# Tech Info Library

**Can't use colon character in Macintosh file name (6/96)**

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TOPIC ---------------------------------------------------------

I'm trying to create a folder with a name that contains a colon, but whenever I
type a colon I get a dash instead. Why is this?

DISCUSSION ----------------------------------------------------

You can not use a colon in a Macintosh file or folder name. A colon is used by
the Macintosh file system do delimit the path of a file.  For example, if you
put a file on the desktop named "test" when using System 7 or later, the path
name is "Macintosh HD:Desktop Folder:test".  This assumes the hard drive is
named "Macintosh HD" so the "test" is located in a directory named "Desktop
Folder" which is located at the root level of "Macintosh HD".

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Keywords:  sys7,sys75

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