



Tech Info Library

A/UX: Available Third-Party Optical Drives

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TOPIC -----

Can you give me a list of optical drives for A/UX?

DISCUSSION -----

This article includes information on tape drives from:

- Conversion Dynamics, Inc
- Macsetra Technologies International, Inc. (Canada)
- Peripheral Land, Inc.
- Racet Computers, Ltd.
- Ricoh Corp. (Peripheral Products Division)
- Software Architects, Inc.
- Storage Dimensions
- Summus Computer Systems
- Sumo Systems

All the listings below were valid as of December, 1989. For further manufacturer information, search the Tech Info Library under the manufacturer's name.

Conversion Dynamics, Inc.

Conversion Dynamics's Optirase is an external SCSI, 5.25-inch, erasable optical-disk subsystem. It has a total capacity of 600MB for storage and provides a convenient way to back up or offload data from any mountable volume and distributes the information from one system to another.

Macsetra Technologies International, Inc. (Canada)

Macsetra's Genesis 6000 is a rewritable 600MB optical drive using fully-removable 5.25-inch cartridges. It is a fully bootable device and makes use of Macintosh icons, system utilities, backup routines, and ejectability. Its own proprietary software includes automatic bad-block management and sophisticated memory caching to increase all-around speed and performance.

Peripheral Land, Inc.

Peripheral Land's Infinity Optical is a fully rewritable, magneto-optical drive that has a formatted capacity of 573MB. It features sustained data transfer rates of 7.4 megabits per second and an average access time of 75ms. It has the option of 512K or 1024K sectors. The double-sided, 5.25-inch cartridges can be formatted to be compatible with Macintosh OS, MS-DOS 3.0, or A/UX. It comes bundled with backup software, laser printer spooler, RAM-based disk drive accelerator, disk optimizer, defragmentation software, and security software.

Racet Computers, Ltd.

Racet's Stand-Alone Series Cosmos 600 is a magneto-optical erasable drive and has a formatted capacity of just under 300MB per side on two-sided media. It provides regular archive backups and has full-featured, system-level software. Access times are 70ms average, with a burst transfer rate from 128K on-board cache of 1.2MB per second.

Ricoh Corp. (Peripheral Products Division)

Ricoh's RO-5030E is a rewritable, optical drive that provides speedy data access in only 71ms. It offers 594MB of fully rewritable storage on a removable, two-sided, magneto-optical disk. The transfer rate at the unit's SCSI interface is up to 1.4MB per second. Its mean time between failures is rated at more than 20,000 hours of operation.

Software Architects, Inc.

Software Architects, Inc. have an optical disk drive (both Sony and Ricoh) product called Formatter II for A/UX. It is a read/write magneto-optical disk drive with a capacity of about 610MB (about 300MB on each side). This product comes with the driver, utility, and scripts for A/UX. The utility lets you initialize and partition very much as the Macintosh HD Setup program does. The shell scripts allow manipulating the operation of optical disk in A/UX (for example, ejecting the cartridge).

Storage Dimensions

Storage Dimensions's LaserStor Erasable is an erasable optical disk drive, featuring a SCSI interface and one 1GB (1,000MB) erasable media cartridge. ANSI standard cartridges are also available in capacities of 650MB. MacinStor Installer software, featuring device driver, partitioning, password-protected partitioning, drive diagnostics, and automatic reallocation of bad blocks, is included. It provides an average seek time of 35ms and data transfer rates of 10Mbps.

Summus Computer Systems

LightDisk-512 is a rewritable, magneto-optical disk drive with a capacity of 600MB per optical disk. It provides the convenience of removable media with performance approaching that of fixed drives (an average seek time of

90ms with a data transfer rate of 680Kbps).

Sumo Systems

RSSM600 is a rewritable optical disk subsystem that includes a 600MB optical disk in an enclosure with power supply, SCSI cable, and INIT-installation software package. It has a fast access time of 50ms and can be used as the boot device. The software has advanced features, like automatic on-line formatting, automatic defect management, automatic cartridge change control, and intelligent SCSI interface providing a high data-transfer rate.

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