fflash are loading;
- ◆ **Burn-In Script** – necessary to choose when Burn-In test is loading in the drive;
- ◆ **Geometry Script** – choose when Geometry Script is loading;
- ◆ **Overlay** – must be chosen when firmware overlays are loading.

**Attention!** The menu item is not intended for loading of BURN-In script files and separate overlay files. Such files can be written as individual modules. The utility will load successfully files containing loader code; otherwise the drive will return an error.

#### 5.3.4.4. Start Burn-In test

Run the command to start Burn-In test through terminal. The test should be used when, for whatever reasons, the drive was loaded Burn resources, but testing did not start.

**Attention!** All the necessary resources for testing need to be loaded into the drive, otherwise it returns an error.



### 5.3.5.3. Read modules

This mode is intended for reading of HDD service files. The list of modules to be read is based on the modules table loaded during utility initialization (*see section 4*). Read information is stored upon operator's choice to a profile folder or a database folder.

When reading to a profile folder, you can enable the option to ignore reading errors. In that case the module portion read with an error will be filled with code 0ADDEh (displayed as DE AD when viewed in Hex Editor), and the file of that module will be preserved with the \*.bad extension. The mode may be useful when you need to save service modules from a malfunctioning drive but a part of some module fails to be read. Besides, the module part that a drive fails to read may contain no information, e.g., last sectors of a SLIST module.

Composite module reading is supported; then in cases when errors occur while reading a module with the zero head, the utility attempts reading using next heads until a sector is read.

Module name in profile folder is generated using one of two possible methods depending upon HDD family. If a drive belongs to a family with a modules table stored in service area (*see section 7.3.*), then the file name will consist of a hexadecimal identifier and module name delimited by space. If the family of the current HDD has no such table, then the file name will consist of module name only. In both cases the resulting files will have the \*.rpm extension.

In the database folder, module names are generated in a similar manner, though without any extensions.

If a drive has more than 1 reading/writing head, then the utility will generate a subfolder in the Modules folder named according to the number of head used for reading of the modules stored inside it. If a drive has more than 1 head but composite reading has been used, retrieved modules will also be saved in Modules root folder.

**Attention!** When the utility saves any resources to the database, it supplements the information that identifies a resource within a model, with an additional description, which helps distinguish it from identical resources of other drives. You should keep that in mind when editing the fields in the «Utility status» dialog (*see section 5.1*), to allow future searching for those resources using the values of those fields.

### 5.3.5.4. Write modules

This mode is intended for recording of HDD service files – writing them from a profile folder or another specified folder to the drive being tested. Recording is also possible from a database.

To allow module recording, its name must correspond to filename format for the selected drive family. If a module has an identifier, the module name following it will be ignored. If a module has no identifier, then the utility will identify it by its name.

Module recording will be performed using all selected heads.

During selection of the mode for recording from database, the utility displays the following form:

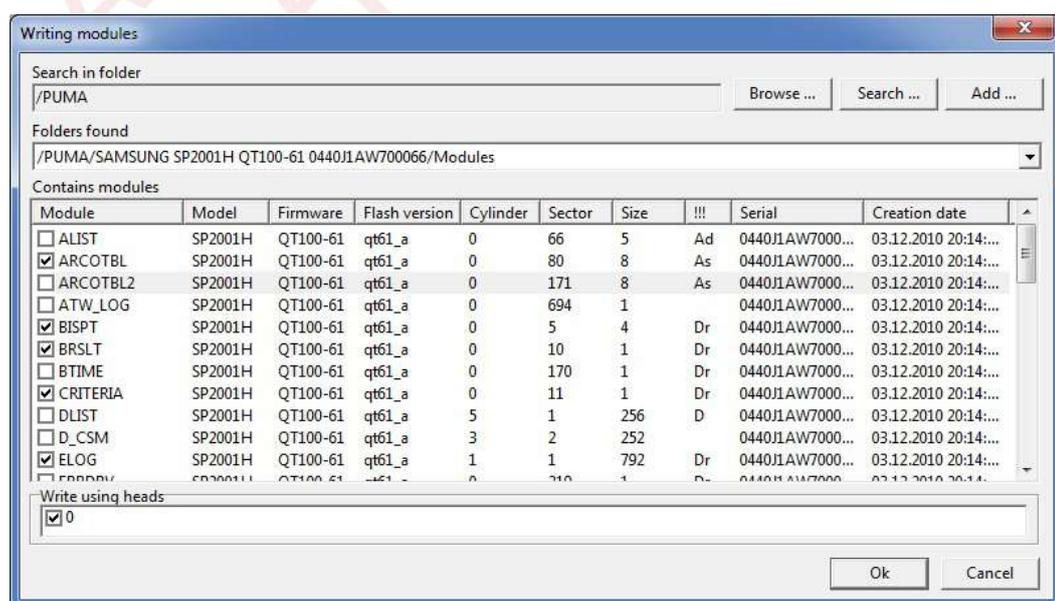


Fig. 5.10.



### 5.3.5.6. Writing service tracks

- ◆ **«To selected heads»** – in that mode the utility will write a track using the number from which it has been originally read; the operator has to specify the head number.
- ◆ **«Head used to read the track»** – in that mode the utility writes a track in accordance with its number and the head number specified in track name. If some of the selected tracks have been read using composite access, the utility will display an additional dialog, where you can select the heads to use for recording of such composed tracks.

The utility will write only those track sectors, which are marked as read in track map.

Enabled «Ignore write error» option allows recording of tracks without stops if write errors occur during the process.

### 5.3.5.7. Erase service area

**Attention!** The test has experimental purpose. Erasing the service area makes the user data area inaccessible and it can render a drive inoperable!

You can erase the service area before launch of a Burn test if you have already recorded HT Code or FFlash to the HDD. After erasing switch the drive power supply off and on. Once the microprogram in ROM fails to find the service modules and script module, it will start checking the service area and generation of the main service modules. You can observe completion of such test if you connect the drive to terminal. After the test be sure to check the header of the BISPT script module and write Burn Code or HTBI Code.



Fig.5.12.

- ◆ **«Initial cylinder» / «Final cylinder»** – the range of service area tracks that will be erased.
- ◆ **«By heads»** – the field contains numbers of the heads that will be used to erase the specified tracks.
- ◆ **«Fill»** – selection of the pattern for recording to surface.

### 5.3.5.8. Zone translation table

«Zone translation table» test is intended for modification of the order, in which zones are translated and for «cutting off» the zones that should not be used by setting the maximum LBA value.

The feature is supported for the following drive families: PALO, RUBICON, P80A, POSEIDON, DELPHI, CAESAR, P80M, TRIDENT, T166, STORM2, TRIDENT3, NEON, PARAGON, F1\_3D, F2\_EG, F3, F3\_4D, F4, F4\_3D, M7S2, M7E, and M8E. These families contain an additional table used during operation for definition of the order, in which zones are translated. Translation there can begin with any of the existing heads and continue using the same head through several adjacent zones. That peculiarity is used in the utility to define the required translation order and restrict the HDD volume excluding zones that contain a large number of defects. TRIDENT and T166(S) drive families contain such table in the '06 CONFIG' module, F1\_3D, F2\_EG, F3, F3\_4D, F4, F4\_3D, M7S2, M7E, M8E – in the '9D PARAM\_DM' module, in other mentioned families the table is stored in a separate '5D CONFIG2' module.

Dialog window of the test contains the translation table with an indication of the head and zone number. Zones are arranged in the translation order from the top down. The utility displays the number of logical sectors used in a zone, initial and final LBA of a zone. Arrow buttons can be used to move the highlighted area; the initial and final addresses of the selected zone will change at that.

After the defective zones are relocated to the table end, you should select the option to restrict drive volume and specify the final LBA (by double-clicking the zone containing that LBA).

- ◆ The option to restrict volume ***By MAX LBA command*** means generation of a standard ATA command. Changes will appear in the SETMAX module.
- ◆ The option ***By CONFIG module edit*** indicates that editing of the 06 CONFIG module is required. In that case, the utility will modify the CONFIG module leaving the SETMAX module clean.

All changes will be saved after clicking the OK button. To apply the changes, the operator has to switch the drive's power supply off and on.

Position	Zone	Head	Start Cyl	End Cyl	Start LBA	End LBA	LBA Count
0	1	0	64	5 006	0	6 620 911	6 620 912
1	2	0	5 007	9 949	6 620 912	13 237 800	6 616 889
2	3	0	9 950	14 892	13 237 801	19 829 068	6 591 268
3	4	0	14 893	19 835	19 829 069	26 321 541	6 492 473
4	5	0	19 836	25 519	26 321 542	33 736 550	7 415 009
5	1	1	64	4 573	33 736 551	39 542 854	5 806 304
6	2	1	4 574	9 083	39 542 855	45 349 157	5 806 303
7	6	0	25 520	29 721	45 349 158	50 750 340	5 401 183
8	1	2	64	5 006	50 750 341	57 055 050	6 304 710
9	2	2	5 007	9 949	57 055 051	63 359 749	6 304 699
10	3	1	9 084	13 593	63 359 750	69 111 957	5 752 208
11	4	1	13 594	18 103	69 111 958	74 864 164	5 752 207
12	7	0	29 722	35 774	74 864 165	82 585 239	7 721 075
13	3	2	9 950	14 892	82 585 240	88 825 722	6 240 483
14	4	2	14 893	19 835	88 825 723	95 011 853	6 186 131
15	5	1	18 104	23 626	95 011 854	101 924 144	6 912 291
16	2	3	4 708	9 351	101 924 145	107 712 682	5 788 538
17	8	0	35 775	40 624	107 712 683	113 758 137	6 045 455
18	1	3	64	4 707	113 758 138	119 491 477	5 733 340
19	3	3	9 352	13 995	119 491 478	125 233 602	5 742 125
20	4	3	13 996	18 639	125 233 603	130 972 002	5 738 400
21	5	2	19 836	26 259	130 972 003	138 916 000	7 943 998
22	6	1	23 627	27 123	138 916 001	143 239 288	4 323 288
23	9	0	40 625	44 550	143 239 289	148 093 222	4 853 934
24	6	2	26 260	29 721	148 093 223	152 324 780	4 231 558

Fig.5.13.

### 5.3.5.9. Edit S/N

The command opens a dialog window for serial number entry. The dialog contains the value read from HDD ID substituted by default. After input of a new serial number the utility writes it to the SNTBL module. To make the new number appear in HDD ID, switch the drive power supply off/on and read the HDD ID again.

### 5.3.5.10. Edit HDD ID

This feature is available for Trinity HDD only. The mode offers the following opportunities:

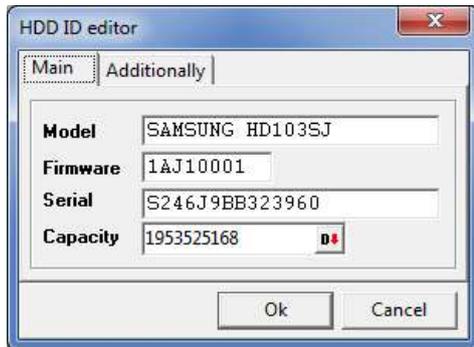


Fig. 5.14

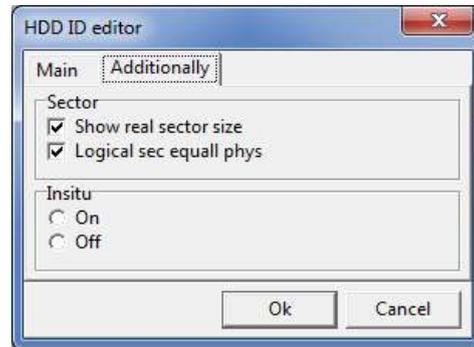


Fig. 5.15

- ◆ Editing of the model name by changing the HDD ID drive capacity in the 9D PARAM\_DM module. The Model list (Fig. 5.14) contains the manufacturer's list of standard models. When a model is selected from that list, the value in the Capacity field changes automatically. Editing of the Capacity field allows you to create nonstandard models that do not exist in the manufacturer's range of products.
- ◆ Serial number modification by editing of the 07 SNTBL module.
- ◆ Editing of the sector parameters displayed in the HDD ID (Fig. 5.15). The operation only makes sense in HDD using Advanced format<sup>1</sup>. The option to «Show real sector size» allows you to enable in the HDD ID indication of actual physical sector size for the drives which use hidden physical sector size (F4\_3D, M8E). If the «Logical sec equall phys» option is selected, the logical sector size will be set to 4 Kbytes, otherwise it will be 512 bytes.
- ◆ Enabling and disabling of internal Insitu testing – quick self-test of the drive performed during start and checking the quality of heads, surface condition and integrity of firmware modules. If the read/write heads are malfunctioning, Insitu test may considerably slow down the drive start, cause corruption of firmware modules and knocking sounds. Test results are stored in the 93 IN\_SITU module.

Advanced Format is data storage format developed by IDEMA Long Data Sector Committee for HDD. It is intended to minimize the formatting overhead by using sectors of 4Kbytes instead of traditional 512-byte sectors.

## 5.3.6. Security subsystem

Information about passwords in Samsung HDD is preserved in the SECURITY module. The utility manipulates the module while working with that group of commands.

### 5.3.6.1. Password information

The command generates a report on set passwords in a HDD and its protection level.

### 5.3.6.2. Clearing passwords

The command fills with zeroes the user password, disables the flag indicating that a password is set, and records the modified module using all drive heads.

**Attention!** You will have to switch the drive's power off and on again to make the changes effective.

## 5.3.7. Work with database

The submenu contains additional features for work with the database.

<sup>1</sup> – Advanced Format is data storage format developed by IDEMA Long Data Sector Committee for HDD. It is intended to minimize the formatting overhead by using sectors of 4Kbytes instead of traditional 512-byte sectors.



If you disable ECC, sector reading errors will make the drive initiate retries itself, scanning speed will be somewhat slower and the performance chart will demonstrate small gaps resulting from the delays caused by repeated reading attempts. The number of hardware retries is limited, so the probability of error detection increases compared with normal operation mode.

If you need a more thorough surface check on a drive, you are advised to use recording as the first step during test since automatic reassignment of defects works more efficiently in case of write errors.

After scanning completion the utility will display a dialog where you can select further actions over the revealed defects. Two options are available:

- ◆ **«Convert to Physical CHS»** – the utility will translate found defects into physical notation, create a list of those defects and open it in defect list editor.
- ◆ **«Add into S-LIST»** – the utility will translate found defects into physical notation, add them into the defect list in S-LIST module and open it in defect list editor.

In both cases the defect list opened in the editor will be saved first to a 'Defects\slist.chs' file in the HDD profile folder.

The utility converts defective sectors from logical notation using its internal algorithm; it reads the S-LIST module first to that effect. The translation rate may differ with various drives; it also depends upon the number of defects in S-LIST.

Please refer to the Defect list section for additional information on work with defects.

