LaserWriter: Connecting to a Macintosh via Serial Cable (2/97)

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TOPIC ---

If a user has a single Macintosh and a LaserWriter, is it necessary to connect
the two using LocalTalk connectors, or would a serial connection like the
Peripheral 8 cable work? Would there be any drawbacks to this?

DISCUSSION --

It is possible to connect a Macintosh to a LaserWriter and print using a serial
cable, though there are drawbacks and only a few LaserWriters are officially
supported serially. The serial port on LaserWriters manufactured after the
original LaserWriter is normally used for LocalTalk and can be identified by its
mini-circular 8 port.

Here is a partial list of LaserWriter printers Apple fully supports using a
Peripheral 8 serial cable.

LaserWriter Pro 600
LaserWriter Pro 630
LaserWriter Pro 810
LaserWriter Select 300
LaserWriter Select 310 (This print only supports a Macintosh serial cable)
LaserWriter Select 360
Personal LaserWriter LS
Personal LaserWriter 300
LaserWriter 4/600 PS
LaserWriter 16/600 PS
LaserWriter 12/640 PS*
Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS
Color LaserWriter 12/660 PS

* - To change the printer name or toggle the startup page, you cannot use a
serial cable. Instead a Ethernet or LocalTalk connection is needed.

Almost every Apple PostScript LaserWriter printer manufactured after 1995 can
use a serial cable. Consult your LaserWriter User's Guide, it contains
connection instructions. If your LaserWriter printer supports serial printing,
instructions are provided.

The one drawback to a serial connection on LaserWriter printers designed for
LocalTalk is that you lose access to other network services since the LocalTalk
port is being used by the serial cable.

NOTE:
Reference the User's Guide for correct printer port settings. You may have to
change the pushwheel number or the dip switches.

The finished goods part number for the Peripheral 8 serial cable is M0197, the
service part number is 590-0522.

Article Change History:
27 Feb 1997 - Added note about 12/640.
02 Dec 1996 - Updated to include additional printers.
25 Jul 1994 - Clarified what printers are supported.

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