Macintosh IIsi: Expansion Card Compatibility

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TOPIC ---

This article describes some of the compatibility issues between the
Macintosh IIsi and NuBus and 030 direct cards. To determine if a given card
has any of the following problems with the IIsi, the manufacturer of the
card should be contacted.

DISCUSSION --

CARD POWER REQUIREMENTS

Some NuBus cards exceed the 15-watt limit for NuBus cards. In the case of
Macintosh II models with multiple NuBus slots, an empty NuBus slot usually
provides some margin. Because the Macintosh IIsi is a one-slot system,
that margin does not exist. As a result, it is more critical that the
15-watt power requirement for NuBus cards be maintained in the Macintosh
IIsi.

For example, the Apple Macintosh Display Card 8•24 GC takes slightly more
power, due to the processor and on-board memory, than the NuBus power
specification of 15 watts. However, after the completion of initial
tests, Apple is able to recommend using the card with the Macintosh IIsi
in normal operating environments. Apple is continuing testing for
elevated temperature environments. We will publish results of these tests
as they become available. Until then, we do not recommend the combination
of Macintosh IIsi and Macintosh Display Card 8•24 GC in environments where
the temperature is expected to regularly exceed 32 C or 90 F.

For more information on Macintosh Display Card 8•24 GC, search under
"Macintosh IIsi" and "Display Card 8•24 GC".

With regard to third-party cards, we have found the vast majority to be
completely compatible and to work reliably with the Macintosh IIsi. In
those few instances where the power specification exceeds the NuBus
specification, or if you have any questions or concerns about a specific
product, contact the vendor. In Apple's case, we can now recommend all of
our displays cards across the line of NuBus-capable Macintoshes.

CARD SIZE

NuBus and 030 Direct cards that deviate from the size specifications of each type of card may experience fit problems. Also, NuBus cards that are a two-card set, such as a video card and an accelerator, will not work in the Macintosh IIsi.

CLOCK SIGNAL

Macintosh SE/30 cards that depend on the 16-MHz clock speed of the Macintosh SE/30 do not work with the Macintosh IIsi because the clock speed of the Macintosh IIsi is 20 MHz.
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