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Airport Security Scanners (X-Rays) Don't Damage Disks

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TOPIC -----

I'm concerned about my Macintosh Portable (or PowerBook) going through security scanners (x-ray machines) at airports. Is there a potential for short-term or long-term damage?

DISCUSSION -----

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) conducted a study on X-ray induced damage to memory devices, including audio and video tapes and floppy disks, and found that the devices have enough shielding to protect the media.

The study found that the magnetic field was actually strongest around the monitor. They taped a disk to the monitor for several hours without damage. A committee member suggested that it would take at least 1000 million passes through the machine before any damage would be evident.

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