



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh Portable: Power Up Problem (11/94)

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### TOPIC -----

Some Macintosh Portable computers are powering up properly for the first 5-10 seconds, but as soon as the hard drive begins to spin the computer shuts down and the screen goes blank. How do I solve this problem?

### DISCUSSION -----

The problem can be solved by replacing the wire harness assembly (part number 600-0425). To this date, all reports of the problem have been with system serial numbers that begin with F006.

The problem is caused by the microswitch on the wire harness assembly that switches power between the small 9-volt battery and the large sealed-lead acid battery. During normal operation, the sealed-lead acid battery/charger should supply all system power. When the battery cover is removed, the microswitch opens, allowing the 9-volt battery to maintain power to the system in order to retain memory content.

When the microswitch is defective, the system tries to power up using only the 9-volt battery. The 9-volt battery can power up the system for only a short while. When the hard drive begins to spin, the 9-volt battery voltage drops below 5 volts. This forces the power manager to perform a hardware shutdown. Replacing the 9-volt battery with a brand new one may allow you to power up the system once or twice for a couple of minutes. But the problem will always return. The long-term solution is to replace the wire harness assembly.

The main (large) battery is also a possible cause. If the battery voltage is below 5.4vDC, the battery has sulfated and must be replaced.

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