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MacPeak SCSI Drive: How to Use with an Apple IIGS

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Some people have had problems formatting a MacPeak external SCSI drive (normally for the Macintosh) from an Apple IIGS. One user, who had this problem, was working with an Apple IIGS with 1MB RAM, 3.5-inch and 5.25-inch floppy disk drives, and an Apple II SCSI card in slot 5.

The Apple IIGS recognizes the drive, but the format routine quits after running for about the same time it takes to format a ProDOS floppy and then crashes. A conflict between the SCSI card and the 3.5-inch drive causes this problem.

The 3.5-inch drive plugs into the SmartPort. The SmartPort is slot 5. To use the SCSI card in slot 5, you need to set slot 5 in the Control Panel to "Your Card". When the Control Panel is set in this way, the SmartPort is disabled, and the 3.5-inch drive is also disabled.

To use both the 3.5-inch drive and the SCSI drive on the Apple IIGS, place the SCSI card in a slot other than slot 3 (the 80-column display), slot 4 (the mouse connection), slot 5 (the SmartPort), or slot 6 (the 5.25-inch drive location). This leaves slots 1, 2, and 7 available. Slot 1 is often used for a printer, slot 2 is often used for a modem, and slot 7 is used for AppleTalk. Choose slot 1 if no printer is attached, slot 2 if no modem is attached, or slot 7 if AppleTalk is not in use. No matter which slot you choose, you must set the Control Panel to "Your Card" for that slot.

If, after reassigning slots, there is still difficulty formatting the MacPeak drive, there would appear to be an incompatibility between the SCSI card and the MacPeak drive. (MacPeak indicated that they do not support the use of their drives on the Apple II SCSI card.)

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