Apple MessagePad: Trouble-Shooting the Newton Print Pack (8/96)

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TOPIC ---

When using the Apple MessagePad and the Print Pack Cable, I either get the
message that no printer is connected, or I am unable to select one of the
printer drivers when trying to print.   What should I do?

DISCUSSION --

The Newton print pack cable is a "smart cable". The cable contains both a
serial to parallel cable converter and a ROM that stores printer drivers for
Epson FX/LQ, HP LaserJet, Canon BubbleJet, and HP DeskJet printers.   When the
MessagePad is powered on, the print pack cable and the MessagePad communicate
and transfer the drivers from the ROM to MessagePad's system memory. When the
MessagePad is turned off and on again, without the cable attached, the drivers
are flushed from system memory

Most of the problems with the Print Pack cable involve the loading of the
drivers from the ROM in the cable. To ensure that the MessagePad and cable are
initialized and configured correctly, follow these steps:

Step 1

Turn the MessagePad and the printer off.

Step 2

Attach the cable between the MessagePad and the printer

Step 3

Turn MessagePad on. Wait 10 seconds. During this wait time, the LED on
the print pack cable should flash twice - the first flash is short, the
second flash is longer.

Step 4

Turn the printer on.

Step 5

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Try to print.

If you still have problems printing, reset the MessagePad and try again. If the
MessagePad powers off unexpectedly while printing or immediately after being
turned on, try fresh batteries, or use an AC adapter. The Print Pack cable
draws a lot of power at start up. This is when the Apple MessagePad is
downloading the drivers. The Print Pack cable also draws a lot of power while
printing.

You should repeat these steps anytime the MessagePad is turned off or
disconnected from the cable and printer and reconnected.

IMPORTANT:
You need to attach the Apple MessagePad to the cable with both the printer and
Apple MessagePad off, then power the devices on. These are outlined in steps (3)
and (4).

Sometimes, if the printer is turned on while turning the MessagePad on, the
cable gets confused and does not transmit the drivers to the Apple MessagePad.
This only happens with some printers. If you follow the steps listed earlier,
you will get a good connection between printer and Apple MessagePad.

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28 Aug 1996 - Corrected spelling.

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