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PowerBook: Using SCSI Devices (2/97)

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TOPIC --

All PowerBook computers that have been released to date, with the exception of
the PowerBook 200 Series, have an integral SCSI port. The PowerBook 200 Series
computers must be attached to a Dock of some kind to gain that port. This
article describes adding peripheral devices to your PowerBook and also using
SCSI Disk Mode, which lets some PowerBook computers connect to a desktop
Macintosh and appear as an external hard disk.

DISCUSSION --

The SCSI Port and Cabling
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The SCSI port used in the PowerBook series is called an HDI-30. It is a square
socket SCSI connector with 30 pins. There are two different SCSI cables. In
addition to one of these cables, you may need a terminator, model number
M3503LL/A.

Apple HDI-30 SCSI Disk Adapter

This adapter, model number M2539LL/A is specifically for SCSI Disk Mode. It can
be distinguished by its HDI-30 connector having 30 pins (5 rows of 6). The
connector on the other end is a standard Centronics 50 socket connector.

Apple HDI-30 SCSI System Cable

This cable is for connecting external SCSI devices, like CD-ROMs and hard
drives, to your PowerBook and it is called the Apple HDI-30 SCSI System Cable,
model M2538LL/A. Its HDI-30 connector only has 29 pins. The connector on the
other end is a standard Centronics male.

SCSI Disk Mode
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This mode lets your PowerBook be connected to a desktop Macintosh and appear on
that machine as an external hard disk. This mode is supported on all PowerBook
models with the exception of the 140, 145, 145B, 150, and 170 and is recommended

for high speed transfer of information, but is not necessarily intended for
long-term usage. Follow these steps to setup SCSI disk mode:

Step 1

In the PowerBook control panel (Portable control panel for the 100) choose the
SCSI ID for the PowerBook. Remember, each SCSI device must have a unique ID
number. Verify that the hard drive name for the PowerBook is different from the
hard drive name of the target machine.

Step 2

Shut down the PowerBook and any additional SCSI devices in the SCSI chain.
Attach the HDI-30 SCSI Disk Adapter cable to the PowerBook and a terminator at
the other end (the terminator may not be required). If you find that the main
computer does start up properly, turn both computers off, remove the terminator
and then restart the systems.

Step 3

Plug the SCSI Disk Adapter cable to either a SCSI cable attached to the desktop
Macintosh, or to any existing SCSI device on the SCSI chain.

Step 4

Power on the PowerBook and you should see a diamond shaped symbol moving across
the screen with a number corresponding to the SCSI ID you set. Once you see
that, power on the desktop machine. After that machine boots up, you should see
the PowerBook's hard drive appear on the screen of the desktop Macintosh.

To end the session, shut down the desktop Macintosh, then power off the
PowerBook by either pressing and holding the power switch for two seconds then
releasing, or, for the PowerBook 100, press both of the buttons on the left side
of the unit.

NOTE: The Macintosh Plus and the Macintosh SE without an internal Hard Disk can
be used with SCSI disk mode. Also, you can dock to another PowerBook (of any
kind). When attaching under these configurations, you do NOT use the terminator
between the two SCSI cables.

Adding External Devices
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There are many devices that use the SCSI port to connect to your PowerBook. Some
examples are Hard Disks, CD-ROM drives, backup devices, video expansion, and
Ethernet connections.

The most important thing to keep in mind when adding devices to a SCSI chain is
the ID number. The SCSI chain has an ID range from 0 to 7. ID 7 is reserved for
the PowerBook itself; ID 0 is reserved for the internal hard drive. The other 6
ID numbers are for external devices. Generally, this ID can be set on the device
by some external selector -- consult the manual for the device to see how to set

this number. The ID number for each device must be unique on the chain, that is, only one device can use a given number.

A SCSI device chain must be terminated at both the beginning and end. PowerBook computers require additional termination at the end of a SCSI chain. Because of this you need to add a second terminator to the last device in the chain, unless that device has termination built in. If there is only one external SCSI device, it needs two terminators, one for itself and one for the PowerBook.

If there is more than one external SCSI device connected in a chain to a PowerBook computer, they can be connected together using the Apple SCSI Peripheral Interface Cable. This cable is a Centronics 50 pin to 50 pin cable. Both the first and last device in the chain need one terminator each, unless one or more of the devices in the chain have termination built in.

Some older SCSI devices are internally terminated. If you are not sure, it is very important that you check the manual for each device. When creating a SCSI chain for the PowerBook, you want a terminated device at the beginning of the chain, and another at the end. If any of the devices in the middle are terminated, you will have difficulties seeing all the devices.

Before connecting or disconnecting devices on a SCSI chain, turn the power off for all devices. When you get ready to power up, turn on all external devices first, then turn on the PowerBook. When you wish to end the session, shut down the PowerBook first, then turn off all the devices.

Common Problems Q&A
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Question: I am attempting SCSI Disk Mode, and the PowerBook does not display the diamond pattern. What is wrong?

Answer: First, make sure you are using the correct cable. This is the most common problem. Refer to the previous Cabling section to verify that you are using the SCSI Disk Adapter cable. Second, be aware that SCSI Disk Mode is only supported in certain PowerBooks. Review the instructions under SCSI Disk Mode to see which PowerBooks are supported.

Question: I have added an external SCSI device to my PowerBook and when I start up, I get a diamond symbol on my screen. What does this mean?

Answer: You are using the Disk Adapter Cable instead of the System Cable. See the preceding section on Cabling to see the difference.

Question: I have added an external SCSI device to my PowerBook and when I start up, I only get a flashing question mark (?) over a disk icon. Why?

Answer: Something is preventing your Hard Disk from starting up correctly. First try and start your computer from its Disk Tools disk. If it starts up, and your

hard drive does not show up on the desktop, you may have a SCSI ID conflict. Make sure that the external device is set to an ID number from 1 to 6, and if more than one device is connected, make sure each has a unique ID number. Try opening the Apple HD SC Setup program on the Disk Tools disk. If that program can see your hard drive, try selecting the update button.

This updates the driver software on the Hard Disk. Check the version of the Apple HD SC Setup application. It is possible that a newer version is available which may address your problem. Make sure you are configuring your SCSI chain correctly, refer to the previous section, paying close attention to termination.

Question: In SCSI Disk Mode, the desktop computer tries to start up from the PowerBook's drive, rather than its own internal drive. An example is an error message such as the one saying the system software is not correct for this Macintosh. What should I do?

Answer: Power the desktop computer off, and then start up from the Disk Tools disk for that computer. Make sure that both the PowerBook drive and the desktop's internal drive both show up on the screen. Verify that the names of the two drives are different. Open the Startup Disk Control Panel and verify the desktop computer is selected. Restart and let the Disk Tools disk be ejected, it should then start up from the correct drive.

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