



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh Monitors: Compatibility with MS-DOS PCs (12/95)

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

Can a Macintosh monitor be used on a MS-DOS personal computer? I have the pinouts for the Macintosh monitors. If I made a special cable to meet the pinout specifications, could it be done?

DISCUSSION -----

It is unlikely that any video card for MS-DOS computers would work with Apple displays other than the Apple Multiple Scan displays or those that support a VGA output.

The video cards for MS-DOS computers have different timing than the Apple video cards. With the exception of Multiple Scan displays, Apple monitors are locked into a specific scan rate, which matches the Apple video cards, and cannot be changed.

Many third-party monitors adapt to a variety of scan rates, just like Apple's Multiple Scan displays. We do not have a reference list of third-party monitors that are Macintosh and MS-DOS compatible. Contact the monitor manufacturer to determine a monitor's ability to work in both environments. Generally, monitors used with MS-DOS computers are known as EGA-, VGA-, CGA- (or similar "xGA-") compatible.

Article Change History:  
15 Dec 1995 - Updated to include Multiple Scan display information.

Support Information Services

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