Macintosh: SIMM Socket Contact Problem (11/94)

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TOPIC ---

I have had a chronic problem with my Macintosh SE/30 for about 2 years.
Intermittently, when I turn on the power, it does not start up. Sometimes I get
musical chimes; sometimes I don't. The fan and hard drive always power up. If
I give the case a good smack, it work fine for up to a week, and then the
problem recurs. If I continue using the smacking solution, the problem
continues with increasing frequency. The only solution that works for any
appreciable time is to remove the main logic board and reseat the SIMMs.

My technician says that the problem is due to poor quality of the SIMM sockets
on the main logic board.

Can I fix the SIMM sockets or replace them with improved versions? Will seating
the SIMMs with light taps of a small hammer before snapping them into position
help?

DISCUSSION --

This may be related to the interface between the logic board SIMM socket and the
SIMM. In some instances, a difference in SIMM circuit board thickness can cause
intermittent contact. In others, the SIMM may have minor manufacturing and
layout irregularities that are exacerbated by the SIMM socket; other SIMMs may
work properly in this situation.

We do not recommend tapping the SIMMs with a hammer--no matter how small a
hammer or how light a tap. A focused blow could cause board material
fracturing, could dislodge or damage some SIMM components, or could damage or
destroy the SIMM socket. The sockets are intended for gentle insertion of the
SIMMs.

Here are some suggestions that might help:

- Clean the contacts to eliminate any residual solder flux or other
  contaminants.

- Compare the suspect SIMMs with others to see if there is any difference
  in physical dimensions.

Since you indicate that the SIMMs have been reseated many times, the sockets may
be in poor condition, and a board replacement may be the only solution at this
point.

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