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Macintosh Portable: Sound Volume Problem Solved

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TOPIC -----

I am having a problem controlling the volume on the internal speaker of our Macintosh Portable. Most of the time, the speaker is barely audible -- even though the volume control in both the General and Sound CDEVs is at 7.

I cleared PRAM by using the keyboard method (Control, Shift, Option, and Command). This procedure worked, but it raises a couple of questions:

- 1) What is causing the speaker volume to become so low?
- 2) Why does resetting the PRAM fix the problem, whereas removing the power supply via the battery removal/power-down sequence does not fix the problem?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) The volume on your Macintosh Portable was low because the PRAM was getting scrambled.
- 2) To clear PRAM on the Macintosh Portable, both batteries must be removed for an undefined period of time -- probably more than 10 minutes. Otherwise, the 9-volt battery holds the values stored in PRAM. The easiest way to clear this memory is, as you discovered, by keyboard command.

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