## 5.5.2. Physical test

The test is designed for a surface check of user data area; it is based on reading and writing accomplished with factory commands in accordance with physical drive parameters.

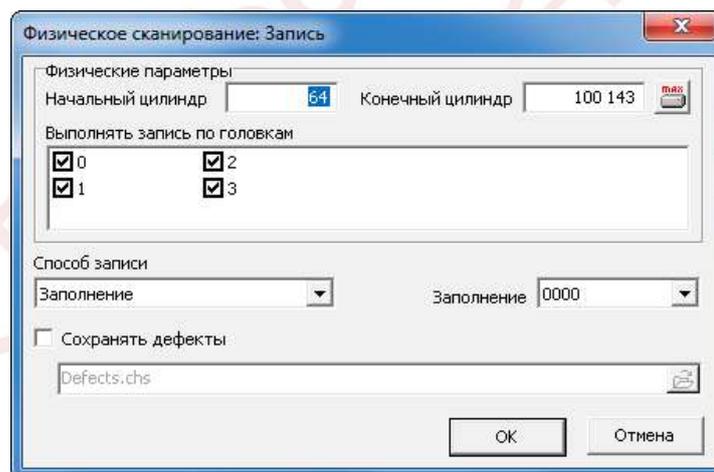


Fig.5.17.

- ◆ **«Initial cylinder», «Final cylinder»** – range of the tracks to test.
- ◆ **«Write using heads»** – list of the heads that will be used for testing.
- ◆ **«Write method»** – pattern used for recording. Two options are supported: Fill – a word in hexadecimal notation; 'Data combination with CHS value – the beginning of each sector will contain information about the cylinder, head and the number of that sector.
- ◆ **«Save defects»** – when the option is enabled and the output file is defined, the utility will list all the defects revealed while scanning to the specified file.

If defects have been found, the utility displays after scanning completion the following dialog suggesting the following actions over the revealed defective sectors:



On the «General» tab you can use the «Tests» group to select the test, which the utility will run sequentially while scanning the surface. The following set of tests is supported:

- ◆ Reading.
- ◆ Writing. The data for writing should be selected in the «Parameters» menu. You can use filling with a pattern or with a combination including the block number.
- ◆ Verify.
- ◆ Reading (tech).
- ◆ Writing (tech). Similarly to logical writing, you can choose between various options for data recording.
- ◆ Verify (tech).

Now please have a look at the «Additionally» tab. Users can configure the following scan settings:

- ◆ Scan direction – direction of testing from the beginning to the end (forward) or from the end to the beginning (reverse).
- ◆ HDD timeout – when this time elapses, the feature expecting reading (writing, verification) of a block of sectors will be interrupted and an error will be registered.
- ◆ One LBA commands timeout – when this time elapses, the feature expecting reading (writing, verification) of a single sector will be interrupted and an error will be registered.
- ◆ Skip if an error occurred – when this option is selected, the number in the sectors defined in the corresponding field will be skipped on a read/write error.
- ◆ Don't search sector where error occurred – the utility will not seek sectors with errors.
- ◆ The «Save defects» checkbox allows you to save the list of defects revealed while scanning to a file. File path is specified in the field below.

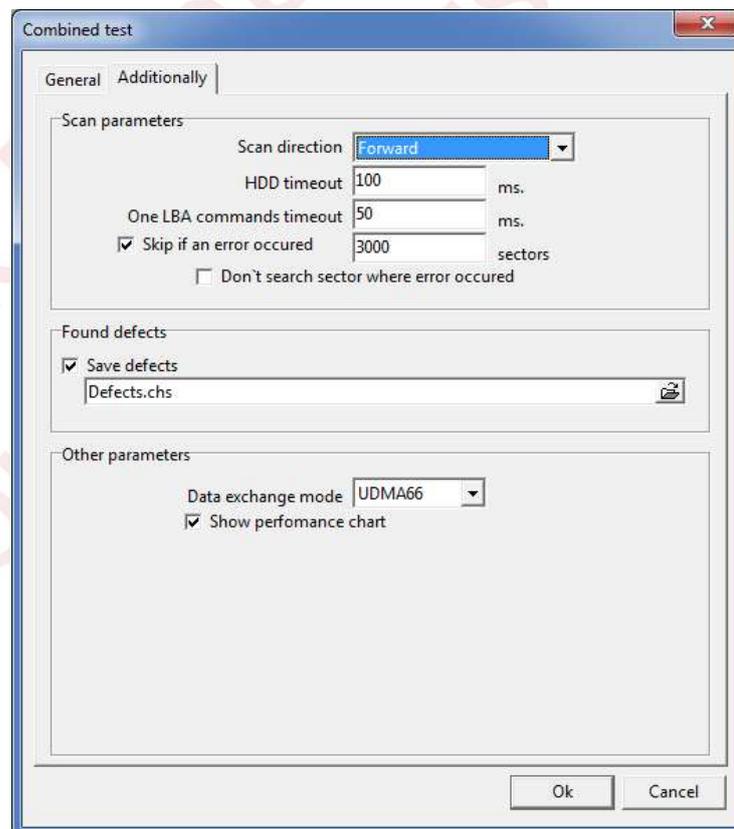


Fig.5.20. Additional settings



While the defect list editor window is open, all its available features can be invoked from the context-sensitive menu that opens after right-clicking the table. In addition to standard save, add, table and defect highlighting commands, the editor includes features specialized for the PC-Samsung utility.

**The following features are available for a defect list in logical notation:**

**Convert to physical format Alt+1** – the utility will translate logical addresses of defects into physical CHS. The utility performs the translation using its internal algorithm; it reads the S-LIST and CONFIG2 modules to do that. As a result, the LBA table will be converted into PCHS.

**Reassign defects Alt+2** – defective sectors will be reassigned to reserved HDD space. First, the utility converts logical defects to physical notation (CHS) for the connected drive; it reads the S-LIST and CONFIG2 modules to do that.

That command can be used when you need to hide a small number of defective sectors without translator modification and data corruption.

**The following features are available for a defect list in Physical CHS (PCHS) notation:**

**Save defects into the HDD Alt+1** – the utility saves the defect list and respective modifications to the following modules: SLISTHDR, SLIST, TLIST, ALIST, CONFIG, CONFIG2 (if present). The table of reassigned sectors in the ALIST module will be cleared during the saving procedure since it contains relative values, which may become invalid after entered modifications. In order to save reassigned sectors as defects, you will have to add them in defect list editor ([Alt]+[2]).

**Add defects from A-LIST Alt+2** – the utility appends to defects table records about reassigned sectors from the ALIST module. Shifted values of reassigned sectors will be converted by the utility automatically.

**Add defects from D-LIST Alt+3'** – the utility reads and parses the DLIST module adding all records of defective sectors to the defect list editor table skipping duplicate records. This procedure and the next operation may be useful if the SLIST and copies thereof for other heads are corrupted when you need to recover data from such drive. In that case you will need to open the defect list editor ([Ctrl]+[D]), create a PCHS table and add to it defect records from the DLIST and TLIST modules. (In case of data recovery formatting should be skipped).

**Add defects from T-LIST Alt+4'** – the utility reads and parses the TLIST module adding all records of defective tracks to the defect list editor table skipping duplicate records.

**Sort defects Alt+5** – the utility sorts the records of the table loaded into defect list editor in accordance with the logical sector addressing order. You do not have to use the feature when saving the defect list, because the latter will be sorted automatically in such cases.

**Grouping to tracks Alt+6'** – the feature allows you to convert several records of defective sectors within a single track into a defective track record under the same number. The grouping threshold dialog must specify the threshold equal to the number of defective sectors, which you wish to convert into a single defective track. The procedure will group all records that satisfy the grouping condition. You are not advised to use the procedure unless it is really necessary since the reserved space is limited and the maximum number of single-track defects is therefore limited, too.

**Filling gaps [Alt]+[7].**

The command fills the gaps between defective tracks and defective sectors in accordance with the criteria selected in the dialog.

**Remove defects for head [Alt]+[8].**

The command deletes all defect records for the specified head. You will have to select the head for record removal in the corresponding dialog.

**Remove defects for zone [Alt]+[9].**

The command deletes defect records for the specified zone. You will have to select the zone for record removal in the corresponding dialog.

**Statistics [Alt]+[A].**

The command displays a window with a diagram reflecting the distribution of defects among the HDD zones and heads.

### 5.6.3. A-LIST clearing

This command clears the table of reassigned sectors and corrects the reserved area table. It can be useful before a logical scan with subsequent relocation of defects.



Fig.5.221.

Sometimes the table gets filled during data recovery process because of multiple errors. In that case you can also clear A-LIST to return the data sectors to their original location. However, you should keep in mind that the sectors reassigned before the recovery process could be occupied with user data which might become partially corrupted after such clearing. A-LIST clearing does not affect the translator.

- ◆ **A-LIST clearing by ALIST initialization command.** The procedure is performed by the drive itself after a corresponding command, i.e. the drive resets A-LIST automatically and performs firmware initialization.
- ◆ **A-LIST clearing by utility method.** The procedure is performed by the utility. In that case the utility reads the A-LIST module, clears the defects it contains, modifies its auxiliary service data and writes the module back to drive. After such clearing you have to switch the drive's power supply off and on again to apply the changes.

### 5.6.4. Trasfer A-LIST to S-LIST

The test moves records of defective sectors from the ALIST module to SLIST; the ALIST table of reassigned records will be cleared after the records are added to SLIST.

### 5.6.5. Rebuild S-LIST

The procedure is intended for structural restoration of the S-LIST module in case of its corruption. During the procedure the utility reads information about defects from the T- and D-LIST modules and validates it. If the check is successful, information about defects is converted to necessary form and recorded to S-LIST. After procedure completion, you will have to switch the drive power supply off and on again.

### 5.6.6. Rebuild T-LIST

During this procedure the utility reads information about defective tracks from the S-LIST module. Once the validity check completes (successfully) the utility converts the data to necessary form and uses it to re-create T-LIST. After procedure completion, you will have to switch the HDD power supply off and on again.

## 5.7. Clear S.M.A.R.T.

The command initializes S.M.A.R.T. parameters. After its execution and drive initialization following it, S.M.A.R.T. parameters will be returned to their original values. One exception is attribute 5 (the number of reallocated sectors). The parameter is calculated during drive start based on the ALIST module (Auto Reassign List), so if the module is filled above the threshold specified for it then defects have to be transferred from ALIST to the SLIST module or the ALIST module has to be cleared first to allow decreasing the said attribute value (*please see section 5.6.3*).

## 6. «Tools» → «Utility extensions» menu

### 6.1. Modules table

The «Modules table [Ctr]+[Alt]+[1]» extended mode is intended for interactive work with service area modules using its built-in hex editor. If you select that menu item, the utility opens an additional «Modules table» tab on the same level with the «Log» tab.

Module	Description	Importance	Cylinder	Sector	Size	Read	Header
00 FSI	System file information	D	0	1	1	Yes	Error
02 FIT	File information table (HDD modules table)	Bs	0	2	4	Yes	Ok
04 MLIST	SA defect list	As	0	6	1	Yes	Ok
05 SRVTBL	Servo Table	As	0	7	4	Yes	Ok
64 SKTIME3			0	11	1	Yes	Ok
61 MODELID	Model identifier		0	20	1	Yes	
06 CONFIG	HDD configuration parameters	As	1	1	2	Yes	Ok
07 SNTBL	HDD serial number (or P/N & S/N)	C	1	3	2	Yes	
08 BISPT	Burn-In test script	Dr	1	5	4	Yes	
09 BRSLT	Burn-In test result	Dr	1	10	1	Yes	
0A CRITERIA	Burn-In test criteria	Dr	1	11	1	Yes	Error
0B FINALTST	Final test	Dr	1	12	8	Yes	
0C ARCOTBL	Channel table	As	1	30	8	Yes	Ok
0D GEO_TBL	Table of geometric parameters	As	1	46	32	Yes	
0E VLISTHDR	VLIST header	As	1	78	1	Yes	Ok
0F VLIST	Servo labels defect list	Ad	1	79	16	Yes	
10 SLISTHDR	SLIST header	As	1	111	1	Yes	Ok
11 SLIST	Defects are skipped by translator	Ad	1	112	128	Yes	
12 TLIST	Track defect list	Ad	1	368	4	Yes	Ok
13 ALIST	Auto reassign list	Ad	1	372	8	Yes	Ok
15 SETMAX	Set maximal LBA	C	1	381	1	Yes	Error
16 SECURITY	Security parameters module (passwords)	C	1	382	1	Yes	Error
17 SRVTBL2	Servo Table backup	As	1	383	4	Yes	Ok
18 ARCOTBL2	Channel table backup	As	1	387	8	Yes	Ok
14 TMPRTR	Current temperature	C	1	395	2	Yes	Ok
19 OVERLAY	Firmware overlay (Burn or Main)	Bs	1	401	396	Yes	
5A VL40CODE	VL40 code for downsizing	Dr	2	1	600	Yes	
5B VL40CHN		Dr	2	602	1	Yes	Ok
29 DLIST	Defect list (Primary list)	D	3	1	650	Yes	Ok

46 BIMODAL..... : Ok  
 3F SV\_TRACE..... : Ok  
 40 PES\_LOG..... : Ok  
 3E IPC\_DBG..... : Ok  
 65 PMP..... : Ok  
 Test completed

Head 00

Fig.6.1.

In that mode you can check modules, open them for reviewing, editing, and save modifications. After module check-up the utility adds a colored square in the «Module» column before module identifier and name; the square reflects check-up results: red – the module has not been read; yellow – error in module header (i.e. the header read from the module does not match the header in module table); green – the check revealed no errors. The results of module reading are displayed in the «Read» column, header check-up results appear in the «Header» column; the utility checks module header only if the modules table contains a record stating that such check is necessary. Please see details on modules checking in section 5.3.5.2; see section for details on modules table.

The following additional actions are possible:

- ◆ **View** – opens a module for viewing and editing within the built-in hex editor (in the «View» tab). Please see further the screen and a description of available features.
- ◆ **Select the head for reading** – dropdown menu for selection of the head to be used while reading (checking) modules. The utility resets check results when you select another head. The current head number is displayed in the lower status panel.
- ◆ **Start SA structure test (F9)** – displays a dialog window, where you can select the modules to be tested and launch the SA test.
- ◆ **Terminate (Esc)** – stops checking of service modules.

- ◆ **Report** – creates a report in the additional «Reports» tab. You can save the report to a corresponding profile folder or print it out.
- ◆ **Rewrite module from DB** – opens a window for search and recording of a selected module from the database to the drive being tested.
- ◆ **Rewrite module from file** – opens a dialog for overwriting a module on the HDD being tested with copies from the profile folder.
- ◆ **Rewrite modules group from DB** – opens a dialog for overwriting a group of modules on the HDD being tested with copies from the DB (see section 5.3.5.4).
- ◆ **Rewrite modules group from files** – opens a dialog for overwriting a group of modules on the HDD being tested with copies from the profile folder (see section 5.3.5.4).
- ◆ **Show log** – command for process monitoring, it opens an additional log window in the lower part of the «Modules» tab.

