



# Tech Info Library

## Power Macintosh: Difficulty Using Floppy Disks (9/96)

Article Created: 29 August 1996

Article Reviewed/Updated: 19 September 1996

TOPIC -----

I have a Power Macintosh 8500/180 computer, and recently I have been having some difficulty using floppy disks. For example, when initializing or erasing floppy disks, an error message occurs stating that the disk is damaged. Also, some of the high-density floppy disks have only 1 MB of available space after being initialized rather than the normal 1.4 MB that should be available.

What could be causing these floppy disk errors?

DISCUSSION -----

You likely need to reinstall the Power Mac Format Patch, which corrects the problems that you are experiencing with floppy disks. The Power Mac Format Patch is required on any Power Macintosh 7500, 7600, 8500, or 9500 computer with a 180 MHz or faster PowerPC processor. This Patch is also required if you have a Mac OS-compatible PowerPC-based computer operating at 180 MHz or faster.

If these errors just started occurring, then you have probably recently performed a clean installation of system software. The new System Folder created during the "clean" installation process does not contain the patch, and needs it to function properly.

Or, you may have just installed a 180 megahertz (MHz) PowerPC processor upgrade card into your computer.

The Power Mac Format Patch is included with computers that include a 180 MHz or faster processor card. This patch is also included in System 7.5.5 Update. If you have System 7.5.5 Update installed on your computer, you do NOT need to install the Power Mac Format Patch.

To install the Power Mac Format Patch, do the following:

Step 1

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While holding down the Option key on your keyboard, drag the Power Mac Format Patch icon onto the System Folder's icon.

(If you are dragging the icon from the Apple Extras folder on your hard disk,

holding down the Option key causes the icon to be copied instead of moved, which leaves a copy of the icon in the Apple Extras folder in case you need to copy it again later.)

#### Step 2

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Click OK to automatically place the patch in the Extensions folder.

#### Step 3

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Restart your computer by choosing Restart from the Special menu.

#### Article Change History:

19 Sep 1996 - Added where to find this patch.

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Keywords: kppc

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19960919 11:28:09.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 20342