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PowerBook 200 Series: Symptoms of Bent Magnesium Frame (8/94)

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TOPIC -----

The PowerBook Duo 210, Duo 230, Duo 250, Duo 270c, 280, and 280c have a lightweight magnesium inner subframe, also known as CPU stiffener. This article describes some problems that may result from a bent magnesium frame.

DISCUSSION -----

- Docking problem. If one particular Duo fails to properly interface with a docking device, where other Duos work fine, the one Duo's frame may be bent slightly.
- Battery seating. If the Duo's battery requires frequent reseating, and the power manager requires frequent resets, the frame may not be holding the battery tight against the logic board contacts.
- Duo won't run on battery power. If a logic board replacement temporarily corrects the problem, but needs repeated repair, the magnesium frame may be shorting against the logic board. If the Duo fails to start up on a charged battery, it may be a failed logic board caused by a shorting magnesium frame.

If you encounter any of these conditions, and you feel the problem is intermittent, the problem may be caused by a bent magnesium frame. Consider this component when dispatching. Obviously the magnesium frame won't always need replacement -- but a repeat failure for the same symptom may be a clue.

Article Change History:

31 Aug 1994 - Added new models, changed name of magnesium frame to reflect actual service name of part.

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