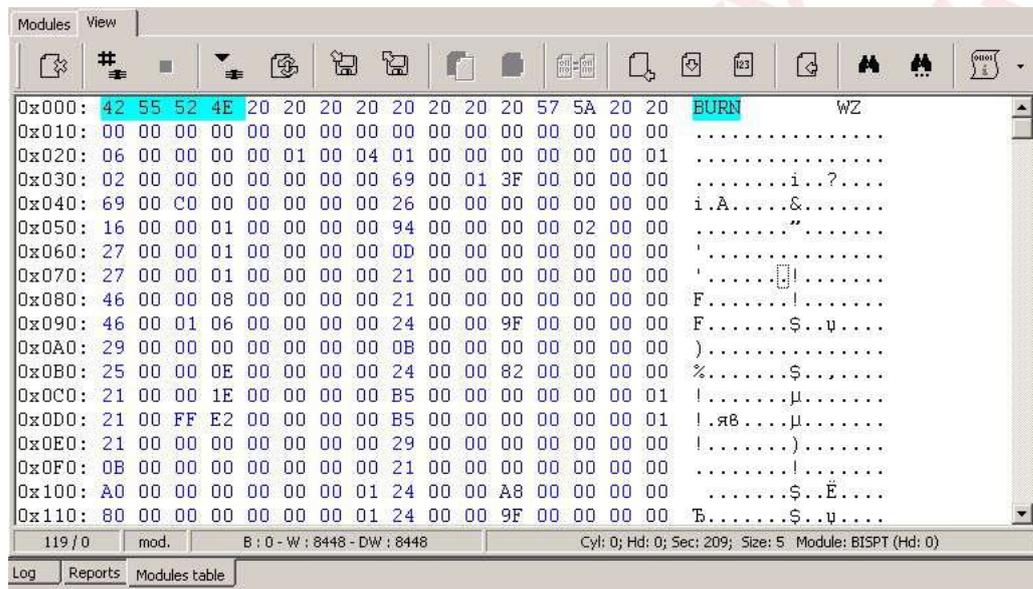


Fig. 6.2.

The «View» tab provides access to the following features:

- ◆ **Data selection (Ctrl+Enter)** – opens a dialog window, where you can select the module to view.
- ◆ **Select the head for writing** – dropdown menu, where you can select the head that will be used to record the modified module. «All heads» is the default value.
- ◆ **Save data to HDD** – the command writes a modified module to the drive being tested. The utility performs recording using the head specified in the «Select the head for writing» menu.
- ◆ **Cancel** – reloads a module from drive to editor. The button is accessible if you have made changes to a module, but have not recorded the module back to drive yet.
- ◆ **Save** – saves a module loaded into editor to a binary file with the user-defined path.
- ◆ **Loading** – loads into editor data from a user-defined file. If you save the data to the drive being tested, it will replace the module downloaded from that drive (location is specified in the lower status bar).
- ◆ **Copy (Ctrl+C)** – copies a selected fragment to clipboard, which you can use while editing a loaded module.
- ◆ **Paste (Ctrl+V)** – inserts a copied fragment into the currently loaded module.
- ◆ **Find (Ctrl+F)** – performs search for hexadecimal data in the currently loaded module.
- ◆ **Find next (Ctrl+L)** – looks for the next instance of the sought data.

### 6.1.1. Hex editor plug-ins

Internal Hex editor of the utility has a set of plug-ins. They are invoked from the editor toolbar (Fig. 6.2) or the context menu displayed after clicking the right button of the mouse. Available plug-ins:

- ◆ **Recalculate CS for the selected area (2 bytes)** – the command recalculates the checksum for the area highlighted in the editor. The checksum will be recorded in the last 2 bytes of the area.
- ◆ **Recalculate CS for the selected area (4 bytes)** – the command recalculates the checksum for the area highlighted in the editor. The checksum will be recorded in the last 4 bytes of the area.
- ◆ **Words sum (2 bytes)** – the command sums up all 2-byte words in the area highlighted in the editor. The result will be output in a modal dialog.
- ◆ **Double words sum (4 bytes)** – the command sums up all 4-byte words in the area highlighted in the editor. The result will be output in a modal dialog.
- ◆ **Parse FIT** – the plug-in is available only when the 02 FIT module is open in the editor. The results of the plug-in operations are displayed as a table of modules in the Reports tab.

## 6.2. Viewing and editing HDD resources

The mode is intended for viewing and editing the content of firmware modules, tracks and buffer RAM. Selection of the item brings up a dialog where you can choose the object to view (Fig. 6.3).

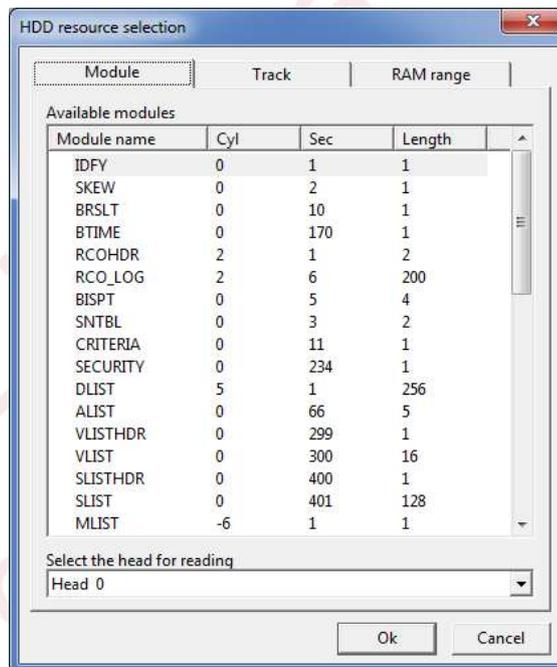


Fig. 6.3.

#### The Module tab

The tab contains a list of modules in the service area of the connected HDD. When you select a module, the utility reads it and opens it in hex editor. The editor can be used to modify the module and write it to HDD.

#### The Track tab

The tab contains the zone allocation table. Once a specific cylinder, head and track length is defined, the utility reads the specified track and opens it in the hex editor. The «Cylinder» field can be used to specify any cylinder number, including negative range.

#### The RAM range tab

The tab contains two fields for definition of the RAM range for reading. The «Address (sect)» field is used to specify the number of the first data sector (512 bytes) in RAM; the «Size (sect)» field defines the size of memory block to read (in sectors). After clicking OK, the utility reads drive RAM and opens the data in the hex editor.





Module	Description	Importance	Cylinder	Sector	Size	Attributes
B3 BOOTSECT			0	1	1	
02 FIT	File information table (HDD modules table)	Bs	0	2	9	hv
04 MLIST	SA defect list	As	0	11	12	hv
00 FSI	System file information	D	0	23	1	hv
9B SRVTBL	Servo Table	As	0	24	10	hv
B4 RRO_TBL		As	0	34	1	hv
B5 RESO_TBL		As	0	35	1	hv
68 FDT_TBL		As				
0C CHN_TBL	Channel table	D				
06 CONFIG	Obsolete	As				
07 SNTBL	HDD serial number (or P/N & S/N)	C				
08 BISPT	Obsolete	D				
0A BIORSLT						
0B FINALST	Final test	Dr				
0D GEO_TBL	Table of geometric parameters	As				
C9 SCT_DATA						
9D PARAM_DM	Configuration parameters of translation	As				
A1 PARAM_ER						
B2 PROFILE	HDD configuration parameters	Bd				
A4 TUNE_RST						
14 TMPRTR	Current temperature	C				
74 ATWHDATA						
09 BRSLT	Burn-In test result	Dr				
03 FIT?	File information table (HDD modules table)	Re				

Fig.6.5.

Let us examine the main components of the editor window (Fig. 6.5).

-  – **Write to service area** – saves the modified table to the 02 FIT module in the service area.
-  – **Read from service area** – reads the modules directory from the service area.
-  – **Upload** – loads the modules table from a file (\*.rpm) or ROM image (\*.bin).
-  – **Upload** – loads the modules table from a file (\*.rpm) or ROM image (\*.bin).
-  – **Report** – outputs the modules table being edited as a list to the Reports tab.

The «Module edit» window can be used to change the cylinder and sector where a module is located, its length and attributes. You can modify three attributes:

- ♦ **tt (track type)** – the flag means that the module is located on a cylinder beginning with sector 1 and occupies the number of tracks specified in the length field;
- ♦ **hv (header verify)** – the flag means that the correspondence of its header to the standard should be verified during module check;
- ♦ **cs (checksum verify)** – the flag determines checksum presence for a module.

### 6.7.1. Editing module locations in the FIT editor

While changing the module locations, please keep in mind that firmware of classic drives uses in its operation the modules table from ROM, while module 02 FIT contains just its copy used in the utility. Trinity drives also preserve a modules table in ROM, but the directory is only used during the first stage of firmware initialization, until the 02 FIT module is loaded from the service area. Therefore, in classic drives the modules table has to be edited twice: first in ROM, then in the service area. In Trinity drives just SA modification is sufficient.

The procedure for changing the module location in classic drives is as follows:

- 1) Rewrite the modules from file in accordance with the new coordinates.
- 2) Open the saved ROM image in editor.
- 3) Perform identical manipulations with the modules table.
- 4) Save the modified ROM image to file.
- 5) Write the modified ROM image from file to drive.

For Trinity drives the algorithm is somewhat simpler:

- 1) Save modules to file.
- 2) Open in the editor 02 FIT module of the drive and enter the necessary changes.
- 3) Save the modified table to the HDD.
- 4) Rewrite the modules from file in accordance with the new coordinates.
- 5) Toggle HDD power supply.

## 7. Brief technical description of Samsung drives

### 7.1. Disk space structure

Disk surface in Samsung drives is subdivided into zones. Depending on the family, a drive may have one service area and 16, 24 or 48 user zones. The zero zone starts at the external disk edge and acts as the area allocated for service data. User zones follow the service area, they are numbered from the edge to the center, beginning with 1.

Depending upon the drive's family, the service area includes 8, 16, 24, 64, 128 or 256 tracks beginning with track 0. In V11P, VICTOR, PUMA, VICTORPLUS, VERNA, VERNALITE, and VANGO drive families the service area also includes tracks with negative numbers. Those tracks may contain both modules used during drive operation and copies of some essential modules. The service area may contain some unformatted tracks, for example, in the negative part just a single track is typically used (-6 or -10). Every drive family has a constant service area SPT value.

User data area may be either constant for a specific drive family or adaptive (AZL – Adopted Zone Layout). In the first case the zone allocation table contains fixed numbers of tracks for each zone, their number per zone and the number of sectors per zone track (SPT). Those parameters are calculated once in the most optimal manner during drive model design. There may be differences within a family, if various models use heads or disks from different manufacturers. Firmware versions will also differ because the zone allocation table is stored in ROM.

Adaptive zone allocation tables are used in VANGOPLUS, PANGO, VELOCE, PALO, MAGMA, and newer drives. These tables are designed individually for each drive during its factory test (*see 9.11*). The number of tracks in a zone and zone SPT will be calculated during the test based on physical parameters of drive heads and the condition of magnetic surfaces. The table below demonstrates a sample zone allocation table for PALO SP0802N.

Table 8.2.

#Z	Head	Initial cylinder	Final cylinder	SPT
1	0	24	2 927	1 067
1	1	24	3 166	1 160
2	0	2 928	6 937	1 056
2	1	3 167	7 505	1 160
3	0	6 938	11 102	1 044
3	1	7 506	12 008	1 134
4	0	11 103	16 170	1 027
4	1	12 009	17 485	1 121



The user data zone contains a certain number of reserved tracks used to compensate the space occupied by defects and as the area for reassigned sectors.

Various models differ in terms of reserved area location and the method of its use.

In V11P and VICTOR drives the reserved area occupies the last eight tracks of every zone for every head. In PUMA, VICTORPLUS, VERNA, VERNALITE, and VANGO drives the reserved space occupies the end of every zone of the last head. The area size is equal to eight tracks multiplied by the number of heads.

In drives of the said models (from V11P, VICTOR to VERNALITE, VANGO) the size of the reserved space will be less if the zone includes defective sectors or tracks duly registered in the SLIST module (*see section 7.5.1*); the space will be smaller by the number of such defective sectors and tracks. The drive will use the remaining portion of that reserved space for reassignment (relocation) of new defective sectors that appear during operation. When reserved space of a certain zone is exceeded, sectors of that zone will not be reassigned to another zone.

In newer classic drives the reserved space is subdivided. They use two reserved tracks in the end of each zone for each head as the source for reassignment of defective sectors; the size of that area is independent from the defects within a zone. The remaining part of the reserved space is located in the last zone following the sector assigned the highest LBA. The size of that area is equal to the total number of sectors available for logical addressing (i.e. valid non-defective sectors excluding the reserved tracks and the service area) minus the number of logical sectors (max LBA+1). This reserve is not used in drive operation, it becomes important only when you use defect list editor or run the Burn test.

Reserved space is subdivided in Trinity drives, too. Their difference from other families is that several sectors in the end of each last cylinder in a zone for every head are used as the space for reassignment.

## 7.2. Logical addressing of disk space

In V11P and VICTOR drive families logical block addressing (LBA) is cylinder-based: first the sectors of the zero cylinder are numbered for all heads, then the sectors of the first cylinder for all heads, and so on. In PUMA, VICTORPLUS, VERNA, VERNALITE, VANGO, VELOCE, PALO, and MAGMA drive families the addressing is zone-based. First all sectors of the first zone for the zero head are addressed, then all sectors of the first zone for the first head and so on for all heads. Then addressing proceeds to all sectors of the second zone for the zero head, next - the sectors of the second zone for the first head, etc. Alternatively, listing in order can be used:

```
Z:1,H:0 : LBA0 – LBA1,0;
Z:1,H:1 : LBA1,0 – LBA1,1;
Z:1,H:2 : LBA1,1 – LBA1,2;
Z:1,H:3 : LBA1,2 – LBA1,3;
Z:2,H:0 : LBA1,3 – LBA2,0;
Z:2,H:1 : LBA2,0 – LBA2,1;
Z:2,H:2 : LBA2,1 – LBA2,2;
Z:2,H:3 : LBA2,2 – LBA2,3;
...
Z:22,H:0 : LBA21,0 – LBA22,0;
Z:22,H:1 : LBA22,0 – LBA22,1;
Z:22,H:2 : LBA22,1 – LBA22,2;
Z:22,H:3 : LBA22,2 – LBA22,3;
Z:23,H:0 : LBA22,3 – LBA23,0;
Z:23,H:1 : LBA23,0 – LBA23,1;
Z:23,H:2 : LBA23,1 – LBA23,2;
Z:23,H:3 : LBA23,2 – LBA23,3.
```

Please see *section 7.1* for details on allocation of zones in HDD.

