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Macintosh 128K and 512K: Modem cable pinouts

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Below is the wiring diagram of the connection between a Macintosh 128K/512K and an Apple Modem.

Macintosh Modem Cable
 590-0197

	Macintosh Connector (DB-9)			Apple Modem Connector (DB-9)		
Comments	Signal Name	Pin		Pin	Signal Name	Comments
Chassis/frame Ground	GND	*1	<---->	8	GND	Chassis/Frame Ground
Signal Ground	SGND	*3	<---->	3	SGND	Signal Ground
		*8	<---->	1		
Output; Transmit Data	TXD-	5	<---->	9	RCD	Input; Receive Data
+12-Volt Line		6	<---->	6	DTR	Input; Data Terminal Ready
Input; Handshake	HSK	7	<---->	7	DCD	Output; Data Carrier Detect
Input; Receive Data	RCD-	9	<---->	5	TXD	Output; Transmit Data

NOTE: There are many variations on connecting pins 1, 3 and 8, but the basic intent is to bring all three of those pins to ground on the Macintosh side. Connect Signal Ground to Chassis Ground if you want a slightly better noise margin.

If you wish to connect the DB-9 Modem port connector on the Macintosh 128K/512K to a DB-25 connector on a non-Apple modem, a Macintosh Imagewriter cable connected to the Modem Eliminator cable works in most cases. Here are the pinouts for that configuration:

	DB-9 Macintosh DTE		DB-25 Modem DCE	
Chassis Ground	1	<---->	1	Chassis Ground
Signal Ground	3	<---->	7	Signal Ground

Output; Transmit Data	5	<---->	2	Input; Transmit Data
Input; Handshake	7	<---->	6	Output; Data Set Ready
Input; Receive Data	9	<---->	3	Output; Receive Data

If this configuration doesn't work, try these additional cable connections:

+12-Volt Line	6	<---->	20	Input; Data Terminal Ready
Output; Handshake	2	<---->	20	Input; Data Terminal Ready
Output; Handshake	2	<---->	4	Input; Request to Send
Input; Handshake	7	<---->	8	Output; Data Carrier Detect

You will have to make a cable to try these additional connections one by one or in combination. If you have the pinouts of your modem, make a cable that matches up the Apple Modem signals with the appropriate pins on the other modem's connector, e.g., connect pin 1 on the DB-9 connector to pin for Chassis/Frame Ground on the modem's DB-25 connector, and so on.

Refer to the RS-232 standard for the connection signals and corresponding pin numbers.

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