Power Macintosh 5400 & Performa 6400:Communications Slot (11/96)

Article Created: 9 April 1996
Article Reviewed/Updated: 15 November 1996

TOPIC ---

Is the communications slot in the Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400 series;
Macintosh Performa 6400 series; and the Macintosh Performa 6360/160 computers
compatible with the communications slot in the Power Macintosh 5200 and 5300
series computers?

DISCUSSION --

Overview

The logic board in the Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh Performa 6400
series; and Macintosh Performa 6360/160 computers has a communications slot that
allows the computer to support a communications module without occupying the PCI
expansion slot. The PCI-bus based communications slot connector is a 112-pin
half-height microchannel connector. Cards that use the communications slot are
memory mapped into the I/O space of these computers through the parallel bus.

Compatibility

The communications slots in the Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh
Performa 6400 series; and Macintosh Performa 6360/160 computers are PCI bus
compatible slots and are, in general, not compatible with communication cards
that are used with the Macintosh LC family of computers, the Macintosh 630
series, or Power Macintosh 5200, 5300, 6200, and 6300 series computers. The Tech
Info Library article titled, "Commuinications Slot: Specifications" has more
information about the communications slot used with Power Macintosh 5200, 5300,
6200, and 6300 series computers.

Such cards will not physically fit into the communications slot of the Power
Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh Performa 6400 series; and Macintosh Performa
6360/160 computers because the communications slot is keyed at the opposite end
(notches). If you line up the notches to install a comm slot I card* into these
computers, the connector will face inwards, which will prevent you from being
able to use the card. In addition, the two communications slots are not fully
signal compatible.

The exception is that cards which do not use the bus, such as serial modem
cards, can be designed to work in either type of communications slot. The power,

ground, serial, and audio signals of the communications slots in the Power
Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh Performa 6400 series; and Macintosh Performa
6360/160 computers are located on the connector in such a way that a dual-keyed
(cutout) modem card will fit and operate in the Macintosh LC family of
computers, the Macintosh 630 series, or Power Macintosh 5200, 5300, 6200, 6300
series computers, and Power Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh Performa 6400
series; and Macintosh Performa 6360/160 computers communications slot.

Serial modems designed for universal operation must not attempt to access the
parallel bus of either the 68030-bus or the PCI-bus communications slots to be
compatible in both configurations.

*Note: To distinguish between those cards that are compatible with the Power
Macintosh 5400 and 6400; Macintosh Performa 6400 series; and Macintosh Performa
6360/160 computers from those compatible with earlier models, the communication
slots themselves are named distinctly. The communications slot in previous
models is referred to as "comm slot I" whereas the slots in the Power Macintosh
5400 and Macintosh Performa 6400 are called "comm slot II".

Installation

A communications card can be installed by either the user or an Apple-authorized
Service Provider. The communications card is mounted vertically in the connector
and its I/O connector is accessed through the communications port access hold on
the right hand side of the back panel.

Available Cards

Apple announced several Ethernet CS II (Communication Slot II), including:

• 10BaseT (twisted pair) Ethernet Card (M4772ZM/A)
• 10Base2 (thin coax) Ethernet Card (M4773ZM/A)
• AAUI (Apple standard) Ethernet Card (M4774ZM/A)

The Power Macintosh 5400/120 and the Power Macintosh 6400/200 include the
10BaseT Ethernet CS II Card, but it and the other cards will also be available
as standalone cards as well. The Macintosh Performa 6400 series and the
Macintosh Performa 6360/160 computers do not include an Ethernet Card, but they
do have an internal 28.8 kBps Global Village or Apple Geoport modem installed in
the communications slot.

Note:
The following computers are in the corresponding Macintosh families:

• Macintosh 630CD family: LC 630, Quadra 630, Performa 630, Performa 635,
Performa 636, Performa 637, Performa 638, and Performa 640.

• Macintosh 5200CD family: Macintosh 5200/75 LC, Performa 5200, Performa 5210,
Performa 5215, and Performa 5220.

• Macintosh 5300CD family: Macintosh 5300/100 LC, Performa 5300.

• Macintosh 6200CD family: Performa 6200, Performa 6214, Performa 6216, Performa 6218, Performa 6220, and Performa 6230.

• Macintosh 6300CD family: Performa 6300, Performa 6290

Article Change History:
15 Nov 1996 - Added 6360 information.
02 Aug 1996 - Added 6400 information.
30 May 1996 - Added reference to "Communications Slot: Specifications."

Copyright 1996, Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: kppc,review

==

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19961118 08:14:10.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 19591