Newer drives may use a zone translation table that determines the sequence, in which the translator passes the zones. Depending on the drive family, the table may be stored in the CONFIG, CONFIG2 or PARAM\_DM modules.



14	TMPRTR	Current HDD temperature	1	395	2		TMPRTURE	Verify
19	OVERLAY	Firmware overlays (Burn or Main)	1	401	396	Bs	OMLV0Y10	
56	P60CODE	Burn-In resource for model downsizing to P60	2	1	768	Dr		
29	DLIST	Defects list (Primary list)	3	1	650	Dd	DLIST	Verify
41	SPESB0		3	701	2		SPES	
42	SPESB1		3	703	2		SPES	
43	SPESB2		3	705	2		SPES	
44	SPESB3		3	707	2		SPES	
45	SPESB4		3	709	12		SPES	
1A	HDAF_RPT	Functionality test report	4	1	1			
1B	HD_DLIST	Functionality test DLIST	4	2	2			
1C	LATCHFRC	Latch force data	4	4	1		LATCH_FC	Verify
1D	RCOSCRPT	RCO test scripts	4	5	50			
1F	ERRTRK	Bit error rate	4	56	1		BER	Verify
20	ERRZN	Bit error rate 1	4	57	1		BER1	Verify
21	ERRDRV	Bit error rate 2	4	58	1		BER2	Verify
22	SRTDATA	Number of errors during Burn-In test	4	59	1		ER_CNT	Verify
23	SRTSRVO	Number of errors in the SA during Burn-In test	4	60	1		SV_ERCNT	Verify
24	SCN_GRAY	Scan gray data	4	61	1			
25	PARAM	Burn-In channel parameter monitor	4	62	10			
26	WKHEAD	Weak head data	4	72	10		WK_HEAD	Verify
27	TSTPI	Measurement data for TPI during Burn-In test	4	82	4		TPI_WRW	
28	MRTUNEMT	Settings of MR heads	4	86	5	As	MR_TUNE	Verify
1E	BTIME	Burn-In test time	4	91	2		BI_TIME	Verify
53	MRRTABLE		4	93	1		MRR_TBL	Verify
54	NPV_RSLT		4	94	30			Verify
59	HDAF_SPT		4	141	4			
5A	HDAFTIME		4	145	2			
5B	BTIME2		4	151	2			
2A	GEO_00		4	347	84		EG_000	
2B	TST_ZH	Channels table for BPI test	4	431	64		NZDH0_	
2C	GEO_ZH	BPI test results	4	495	16			
47	CAPSEL		4	511	1		CAP_SEL	Verify
48	CURBPI		4	512	1		CUR_BPI	Verify
49	AZLCSM		4	513	1		AZL_CSM	Verify
4A	AZL_CSM0		4	514	1		AZL_CSM0	Verify
4B	AZL_CSM1		4	515	1		AZL_CSM1	Verify
4C	AZL_CSM2		4	516	1		AZL_CSM2	Verify
4D	AZL_CSM3		4	517	1		AZL_CSM3	Verify
4E	AZL_CSM4		4	518	1		AZL_CSM4	Verify
4F	AZL_CSM5		4	519	1		AZL_CSM5	Verify









## 8. Diagnostics of malfunctions

Diagnostics of malfunctioning Samsung HDD involves visual inspection, analysis of messages output by a drive to terminal at power-on, and checks of service area modules. Before you connect a drive to the PC-3000 suite and power it on, please make sure there is no external damage of the HDA, burnt or swollen components on the PCB. To avoid accidental short circuit connection, probing the drive power lines is recommended before it is powered on.

If there is no external damage, connect the HDD to PC-3000 and switch on power supply to the HDD. Try to determine by the audible sounds whether the spindle motor spins up and the HDD un parks its heads. Check if the actuator produces knocking sounds hitting the limiting bar during the procedure. Drive start is considered normal when a device reaches the ready state after spinning up the spindle and returns correct HDD ID. In that case you can proceed to service area testing in the specialized utility (*see section 5.3.5.2*), and then to data recovery using Data Extractor.

Let us examine a few errors that can occur during the drive start consequently making the user data inaccessible. Typical problems of Samsung drives:

- ◆ electronics board (PCB) malfunctions;
- ◆ firmware corruption in ROM;
- ◆ spindle motor malfunctions;
- ◆ malfunctions of the read/write heads or commutator;
- ◆ corruption of service modules;
- ◆ BAD sectors.

### 8.1. Diagnostics at power-up

Leaving a HDD powered on for extended time periods before the cause of its malfunction becomes clear is strongly discouraged.

Utility start and initialization take quite a while; therefore we shall examine the procedure for starting the specialized utility while the drive being tested is powered-off:

- ◆ Plug-in the interface cables and connect the drive to terminal (*see section 3*).
- ◆ Confirm the prompt suggesting to start the utility (*Fig.8.1*).
- ◆ Select the family corresponding to your drive, the utility should be set to Safe mode (*Fig. 8.2*). For methods of drive family identification please see section 2
- ◆ Launch the utility.
- ◆ Wait until the initialization completes or click Cancel to interrupt it (*Fig. 8.3*).
- ◆ In the utility window, go to the Terminal tab and switch drive power on (*Fig. 8.4*).

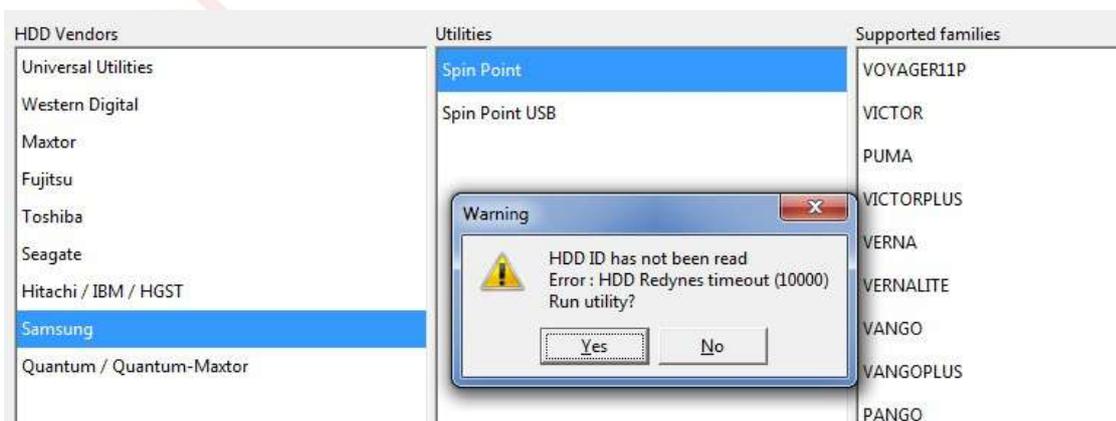


Fig.8.1.



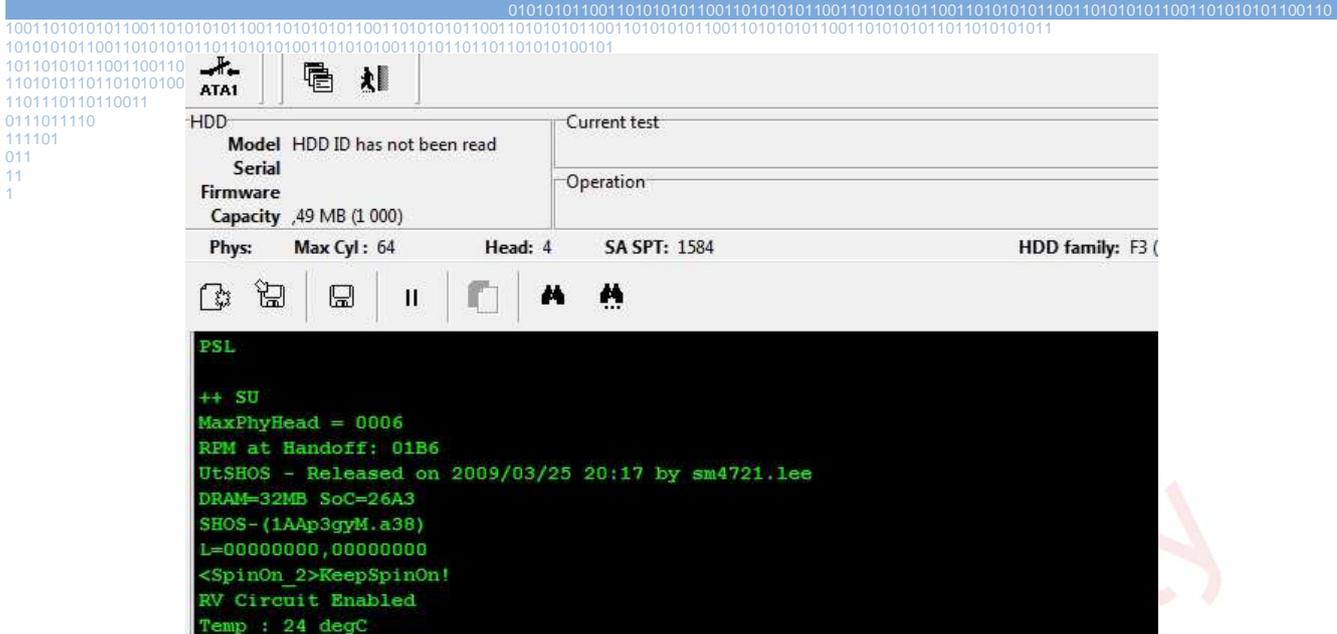


Fig.8.4.

The following situations are possible after the drive is powered:

- 1) The drive spins up the spindle, calibration sounds are audible, no terminal messages appear or the messages are unreadable. Typically the situation is caused by incorrect selection of the drive family or wrong COM port settings. In that case it is recommended to revise again the *chapters 2 and 3*. Situation 1 is less frequent in case of PCB malfunctions (*see 8.2*).
- 2) The spindle motor does not spin up, no messages appear in terminal. The situation is caused by an electronics board malfunction (*see 8.2*).
- 3) Firmware start log is output to the terminal when the drive is powered on. In that case you have to analyze the output terminal log. As a rule, specific messages containing a LED error code allow to identify the malfunction. Most frequent terminal messages are described in *sections 8.5 and 8.6*. The tables of terminal error codes can be found in *Appendices 2 and 3, section 11 and 12*.

## 8.2. Electronics board malfunctions

### 8.2.1. Oxidization of contact pads

The problem of oxidized contacts in the MHA connector may manifest itself in various ways; therefore, in case of suspected PCB problems be sure to examine and clean the contacts first of all. A common rubber piece can be used for cleaning.

### 8.2.2. Power circuit malfunction

Power circuits in Samsung drives include components intended for PCB protection against damage resulting from overvoltage. They may be found in both 5 V and 12 V supply lines. Their original marking is TRANSIL, Transient Voltage Suppressors.

If one of the protective components burns out but the remaining circuit remains undamaged, sometimes it should be enough to desolder the damaged component to restore drive operation. If its further use is planned, we recommend replacing the component with an operational one to improve fail-safety of the drive in question. PCB photographs can be found in the *Appendix 1, section 10*.

### 8.2.3. Failure of the microchip controlling the spindle motor

Fault of the chip controlling the spindle motor or its auxiliary circuitry is a frequent malfunction in Samsung drives. It manifests itself in the inability to spin up the spindle or instability of its rotational speed. The drive may output in terminal «LED 16» messages (classic drives), «LED 1703» and «SpinUp Error» (Trinity drives).

## 8.2.4. Failure of the ROM chip or corruption of its data

Failure of the ROM chip or complete/partial corruption of its data is a quite frequent occasion in drives using an external ROM chip. It manifests itself as absence of data output to terminal or any activity of the drive when it is powered on, firmware freeze during the first stage of its initialization and errors in its operation. Sometimes ROM damage in classic drives may trigger output of the «LED 13» code.

When data corruption in ROM chip is suspected, you have to desolder the chip and read it in a programmer device. Then you have to analyze the obtained ROM image, verify its checksum, compare it to an identical ROM image from a functional drive. Quite often the firmware remains intact in ROM but additional data stored in it suffers (for example, the FIPS module in 2.5" drives of the M7E and M8E families, see section 8.12), and restoring it makes the drive completely functional.

## 8.2.5. PCB diagnostics

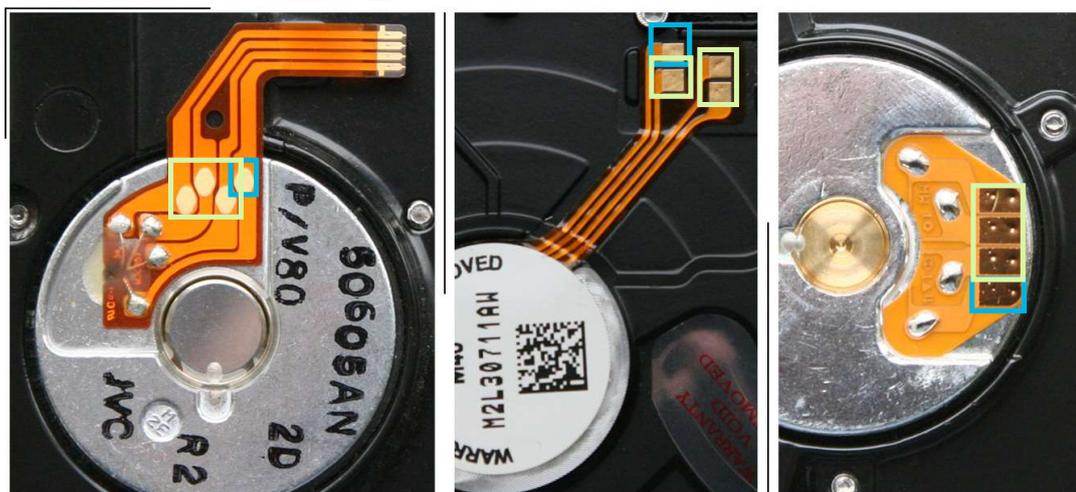
To detect a PCB malfunction, you can use a compatible board (see section 9.10 for details on selection of a compatible board). Install a compatible board on the patient drive, then power it on and analyze the terminal log during start. If the drive's behavior in terminal changes, it reaches the ready state or, more likely, terminal messages are related to errors while accessing the service area or mismatch of overlay and ROM versions, it means a PCB malfunction.

