Quadra 800: Description (Discontinued 3/94)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes the Macintosh Quadra 800 which Apple discontinued on 14 March 1994.

DISCUSSION ---

The Macintosh Quadra 800 features a 33 MHz Motorola microprocessor, accelerated graphics architecture, and improved SCSI and NuBus capabilities.

The key features of the Quadra 800 are:

- Motorola 68040, 33 MHz
- 8MB DRAM standard, expandable to 136MB DRAM, using 32MB SIMMs
- Supports up to 16 bits per pixel (bpp) on all Apple displays
- Improved I/O with a clock frequency of 33 MHz
- Up to three internal SCSI devices, including the AppleCD 300i or third-party internal CD-ROM drive
- Three NuBus slots
- Built-in Ethernet
- Mini tower design
- System Software 7.1 and System Enabler 040
- System configurations of 230MB, 500MB, and 500MB/CD available at introduction

Form Factor

The Macintosh Quadra 800 computer has a new form factor, called a mini-tower, which can be either desk or floor standing. The Quadra 800 can support up to three internal SCSI devices.

The Macintosh Quadra 800 can have:

- One internal 3.5 device (hard disk)
- One internal 5.25 removable device (can be CD-ROM or Syquest drive)
- One internal 3.5 removable device (3.5 removable media, tape drive, or another hard disk)

Motorola MC68040 Microprocessor

Central to the Quadra 800 is the processor chip from Motorola, the 68040 (040) running at 33 MHz. This is the same processor included in the Quadra 950.

The 68040 is mounted to the logic board with a socket, and a heat sink is clipped onto the socket rather than glued to the 040. This allows easier servicing if required. It's important to close the case when the Quadra 800 is running to assure proper cooling of the 040.

DRAM Support

The Quadra 800 uses the industry-standard 60ns 72-pin SIMMs. Current Apple SIMMs won't work in the Quadra 800. The Quadra 800 supports memory interleaving. Any SIMM can go into any of the four SIMM slots in any order. It doesn't support 1MB, 2MB, or 64MB 72-pin SIMMs.

Integrated Circuit Improvements

The ten custom integrated circuits (ICs) in the Quadra 700 have been reduced to three major ICs in the Quadra 800. The KIWI IC controls NuBus; the IOSB IC integrates the I/O controller, SWIM II, VIAs, Sound and the I/O Bus; and the DJMEMC IC integrates the memory controller, frame controller, and bus arbitration. The result is improved video and memory management, improved input/output of all ports and drives, and faster NuBus throughput.

Configurations and What's in the Box

At introduction, there are three Macintosh Quadra 800 configurations:

- 8/230MB
- 8/500MB
- 8/500MB/CD

Each unit includes a power cord, keyboard cable, mouse, microphone, and system software.

System software includes System 7.1, System Enabler 040, Color Macintosh Basics, QuickTime 1.5, and HyperCard Runtime.

Those units that include an AppleCD 300i will receive all system software on a bootable CD-ROM, which can double as a rescue disk. A CD Sampler pack is also included (the number and titles of the pack will vary).

The documentation includes:

- Getting Started with your Macintosh Quadra 800
- Macintosh User's Guide
- Compatibility list

Upgrades

No upgrade path for Macintosh Quadra 700 owners is offered.

Article Change History:
14 March 1994 - Added Discontinued information to title and topic lines.
9 March 1993 - REVISED, To remove a statement that any SIMM (4MB and higher) can go into any of the four SIMM slots in any order. It doesn't support 1MB, 2MB, or 64MB 72-pin SIMMs.

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