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MS-DOS External 5.25-inch Floppy Drives: Macintosh Compatibility

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01/21/93 - REVISED
• To include information about Macintosh
MS-DOS compatible floppy drives

TOPIC -----

Are MS/DOS external 5.25-inch floppy drives compatible with Macintosh computers?

DISCUSSION -----

No, MS-DOS external 5.25-inch floppy drives are not compatible with Macintosh computers. An MS-DOS external 5.25-inch floppy drive is a device that attaches to a MS-DOS computer and reads 5.25-inch diskettes.

Macintosh computers must receive information on mounted disks. A key system call that gathers this information, DiskInPlace, is not supported by MS-DOS floppy drives.

Also, MS-DOS external floppy drives do not have the same pinouts as Macintosh drives.

There are Macintosh-compatible external floppy drives which DO attach to some Macintosh computers and read 5.25-inch MS-DOS diskettes. These floppy drives are designed to connect to Macintosh computers, not to MS-DOS computers. Two examples are:

- the Apple PC 5.25 Floppy Drive, made by Apple Computer
- the DaynaFile, made by Dayna Communications.

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