Please keep in mind that ROM firmware in Samsung drives may contain adaptive settings of the SA read/write heads as well as the heads map. During initialization a drive also reads and loads overlay modules from the service area, which may differ from the overlays of the donor drive. Therefore, the patient drive will most likely fail to reach readiness with a donor board. For exact and final diagnostics, you will have to solder the ROM chip from the patient drive to donor PCB (in case of drives using external ROM), or load to the donor board the ROM image from the patient drive via terminal or in Safe mode via ATA (see 5.3.2.2). If the ROM image is corrupted or the patient board is lost, you can try to trick the patient drive into accepting the donor board as its own (see section 9.8).

## 8.3. Spindle motor diagnostics

If a drive with a normal PCB does not spin up the spindle or makes several attempts to spin up and stops (cannot reach the sufficient number of revolutions), then the problem can be caused by broken winding or short-circuit in the motor. The drive in such cases may output to the terminal the «LED 16» code (classic drives) or «LED 1703» (Trinity drives).

To check motor winding, you need a multimeter. Remove the electronics board and check resistance of the common point with three winding points (see Fig. 8.5.). It must be within the range from 1,5 Ohm to 3 Ohm (depending upon specific motor type). Check also the resistance between winding coils, it must be approximately twice higher. Precise resistance values can be identified using a normal HDD of the same family.



- Winding points
- Common points

Fig.8.5.

If measurement of the winding resistance in the spindle motor reveals no deviations, then other probable causes preventing motor rotation while the PCB is normal include bearing seizure or stuck heads. The first case is more frequent with 3.5" HDD, the second — in 2.5" HDD. The HDA has to be opened for visual inspection of the positioning system: the heads must be in the parking zone (at the disks clamp), and the disks must rotate freely.

## 8.4. Analysis of terminal messages

### 8.4.1. Firmware operation modes

**Terminal response** – is the string returned by a drive in the terminal window when the Enter key is pressed.

Terminal response can also be used to identify the current mode of drive firmware. The following operation modes of classic drives are distinguished:

- ◆ **ENG> (Engine)** – the standard firmware operation mode. It is the only mode in which a drive can accept commands via the ATA interface.
- ◆ **DBG> (Debug)** – debugging mode, which can be activated by pressing the Esc key in the terminal window or in emergency order when failures occur in the drive firmware operation. In that mode normal firmware execution is interrupted and the drive switches to waiting for the user commands. Operation via ATA is prohibited in this mode. To return to the ENG> mode, send the «GO» command.
- ◆ **SRV> (Service)** – debugging mode featuring the minimum set of terminal commands. ATA interface is not supported in this mode. To exit the mode, toggle the drive power supply off and on.
- ◆ **BOOT>** – in this mode control is passed over to a loader program that works with the main firmware image. The mode has no specific command sets. To exit the mode, toggle the drive power supply off and on.

Firmware of Trinity drives can function in the following modes:

- ◆ **ENG> (Engine)** – the standard firmware operation mode. It is the only mode in which a drive can accept commands via the ATA interface.
- ◆ **eng>** – in practical terms the mode is identical to ENG>, lower case letters indicate the set Busy flag in the status register.
- ◆ **DBG> (Debug)** – debugging mode, which can be activated by pressing the Esc key in the terminal window or in emergency order when failures occur in the drive firmware operation. In that mode normal firmware execution is interrupted and the drive switches to waiting for the user commands. Operation via ATA is prohibited in this mode. To return to the ENG> mode, send the «GO» command.
- ◆ **dbg>** – in practical terms the mode is identical to DBG>, lower case letters indicate that the Busy flag was set in the ATA status register before switching into this mode.
- ◆ **BOOT>** – in this mode control is passed over to a loader program that works with the main firmware image. The mode has no specific command sets. To exit the mode, toggle the drive power supply off and on.

### 8.4.2. Firmware start log

**Firmware start log** consists of the messages output to the terminal when the drive is powered on. Each output message means a certain operation that firmware performs during initialization. Let us examine a sample start log of a F1\_3D drive

```
++ SU // spindle spin-up
MaxPhyHead = 0006 // detection of the maximum number of heads
RPM at Handoff: 01B4 // polling of the spindle rotation speed
UtSHOS - Released on 2009/03/25 20:17 by sm4721.lee // output of firmware-related information
DRAM=32MB SoC=26A3 // detection of the RAM chip parameters
SHOS-(IAAp3gyM.a38) // output of firmware version
L=00000000,00000000
<SpinOn_2>KeepSpinOn!
```

```

RV Circuit Enabled
Temp : 25 degC // thermal sensor readout
SpinOk // necessary rotational speed is achieved
SK C:112362 H:0 // test positioning
ServoTable Loaded // test positioning
FdtTable Loaded // FdtTable is loaded
Hd: 0 Zn: 0 Avg.:- 185
Hd: 0 Zn: 1 Avg.: 63
PASS
| 21 | SET_MAX | 3 | 0 | 142 | B98B | // module reading errors of system heads
| 21 | SET_MAX | 3 | 1 | 142 | B98B | // B98B code means mismatch of headers
| 21 | SET_MAX | 3 | 2 | 142 | B98B | // n this case modules are not initialized
| 22 | SECURITY | 3 | 0 | 143 | B98B |
| 22 | SECURITY | 3 | 1 | 143 | B98B |
| 22 | SECURITY | 3 | 2 | 143 | B98B |
| 159 | DCO | 34 | 0 | 0 | B98B |
| 159 | DCO | 34 | 1 | 0 | B98B |
| 159 | DCO | 34 | 2 | 0 | B98B |
RecordValid : 00078021 // successful check of the defect lists structure
No DRM
1.5G Lp00,PwrOnDn
ENG> // standard operation mode is activated

```

Successful switching to ENG> mode indicates that drive firmware has initialized properly and encountered no serious problems. Further we shall examine the firmware start logs and messages typical of specific failures.

## 8.5. Error messages typical for both HDD architectures

### 8.5.1. No messages in terminal

Absence of messages in terminal may be caused by the following reasons:

- ◆ damaged electronic board;
- ◆ malfunctioning or erased ROM chip;
- ◆ incorrectly selected drive family or COM port settings.

Make sure that you have selected correctly the drive family (*see section 2*), COM port settings (*see section 3*) and test the PCB (*see section 8.2*).

### 8.5.2. Cyclic errors «1st Gray Err», «1st Sk Err», «1st Vel Err», «No Gray»

These messages may be caused by one of the following reasons:

- ◆ one or several malfunctioning heads;
- ◆ malfunctioning commutator;
- ◆ malfunctioning electronic board.



E.g. (T166S):

```

SPW 1.5G LinkOk!5V: 04790
SpnOk
spd: 0000 0000 0000
H: +00000
ADC: 0001
DAC: 9A90
SK C: 0001A41D
ENG>SRV>
SvoTbl Loaded
CL 0000 CM 0035 SL 006F SM FFAD
BD
FdtTbl Loaded

*** Break at 0x000C [from Trap]
000C: FFFF
DBG>DBG>

```

**8.5.4. Sudden interruption of the initialization log, firmware freeze**

A drive may freeze when its firmware fails to handle an encountered error correctly. Freezing may be accompanied with absence of response to Enter keypresses, spontaneous switching to the DBG> mode or response only after manual switching to the DBG> mode. Firmware failures may be caused by the following reasons:

- ◆ corruption of the service area modules;
- ◆ mismatch of the overlay and ROM versions;
- ◆ corrupted ROM data;
- ◆ one or several malfunctioning heads.

First of all, it is recommended to try obtaining access to the service area using the HT code (*see section 8.10.3*); and if the attempt fails, to use the hot swap procedure (*see section 8.10.4*).

E.g.: (T166S):

```

SPW 1.5G LinkOk!5V: 04928
SpnOk
spd: 0000 0000 0000
H: +00000
ADC: 0005
DAC: A292
SK C: 0001AFF2
ENG>SRV>
SvoTbl Loaded
CL 0038 CM 000D SL 013F SM 0198
BD

FdtTbl Loaded

```

**8.6. Error messages typical of classic drives****8.6.1. Cyclic «LED 13» message**

The message may appear for one of the following reasons:

- ◆ all heads are disabled in the drive ROM;
- ◆ corrupted ROM data or malfunctioning chip;
- ◆ ROM chip does not support the given commutator type;
- ◆ malfunctioning commutator.



As a rule, in case of this error a drive may reach the ready state if you send to it a **soft reset** command via ATA. If sending a soft reset does not remedy the situation, you have to use the hot swap procedure (*see section 8.10.4*) or obtain access to the service area using the HT code (*see section 8.10.3*).

E.g. (MTI):

```
SPW 1.5G Link Ok!
IS=+00000
SO
H: +00000
Ld
SK C: 0000AF49
ENG>SRV>
SvoTbl Loaded
BD
Sb
LED 5B
LED 5B
...
```

#### 8.6.4. «WriteSctLog -- buffer not valid» message

The message may appear for one of the following reasons:

- ◆ corrupted service area modules;
- ◆ mismatch of the overlay and ROM versions.
- ◆ As a rule, in case of this error a drive may reach the ready state if you send to it a **soft reset** command via ATA. If sending a soft reset does not remedy the situation, you have to use the hot swap procedure (*see section 8.10.4*) or obtain access to the service area using the HT code (*see section 8.10.3*).

E.g.:

```
SPW 1.5G LinkOk!SpnOk
spd: 0000 0000 0000
ADC: FFFD
DAC: 7B89
H: +00000
SK C: 00010154
ENG>SRV>
  SvoTbl Loaded
  BD

  FdtTbl Loaded
Sb
WriteSctLog -- buffer not valid
```

#### 8.6.5. Cyclic «-Tout-Tout-Tout-» message

The message accompanied with the knocking sounds of the actuator hitting the limiting stop, may appear for one of the following reasons:

- ◆ one or several malfunctioning heads;
- ◆ malfunctioning commutator;
- ◆ malfunctioning electronic board;
- ◆ corrupted service area modules.

If this message appears, it is recommended to install a known good PCB onto the drive. If the commutator is malfunctioning, the drive start log will not change.



```

| 147 | IN_SITU | 20 | 0 | 836 | 1140 |
>>InsituStart: t=1367, c=26
| 147 | IN_SITU | 20 | 0 | 836 | 1140 |
| 249 | NINSITUL | 45 | 0 | 2 | 1140 |
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 00000064 dgain: 00000041
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 0000006B dgain: 0000004B
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 0000006E dgain: 0000004D
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 00000058 dgain: 00000071
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 0000005A dgain: 0000007D
GeoId = 49, Idx=49
fodstep: 0000005B dgain: 0000007A
rb(e1140 20 0 836 13)
rb(e1140 20 0 836 13)
rb(e1140 20 0 836 13)
rb(e1140 45 0 2 126)
rb(e1140 45 0 2 126)
rb(e1140 45 0 2 126)
>>Flag=0000028B BadHd=0000 dFod=001F 0020 (t=2607 c=26)
[DEBUG HALT @MDL_RSRC_BufferAlloc():10034A2D L0 1005BDB3]
...
[DEBUG HALT @MDL_RSRC_BufferAlloc():10034A2D L0 0000EC17]
Cur_SP=04005D20
FIQ_SP=04005D20
IRQ_SP=04005D20
SVC_SP=04005D20

*** HALT ***

```

## 8.7.2. Cyclic«LED 1102» message

The message may appear for one of the following reasons:

- ◆ failure of the ROM chip or corruption of its data;
- ◆ malfunctioning electronic board;
- ◆ drive firmware does not support the given commutator type;
- ◆ malfunctioning commutator.

Typically, the message indicates a commutator malfunction. To avoid problems related to damaged PCB, you are advised to check the HDD operation with a known good donor board first.

E.g.: (F1 3D):

```

tPSL++ SU
MaxPhyHead = 0006
RPM at Handoff: 01F7
UtSHOS - Released on 2008/03/12 21:21 by jonathan.park
DRAM=32MB SoC=26A3
SHOS-(1AA10b2M.a38)
L=00000000,00000000
<SpinOn_2>KeepSpinOn!
RV Circuit Enabled
Temp : -16 degC
SpinOk
mServoStatus1 00000003
Unlatch Accel TO

```



```

<SpinAccel
++ SU
MaxPhyHead = 0006
1 RPM = 79
MaxPhyHead = 0006
MaxPhyHead = 0006
MaxPhyHead = 0006
<SpinOnRetry> mCOMSENSRty = 4, mAccelRty = 0, mSpinO
++ SU
MaxPhyHead = 0006
Dac = 102
MaxPhyHead = 0006
MaxPhyHead = 0006
MaxPhyHead = 0006
<SpinOn_4>Report Spin Error!
SpinUp Fail
Vol Parking!
LED 1703
LED 1703
...

```

### 8.7.4. Cyclic «LED 1A04» («LED 1Axx») message

The message appears when one or several modules in the service area are corrupted. To make the drive enter the ready state via ATA, you have to use the «Unlocking at «LED 1Axx» error» command (see section 6.6). Further checks should be performed using the SA structure test (see section 5.3.5.2).

#### E.g. (F3):

```

*PA VID=0000 PN=0004 Rev=0001- 785x Found
*PA VID=0000 PN=0004 Rev=0001- 785x Found
ChipRev = 63B0
U
S_0
RV En Sensor Circuit
En Shock Sensor Circuit
SO_1
SpinStartUp: mcSpinRPM = 0
RPM at Handoff: 605
Temp : 25 degC
SpinOk
mS1 00000003
SK C:121495 H:0
POK
POK
Boot Sector Error! Take a default.
Loaded FIT ( 0: 0: 1)
CalibTable Loaded. Rev:0x14
Selective MARC NX Loaded
ResoTable Loaded. Rev:0x01
Ovly loaded to 0x0001CD00
Ovly loaded to 0x1005B800
FdtTable Loaded. Rev:0x02
/ 19 | RLIST | 2 | 0 | 256 | 1140 |
Reading Serial Num Pass
Up MC
TgtCyl: 2032
Hd: 0 Zn: 0 Avg.: - 257
TgtCyl: 264349
Hd: 0 Zn: 1 Avg.: 86

```



When a malfunction of the zero head occurs in classic HDD or Trinity drives with a shift of logical heads (see further), its signs are identical to the commutator malfunction. Therefore, when a commutator or zero head malfunction is suspected, it is recommended to try obtaining access to the service area using one of the methods described in *section 8.10*.

Malfunctions of non-zero heads or the zero head in Trinity drives have typically less severe consequences provided there is no shift of logical heads. A drive may reach readiness with slight knocking or output the «LED 5B» error code (in case of logical heads shift in classic drives), or its firmware may freeze during initialization (see *section 8.5.4*). In such situations it is recommended to recover first the data from functional heads using Data Extractor, then replace the magnetic heads stack, if necessary.

Logical heads shift is a situation occurring with some firmware versions. Essentially it means that during initialization firmware performs additional testing of the heads included in the bit map. If the firmware finds a head included in the bit map faulty, it excludes such head from the map. Thus, a shift of logical heads occurs. As a result the drive uses with physical heads above the malfunctioning one wrong adaptive settings becoming unable to receive data from these heads even if they are functional. A shift may cause a drive to change its model to a smaller one and decrease the number of heads in the HDD ID (see *section 8.11*). To retrieve data from the heads above the malfunctioning one, you have to use the hot swap procedure (see *section 9.7*). In Trinity drives you may use editing of the heads map in RAM as a counterpart of the hot swap method (see *section 8.8.1*).

