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Apple IIGS: Composite Video Jack

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The Apple IIGS composite video output, a standard 'RCA' connector used for composite NTSC compatible monitors, does not always display in color. Because of effects known as color fringing (showing bits of color on the edges of white characters), the color burst signal is turned off when the computer is in text mode, making colored text, background, and borders appear as black, white, or shades of grey. Turning off the color burst eliminates color fringing and improves the legibility of text displayed on composite color monitors. However, it makes testing of the color modes of the Apple IIGS on a composite monitor impossible from a text-only program such as the Control Panel or the Apple IIGS Diagnostics.

Color burst is enabled whenever any of the graphics modes (lo-res, hi-res, or super hi-res) is switched on. Don't confuse the hi-res or super hi-res mode with the text mode: when characters are drawn on the graphics screen (as in the Apple IIGS Program Launcher, or when ProDOS 16 displays the 'One moment please...' message while starting up), users may get the impression that they are seeing text with a colored screen border, when in fact they're not.

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