



MAC FACTS

from

Mac Help Desk

SUPPORT, SALES, TRAINING & SERVICE

(972) 783-9787 • (972) 783-7550 - Fax • (214) 249-9543 - Pager

e-mail address - machelpdesk@attbi.com

Web site - <http://www.machelpdesk.com>

🍏 Apple Solution Experts 🍏

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A Message from Dru

Sorry I missed February's Mac Facts. What with being out of town and having surgery, time just 'slipped away'. Thanks to all of you who sent their 'best wishes for a speedy recovery'. I've recovered...such as it is. ☺

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I guess it's time, once again, to remind everyone about our working hours. We're open from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Saturday. We're also open Sundays from 12 noon until 5:00 pm. By my count that's 59 hours! If you can't find time to squeeze us in during our *regular hours*, *irregular hours* are available. Irregular hours are 'hours outside of our usually working hours'. Irregular hour for Monday through Saturday are billed at 1 1/2 times (time and a half) the regular daily rates. Irregular hours for Sunday are billed at 2 times regular daily rate,

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The Apple Corps of Dallas' monthly meeting will take place on March 16th at the Richardson Civic Center beginning at 9 am. Featured speaker for the month will be Chelanie Israel from MarketSource, She'll be speaking about 'Mac OS X and OS X applications'. This is a FREE event and is suitable for children. For more info go to: <http://www.acd.org>. [I do encourage every Mac Help Desk client/friend to become a member of a Mac User Group, if not the Apple Corps of Dallas, then another. But DO join! - Ed]

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Well, I finally did it! I sold my PowerMac 6100 (the mutated one with a G3/240 upgrade card, 72 MB RAM, and a 2 GB hard drive) and purchased a shiny new Blue&White G3/350 – which I immediately upped to 288MB RAM and a SCSI card. Why? So I could run OS X. And now that I've got the hang of it, you need to run it, too! It's an *easy* transition. The hardest part is 'thinking in 2 Systems' and trying to remember where OS X puts things. Otherwise, simple. If you have enough RAM, hard drive and your Mac is supported, you should consider upgrading to the 21st century. *The Missing Manual* by David Pogue also helps!

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Get in on my 'radio' show. Every Tuesday night from 7-9 pm CST. We're netcast (not broadcast!). Log on to <http://www.mactvnetwork.com/radio/tuesday> . You can listen to my *bon motes* or try to win one of our many prizes (like a new 20GB external Firewire Hard drive!). If you can't catch the show *live*, the archives are available at <http://www.mactvnetwork.com/radio/tuesday>



Apple SuperDrive turns multimedia burn into pleasure

By Bob Levitus

I'm writing this tip on a new dual 1-gigahertz Power Mac G4. There's a new 14.1-inch iBook sitting on my desk, and a G4 iMac, the new one with the cool flat screen, is coming soon.

As always, I'm going to bang on them for a few weeks before I tell you more, but I will say my first impression of the dual G4 is, "Wow."

This is the kind of machine Mac OS X was made for.

This week I want to focus on a remarkable technology built into two of the three new Mac models: *the SuperDrive*. This electromechanical marvel is a key element in Apple's Digital Hub strategy. With SuperDrive, anyone can create DVDs with digital-quality video, animated menus and other so-called "rich media."

Alas, since SuperDrive was, until recently, available only in Apple's most expensive G4 models, many of you have never seen or used one. Never fear. Your old friend Dr. Mac has quickly become somewhat of an authority. I'm writing *The Little iDVD Book* for Peachpit Press and have burnt more DVDs in the past few weeks than most people will in a lifetime. Since there seems to be some confusion about what the SuperDrive is and what it does, here's the Dr. Mac plain English SuperDrive FAQ:

Q. What is a SuperDrive?

A. SuperDrive is a combination optical read/write drive that reads and writes several types of optical discs.

Q. What type of discs does SuperDrive read?

A. SuperDrive can read CD, CD-R, CD-RW, DVD and DVD-R discs.

Q. What type of discs does SuperDrive write?

A. Almost all of them. You can burn data CDs with files on them. You can burn audio CDs. You can burn data DVDs that hold 4.7 gigabytes of files. And you can burn DVDs with video and menus that can be played in consumer DVD players.

Q. Can SuperDrive burn discs in other formats such as ISO 9660 or MP3?

A. Yes. But for some formats, including ISO 9660 (what PCs read) and VideoCD (which some set top DVD players can play), you'll need additional software such as Toast Titanium (around \$90; from Roxio). MP3 discs can now be burned with iTunes (version 2 or later).

Q. How much does a disc hold?

A. That depends on the disc. CD-Rs and CD-RWs come in 650-megabyte or 700-MB sizes, while DVD-R discs all hold 4.7 GB.

Q. How much does a disc cost?

A. That depends upon where you shop, which brand you choose, and how many you buy. Expect to pay between 10 and 50 cents for CD-R 650- or 700-MB blanks; 50 cents to \$2.50 for CD-RW 650- or 700-MB blanks; and about \$5 for a 4.7-GB DVD-R.

While Apple is often the most expensive vendor for hardware items such as RAM and disc drives, it is usually the cheapest supplier of DVD-R blanks. It's all part of its master plan to own the DVD authoring market (which, so far, seems to be working).

