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PowerBook: Lightning Bolt in Battery Desk Accessory (7/92)

Article Created: 12 November 1991

Article Reviewed/Updated: 31 July 1992

TOPIC -----

What's the meaning of the lightning bolt icon on the PowerBook Battery DA?

DISCUSSION -----

The PowerBook User's Guide states (page 95) that "A lightning bolt icon appears in the Battery desk accessory when the power adaptor is plugged in." This is not always true. There are two cases where the lightning bolt icon appears in the Battery DA:

- The lightning bolt should appear in the Battery DA only when the power adaptor is plugged in and the computer is in bulk charge. If the power adaptor is inserted, but the computer is in trickle charge, the bolt should NOT show up.

Bulk charge is when the battery is charged from 0 to 80%, and trickle charge is when the battery is charged from 80 to 100%.

- The other time the lightning bolt will show up is when the power adaptor is plugged into the PowerBook, but not plugged into a wall outlet. The icon will remain present in the Battery DA for up to 2 hours.

An easy way to tell whether or not the power adaptor is actually charging the battery is to look at the Battery DA when the adaptor is plugged into the PowerBook. The battery indicator will drop as many as three positions when the adaptor is first plugged into the PowerBook. If the adaptor is plugged into a wall outlet and charging the battery, the indicator will move back up to the level it was before the adaptor was plugged in within about 15 seconds. If the adaptor isn't plugged into a wall outlet or isn't charging the battery, the indicator won't move back up to the level it was before the adaptor was plugged in.

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Keywords: KPBOOK

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 9437