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Using an ADB Keyboard With the Macintosh Portable

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TOPIC -----

Can the Apple Extended Keyboard be used with the Macintosh Portable? I will be using the keyboard while the Macintosh Portable charger is plugged in.

DISCUSSION -----

Yes, the Apple Extended Keyboard (the original as well as the Extended Keyboard II) can be used with the Macintosh Portable, as can the Apple Standard Keyboard and other ADB devices that follow our specifications. The differences will be in key layout, battery drain, and waking up the Macintosh Portable.

The Apple Standard Keyboard draws a maximum of 100mA, and the Apple Extended Keyboard draws a maximum of 85mA. The Macintosh Portable keyboard and keypad (or trackball) together draw 75mA. From these numbers, you can see that adding the Extended Keyboard more than doubles the ADB power requirements. This decreases battery life somewhat. Since you will be using the Extended Keyboard with the charger plugged in, this shouldn't affect you.

Another point, though minor, is that the only way to manually wake up the Macintosh Portable is by pressing a key on the built-in keyboard. External ADB keyboards cannot provide this functionality. You will have to power up the Macintosh Portable by pressing a key on the built-in keyboard instead of the externally attached ADB keyboard.

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