

# New Technical Notes

Macintosh

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Developer Support

## HW 550 - VIA IC Q&As Hardware

Revised by: Developer Support Center  
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This Technical Note contains a collection of Q&As relating to a specific topic—questions you've sent the Developer Support Center (DSC) along with answers from the DSC engineers. While DSC engineers have checked the Q&A content for accuracy, the Q&A Technical Notes don't have the editing and organization of other Technical Notes. The Q&A function is to get new technical information and updates to you quickly, saving the polish for when the information migrates into reference manuals.

Q&As are now included with Technical Notes to make access to technical updates easier for you. If you have comments or suggestions about Q&A content or distribution, please let us know by sending an AppleLink to DEVFEEDBACK. Apple Partners may send technical questions about Q&A content to DEVSUPPORT for resolution.

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### Use Time Manager instead of VIA2 timer T1

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The *Apple Macintosh Family Hardware Reference*, first edition, (page 17-28) says VIA2 timer T1 can generate interrupts up to every 1.2766 microsecond. Is there any documentation for programming the timer to generate the interrupt at high speeds and installing the interrupt service routine? By the way, the Time Manager documented in *Inside Macintosh Volume IV* (page 299) is capable of generating interrupts at the accuracy of only one millisecond.

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Apple discourages direct use of the VIA2 because it's not present on all Macintosh CPUs. It's absent on the popular Macintosh IIci and IIfx models, for example.

Contrary to the outdated *Inside Macintosh Volume IV* Time Manager documentation, the Time Manager in System 6.0.3 and later has accuracy on the order of 1 microsecond. See *Inside Macintosh Volume VI* for details on new Time Manager features.