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PowerBook: Solar Powered Solutions (5/94)

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TOPIC -----

My PowerBook keeps running out of power! The batteries just don't provide enough computing time for my needs and I have to lug around extra batteries. Is there any sort of longer-lasting battery?

DISCUSSION -----

With nickel metal hydride, lithium, and intelligent batteries with their own microprocessors batteries are becoming longer-lasting. In addition, there are a few companies which offer solar cells to extend the battery charge.

Keep It Simple Software (KISS) has a two solar panel unit called SunPack PB, a soft-sided pack that looks and opens up like a briefcase. Connecting your PowerBook to the SunPack PB should provide it with enough power to continuously sustain the battery in most non-color models. Color PowerBooks can be used with the SunPack PB, however it will only help to extend the battery life.

Microtech International offers SolarPOWER, a photovoltaic (solar power) panel for the PowerBook family. Power gain from SolarPower is dependent on weather conditions and geographical location. Solar charging will enable a range of uses, from extending battery life in remote operation, or recharging installed batteries when the PowerBook is not in use, to expected complete power supply for the PowerBook in optimal conditions. A Graphical software aid is included to guide users in the correct positioning for maximum solar efficiency.

To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor name as a search string.

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