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PowerBook 160 and 180: Gray Scale Display Support Issues

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TOPIC -----

The internal display in the PowerBook 160 and 180 can be set to 2, 4, or 16 gray levels. A gray-scale display allows more realistic images and icons.

DISCUSSION -----

The display has a fixed color lookup table, which may cause some incompatibility with applications that expect to change the values in the color table. The PowerBook gray-scale display is the first device with multiple color/gray levels that does not allow the application to change the color table: the application tries to change the color table, but the screen values don't change. This will cause problems on the internal display but not an external display. If problems are seen on the external display, set the internal display to black and white, and move the menu bar to the external display. Applications that have this problem include MacroMind Director and some graphics programs.

The Supertwist display will have problems displaying one-pixel gray lines on the screen. The line may shake on the screen in some of the gray-scale values. Adjusting the contrast or brightness will help in most cases, but in other cases the gray level will pulse or shake. The Active Matrix display has none of these display features. Setting the display to black and white clears up the problem.

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