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PowerBook: Hard Disk Intermittently Available (11/92)

Article Created: 28 October 1992

TOPIC -----

When I use the power adapter on my PowerBook, the hard disk disappears intermittently. Then I see the flashing question mark. I don't have any problems starting up with a battery. Why is this?

DISCUSSION -----

The most probable cause for this type of problem would be a faulty power adapter. It's possible the filter network in the power adapter is leaking some AC noise and affecting the SCSI signals. It's also possible that the power adapter is supplying a marginal voltage -- enough to power on the logic, but not enough to spin up the hard drive.

The problem you described may also be caused by the main logic board. The main logic board also has a filter for external power which, if it's faulty, can also affect the SCSI signals or SCSI chip.

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Keywords: kpbook

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 10589