



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh 630 Family: 16 Bit Sound Information (4/95)

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TOPIC -----

Using one of the following systems:

LC 630, Quadra 630, Performa 630, Performa 635, Performa 636, Performa 637, or the Performa 638.

The Sound Out selection in the Sound Control Panel shows 8 Bit, but the 16 Bit selection is grayed-out. How does one get 16 Bit sound out (especially when using CDs)?

DISCUSSION -----

When Macintosh 630 family computers play CD audio, the sound source is 16-bit digital audio (virtually all CD players are 16-bit). Since a Macintosh 630 family computer just passes the CD-ROM drive's audio signal to its sound output ports (adjusting only the volume), the audio is still a 16-bit digital audio signal when it comes out of these ports.

The quality of the CD audio signal that the Macintosh 630 family computer passes through its sound ports is unaffected by the choice a user makes in the "Sound Out" portion of the Sound control panel. This section of the Sound control panel affects the sounds that come from a Macintosh system's internal sound digitization circuitry.

In other words, the Macintosh 630 family is not capable of 16-bit audio by itself. The 16-bit rating referred to in the literature for Macintosh 630 family computers refers to the playback capabilities of the built-in CD-ROM drive.

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