Q. When buying blank discs, does brand matter?

A. Absolutely. I've found that the cheapest store brand or no-brand discs often fail at an alarming rate. Stick with media from major manufacturers. I've had good luck with Fuji, iMation, Sony and Memorex media for CD-R and CD-RWs.

For DVD-R discs, there's an even stronger reason to buy only Apple discs (which I learned from the product manager for iDVD.): SuperDrive can burn DVDs at 2x, but only if the blank DVD is "certified." The Catch-22 is that only Apple branded discs have been certified so far. So if you buy another brand, it may take twice as long to burn each disc.

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NEWSLINE

Apple's iPhoto Downloads Top 1 Million

Apple today announced that iPhoto, Apple's breakthrough application that makes it incredibly easy to save, organize and share digital photos, has been downloaded more than 1 million times since its launch in January. Total distribution of iPhoto is even higher when calculated to include all of the copies that are distributed pre-installed on new Mac computers. Designed exclusively for Mac OS X, iPhoto is available as a free download at <http://www.apple.com/iphoto>.

"iPhoto is the missing link in digital photography and is revolutionizing how we save, organize and share digital photos," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Product Marketing. "With more than one million downloads in just two months, iPhoto has almost instantly become one of the most popular digital photo applications of all time."

With iPhoto, users can now automatically create custom web pages of their photos; easily view their photos in full-screen, cross-dissolved slide shows accompanied by their favorite music; email their photos to friends and family; order professionally-processed Kodak prints and enlargements online; or easily create and order a custom-printed, linen-covered hard bound book of their photos online*.

Availability and System Requirements

iPhoto is available as a free download from <http://www.apple.com/iphoto>. iPhoto requires Mac OS X version 10.1.2 or higher and a Macintosh with a built-in USB ports. A Mac with a 400 MHz

PowerPC G3 processor and 256MB RAM is recommended. Online ordering services are available in the U.S. and Canada, and require the English-language version of iPhoto. For a complete list of compatible digital cameras and printers, visit <http://www.apple.com/iphoto>.

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Adobe and Apple Team to Offer Design Collection for Mac OS X

Mac Users Get a Deal on Adobe Design Software with Purchase of Apple's Power Mac and PowerBook Computers

Adobe Systems Incorporated, the leader in network publishing, and Apple, the leading manufacturer of computers for the creative community, today announced a special promotion offering the Adobe“ Design Collection for Mac“ OS X to customers of Apple's professional systems for only \$899 (U.S.), a savings of more than \$1,000 over the price of purchasing each product separately.

Available to customers of Apple's high-performance Power Mac G4, Power Mac Server G4 or PowerBook G4 computers, the Design Collection bundles InDesign“ 2.0, Illustrator“ 10, Acrobat“ 5.0 and Photoshop“ 6.0 software products. With this software package, customers are eligible for an upgrade to Photoshop 7.0 - the highly anticipated Mac OS X application that was announced yesterday - when it becomes available.

“The Adobe Design Collection for Mac OS X gives Mac customers the unique advantage of one integrated software environment and interface to create, manage and deliver their work to multiple mediums,” said Susan Altman Prescott, vice president, Cross-Media Product Group at Adobe. “This promotion demonstrates our commitment to Mac users by delivering an affordable design solution that meets their needs.”

“This is a great deal for our pro customers,” said Ron Okamoto, Apple’s vice president of Worldwide Developer Relations. “With Mac OS X and powerful applications like these, Apple and Adobe will continue to lead the creative market.”

Design Made Easy

With the upgrade to Photoshop 7.0 installed, Adobe Design Collection is designed to work natively on Mac OS X, adding significant benefits for users. The applications feature the Mac OS X Aqua interface and navigation services that make getting around the program familiar and easy for users. The Design Collection takes advantage of the new protected memory built into Mac OS X that shields users from unexpected crashes of another program, so the Adobe software is not affected and the user can continue working. Additionally, with powerful multi-tasking support, users can toggle between applications quickly and easily.

Pricing and Availability

Adobe Design Collection is available worldwide during this special promotion for an estimated street price of \$899 (U.S.) when purchased with a qualified Apple Power Mac G4, Power Mac Server G4 or PowerBook G4 from The Apple Store (www.apple.com), at Apple Retail Stores and through Apple Authorized Resellers. The promotion is available from February 25, 2002 through August 31, 2002 in the U.S. and Canada; promotional dates in other countries will vary. Additional information on this promotional offer can be found at <http://www.apple.com/promo/designcollection/>.

Apple systems qualified for the Adobe Design Collection promotion include the dual 1 GHz Power Mac G4, the 933 MHz Power Mac G4 and the 800 MHz Power Mac G4, with suggested retail prices of \$2,999(U.S.), \$2,299(U.S.) and \$1,599(U.S.), respectively. Also included are the

dual 1 GHz Power Mac Server G4 and 933 MHz Power Mac Server G4, with a suggested retail price of \$3,299(U.S.) and \$2,799(U.S.), respectively; and the 667 MHz PowerBook G4 and 550 MHz PowerBook G4, priced at \$2,999(U.S.) and \$2,299(U.S.), respectively.

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Thanks for taking the time to read this month's newsletter. Hope you enjoyed it. If you have any comments or suggestions for stories (or would even like to write a story - hint, hint), please send them to me at machelpdesk@attbi.com. Feel free to share this newsletter with a friend. The newsletter archives are located at <http://www.machelpdesk.com/page6a.html>. Y'all come back now, y'hear!