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Macintosh Portable: Description (Discontinued)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the Macintosh Portable computer.

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh Portable provides complete Macintosh functionality in a portable design. Everything -- CPU, screen, keyboard, trackball, battery, and disk storage -- is integrated into a single, easy-to-carry package.

Active Matrix Display

The Macintosh Portable has a high-contrast Active Matrix Liquid Crystal Display (AMLCD) with a fast response rate; it displays the full width of a page, and makes the screen easy to see in almost any lighting condition, from almost any angle.

Expansion Slots

The Macintosh Portable's four internal expansion connectors allow you to customize it for your specific needs:

- Internal Modem Slot
This allows installation of the Macintosh Portable Data Modem 2400, an internal asynchronous modem that can exchange information with any other standard data modem at 300, 1200, and 2400 bits per second. The modem was specifically designed for the Macintosh Portable to minimize power usage and thus extend the battery life. It will even wake up the Macintosh Portable when it receives an incoming phone call.

- Processor Direct Expansion Slot

You can install additional third-party RAM, up to the system's full capacity of 9MB, or various third-party communications cards supporting protocols such as Ethernet.

- ROM Slot

This allows easy upgrading of system ROM, or the addition of third-party ROM enhancements.

- RAM Slot

You can upgrade internal memory to 4MB.

Full Power

Most battery-powered computers run for only two to three hours before needing to be recharged; the Macintosh Portable provides from 6 to 12 hours of operation, depending on system configuration and usage. To conserve power and extend battery life, the Portable includes a special microprocessor that manages power use and posts warnings when the battery is getting low. A Battery desk accessory monitors power levels and displays a meter to show how much power remains.

Features

- All-in-One Design

Built-in CPU, display, trackball, disk drive, and standard Macintosh keyboard. Easy to pack, carry, set up, and use almost anywhere, anytime.

- 68000 CMOS Processor Operating at 16 MHz

CMOS (Complimentary Metal Oxide Silicon) microprocessors require very little power, helping to extend battery life. The 16MHz clock speed of the 68000 runs at twice the speed of the Macintosh SE, providing rapid processing for spreadsheets, databases, and other applications.

- Power Management Microprocessor

This chip conserves power by monitoring system components and putting them into a standby "rest" or "sleep" mode when not in use, while retaining memory contents.

- Replaceable Lead Acid Battery

The lead acid battery allows the computer to monitor voltage levels and provide information on remaining power. It also lets you recharge at any time without requiring a deep discharge cycle, and can be easily replaced if necessary.

- Apple 1.4MB SuperDrive

The high-density floppy disk drive lets you work in multivendor environments where access to data from other computers is important. SuperDrive allows you to format, read, and write to Apple 400K, 800K and 1.4MB floppy disks, as well as ProDOS, MS-DOS, and OS/2 720K and 1.44MB floppy disks.

- Interchangeable Low-Power Keyboard, Trackball

The trackball can be replaced with an optional numeric keypad for number-intensive applications, and either device can be mounted on either side of the keyboard for right- or left-handed use.

- Power Adapter for 85 to 270 Volts AC, 48 to 62 Hz
The adapter makes the Portable easy to use in almost any country, without transformers (requires only a simple plug adapter).
- Optional 40MB Internal Hard Disk
The low power hard disk's 28 millisecond access time provides fast and easy access to files and applications. The 40MB hard disk configuration of the Macintosh Portable (M5351) comes from the factory with System 6.0.4 and HyperCard 1.2.3 installed.
- Eight Built-In Ports
External disk drive, SCSI, Apple Desktop Bus, printer, modem, audio, power adapter, and video ports. The ports provide easy access to all standard Macintosh peripherals. With the addition of an optional Video Adapter (available later in 1989), the Portable can also drive external monitors and projection systems, allowing presentations to large audiences.
- Apple Stereo Sound Chip
Enables the portable to provide high-quality stereo sound, and to be compatible with all applications using Macintosh sound.
- High Quality Foam-Lined Carrying Case
This case (included with the Portable) provides easy portability, as well as internal pockets for items such as power adapter, numeric keypad, extra battery, disks, and papers.

System Software

The Macintosh Portable requires System Software version 6.0.4 and HyperCard version 1.2.5.

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