



The Mac 512 User Group Newsletter

Inspired by the Original Macintosh, for all Macintosh lovers.

Rebuilding the Desktop - Macintosh SE

The Macintosh was a new cornerstone for all black and white Macintoshes in 1987. The new compact Macintosh was the one which people who didn't need color or didn't need a high price could afford. At \$3,699, the price was more than the Macintosh Plus. The Macintosh Plus was around much longer into 1990 as the low cost Macintosh for schools and homes.

By this time having a hard drive inside your computer was a great feat. Not so much in the larger boxes like the Macintosh II, but in the compact units like the Macintosh SE. The Macintosh SE was not the first Macintosh to have a hard drive inside of it. GCC's HyperDrive for the Macintosh 512K takes that award. You could purchase the Macintosh SE as is without placing another component inside of it for a long time. Memory and expansion card upgrades were not that much common at this time. The internal memory of 1MB was more than most people would need.

As most of you know, the speedy 8Mhz 68000 processor was a fast chip, roughly 20% faster than the Macintosh Plus. The expansion card made the Macintosh SE the first compact Macintosh with expandability built-in.

You can purchase Ethernet network cards, video cards, system



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Ramdisks - Why and How?

The ramdisk became into existence as computer users needed a fast place to store and retrieve files. Hard drives were speedy but not cost effective. Nowadays, hard drives are the norm with ramdisks taking on the role as a power saving System Folder storage on Powerbooks or temporary file storage. Back in the late 1980's, ramdisks were the only way to expand a single disk drive Macintosh without adding something external.

Many remember the internal hard disk options, however they were more expensive than memory at one point in time. When the Macintosh Plus came out, 1MB was a large chunk of memory few really tapped into. The standard 512K was enough for most people for most tasks. What can you do with 512K more? One option was to place the startup files on that extra memory space using a ramdisk. This temporary usage was flexible where if you needed the memory for applications you could use it. Many early Macintosh users

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Ramdisks - Why and How?

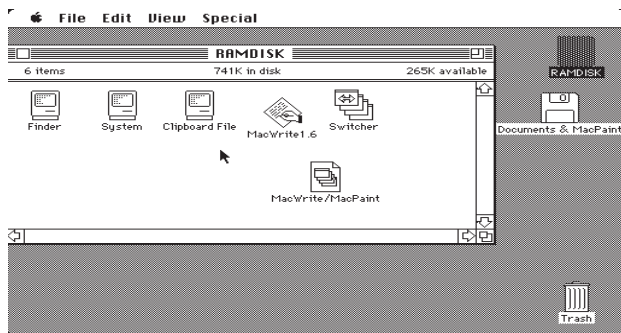
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had many startup disks, each for a certain purpose. This provided for unique start up disks for applications. One disk could have more fonts, one with more desk accessories and so on.

A small application was launched creating the equivalent of a new disk with X amount of storage. The more memory you had, the larger the ramdisk you could have. This memory can be almost as large as the total amount of memory in the Macintosh.

Once the ramdisk is setup, what can you do?

- Place your System Folder onto it and switch to it freeing up the internal disk drive for applications or data.
- Place your applications on it and enjoy running them all at once using The Switcher Construction Kit.
- Use the ramdisk to organize diskettes.



Sample Desktop screen with a ramdisk.

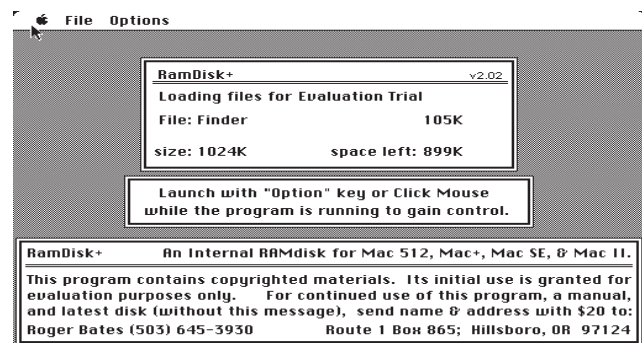
Using RamDisk+ v2.02 from Roger Bates makes life easier, especially if you have only one disk drive. RamDisk+ is shareware. If you use it, please pay your shareware fee.

