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Useful information for new Macintosh Hobbyists

Step 0: Can the Macintosh boot?

When working with 30+ year old machines, hardware can atrophy. The most common issues that occur are capacitor failure and with this the leaked electrolytic can cause corrosion on the logic boards and other components.

If you are handy with a soldering iron, there are resources online that describe in detail what capacitors are on logic boards and power supplies (see recapamac.com.au) and there are vendors that sell kits for better quality capacitors (see console5.com). YouTube has a wealth of information on how collectors revive old Macintoshes (favorite channels include “This Does Not Compute”, “iiiDIY” and “Mac84” for great examples of this).



Mac84 on YouTube:
NEVER Power On Your
Vintage Mac Before Doing
This!

Step 1: It's booting! Why do I have a flashing “?” ?

As is often the case, Hard Drives do not stand the test of time. Repairing them is sometimes possible, sometimes not. Fortunately, Macintoshes were designed from the start to not need a hard drive to function by booting from floppy and when hard drives were made available, they could be booted from externally over a SCSI interface.

TinkerMacs.com highly suggests looking into BlueSCSI or ZuluSCSI for more information on getting your machine booting from an SD or MicroSD card through the external SCSI port (or through the disk drive). See the QR codes for links to BlueSCSI, ZuluSCSI and Big Mess O' Wires).



[https://
recapamac.com.au/#](https://recapamac.com.au/#)

Once you have one of these set up and connected, your Macintosh should boot!

Step 2: What about IO (Keyboards and Mice)?

Keyboards and Mice can be somewhat difficult to come by for Macintoshes. They used a pre-USB protocol called ADB. The connector more-or-less looks identical to that of S-Video. Modern replacements are available (see the USB Wombat QR code for how to purchase such a device from Big Mess O' Wires).



<https://console5.com>

Step 3: Great! It's all booting now! What should I do?

Now you can get nostalgic for the good old days of early Macintosh computing. A few ideas:

- Load Shareware games (be mindful of the software licenses before downloading): <https://archive.org/details/MacintoshSharewareGames>
- Load other Macintosh Shareware titles
- Get networked and on the internet! We have a collection of hardware cards that are compatible with modern ethernet for sale (even a machine as old as a iisi can get online).
 - Some BlueSCSI/ZuluSCSI devices can even get Vintage Macintoshes on wifi!
 - You could even consider connecting your Macintosh to the internet as a web server: <https://jollyroger.kicks-ass.org/zippy/vintage.php>
- Hypercard!
- Run AU/X! Apple has a variant of Unix that worked on 68030 and 68040 Macs with an FPU: <https://www.aux-penelope.com/hardware.htm>. tinkermacs.com has the iisi, Quadra 610 (must not have an LC68040 processor) and Quadra 650 available which are all compatible.
- Participate in MARCHintosh! <https://www.marchintosh.com/>
- Use the Macintosh as a distraction-free dedicated isolated writing machine.



<https://bluescsi.com>



<http://zuluscsi.com>



Can it run DOOM?

Yes*.

*It wasn't until later Power Macintoshes that DOOM could run all that well. Here's a video comparison of the gameplay quality:

Doom on a Quadra 700 Vs. A Power Macintosh G3 / 300

Usb wombat (ADB to or from USB for Keyboards and Mice) from Big Mess O' Wires

Marathon by Bungie on the other hand runs like a charm on many older Macintoshes:



<https://lowendmac.com>
Amazing resource for vintage Macintosh information

<https://68kmla.com>
Forum of passionate vintage Macintosh collectors

Disk Drive Emulator Hardware (From Big Mess O' Wires)

Download and play Marathon (from Bungie)