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Macintosh Computers and LaserWriters: Noise Levels (8/96)

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TOPIC -----

Do you have information about noise levels from Macintosh computers and Apple LaserWriters?

DISCUSSION -----

LaserWriters:

	Standby	Printing
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LaserWriter, LaserWriter Plus	< 45 db	< 50 db
LaserWriter II	< 50 db	< 60 db
Personal LaserWriter	< 40 db	< 54 db
Personal LaserWriter 300/320	36 db	46 db
LaserWriter Select 300	36 db	43 db
LaserWriter Select 360	36 db	47 db
LaserWriter Pro 600/630	34 db	49 db
LaserWriter 4/600	36 db	46 db
LaserWriter 16/600	34 db	52 db
LaserWriter Pro 810	40 db	53 db
LaserWriter 12/640 PS	31 db	50 db
Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS	45 db	55 db

Macintosh Computers:

Measured at normal sitting distance from system.

	floppy only*	with internal HD**
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Macintosh Plus	floppy drive noise only	
Macintosh SE (old fan)	< 49 db	
(new fan)***	< 38 db	(Miniscribe) < 39 db (Quantum) < 41 db
Macintosh SE/30	< 38 db	(Miniscribe) < 39 db (Quantum) < 41 db
Macintosh Classic		< 41 db
Macintosh Classic II		< 40 db

Macintosh LC	< 41 db
Macintosh LC II	< 41 db
Macintosh LC III	< 40 dB
Macintosh II	< 50 db
Macintosh IIX	< 50 db
Macintosh IIci	< 50 db
Macintosh IIsi	< 50 db
Macintosh IIfx	See Notes
Macintosh Quadra 605	< 40 dB
Macintosh Quadra 610	< 40 dB
Macintosh Quadra 660AV	< 40 dB
Macintosh Quadra 650	< 40 dB
Macintosh Quadra 700	< 40 db
Macintosh Quadra 800	
Floor	< 38 dB
Desktop	< 42 dB
Macintosh Quadra 840AV	
Floor	< 38 dB
Desktop	< 42 dB
Macintosh Quadra 900	< 40 db
Macintosh Quadra 950	< 40 db
Power Macintosh 6100	< 40 db
Power Macintosh 7100	< 40 db
Power Macintosh 8100	
Floor	< 38 dB
Desktop	< 42 dB
Macintosh Portable	< 51 db
Macintosh PowerBook Family	See Notes

Notes

*The floppy disk drives were not reading a disk during the "floppy system" tests; the hard drives were spinning and seeking during the "hard disk system" tests.

**The hard drive noise levels vary within the same model from the same company and may result in slightly different results than that reported above.

When we use drives from a manufacturer not listed above, our desire is to keep the overall noise level emitted by Macintosh SEs or Macintosh SE/30s containing those drives at or below 40-41db.

***The test results for the Macintosh SE with the updated fan apply equally to a Macintosh SE with 800K drives or SuperDrives -- they use the same fan. The noise level was not checked with the drives reading or writing to a disk.

The noise levels in the Macintosh IIfx will vary since it uses a variable speed fan:

Macintosh IIfx configuration db

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1 NuBus card	39
1 NB card/1 internal HD	42.5
6 NuBus cards	42.5
6 NuBus cards/1 internal HD	44

PowerBook computers are noise free except for floppy or hard disk use.

Article Change History:

- 02 Aug 1996 - Added CLW 12/600 and LW 12/640.
- 31 Aug 1995 - Added LaserWriter 4/600 and 16/600 noise specifications.
- 03 Jan 1995 - Removed speed ratings from Power Macintosh models.

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