The ramdisk is very simple to setup; launch the application and it will setup up the ramdisk. If you have

4MB of memory a 1MB ramdisk will be enough to balance between memory available for applications, data and the ramdisk. If you have 2MB of memory, leave the ramdisk to 512K or so. You don't want to run out of memory for your data. Using 4MB lets you have your System Folder, four applications open, and your data files loaded.

Using a ramdisk under System 7.x will not let you make the ramdisk the startup disk, nor will MultiFinder under System 5.x - 6.0.x. The best scenario is if you are using System 6.0.x with the Finder only.

RamDisk+ can be used with a Macintosh 512K and up. It is compatible with System 3.2 and higher. I received an error while using System 2.0 with it, if you can make it work great!



RamDisk+ loading files before switching.

To make the ramdisk as your startup disk:

- Boot up with RamDisk+ on the boot disk.
- Make RamDisk+ the startup application under the Special Menu in the Finder.
- Tell RamDisk+ that you want to load files from the boot disk to it. (This is a default setting.)
- After RamDisk+ is done loading all of your applications, if you had the System and Finder files on it, it will spit out your boot disk and use the System and Finder from the ramdisk.

RamDisk+ can be found in the Resource Center, <http://www.athenet.net/~gyounk/ugrc.htm>

Rebuilding the Desktop - Macintosh SE Continued from page 1

accelerator cards and any other cards you could dream up. Today these cards are hard to come by, however some places do stock them yet waiting for the right person with that classic Macintosh who desires to expand it to a new level.

How does the Mac SE upgrade? Very well, thank you.

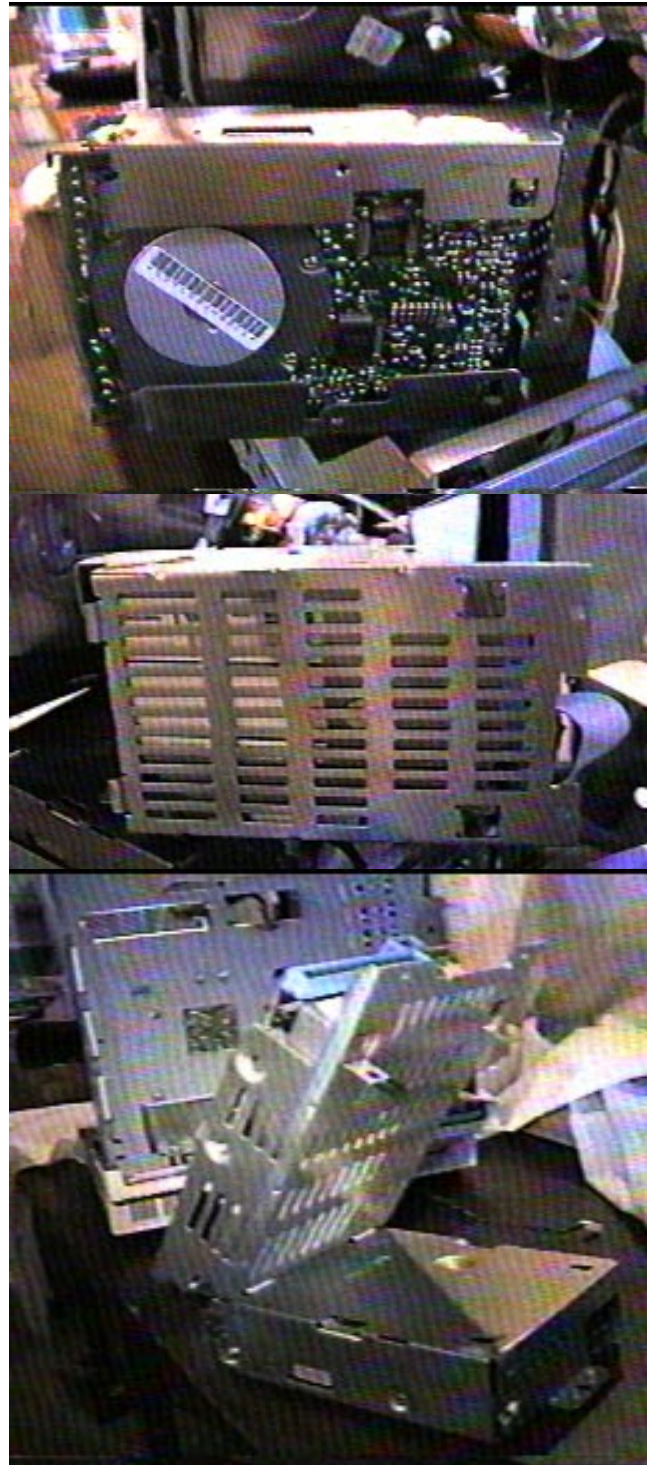
Lets look at the drives. The floppy and hard disk drives fit together by interconnecting tabs. The bottom on one drive "cage" slides and locks in the top of another drive.

