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TechStep: SCSI Term Check May Incorrectly Fail MiniScribe Drive

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TOPIC -----

I have a Macintosh SE with a 20MB MiniScribe drive installed. I connected the Apple TechStep diagnostic, and during the SCSI Term Check test, the hard drive failed. I ran the test again, and the drive passed.

Should I replace the drive?

DISCUSSION -----

No, don't replace the drive unless some other functional tests fail. MiniScribe drives are known to supply low SCSI termination power voltage, which could cause a "failure" result on the Apple TechStep SCSI Term Check test even though the drive is NOT defective.

If the SCSI Term Check test fails, run the SCSI Term Power test. If the Term Power is between 4.0 and 4.3 volts, ignore the SCSI Term Check "failure".

However, if the Term Power is above 4.3 volts, you may have a true termination problem. In that case, verify SCSI termination. Internal hard drives require Termination Resistor packs. If external devices are connected, the last device in the SCSI chain should have an external SCSI terminator.

Note

Ensure that the Apple SCSI Term function is set to "OFF" before running the SCSI Term Check test. Failure to do so will result in an invalid test -- the SCSI Term Check test will always pass.

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