# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh: Mini-8-to-RJ-45 Connection

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Macintosh: Mini-8-to-RJ-45 Connection


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TOPIC -----------------------------------------------------------

I have an AT&T 6544 controller with RJ-45 connections, but no coax or RJ-11
installed.  (Access to corporate VAX and IBM systems is through the AT&T.)
How can I connect a Macintosh asynchronously to this device?


DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------

Our goal was to connect one of the 8-pin serial ports on the back on the
Macintosh to an RJ-45 connector.  To do this, you need some kind of
adapter. We used an RJ-45-to-DB-25 adapter from Black Box Corporation; it
doesn't require solder.  The DB-25 adapter can be connected to a DB-8-to-
DB-25 serial cable. Here are the Black Box part numbers:

• EVMAI:  Apple II-to-ImageWriter cable (or use one of our cables)

• FA027: RS-232/RJ-45 modular kit, female

Note: Not all AT&T controllers are wired the same for RJ-45 connection, so
there is no guarantee that this exact wiring scheme will work for you.
However, it may give you a starting point.  Follow these steps:

1) Test the wiring.  (It's a good idea to use colors on the RJ-45 side to
   avoid confusion).  In this case, the following scheme worked:

        RJ-45 pin         DB-25 pin
        ---------         ---------
        brown    -------->    8
        green    -------->    2
        black    -------->    20
        red      -------->    3
```

2) Connect the pins on the RJ-45 connector directly to the pins of the cable and attach a breakout box.  You can monitor signals first at the user site and make any necessary changes before you construct the adapter.  (Once the connections are plugged into the adapter, they're hard to extract.)

3) When you've got the correct pinouts, construct the adapter accordingly and screw it together.

4) Plug the cable into the back of the Macintosh, the adapter into the cable, and the RJ-45 connection into the adapter for asynchronous access to the AT&T.  This works with MacTerminal and Red Ryder (two emulations packages we use).

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