As you can see from the examples on the right, this flexible approach means you could have two floppy drives or one floppy drive and one hard drive. The bottom picture shows how the interconnecting tabs fit together.

Note: You can physically hook up two floppy drives and one hard drive inside a Mac SE. All three connectors are on the logic board.

You take the front and slide it into the slits
Then you just push down and pup it into place. You would then secure them by a screw or even double-sided foam tape.

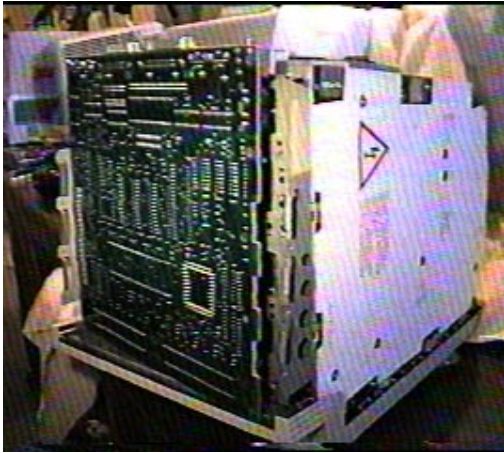
Here is the final placement once you are done connecting the drives. You would bolt this down to the frame.



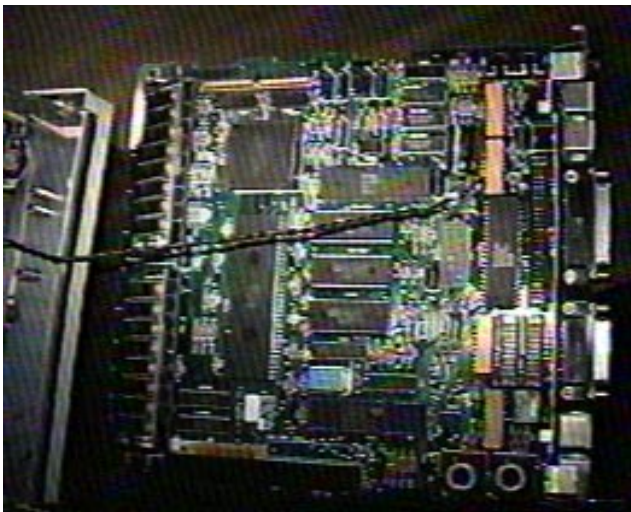
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Rebuilding the Desktop - Macintosh SE

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Here is the logic board's placement inside the Macintosh SE. you slide it up a bit and pull it towards you. You can see the speaker cable, the filled memory slots on the left side and the available slot for the expansion card on the bottom.



The right side of the board is where your devices go, internal and external.

