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Apple IIGS: VGC and ROM Upgrade

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TOPIC -----

Beginning August 1, 1987, two free component upgrades have been available to Apple IIGS owners. This REA program ended on 31 March 1995.

DISCUSSION -----

Overview

These are the two component upgrades:

- A new ROM chip corrects minor problems and provides enhancements for future software releases.
- A new Video Graphics Controller (VGC) chip corrects video display problems that may occur in double hi-res and standard text modes.

Look at the first three digits of the serial number on the bottom of the Apple IIGS to determine which of the two upgrades your computer needs. (This is only a general guide, because a given computer may have already undergone modifications after leaving the factory. For more specific information, see the "Upgrade Part Numbers" section later in this article.) These are the guidelines:

- Computers with the first three digits of the serial number 704 or lower, generally require both the new VGC and the ROM upgrade.
- Computers with the first three digits of the serial number 705 through 724 (inclusive), generally require only the new ROM.
- Computers with the first three digits of the serial number 725 or higher, generally require neither of the upgrades.

Upgrade Part Numbers

Because some systems may have had logic board swaps since date of purchase, it's best to check the individual VGC and ROM numbers on the main logic board to be sure of which upgrade is required.

- Replace any ROM chip numbered 344-0077-A with the replacement part 344-0077-B.
- Replace any VGC chip numbered AMI 344S0046-1 or AMI 344S0046-A with the replacement part AMI 344S0046-3, IMP 344S0046, or IMP 344S0056.
- VGCs numbered AMI 344S0046-2 or AMI 344S0046-B need no replacement.

The repair extension program number is 0LR853.

***** IMPORTANT NOTE *****

This program expired on 31 March 1995 and is no longer available under an REA program. However, you can purchase the VGC IC and ROM chip as separate items. In order to pull the VGC chip off the logic board, you will also need the VGC IC extraction tool. Here are the parts you need:

342-0077 ROM, Apple IIGS
344S0046 VGC, Apple IIGS
076-0246 VGC IC Extraction Tool

Article Change History:

30 Sep 1996 - Added REA closing date and part numbers.

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