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Macintosh Plus Doesn't Provide Termination Power

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TOPIC -----

Some users have experienced problems with SCSI hard drives that don't start up on a Macintosh Plus if they are the only SCSI device, but the same drive may work correctly when hooked up to a Macintosh SE or Macintosh II.

DISCUSSION -----

This is usually a termination problem. That is, if you have correctly configured your SCSI bus with the proper number of terminators (you can refer to the SCSI Cable System manual, Apple Part #030-2042-B), the problem probably lies with your hard disk's inability to provide termination power to the terminator(s).

The drive doesn't work when connected to a Macintosh Plus because the Macintosh Plus does NOT provide termination power. The same drive works when connected to a Macintosh II or Macintosh SE -- or when another SCSI device is connected to the bus -- because these devices supply termination power.

Sometimes SCSI peripherals will work without proper termination -- usually only when the data lines are "clean" enough to support communication. This cannot be relied on to continue; therefore, you should:

- Repair the drive so that it provides termination (as it should if it were working correctly.)

OR

- Connect another SCSI device providing termination power.

OR

- Use this hard disk on another system that provides termination power, such as a Macintosh II or Macintosh SE.

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