The Mac SE can be expanded to 16MB of memory by using an accelerator card. These cards can be hard to find nowadays. Many required special software drivers to make them work.

If you need a faster processor, additional memory capacity or a more robust Mac SE, the Mac SE/30 logic board will fit inside of a Mac SE case. This is my recommended way.

Below is the hard drive cover. It is secured by a piece of metal which is epoxyed into place. If you need to convert a Macintosh SE with a hard drive to a model with two floppy drives, this metal piece and plastic cover will have to come out..



External upgrades are the easiest way to upgrade a Macintosh SE. I have heard about people trying to add additional hard drives inside and trying to upgrade the monitor to a color version. I do not recommend these ideas. Because of the amount of space inside the Mac SE. There is not much room.

Adding a external hard drive or drives, an external floppy drive, modem, printer, network connection are all feasible and will expand the Macintosh SE to new heights.

The Ultimate Macintosh SE-

- Macintosh SE/30 logic board
- Ethernet network hookup (SCSI based)
- Removable hard drive (Zip or SyQuest)
- External fixed hard drives
- An external floppy drive
- Color printer (impact, inkjet or laser)
- External color monitor
- Color monitor card
- Color scanner

This is about the most you can expand a Macintosh SE into. If there is anything else I missed, please post a message on the message board.

A Community is Born

February and March has been wonderful months for The Mac 512 User Group. With almost 300 members signing up and a special offer from a Macintosh software vendor on classic Macintosh software I can't wait to see how much fun April will bring! :)

Note: I was hoping to provide all members the details surrounding the Macintosh software vendor in this newsletter, unfortunately I can not yet.

I have noticed that several people have signed up in the Yahoo! Clubs special spot for The Mac 512 User Group, while many have not. As I am hoping to keep this user group free I have to look for free ways for us to share information. Yahoo! Clubs offers a message board for posting questions, comments and any other tidbits. Plus a Java-based chat area for real-time conversations. I encourage everyone to use this resource.

I understand some will join The Mac 512 User Group just to access to the Classic Application Download Section, System Software Download Section and the Networking Software Download Section. I am ok with this, I would rather have our members to be able to use the older Mac applications The Mac 512 User Group has provided. Part of the reason The Mac 512 User Group was created was to provide software.

I feel very strongly about my belief that these old Macintoshes need to be available for people to use. Mainly for educational purposes (so younger people know how the GUI was made a standard), plus they are very useful for many chores like word processing, finance tasks, communication and more.

Thanks for joining up, your reward is the information you will receive from being involved with this user group. I have already learned a lot from the other members!

G.

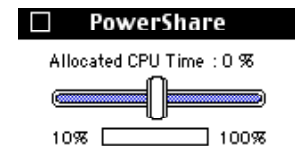
PowerShare - The AppleShare alternative

PowerShare is a shareware application which really reduces the need for a dedicated file print server. Most people know that Mac OS/System Software 7.x and higher has built-in networking. The kind of networking is labeled "peer-to-peer" networking. Meaning, your file/print servers are really other workstations. You can use the Macintosh to do work while others are saving files and printing documents to your Macintosh at the same time.

Simply, PowerShare lets your Macintosh devote more time to file serving. The Macintosh devotes 50% of its time for file serving. The default setting in the AppleShare File/Print server is 100%. Early versions of AppleShare does not have a slider to control CPU time, the later versions do.

PowerShare was written by Bill Sanford, it is a remarkable solution which will help many people. I have testing PowerShare against AppleShare v.3.0. The results are pretty impressive. PowerShare let my Mac IIfx run the peer-to-peer networking services as fast as the same Mac IIfx ran AppleShare 3.0.

PowerShare requires System 7.x or higher



The Mac 512 User Group Newsletter

The Mac 512 User Group Newsletter is written and produced by G. Younk. Its intent is to share ideas and some history to people interested in older Macintoshes.

Any reproduction of this newsletter must first get permission from G. Younk.

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