

TRACKSTAR128™

Questions and Answers

Question: What is Trackstar128?

Answer: Trackstar128 is a new standard in compatibility. Trackstar128 is an add-on board that provides Apple II, IIplus, IIc, and IIe compatibility for MS-DOS Microcomputers.

Question: Who uses Trackstar128?

Answer: Anyone with the vision to see the future of the 16-bit mainstream of technology blend with the current educational standard of the Apple computer. Schools use Trackstar128 to run hundreds of Apple's educational programs on the business standard of MS-DOS. Parents who use a PC at work and whose children use Apples at school, use Trackstar128 at home. Businesses use Trackstar128 so they can add the MS-DOS computers to their work place without losing data previously handled by an Apple.

Question: What Apple Software will run on the TRACKSTAR128?

Answer: Programs designed for use with the Apple II family with a language card, running 64K or 128K format software. Dr. Chris Templar at Johnson Bible College bench marked the Trackstar128 at 99.99% compatible with the most widely used software.

Question: How does Trackstar128 support Apple peripherals?

Answer: Trackstar128 does not provide slots for Apple cards, but instead emulates the most important boards as if they were already installed in the PC.

Slots emulated by Trackstar128 include:

- Slot 0 - Language Card
- Slot 1 - Parallel Printer Card
- Slot 2 - Serial Communication Card
- Slot 3 - 80 Column Card
- Slot 6 - Disk Drive Controller Card

Trackstar128 uses the IBM cards as if they were Apple cards for this emulation.

Question: Can files be transferred from Apple disk to IBM disk?

Answer: YES!! The software included with Trackstar128 will allow transfer of Apple binary or text files to the MS-DOS format. It will also transfer MS-DOS data files into Apple text or binary files.

Question: Can Trackstar128 read protected Apple Software?

Answer: YES!! Trackstar128 can read Apple disks from the internal IBM drives or from External Apple compatible drives. Some of the more difficult protected programs will require the Apple compatible drive.

Question: How would I use the disk drives in the Apple and IBM modes?

Answer: The Trackstar128 is connected between the disk drives and the IBM controller. When you are in the IBM mode both internal drives act as IBM drives. When you are in the Apple mode both internal drives act like Apple drives. A software utility is included to give the user capabilities to assign which internal or external drive will be the boot drive and the sequence of other drives.

Question: Are game controllers supported?

Answer: YES!! The Apple game port (the familiar 9 pin D-sub connector) is provided on the Trackstar128 card. Apple programs requiring the paddles or joysticks can be used.

Question: How does the Trackstar128 support video?

Answer: Trackstar128 is designed to be used in conjunction with the IBM monitor card. It will support Color Graphics, Monochrome, or Composite Video. The necessary cables are provided with Trackstar128 so it can be connected between the monitor and the video card. The output of RGB, TTL monochrome, or composite will switch automatically between Apple and IBM when you do.