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PowerBook: What To Do When It Won't Run On the Battery (11/94)

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TOPIC -----

This article discusses why a PowerBook may not run on the battery, but will operate normally when plugged into AC power. Issues surrounding a damaged O ring on the power adaptor tip have been resolved by Apple.

DISCUSSION -----

PowerBook 100

- Check that the storage switch on the back of the computer next to the power connector is in the up position. This switch disables all battery power, but will allow you to use the unit with AC power.
- A fuse on the logic board may blow if the lithium batteries aren't removed before the unit is taken apart. It's also important that the unit is completely reassembled before the batteries are reinstalled. The logic board can be shorted out quite easily since the keyboard is a part of the circuit. The symptom of the failure is that the PowerBook will run on the AC Adaptor, but not on the battery.
- A blown fuse may be linked to a damaged or defective power adaptor. In particular, the black insulating "O" ring on the tip of the adaptor may be damaged and shorting out against the logic board. Replacement of the power adaptor and the main logic board will fix the problem.

PowerBook 140, 160, 170, and 180

On these computers, a blown fuse may be linked to a damaged or defective power adaptor. In particular, the black insulating "O" ring on the tip of the adaptor may be damaged and shorting out against the logic board. Replacement of the power adaptor and the main logic board will fix the problem.

A new logic board design includes a replaceable fuse. Part numbers for the revised logic boards are as follows:

PowerBook 140, 145, 145B, and 170 computers

661-0708

PowerBook 160, 165, and 180 computers
661-0746

PowerBook 165c and 180c computers
661-0765

PowerBook 150

The PowerBook 150 will show similar symptoms as the PowerBook 140 and 170 with a blown fuse. The unit will run with the AC Adapter connected but not from battery only. Additionally, the unit will not run from AC Adapter power if the battery is removed. Check the logic board fuse if it fails to run from battery.

Article Change History:

07 Nov 1994 - Added part number information for replaceable fuse logic boards.
31 Aug 1994 - Information on damaged O ring added to PowerBook 100 section.
18 Jul 1994 - Added PowerBook 150.

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