Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card: Description (2/97)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes the Apple II High Speed SCSI Card.

DISCUSSION --

The new Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card provides faster data transfer primarily
because of a new feature called "direct memory access" (DMA) data transfer. Data
is transferred directly between the computer's memory and the SCSI peripheral,
with minimal interaction from the computer's microprocessor. The result is
improved, data-transfer performance. With the new high-speed card, data
transfers at a rate of up to 1MB per second on the Apple IIGS computer, and up
to .5MB per second on the Apple IIe computer. In addition to DMA, the SCSI
manager and firmware have been improved and also contribute to the increased
performance.

Compatible with all SCSI peripherals, the Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card requires
only that device-specific applications and drivers be installed on the system.
The card ships with drivers and applications for hard disk and CD-ROM drives, so
that users can take advantage of these devices immediately. Device drivers for
the tape backup drive and scanner will be made available to developers. Users
will be able to take advantage of these devices as applications are developed.
In addition, the new card enables users to connect as many as seven SCSI
peripherals to their computer.

Another feature of the card is an on-board terminator, which simplifies setup
when connecting SCSI peripherals to the computer. Previously, the Apple II SCSI
Card required users to understand rules regarding placement and quantity of
terminators between SCSI devices. With the new card, you place one terminator at
the end of the chain of SCSI devices.

The Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card also includes improved, hard-disk utilities.
These utilities make it easy to handle hard-disk management tasks, like data
backup, disk partitioning and disk verification. The partition and verify
utilities take advantage of the improved firmware commands for hard disk drives.
The backup utility can now handle the resource forks that are part of the IIGS
files. Because these are ProDOS utilities, they can be used by both Apple IIe
and Apple IIGS users.

As far as system requirements, the Apple II High-Speed SCSI Card works on an Apple IIGS computer or an Apple IIe computer with a 65C02 microprocessor. The Apple IIGS requires a 3.5-inch disk drive, while the Apple IIe requires either a 5.25- or a 3.5-inch disk drive. Both require a device with a SCSI port, appropriate SCSI cabling and one SCSI terminator.

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