PowerBook: How to Clean the Trackball (7/96)

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TOPIC --

My PowerBook's trackball doesn't work smoothly; it appears to "stick" or
"jump" when rolled.

DISCUSSION ---

Most PowerBook trackball problems are due to contamination of the rollers. The
trackball is just like the standard Apple mouse in that dust and debris can
accumulate on the rollers and impede smooth movement of the trackball.

Symptoms of a Dirty Trackball
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Symptoms that your trackball is dirty are:

• The trackball appears to "stick" or "jump" when rolled.
• The cursor will not track horizontally or vertically.
• It sometimes seems like the cursor is "hitting a wall".
• On-screen buttons fail to activate when you click on them.
• The movement of the cursor on the screen isn't smooth.
• The trackball is physically difficult to roll.

How to Clean the Trackball
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1) Remove the trackball retaining ring by turning it counterclockwise
   until it pops out (about 1/4 turn). You don't need tools for this;
   you can just press against the two small ridges on the ring with
   your fingernails.

2) Lift the retaining ring and trackball out of its cavity.

3) Locate the small rubber rollers at the left and bottom sides of the
   trackball cavity. Depending on your model, they may look like small
   rings or wheels.

4) Use any reasonably clean, blunt object (such as your finger or a
   cotton swab) to wipe off the rollers. Do not use any liquid,

including any amount of cleaning fluid or water, inside the computer.

5) Locate the three white or red bearings located at approximately clockwise
   4:00, 7:00, and 11:00 in all PowerBooks except the PowerBook 100,
   which has three black posts instead of bearings. Using a fingertip,
   dry cotton swab, or other blunt object, clean them of any debris.

6) Replace the trackball and the retaining ring.

In addition, on a PowerBook 140 or 170, reseating the cables on the trackball
and keyboard may solve the problem. This is very effective if the failure is
related to the computer heating up. These cables are located inside the
PowerBook, so your authorized service provider or Apple must do this.

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12 Oct 1994 - Added keyword; added note about PB 140 and 170.
28 Sep 1994 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.
30 Jun 1994 - Revised clock position of first roller from 3:00 to 4:00.
22 Jun 1994 - Combined with similar article, additional symptoms added.

Support Information Services

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