



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh IIfx: NuBus/SCSI Speed

Revised: 7/15/92  
Security: Everyone

Macintosh IIfx: NuBus/SCSI Speed

=====  
Article Created: 14 June 1991  
Article Last Reviewed: 14 July 1992  
Article Last Updated:

### TOPIC -----

I'm a little confused about SCSI data transfer. Several sources say that the speed of the SCSI port on a Macintosh IIfx is between 1.4MB and 4.0MB per second. I know that synchronous mode is needed to obtain the higher rates, but if a drive is only rated at 13 kilobytes per second with an access time of 11.9 milliseconds, how do I get rates of 2 or 3 megabytes per second?

Also, if the NuBus slots are rated at 10MB per second, wouldn't I gain by using these slots?

### DISCUSSION -----

It's not the access time of the drive that matters, but rather the sustained transfer rate. Any SCSI hard drive that can sustain transfer rates above 1.25MBps will operate faster on a Macintosh IIfx compared to any other Macintosh system. None of Apple's present drives take advantage of this potential.

If a SCSI card was designed to operate with NuBus it would be limited to 10MB per second, which is faster than the Macintosh IIfx's 3MB per second spec, but much faster than any of our other drives, at this point.

Copyright 1991 Apple Computer, Inc.

Tech Info Library Article Number:8422