



Tech Info Library

LaserWriter Bridge 1.0: Questions & Answers (Q&A) (1/96)

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TOPIC -----

This article contains Q & As for the LaserWriter Bridge control panel.

DISCUSSION -----

Question: What is the LaserWriter Bridge control panel?

Answer: LaserWriter Bridge is a software Control Panel device that allows the a LaserWriter Select 360 to be bridged to an Ethernet network. The Bridge software resides on the host Macintosh connected to an Ethernet network. The LaserWriter Select 360 connected via LocalTalk cables to the host Macintosh. The printer can also be attached using PhoneNet or similar LocalTalk cable systems. It will not work using a serial cable connection.

Question: Where will customers get it?

Answer: The LaserWriter Bridge software ships with the LaserWriter Select 360 and will have a "/B" after the finished goods model number. LaserWriter Bridge will not be a separate item on the Apple price list nor will it be shipped with other Apple printers. The only way to get it is to purchase the software from SONIC, the developer of the software.

Question: What other products will it work on?

Answer: Apple will only support it on the LaserWriter Select 360 printer. It has not been tested by Apple on any other products.

Question: Who supports the hardware product?

Answer: Sonic does. Refer all support calls to them.

Sonic Systems, Inc.
408-736-1900
800-535-0725
408-736-7228 (fax)

Question: What protocols do they handle?

Answer: Both LaserWriter Bridge and the Sonic Box are capable of handling the following EtherTalk protocols:

- PAP - Printer Access Protocol
- NBP - Name Binding Protocol
- ATP AppleTalk Transaction Protocol
- DDP - Datagram Delivery Protocol
- ZIP - Zone Information Protocol
- AEP - Echo Protocol

Question: What indicators does the Sonic box have?

Answer:

Begin_Table

Label	Color	Indication
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PWR	green	Unit is on (plugged into a 5v DC regulated power supply)
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LINK	green	Unit is connected to twisted pair Ethernet & link signal detected
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BRIDGE	yellow	Unit is bridging packets between LocalTalk & EtherTalk
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Question: What Macintosh computers does it support?

Answer: Power Macintosh and all currently shipping Macintosh systems, except PCI-based Power Macintosh systems (7200, 7500, 8500, and 9500) because the LaserWriter Bridge is not compatible with Open Transport, running:

System 7.0 through System 7.5

LaserWriter Select 360

Testing included:

- Background and Foreground printing
- Mixed LocalTalk and EtherTalk network traffic
- Simultaneous printing from host Macintosh and other Ethernet Macintosh systems
- Simultaneous printing outgoing and incoming from/to host Macintosh
- Apple Remote Access (ARA) printing

Question: Is the LaserWriter Bridge compatible with System 6.x?

Answer: There is no System 6.X support.

Article Change History:

12 Jan 1996 - Updated for clarity by adding PCI-base Power Macintosh systems.

21 Nov 1995 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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