### 8.8.1. Using the RAM head map editing feature

The «RAM head map editing» feature (see *section 5.3.3.1*) is available for Trinity drives. You can use it for diagnostics or access to the service and user data areas if drive heads are malfunctioning. The method is based on «tricking» the drive initialization procedure by substituting a functional head instead of the malfunctioning one. Of course, the method only works with drives equipped with two or more heads.

- ◆ Switch off power supply of the drive and start the Samsung utility (see *section 8.1*).
- ◆ Select the «RAM head map editing» command (Fig. 8.6).



Fig.8.6.

- ◆ The exact physical head preventing the drive from starting is unknown in advance, so try replacing all heads with the zero one (Fig. 8.7).



Fig.8.7.

- ◆ After you click the confirmation button the utility will display a dialog with an offer to read the ROM image from the drive or load it from a file (Fig. 8.8). For convenience, it is recommended to read ROM from the drive beforehand. Then the utility will automatically power on the drive and try to perform initialization. If the drive enters the ready state and returns its HDD ID, the head is functional. Otherwise, take a note marking it as malfunctioning.

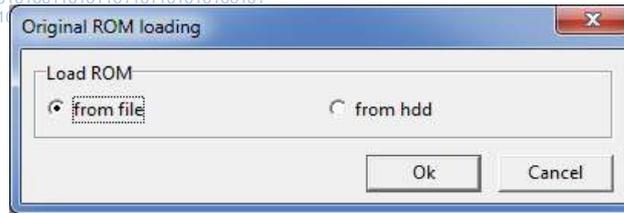


Fig.8.8.

- ◆ Repeat the procedure for the system heads 1 and 2 (if any).
- ◆ As soon as you find out, which system heads are malfunctioning, you can correct the heads map as necessary. For example, if the zero head is malfunctioning, you can start the drive with the map shown in the Fig. 8.9.



Fig.8.9.

- ◆ Start the utility in Normal mode and check the remaining non-system heads (if any) using the heads test (see section 5.3.5.1). Correct the heads map in RAM, if necessary. Perform data recovery in Data Extractor based on the heads map excluding the substituted ones. If necessary, replace the MHA and read the remaining data from previously malfunctioning heads.

## 8.9. Corruption of the service area modules

Drive behavior during start may differ depending upon specific damaged modules. As a rule, corrupted modules in classic HDD cause the «LED 5B» («LED B5») code output to terminal (see section 8.6.3). In such cases it is sufficient to send a **soft reset** signal to make the drive reach readiness. Trinity drives output a different error code – «LED 1A04» (see section 8.7.4). A drive may output messages about module reading errors together with the error code (Fig. 8.10). To make a drive enter the ready state in such cases, you have to send to the terminal the «LE» command or use the «Unlocking at «LED 1Axx» error» command (see section 6.6). Less often the firmware may just freeze or switch to the debug mode (see sections 8.5.3 and 8.5.4). In these cases you have to use one of the methods available for restoring access to the service area (see section 8.10).

```
*PA VID=0007 PN=0000 Rev=0004
```

```
*PA VID=0007 PN=0000 Rev=0 04
```

```
nChipRev = 5340U
```

```
S_0Shock Sensor Circuit Enabled
```

```
SO_1
```

```
Init RPM=0
```

```
IS=6
```

```
CLA #36/61
```

```
Handoff RPM=624
```

```
SPOK
```

```
mS1 00000003
```

```
яA1O=7 A1G=460
```

```
O=510 S=3
```

```
SK C: 4614 H:0
```

```
Loaded FIT ( 0: 0: 1) // FIT table is loaded (cylinder 0, head 0, sector 1)
```

```
ServoTable Loaded. Rev: 0x17 // SRVTBL module is loaded
```

```
Reso Table Loaded, Rev:0x00000001 // RESO_TBL module is loaded
```

```

RROTable Loaded // RRO_TBL module is loaded
| 13 | GEO_TBL | 0 | 0 | 115 | 1140 | // error loading the GEO_TBL module (cylinder 0, head 0, sector 115),
// error code 1140 (UNC)
| 13 | GEO_TBL | 0 | 1 | 115 | 1140 |
| 13 | GEO_TBL | 31 | 0 | 115 | 1140 |
| 13 | GEO_TBL | 31 | 1 | 115 | 1140 |
| 115 | MOVLY001 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 1140 | // error loading module MOVLY001 (cylinder 1, head 0, sector 10),
// error code 1140 (UNC)
| 115 | MOVLY001 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 1140 |
Overlay file read bad

```

**Fig.8.10. Corruption of GEO\_TBL and OVERLAY modules in Trinity drives.**

To check the modules, use the SA structure test (see section 5.3.5.2).

Please keep in mind that most service area modules in Samsung drives have no checksum; therefore integrity is identified by successful module reading and match of its header to the standard one. The importance of header mismatch at that is determined by the module importance. The following types of module corruption may be distinguished:

- ◆ corrupting record;
- ◆ complete module erasure or corruption of its header;
- ◆ partial erasure of the module body.

A power failure or HDD firmware failure may cause the settings of the write heads to change while recording a module so that the drive will be unable to read the data during the next start, and a so-called «soft bad» appears in the module location. Generally such problems are typical of modules, which are frequently overwritten, such as S.M.A.R.T. modules and ALIST or its header.

Complete module erasure or corruption of its header occurs when a failure in firmware operation causes corruption of the buffer content to be written or an arbitrary data block gets accidentally recorded to the service area. S.M.A.R.T. modules, translator, defect lists are the objects that typically suffer from these situations.

Partial erasure of module body is caused by the same reason as complete erasure. However, unlike two previous corruption types, it cannot be revealed by a check of the service data structure and therefore represents the most complicated case for diagnostics. To identify this problem, you need to know the module structure. Objects that suffer from such corruption include translator modules in classic drives (zone translation table in the CONFIG module). You can reveal corruption of the translator and defect list modules indirectly by using the tests «Table of zone translation» and «Defect list report». In the first case you have to pay attention to the structure of the translation table (Fig. 8.11).

Position	Zone	Head	Start Cyl	End Cyl	Start LBA	End LBA	LBA Count
3	1	3	64	9 163	74 425 534	98 581 514	24 155 981
4	2	0	8 749	17 433	98 581 515	122 777 266	24 195 752
5	2	1	9 698	19 331	122 777 267	147 759 590	24 982 324
6	2	2	8 997	17 929	147 759 591	173 485 855	25 726 265
7	2	3	9 164	18 263	173 485 856	198 029 546	24 543 691
8	3	0	17 434	26 118	198 029 547	221 869 718	23 840 172
9	3	1	19 332	28 965	221 869 719	246 783 920	24 914 202
10	3	2	17 930	26 862	246 783 921	272 251 566	25 467 646
11	3	3	18 264	27 363	272 251 567	296 788 812	24 537 246
12	4	0	26 119	34 803	296 788 813	320 550 869	23 762 057
13	4	1	28 966	38 599	320 550 870	345 459 655	24 908 786
14	4	2	26 863	35 795	345 459 656	370 516 395	25 056 740
15	4	3	27 364	36 463	370 516 396	394 739 206	24 222 811
16	5	0	34 804	43 488	394 739 207	418 171 151	23 431 945
17	5	1	38 600	48 233	418 171 152	442 750 769	24 579 618
18	5	2	35 796	44 728	442 750 770	467 512 653	24 761 884
19	5	3	36 464	45 563	467 512 654	491 535 169	24 022 516
20	6	0	43 489	52 173	491 535 170	514 463 448	22 928 279
21	6	1	48 234	57 867	514 463 449	538 873 140	24 409 692
22	6	2	44 729	53 661	538 873 141	563 241 841	24 368 701
23	6	3	45 564	54 663	563 241 842	586 719 421	23 477 580
24	7	0	52 174	60 858	586 719 422	609 342 762	22 623 341
25	7	1	57 868	67 501	609 342 763	633 575 134	24 232 372
26	7	2	53 662	62 594	633 575 135	657 701 084	24 125 950
27	7	3	54 664	63 763	657 701 085	680 779 715	23 078 631

Fig. 8.11.

Heads and zones should interchange. There cannot be two different records containing the same head and zone. A few zones following in succession may share the same head, but within reasonable bounds (not the entire side). Each zone must contain several million LBA, which should follow successively from the first record to the last. In the second case you have to note the results of automatic list checks output to the report log. Corruption is indicated by records of non-existent heads and mismatching number of records in the actual table and its header.

The restoration methods for some modules are described in *Chapter 9*. Running the burn-in test is also a way to restore the drive in case of its repair (see *section 9.11*).

## 8.10. Gaining access to the service area: methods

HDD firmware may freeze during initialization or the ATA interface may be blocked in cases when firmware modules or data in ROM are corrupted, or the read/write heads are damaged. Let us examine the methods that can be used to make the HDD reach readiness and obtain access to the service area.

### 8.10.1. Achieving readiness in terminal during the first stage of firmware initialization

If drive firmware freezes or the drive after a certain initialization stage keeps outputting to the terminal messages that block access or cause errors in data transfer via terminal, you can try to make the drive reach readiness in terminal by following the procedure below.

- ◆ Turn off drive's power.
- ◆ In the Samsung utility, go to the Terminal tab.
- ◆ Press and hold down the Esc key.
- ◆ Power up the drive. The drive will return a few strings to the terminal and switch to the DBG> mode (Fig. 8.12.).
- ◆ Once the «DBG>>» line appears, you can release the Esc key.
- ◆ If «DBG>>» has not appeared, if the drive froze or started knocking, repeat the procedure again.





- ◆ Select the «Write BURN resources to HDD» command (*see section 5.3.4.2*) and specify the burn resource compatible with the drive model (*Fig. 8.17*).
- ◆ Deselect all additional loading options, leave the heads map unchanged. If you are recording the resource through terminal, enable the option to «Download via terminal» (*Fig. 8.17*).
- ◆ Write the selected resource to the drive.
- ◆ Turn off drive's power.
- ◆ Remove configuration jumpers (if recording is performed in Safe mode).
- ◆ Power up the drive.
- ◆ Some classic drives may set the busy flag, then turn off the ATA registers in a few seconds. It means that in a couple of minutes the drive is going to start Hardware test, which will begin building the service area. Do not allow the Hardware test to start because it will make access to user data impossible; therefore, when the registers go off, immediately send the soft reset signal to interrupt the procedure. If a drive does not reach readiness for a long while after it is powered and does not turn off the registers, you can try sending the soft reset signal to it, too.

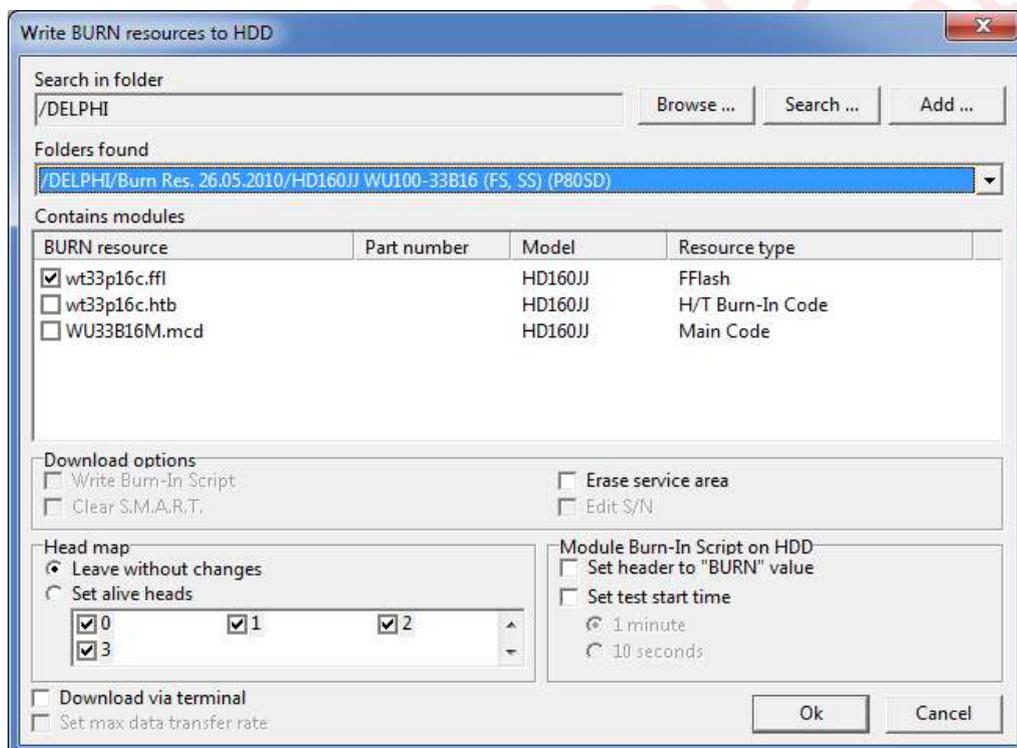


Fig.8.17.

- ◆ If a drive has reported readiness via ATA, you can proceed to the diagnostics of malfunctions; otherwise you need to analyze the drive behavior and terminal log. If attempts to access the heads result in drive knocking or switching to the busy state, it may indicate MHA malfunctions. If the drive outputs the «LED 13» code, check if a proper burn resource is selected and test the PCB.

#### 8.10.4. Hot swap

Hot swap for accessing the service area is a simplified version of the general hot swap procedure (*see section 9.7*)

The procedure requires a drive of the same family using the same heads map, compatible controller board and firmware. Most PCBs and firmware versions of classic drives are compatible within their respective drive families. Compatibility of electronic printed circuit boards and firmware in Trinity drives can be identified using Platform Id (*see section 5.3.2.4*), which should be identical in compatible drives.



### 8.11.2. Incorrect detection of the number of heads in a drive

**Larger number of heads** may be detected in a drive when senior models are configured and labeled as junior models for marketing purposes with restriction of their capacity. During repair of such drive or selection of a donor drive for head replacement, please keep in mind that in fact you are working with a senior model.

**Smaller number of heads** may be detected in a drive, when one or more heads are malfunctioning. Logical heads shift is possible in such cases (*see section 8.8*).

### 8.11.3. Incorrect detection of drive model

This may be caused by the following reasons:

- ◆ One or several malfunctioning heads.
- ◆ Burn- (FFlash-, H/T-) Code is written to the drive.
- ◆ «Garbage» in configuration modules responsible for maximum LBA setting.

The latter is typical exclusively of Trinity drives. Model change may be caused in these drive families by corruption of the 9D PARAM\_DM or 09 BRSLT modules.

