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Apple IIGS: Disk Drive Slot Assignments

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Depending on the operating system and the available combination of drives, the Apple IIGS can use disk drives in a number of different slot assignments. Below are some guidelines for determining the slot assignments.

Under DOS, ProDOS 1.1.1, ProDOS 1.2 (ProDOS 8), and ProDOS 16, you may use the slot number to refer to hard drives and floppy drives using an interface card. Disks may also be called by ProDOS pathnames without regard to slot locations.

The Apple IIGS SmartPort, controlled by the firmware in the IIGS, includes the internal RAM disk and ROM disk as well as any external drives connected to the SmartPort. These drives are referenced in slot 5 because the IIGS takes SmartPort to be slot 5. There are exceptions in the use of the SmartPort: it's not available under DOS or ProDOS 1.1.1.

ProDOS 1.2 (ProDOS 8) permits up to four devices connected to the SmartPort. If four drives are found on the SmartPort, the first two drives are considered to be in slot 5 (drives 1 and 2), and the last two drives are "found" in slot 2 (drives 1 and 2). If the RAM disk is active, it occupies slot 5, drive 2, and remaining drives are moved down in the sequence to slot 2, drive 1 and slot 2, drive 2, if necessary.

ProDOS 16 allows the SmartPort up to six devices, all found in slot 5; if activated (from the Control Panel), the RAM disk occupies slot 5, drive 2. If both RAM and ROM disks are both activated, the ROM disk will be found immediately after the RAM disk. If RAM and ROM disks are available and if only the ROM disk is activated (from the Control Panel), the ROM disk will be found in drive 2.

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