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LaserWriter IIf/IIg: LaCie Drive Compatibility (6/93)

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TOPIC -----

I have a LaserWriter IIf and a LaCie hard drive. Connecting the drive to the printer should speed font access, however, the drive won't work with a LaserWriter IIf or IIg.

LaCie Ltd. says that Apple is supposed to supply a capacitor/transceiver. Any suggestions?

DISCUSSION -----

There appears to be a compatibility problem between the LaCie drive and the LaserWriter.

We (Apple) know of no "capacitor/transceiver" which is supplied by Apple. The responsibility of making this drive work with the Apple LaserWriter is the responsibility of the third party manufacturer. It appears that the LaCie drive may not provide the proper termination power which is required for operation with the printer. This power is normally supplied from SCSI Bus pin 26; SCSI Bus pin 28 is normally Ground.

There are two pieces of information you should be aware of as well. First, the LaserWriter IIf/IIg give themselves a SCSI ID of 6, so use 0 through 5 or 7 for the SCSI ID of the hard disk. Second, the SCSI chain of the LaserWriter IIf/IIg must be terminated with the BLACK TERMINATOR (Apple Service p/n 590-0705). This is the same terminator used by the Macintosh IIfx.

There are no formal lists for compatibility between the LaserWriter IIf/IIg and third-party manufactured SCSI hard drives, but there are three major requirements of such drives:

1. They must provide SCSI terminator power.
2. They must be able to report to the printer what size volume it is. This is done via the SCSI command "Mode Select."

3. The drive must support the SCSI "Unit Attention" command.

However, even when these three conditions are met, the SCSI hard drive may still not work. You should check with the manufacturer of the drive in question to verify that their product functions properly with the LaserWriter II^f/II^g.

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