Malfunctioning heads may cause a drive to recognize itself as a junior model (*see section 8.8*).

### 8.11.4. Garbled characters in identification data

The problem can be caused by the following reasons:

- ◆ Damaged interface connector on the drive's PCB.
- ◆ Damaged adapter used to connect the drive to PC-3000 (PC-3000 PATA-SATA, PC 2'').
- ◆ Damaged interface cable (PATA, SATA).

The adapter and cable have to be checked using a known good HDD. If the on-board interface part is malfunctioning, you have to identify the damaged line. To do that, you can use the special «Bus test» and the «Sector buffer test» in the universal utility. The first test checks the D0-D7 bus, the second – D8-D15. Collected data will provide sufficient information to detect the damaged Dx line.

## 8.12. ROM data integrity check

Absence of drive response when it is powered and firmware freeze during early stage of its initialization may indicate corruption of the data in ROM chip.

First of all, you have to make the ROM dump. To do that, desolder the ROM and read it in a programmer device (in drives using an external ROM chip). If the drive firmware freezes, you can try making the drive reach readiness via terminal (*see section 8.10.1*) and read ROM using the Samsung utility.

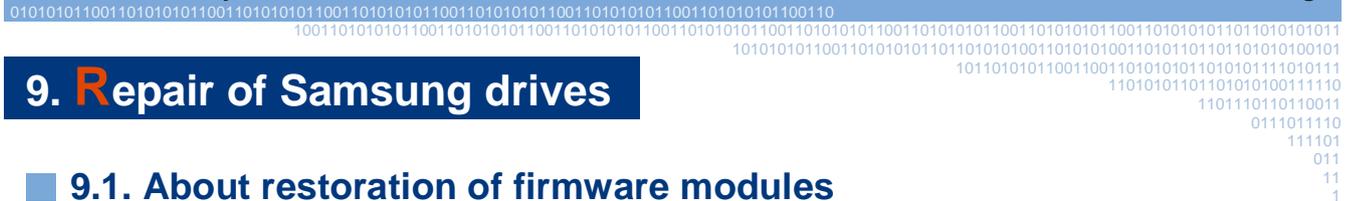
Integrity of ROM data is determined by the checksum match and intact condition of the FIPS module (in Trinity drives only). ROM checksum in classic drives is calculated as the sum of all double-byte words. When ROM reading is performed via terminal, its checksum is verified automatically. To verify the dump checksum manually, you have to use the binary editor (installed as a part of the PC-3000 suite), having enabled the Samsung utility plug-ins in its settings (*Fig. 8.18*).

Then you have to select the dump data in the Hex editor ([Ctrl]+[A]) and use the «Words sum (2 byte)» plug-in (*Fig. 8.19*). Checksum of an intact dump must be 0.

ROM dump calculation for Trinity drives is more complex. Similarly to classic drives, the ROM dump checksum is verified automatically, when read via the terminal equipment. To verify a dump manually, use the «View information about ROM dump» feature (*see section 5.3.2.4*). A functional ROM must pass successfully both verification of the firmware checksum and the FIPS module checksum (*Fig. 8.20*).

Trinity drives often suffer from corruption of the FIPS module checksum, not the entire firmware. This problem is especially frequent in 2.5" M7E and M8E drives. To restore the drive functionality in that case, it will be sufficient to replace in the read dump the module data with FIPS data from another drive belonging to the same family. Offset of the FIPS module and its size can be identified using the results produced by the same «View information about ROM dump» command (*Fig. 8.20*).





## 9. Repair of Samsung drives

### 9.1. About restoration of firmware modules

Before you start the procedures for restoration of firmware modules, please note and keep in mind that Samsung drives use several copies of the service area corresponding to different drive heads. Module copies may be intact, then it will be sufficient to rewrite a module from its copy to the system head. Composite module reading can considerably decrease the list of damaged modules (*section 5.3.5.3*). Burn test (*see section 9.11*) is another method available for restoration of corrupted modules, but it is destructive for the data.

Let us examine the methods for restoration of some damaged modules, which pose no danger for the user data. Before you begin, make sure that the drive heads are able to perform successful recording (*see section 5.3.5.1*), and that there are no bad blocks other than soft bads in the locations of damaged modules (which overwriting cannot fix).

### 9.2. Restoring the S.M.A.R.T.

When modules of the S.M.A.R.T. subsystem get damaged (*see section 7.7*) its functionality can be restored using the following methods:

- ◆ «Clear S.M.A.R.T.» test (*see section 5.7*).
- ◆ «A-LIST clearing» if the ALIST or ALISTHDR modules are corrupted (*see section 5.6.3*).
- ◆ Overwriting of the modules with copies from another drive of the same family using an identical firmware version.

In the latter case please note that ALIST or ALISTHDR may contain the table reflecting distribution of reassigned sectors among zones. If the number of heads in the patient and donor drives is different, recording ALIST or its ALISTHDR header module may cause errors in the firmware operation.

### 9.3. Restoring the defect list modules

Complete restoration of corrupted defect list modules is impossible, but there are certain techniques that allow restoring a portion of damaged modules using the defect records from other defect lists. Let us examine some of these methods.

#### 9.3.1. Restoring SLIST and TLIST

*If the SLIST module gets corrupted*, it can be restored completely using the information from the TLIST and DLIST modules. To do that, use the «Rebuild S-LIST» command (*see section 5.6.5*).

*If the TLIST module gets corrupted*, it can be restored completely using the information from the SLIST module. To do that, use the «Rebuild T-LIST» command (*see section 5.6.6*).

*If more than one module gets corrupted*, information of the defect lists cannot be fully restored, but you can access the raw data by restoring the templates of the SLIST or TLIST modules. To do that, you have to use the defect list editor (*see section 5.6.2.1*):

- ◆ Open the defects editor («Tools» → «Defect list editor»).
- ◆ Select in the menu the command to «Create a new defect list» ([Ctrl]+[N]).
- ◆ In the table creation dialog, select «PCHS» as the defect list type.
- ◆ If one/several modules of SLIST, TLIST, or DLIST are intact, you can add their defect records into the created empty table using the corresponding context menu.
- ◆ Select in the context menu the command to «Save defects into HDD».
- ◆ Wait for the recording of defect lists to complete and switch the drive power supply off and on again.

During data recovery please keep in mind that when an incomplete set of defect lists is used, the data may get shifted to lower LBA.



Purpose of the procedure: to check the service information and try to restore it in case of errors in the service area, to copy the required modules and repeat the Hot Swap procedure in case of a malfunctioning electronic board and the need to access user data. You can also use Hot Swap if restoration of corrupted modules fails, but they are not required during Hot Swap (all modules involved in Hot Swap must contain no data corruptions).

It is necessary to use «native» modules for the drive in question because Samsung HDD use a dynamic translator rebuilt from those modules every time a drive is powered on.

*The procedure requires a drive of the same model with the same heads map!*

Hot Swap procedure:

- ◆ Switch on the power supply of the donor drive, start the utility and send the «Sleep» command after initialization.
- ◆ Carefully remove the electronics board from the donor drive and mount it on the HDA of the patient drive.
- ◆ If this drive family uses its own modules table in the service area (02 FIT module), then the location, sizes or the number of modules in the patient and donor drives are likely to differ. Therefore, you will have to use the «Read modules» functionality and read the 02 FIT module from the drive. Then open the «Utility status» menu and load the modules table from the read file.
- ◆ Start the «Read modules» procedure and read from the drive all modules except for some large modules containing logs.
- ◆ Switch off the power supply and install the board back to the donor HDA.
- ◆ Write to the donor all modules from the patient drive except for the OVERLAY module and the modules containing various logs (ELOG, RCOLOG, DLIST, P60CODE, etc.). The log modules can be rewritten, but they do not participate in drive functioning and thus they will not affect the data recovery procedure. Modules should be written to the donor drive in accordance with the modules table of the patient (step 3).
- ◆ Switch the power of the donor drive off and on again.
- ◆ Send the «Sleep» command and again install the donor PCB onto the patient HDA.
- ◆ Start data recovery from the patient drive. Power should not be toggled during the procedure and no initialization commands should be sent.

Наборы модулей, необходимых для Hot Swap

Drive family	Modules
V11P, VICTOR, PUMA VICTORPLUS, VERNA VERNALITE	"UNITABLE" "SLISTHDR" (except for V11P and VICTOR drive families) "SLIST" "TLIST" "ALIST"
PALO,PANGO, VANGOPLUS, VELOCE, RUBICON, P80A, P80M, DELPHI, POSEIDON CAESAR	"06 CONFIG" "0D GEO_TBL" "10 SLISTHDR" "11 SLIST" "12 TLIST" "13 ALIST" "5D CONFIG2" (if present in the modules directory) "62 ALISTHDR" (except for the PANGO, VANGOPLUS, VELOCE, RUBICON, P80A drive families)

TRIDENT	"05 SRVTBL"	"A1 FOD_HSC"
T166(S)	"06 CONFIG"	"A2 HSC_DT"
STORM2(S166)	"0C ARCOTBL"	"A3 HSC_CYL"
TRIDENT3(S250)	"0D GEO_TBL"	"A4 IN_SITU"
	"10 SLISTHDR"	"A7 FOD_HRLR"
	"11 SLIST"	"B3 AVSCAN"
	"12 TLIST"	"9E HSC_DT"
	"13 ALIST"	"9F HSC_RST"
	"17 SRVTBL2"	"80 SCT_DATA"
	"18 ARCOTBL2"	"9B HSC_RST"
	"5D CONFIG2"	"9C FOD_NRRO"
	"62 ALISTHDR"	"9D FOD_HSC"
	"6E 10SOFS"	
	"71 VFY_PATT"	
	"A0 FOD_NRRO"	

In the last group a mismatch of module names, their identifiers and even optional presence of these modules are possible. In that case you can try using just the modules with matching names or identifiers or use all modules except for «19 OVERLAY», log modules and other modules related to the Burn test.

**Attention!** During Hot Swap the OVERLAY module must not be overwritten because it contains a part of firmware code and must match the firmware in ROM at the time when power is switched on.

## 9.8. Configuring a drive to accept a donor board

Quite often a drive with a damaged PCB requires a donor board. The procedure of configuring a non-native board for such purpose may also be useful during work with USB drives, when they need to be connected to the PC-3000 controller. You need a compatible electronic board for the procedure (*see section 9.10* for details on selecting a donor with a compatible board). Let us examine several potential cases.

### A donor board and an intact image of native ROM from the patient drive are available:

- ◆ Read the original ROM from the donor board in the terminal and save for recording it back later.
- ◆ Solder the ROM chip of the patient drive (provided it has a functional external ROM) or copy the patient's ROM in terminal or Safe mode to the donor board.
- ◆ Install the donor board onto the patient HDA.
- ◆ Perform diagnostics of other possible malfunctions, if necessary (*see section 8.10.3*).

### A donor board and a compatible set of burn-in resources is available:

- ◆ Read the original ROM from the donor board in the terminal and save for recording it back later.
- ◆ Install the donor board onto the patient drive and use the procedure for «Obtaining access using the H/T (Flash, Burn) code» (*see section 5.3.5.1*).
- ◆ Read and save the modules from the patient drive.
- ◆ Make sure that the read/write heads are functional (*see section 5.3.5.1*), check the service data structure (*see section 5.3.5.2*), make sure there are no corrupted modules, restore damaged modules, if any.
- ◆ Write to the drive Main Code from the same set of resources.
- ◆ Toggle HDD power supply.
- ◆ Restart the Samsung utility.

### A functional donor drive with a compatible PCB is available:

- ◆ Use the donor drive to perform the Hot swap procedure to restore access to the service area (*see section 8.10.4*).
- ◆ Read and save the modules from the patient drive.

- ◆ Make sure that the read/write heads are functional (*see section 5.3.5.1*), check the service data structure (*see section 5.3.5.2*), make sure there are no corrupted modules, restore damaged modules, if any.
- ◆ Replace the OVERLAY module (in classic HDD) or the MOVLY001 module (in Trinity HDD) of the patient drive with a corresponding module from the donor drive.
- ◆ Toggle HDD power supply.
- ◆ Restart the Samsung utility.

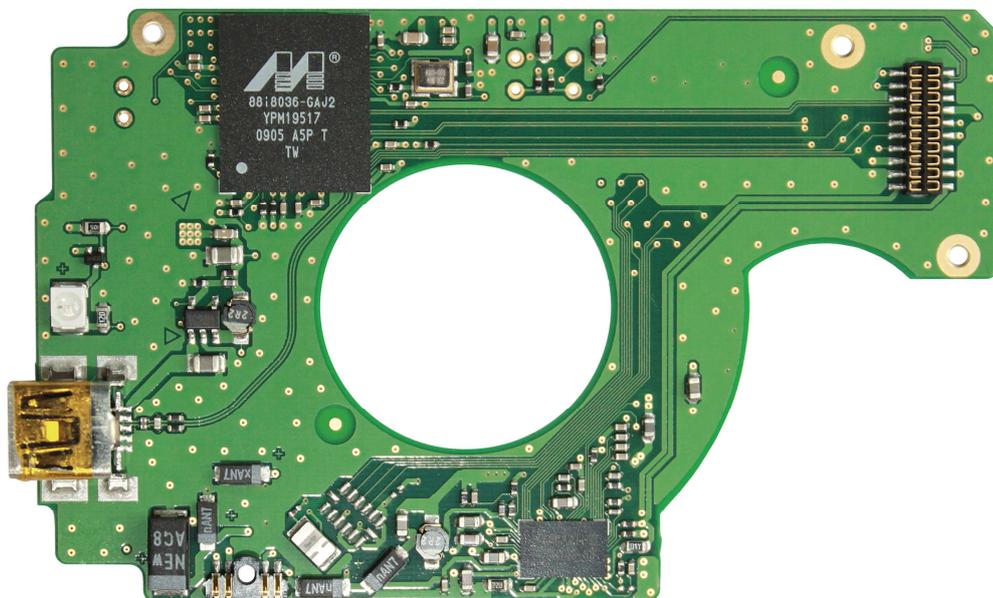
## 9.9. Connecting USB drives via SATA

Sometimes you may have to connect a USB drive to a PC-3000 controller in the absence of a compatible donor board with the SATA interface support.

USB Samsung drives are subdivided into two types:

- ◆ Drives with the USB-SATA bridge integrated in the system controller.
- ◆ Drives with the USB-SATA on-board bridge installed as a separate chip.

