



# Tech Info Library

## Quantum ELS : Spindown Symptom (8/93)

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TOPIC -----

The Quantum ELS 80MB hard drives seem to spin-up then spin-down in a Macintosh IIsx.

On cold boot, the drive spins up, you can hear the heads access a bit, then you hear the drive spin down for maybe an eighth of a second, spin back up, and then boot to Macintosh desktop.

I have reset the Parameter RAM, reformatted the drive and tried a new I/O cable. None of these helped.

I have three Quantum 170 ELS drives in external boxes which do not exhibit this very brief spin-down behavior.

Can you explain this please?

DISCUSSION -----

This spin-up and spin-down of the Quantum drive is not unusual and will not impact the integrity or performance of the system.

What occurs during the "cold power-up" sequence is the following:

The CPU issues a reset command to the SCSI Bus. This puts the drive in a diagnostic test mode and during this period the drive motor is allowed to coast. Once the Power-up sequence is completed, the drive then resumes normal operation.

It is very likely that the firmware in the generic Quantum drive is different from that of the Apple version of this drive. There could be performance differences between them (including the power-up sequence), as well as, additional Apple specified characteristics.

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