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SCSI Drives: Size Differences After Formatting

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SCSI drives formatted under different versions of HD SC Setup may show differing numbers of blocks available, even though the storage capacity of the drives is theoretically the same. This is due to different methods used by various versions of HD SC Setup.

HD SC Setup Version 1.1 checks each drive and formats the disk with that drive's maximum number of blocks. Versions 1.4 and later determine the approximate size of the drive (20MB, 40MB, or 80MB), then format all manufacturers' drives with a set number of blocks. On an HD-20SC, the result is 19,171 blocks. This is the number of blocks available on an Apple HD-20.

Apple made this change in order to provide an easier method of using tape backup systems, and to provide a consistent amount of storage on a hard disk without regard to the computer or drive's manufacturer. Since all 20MB drives formatted with version 1.4 and later will contain the same number of blocks, it is possible to restore a backup from one drive onto another type of drive without encountering problems due to insufficient storage. This will avoid problems that could develop when users compare two "identical" units and find that they have different amounts of disk storage available.

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