Powerbook: Why Won't It Read Macintosh Floppies?

Article Created: 14 October 1996
Article Reviewed/Updated: 18 October 1996

TOPIC ---

When I insert some Macintosh-formatted floppy disks into my Powerbook computer
it wants to initialize them. However, the same floppy disks are read by my
desktop Macintosh with no difficulties. Why does this happen?

DISCUSSION --

This type of situation can occur even though your Macintosh Powerbook computer's
floppy drive is operating within specification. The head mechanism used in
Powerbook computers' floppy drives is not capable of recalibrating to the same
degree as the floppy drives in desktop Macintosh computers. Therefore, PowerBook
computers are "less tolerant" of poor quality disk formatting.

Commercial floppy disks which are duplicated in large volumes at very high
speeds generally have lower quality formats. In order to access the information
from such disks it may be necessary to format some disks on the Powerbook
computer. Then duplicate the commercial software from the original disks using a
desktop Macintosh computer and disk duplicating software, such as Apple Disk
Copy.

In order to confirm that the Powerbook floppy drive is operating within
specification try formatting a disk on the Powerbook. If it can consistently
format disks and consistently read them, it is probably operating normally.

This article was published in the Information Alley on 18 October 1996.

Article Change History:
18 Oct 1996 - Added Info Alley publication information.

Copyright 1996, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: kpbook,hts,kalley

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19961018 15:46:15.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 20531