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Macintosh LC: Connecting to VGA Monitors

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TOPIC -----

Does the Macintosh LC support VGA monitors? What are the pinouts for connecting a VGA monitor to a Macintosh LC?

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh LC supports some VGA monitors. However, there are many different modes/types of VGA timing. The following specifications show the VGA timing characteristics supported by the Macintosh LC.

Dot clock = 25.175 MHz
Dot = 39.722 nsec
Full line = 31.778 usec
Line rate = 31.469 kHz
Full frame = 16.68 msec
Frame rate = 59.94 Hz

Here are the pinouts for connecting a VGA monitor to a Macintosh LC:

Macintosh LC		VGA Connector
DB-15		
-----		-----
2	----- Red Video	1
1	----- Red Ground	6
9	----- Blue Video	3
13	----- Blue Ground	8
5	----- Green Video	2
6	----- Green Ground	7
15	----- Hsync	13
12	----- Vsync	14
14	----- Sync Ground	10
10	-----	
7	-----	

Connect 7 and 10 so the sense pin ID will equal VGA

A few issues to keep in mind:

- VGA monitors may vary depending on the vendor. Check with the vendor about Macintosh LC compatibility before buying.
- Vendors have different image quality specifications. There may be significant differences between Apple monitors and VGA monitors. Do a side-by-side comparison of a VGA monitor with an Apple monitor before buying.
- Third party cable vendors should have cables available for purchase soon.
- When a VGA monitor is connected as described in the pinout above, the resolution is 640 x 480. The bit-depth supported depends on the amount of VRAM installed. For example, if the Macintosh LC 256K VRAM SIMM is installed, 4-bit color (16 colors) is supported. If the Macintosh LC 512K VRAM SIMM is installed, 8-bit (256 colors) is supported.

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