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SuperDrives: Bad Formatting May Mean Disk Is High-Density

Article Created: 4 December 1989

Article Last Reviewed: 23 August 1991

Article Last Updated: 23 August 1991

TOPIC -----

On a few occasions, when I have formatted an 800K floppy disk on a Macintosh II or Macintosh SE, then tried to use it in a Macintosh IIX, Macintosh IICX, or Macintosh SE/30, I received a dialog box stating, "This is not a Macintosh disk, do you want to format it?". Why?

DISCUSSION -----

This message, asking if you want to format a disk, occurs if the floppy disk formatted in the 800K drive was a high-density disk. Check the disks displaying this problem to see if they have a bonus hole -- an extra hole at the top right corner of the disk. They are also marked as high-density disks. There have been cases where high-density disks were put in packages with 800K disks, so you might not even be aware that there are two different disks.

When high-density disks are put into an Apple SuperDrive (formerly Apple FDHD), the drive sees the bonus hole and knows that it is a high-density disk. It also sees that it was not formatted for 1.44MB and wants to do that.

The medium for the 800K disks is different than for the high-density disks, and data is written differently to each. Because of this, we suggest that if you have any high-density disks that have been formatted as 800K disks, copy the information from the high-density disks onto 800K disks. The high-density disks should then be re-formatted as 1.44MB disks.

For more information, read the three-part Tech Info Library article, "A Guide to Using the AppleSuperDrive". Search under: "SuperDrive"
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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 4637