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Serial Printers: Choice of Serial Ports (7/93)

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TOPIC -----

I have a choice of serial ports for my StyleWriter II in the Chooser, but my printer will only work in the modem port (with the picture of the phone, and I have my modem hooked up to that one). When I connect to the printer port, it tells me to deactivate AppleTalk. I did this, but it still won't work. Do I have to unhook my modem every time I want to print something?

DISCUSSION -----

You can use your StyleWriter II printer connected to either serial port in the back of your Macintosh -- printer port or modem port. What's important with the StyleWriter II, or any serial printer that isn't shared, is that the cable connections and the Chooser settings are the same, and that AppleTalk is turned off. You said that your StyleWriter II can print from the modem port, so the problem is either with the setup or with your computer.

Try setting up your StyleWriter II with the printer port again:

- 1) Connect the StyleWriter II cable to the printer port, and be sure that all of the connections are solid. Loose cable connections are the biggest cause of printer failures.
- 2) Open the Chooser and click on the StyleWriter II icon.
- 3) Make sure AppleTalk is Inactive.
- 4) Select the serial port with the picture of the printer.
- 5) For the time being, turn off Background Printing. This will cut down troubleshooting time until everything is working fine.

Now close the Chooser and try to print the picture of your hard drive. Open the icon, and then select Print Window... from the File menu. If it doesn't print, watch for any messages that the computer gives you, and follow the instructions.

If you have done all of this correctly and are still unable to print, you may be running into a conflict with another program, an extension such as a screen saver, or something may be wrong with the printer port on your computer (not likely).

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