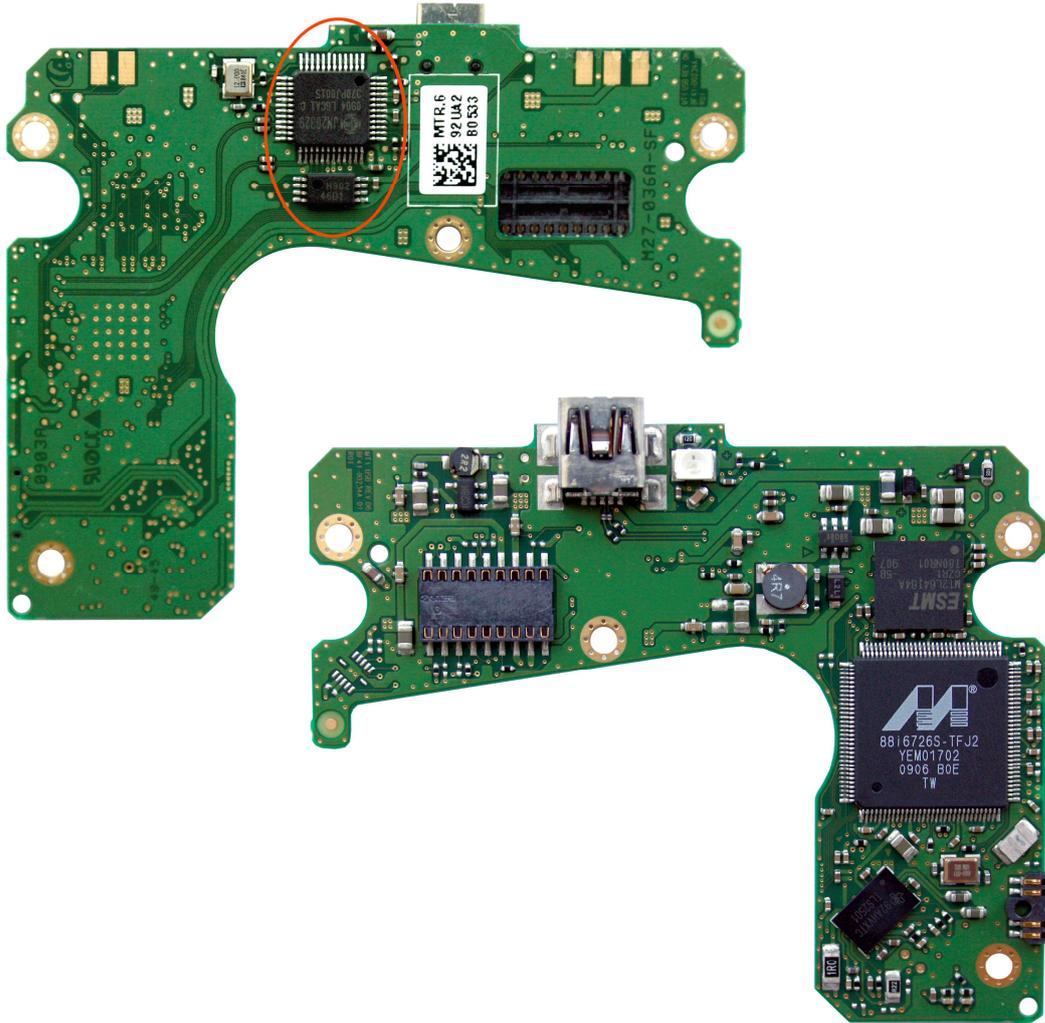
HDD of the first type include most of 1.8" USB drives (*Fig. 9.1*), the second type includes all Samsung 2.5" USB drives and some of 1.8" models (*Fig. 9.2*).



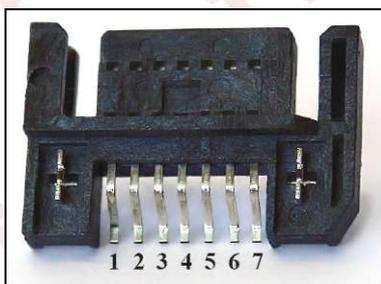
*Fig.9.1. N2B 1.8" PCB. USB-SATA bridge integrated in the controller.*

```

0101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110
10101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110101010100110
1010101010011
110101010101010
1101110101001
0111011110
111101
011
11
1
    
```



**Fig.9.2. MT1 PCB. USB-SATA JMicron JM20329 bridge with NV-RAM is installed on the external side of the PCB (to the left).**



**Fig.9.3. SATA connector pinout.**

Pin	Purpose
1	Ground
2	A+(Transmit)
3	A-(Transmit)
4	Ground
5	B-(Receive)
6	B+(Receive)
7	Ground
-	L-key

SATA connector may be soldered for the second HDD type only. SATA connector (Fig. 9.3) must be soldered in the location of 4 capacitors connecting the USB-SATA bridge with differential pairs from the controller. The capacitors must be desoldered in advance. Below you can find the SATA pinouts for some boards, numbers indicate the corresponding contacts of the SATA connector.





**Overlay (Burn overlay)** – the code portion of the main test microprogram written to disk surface. Burn overlay of classic drives is stored in the OVERLAY module, Trinity drives store it in the BOVLY001 module. Please note that Overlay presence among resources indicates that the image of the main Burn Code or H/T Burn-In Code contains no overlays.

**Burn-In Script** – the module containing a script for the main test microprogram with the list of procedures performed during the Burn-In test and their parameters. Burn-In Script in classic drives is stored in the BISPT modules, Trinity drives store it in the BINEWSCR module.

**Geometry Script** – a set of geometry parameters used by the main test microprogram while generating the zone allocation table. Classic drives have no such resources because their content is integrated in the main test microprogram. The script is stored in the GEO\_00 module.

Apart from the above resources, you may encounter resources with the «Downsize» prefix, for example, Downsize Burn Code, Downsize Main Code, Downsize Geometry Script. Downsize code is intended for model downsizing<sup>1</sup>. Technically the task is accomplished by decreasing SPT within a zone and elimination of tracks with the highest error count. Some drives instead of special DS firmware feature an opportunity to set before the Burn-In test a special «Downsize» flag, which will force creation of a DS model. Sometimes a DS model may be produced by a Burn-In test automatically. That may happen when the test completes with a failure, then the drive restarts and passes the DS test successfully.

The «5400 rpm» label of some resources intended for testing of Trinity drives indicates that testing a drive with such resources will produce a model with lowered rotational speed of the spindle motor – 5400 rpm.

### 9.11.2. Selecting the necessary set of resource data

Resources of Burn tests for Samsung drives can be found on the CD supplied with the kit of PC-3000 or in updates available through personal accounts at our technical support server (see the Resources\Samsung\Burns folder). In order to use the resources, open the database window: «Tools» → «Database» and import the required set of resources. If you have resources created in earlier PC-3000 version (ver. 2.xx), you can use the PCDBMigration utility to convert them to the new database format.

In order to launch testing, Burn Code has to be written to a HDD. After searching through the database (see section 5.3.4.2), you will have to determine which of the found files must be written to drive.

For V11P, VICTOR, PUMA, VICTORPLUS, and VERNA drives the utility may find several folders containing resources. The name of the source folder containing Burn Code must correspond to the letter code on the drive's side label (see Fig. 9.7.). It means that if the utility has found folders «PUMA/Burn Resources 01.06.2005/SP4002H/XXXR» and «PUMA/Burn Resources 01.06.2005/SP4002H/XXXS» for a SP4002H drive with QUMSC code on label, you should select the second one.

In newer drives the resources are distinguished by the four initial digits of drive P/N (Fig. 9.8, P/N code) and additionally by the model, firmware version, manufacturer of the heads and platters (Fig. 9.8, P/V code). To select the necessary resource, you have to search the database first by the P/N, and if the search returns nothing, by model (see section 5.3.4.2). To select the most suitable resource from the obtained list, you have to use as guideline the firmware version, which may be indicated in the name of the resource folder immediately after the model name (or P/N), and two letters of the P/V code, which may follow in brackets). It is recommended to use resources with firmware version that is not lower than the current HDD firmware version, and P/V code (if it is specified in the folder name) must match the P/V code of the target drive.

**Attention!** You are advised to test Trinity drives with the resources recommended for drives with the given P/N only. Using incompatible resources may cause breakdown of the magnetic heads stack.

Please also keep in mind during selection of resources if a model is downsized. When dealing with a DS model, use the Downsize Burn Code as the main testing microprogram or enable the «Downsize» flag in the Burn launch settings (see section 5.3.4.2). «Downsize Burn Code» must also be selected in case, if a drive has finished Burn test before that with an error caused by overflow of defect lists. Then launch of «Downsize Burn Code» will «reduce» the drive to a «Downsized» model.

<sup>1</sup> – DS models are drives using recording density that is lower than the standard rating value declared for that drive family by the manufacturer. For example, SP0612N (60 Gb, 2 heads) is a downsized model of SP0812N (80 Gb, 2 heads), SP0802N with three enabled heads is a DS model of SP1203N, HD753LJ (750 Gb, 6 heads) is a DS model of HD103UJ (1000 Gb, 6 heads).



To produce a downsized 7200 rpm model of a Trinity HDD, the following steps are required:

- 1) Write «Downsize Burn Code».
- 2) Switch the drive power supply off and on again.
- 3) Clear the service area.
- 4) Switch the drive power supply off and on again.
- 5) Write the «Burn-In Script».
- 6) Write the «Downsize Geometry Script».
- 7) Write the «1K Geometry Script» (optional).
- 8) Send the command to run Burn-In test.

To produce a full-sized 5400 rpm model of a Trinity HDD, the following steps are required:

- 1) Write the «HTBI Code (5400 rpm)».
- 2) Switch the drive power supply off and on again.
- 3) Clear the service area.
- 4) Switch the drive power supply off and on again.
- 5) Write the «Burn-In Script (5400 rpm)».
- 6) Write the «Geometry Script (5400 rpm)».
- 7) Send the command to run Burn-In test.

**Note:** 5400 rpm drives have no downsized models.

Classic drives begin the test in 5 minutes after the power switch. During the wait interval and testing all status registers are off. If you send a soft reset signal during that period, the drive will switch to «ready» status and will be able to access its service area (switch power off and on again to restart the test). If a drive has immediately reached readiness, then the BURN-IN Script is empty or its header is: «END» or «FAIL». An error during Burn Code recording is also possible.

Trinity drives begin the Burn-In test immediately after the terminal command to start the test is sent. The command can be sent manually («Tests» → «Service information» → «Work with BURN» → «Run Burn-In test»), or automatically while loading the resources from the database (see section 5.3.4.2). **The drive does not turn off the registers during test** and remains in pseudo ready state. If the drive receives an arbitrary ATA command during test, Burn-In test will complete with the «LED 2308» error (Firmware Assert). Therefore you are advised to disconnect the SATA cable prior to starting the test. To interrupt the test, you have to toggle the drive power supply and send the soft reset signal. To continue Burn-In test, use the terminal to send the command to resume testing («Tests» → «Service information» → «Work with BURN» → «Resume Burn-In test»). You can also resume the Burn-In by switching the drive power off and on again. After 5 minutes the drive will resume from the step where it has been interrupted.

**Note 1:** The SATA cable must be disconnected before starting the Burn test. Hot disconnection of the cable during the test will be perceived by the drive as a soft reset signal. It will interrupt the Burn-In test then.

**Note 2:** If the Burn-In test of a Trinity drive gets interrupted before step 70 (HT test), the entire testing procedure will have to be restarted from the beginning. Since step 70 (Burn test start) the drive saves the results of performed tests in the 9A BINEWSAV module, and after the power is switched off and on (or a command to resume test is received) the testing procedure automatically continues from the step, where the test has been interrupted.

**Note 3:** If after the power supply switch the testing procedure does not resume for a long while, you have to send the command to resume Burn-In test manually. To do that, first send via ATA ([F7]) or the terminal ([Ctrl]+[Alt]+[4]) the «Soft reset» command, then — the command to resume testing.

If you connect a HDD to terminal during test, you can notice that the drive outputs a message when it launches each test and performs certain operations. Some of the messages look like the following:



(recording «Downsize Burn Code»). The original «Burn-In Script» file in a drive usually contains a function for switch to a «Downsize» model, i.e. during test the drive may read «Downsize Burn Code» from the P60CODE module (for PALO) or from module P40CODE (for PANGO), write it to ROM and continue testing. If the model name in ATA ID has changed after test completion to the name of a junior model, then you should write to it «Downsize Main Code» instead of the «Main Code».

#### 9.11.4. Service area check using H/T (FFlash, Burn) code and heads map modification in ROM

VANGOPLUS, PANGO, VELOCE, PALO, MAGMA, RUBICON, and P80A drives contain H/T code, i.e. code for launch of SA test and drive preparation for a Burn-In test. During this test a HDD verifies SA surface, clears all results of earlier tests, resets the lists of defects in user data area, adaptive parameters of the user data area and edits other modules. HT test has another valuable feature – it checks the validity of commands and their parameters in the Burn test script module and adjusts the parameters of some commands for a specific drive. The BISPT module header after that test can be changed to «BURN» (depending upon the HT Code content). During HT a drive also partially checks the user data area and that step affects the result of test completion.

You can also use the microcode to gain access to the SA, when it is not allowed by the «Main Code» or «Burn Code». To do so, you should make the drive report on readiness (see sections 8.10.1 and 8.10.2) and write «H/T Code» to it (see section 8.10.3). After you switch the power off/on, send a soft reset to prevent the test from starting. A drive with loaded HT code executes the commands reading/writing the SA surface in the mode, which allows HDD to ignore a number of errors.

To launch a HT test, load the «H/T Code» to HDD (please see section 9.11.2 for details on resource selection), switch the power supply off/on, and the test will start in five minutes. It will last 20-60 minutes. You can identify the completion of that procedure by the blinking LED or by the LED NN XXXX code in terminal, where NN stands for test completion code.

**Warning!** Testing is forbidden if you need to recover data from a HDD!

POSEIDON, DELPHI, P80M, and TRIDENT drives use FFlash instead of H/T code. If you record FFlash to a drive, then test launch will require changing the script header to BURN or clearing the script module altogether. That test is quite fast; it recreates system modules. After the test HTBI code should be written. FFlash and HT Code for Trinity drives do not exist. To check the service data integrity in such cases you can use HT Burn In Code.

In order to modify the heads map (disable heads using software means), you should write to a drive H/T Code or FFlash code having set the required heads map (see section 5.2.3.2), and launch the test. To do that, the following steps are required:

- 1) Change the script header to BURN or clear the script module.
- 2) Write to the drive HT or FFlash code with the defined heads map.
- 3) Switch the drive power supply off and on again. Wait for test start and completion watching the terminal.
- 4) After test completion, switch the drive power supply off and on again, send a soft reset signal, write Burn Code or HTBI Code and start the main self-test routine.

To modify the heads map in the ROM of Trinity drives, no additional testing is necessary. The heads map will be changed to the required map while running the Burn-In test.

**Warning!** Some Burn resources feature the algorithm for detection and automatic disabling of heads having problems. If drive testing reveals a large number of defects associated with one of the heads, that head can be disabled automatically. Resources with an internal algorithm for detection of heads with problems are most frequent among Trinity drives.









































