Tech Info Library

AppleDesign Powered Speakers: Sound Cuts Out (4/94)

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Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

I am using the AppleDesign Powered Speakers with a Macintosh computer. On some
CD audio tracks, where there are very soft passages, the sound will cut out.
Other third party powered speakers do not cut out like this. I exchanged the
speakers and the second set does the same thing.

DISCUSSION --

There is noise gate circuitry internal to the AppleDesign Powered Speakers that
reduces the noise level of the output of the speakers. This noise gate is in
place to reduce the amount of noise heard through the speakers while the
speakers are just amplifying the sounds from the CPU, such as alert beeps. This
noise gate turns off the sound to the speakers when the input level (at the CPU
input jack, located on the AppleDesign Powered Speakers) falls below a set
voltage level. This circuitry is only connected to the 1/8" stereo jack (CPU
Input Jack) and not to the dual phono plugs (CD Stereo Cable Jacks).

The noise level from other sources such as CD players, televisions and compact
cassette players should be low enough that the noise gate would not be necessary
on the CD Stereo Jack inputs.

Replacement Cable

Using a Y adapter cable from the computer's sound out port to the CD Stereo
Cable/RCA Jacks on the speakers will eliminate the sound drop outs, but you will
lose out on the noise limiting feature of the noise gate.

You can get a Y adapter cable at Radio Shack and similar electronics stores. As
of 7/15/94, the Radio Shack Catalog part numbers for the replacement cables were
as follows:
3 ft cable......42-2475
6 ft cable......42-2481

Please contact Radio Shack for further information.

Turn Up the Volume

The best way to handle this situation without having to buy any new cables is to turn up the volume in the Sound control panel and use the volume knob on the speakers to control the speakers volume. If you do this the problem of sound drop outs will be eliminated.

The problem occurs on all Power Macintosh computers and Macintosh computers. The sound drops occur in both application programs and when playing audio CD's.

This article provides information about a non-Apple product. Apple Computer, Inc. is not responsible for the content pertaining to that product. Please contact the vendor for additional information.

Article Change History:
15 Jul 1994 - Added Radio Shack part number information.
19 April 1994 - Added Power Macintosh computers to list of computers.

Support Information Services

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