



October 2003

Doubleclick

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From the Editor

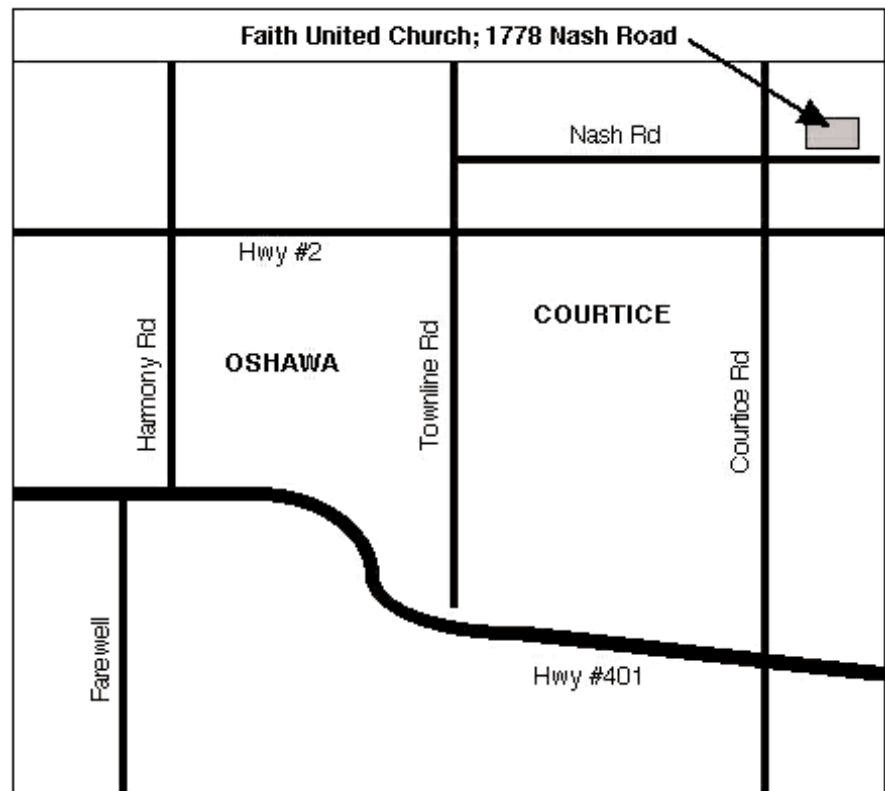
Well, folks. Its October again. Halloween, frost on the pumpkin, frost on the windshield, winter looming on the horizon, ice and snow and darkness on the way, days getting shorter, nights getting longer, leaves turning colours and falling off the trees, rising damp and throbbing aches and pains from old injuries and old-age, despair, darkness and gloom on all sides and its just getting worse. But just think: it will be Spring in just six months !

Small Print

What you are looking at is the latest edition of the Double Click monthly newsletter from the Macintosh Users East, (MaUsE), a motley collection of old and new Mac users who reside in Southern Ontario with a motley collection of old and new Macintosh computers. What more do you need to know ? Oh, yes. This Newsletter is created by Michael Shaw, Double Click Editor, on a Sonnet-accelerated Macintosh PowerPC 6500/400 and a Daystar Genesis MP 800+. Submissions from MausE Club members, 'though rare, are always welcome. Send them to: michael_shaw@sympatico.ca. I have never refused a submission yet. There's always room for another piece on ANY Mac-related topic and I'll make room if there isn't. I would like your submissions. But I won't beg.

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The next meeting will be held at Faith United Church on Nash Road in Courtice Ontario, at 7:30 on October 22nd.





Besides the stuff built-in to the PowerBook the 3400c has one expansion bay. The 3400c's expansion bay accepts a variety of modules, including a floppy drive, 6x and 12 x CD-ROM drives, additional hard drive, magneto-optical drive, internal AC adapter, or Zip drive. If you can find a PowerBook with all of this stuff included with it you'd be way ahead to buy it rather than a much cheaper version without the add-ons. They are all still available from sellers on the internet but none of them are cheap.

Thanks to the 3400c's plastics and chassis architecture being heavily based on the 5300, expansion bay modules designed for the latter can be used with the PowerBook 3400, which also allows users to "hot swap" modules while the

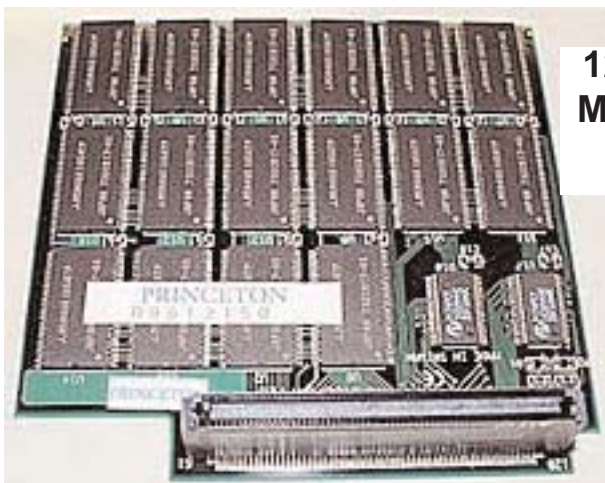
I picked up one of these 3400c PowerBooks from a Low End Mac SWAP List that I have mentioned often in the Double Click newsletter. One of the determining factors was the completeness of this example. Although the introduction of newer and faster PowerBooks has driven the price of the older ones into an accelerating downward spiral the accessories for these older units still remain expensive. For example, the 3400c comes from Apple with 16 MB of soldered RAM and one slot for a memory chip. This slot will accept a 128 MB chip to bring the total installed RAM to 144 MB. One of these 128 MB chips retails new on the internet from various suppliers for anywhere from \$100.00 to \$200.00 US now so its best to find a PowerBook already stuffed with RAM.



**CD-ROM
Drive
Module**

system is running with no need to shut the computer down or put it to sleep first.

The 3400's Lithium-Ion battery is identical in shape and size to the 5300/190's NiMH battery, which incidentally will work fine in a 3400, albeit with drastically reduced running time.



**128 MB
Memory
Chip**



Battery



The 3400c PowerBook I found for \$225.00 US on the SWAP list was the fastest 3400c models built (at 240 MHz), and came very complete and loaded with RAM or I would not have considered it at any price. It included:

- Good battery (2 hours +)
- 110 Volt AC Power Adapter
- 12 Volt Auto / Airplane Power Adapter
- Original System Software Restore CD
- Floppy Drive Module•
- CD-ROM Drive Module•
- SCSI Adapter
- 3 Gig Hard Drive
- 10 BaseT Ethernet / Modem Dongle
- 240 MHz processor
- 144 MB of RAM

Despite its short-lived tenure at the top of the notebook heap, the 3400c did represent a quantum leap in PowerBook performance, being up to three times as fast as the PowerBook 1400, which had first shipped only four months earlier. The 3400 was also faster than any Wintel portable and even delivered better MacBench processor scores



110 Volt Adapter

than any then-shipping desktop Mac based on the same processor, something that never happened before or since in a PowerBook.

Unfortunately, the 3400's impressive performance compared with previous PowerBooks came at a stiff price. The base 3400c/180 rolled out at \$4,500.00 US. For this you got a 3400/180 with no



Drive Bay Module

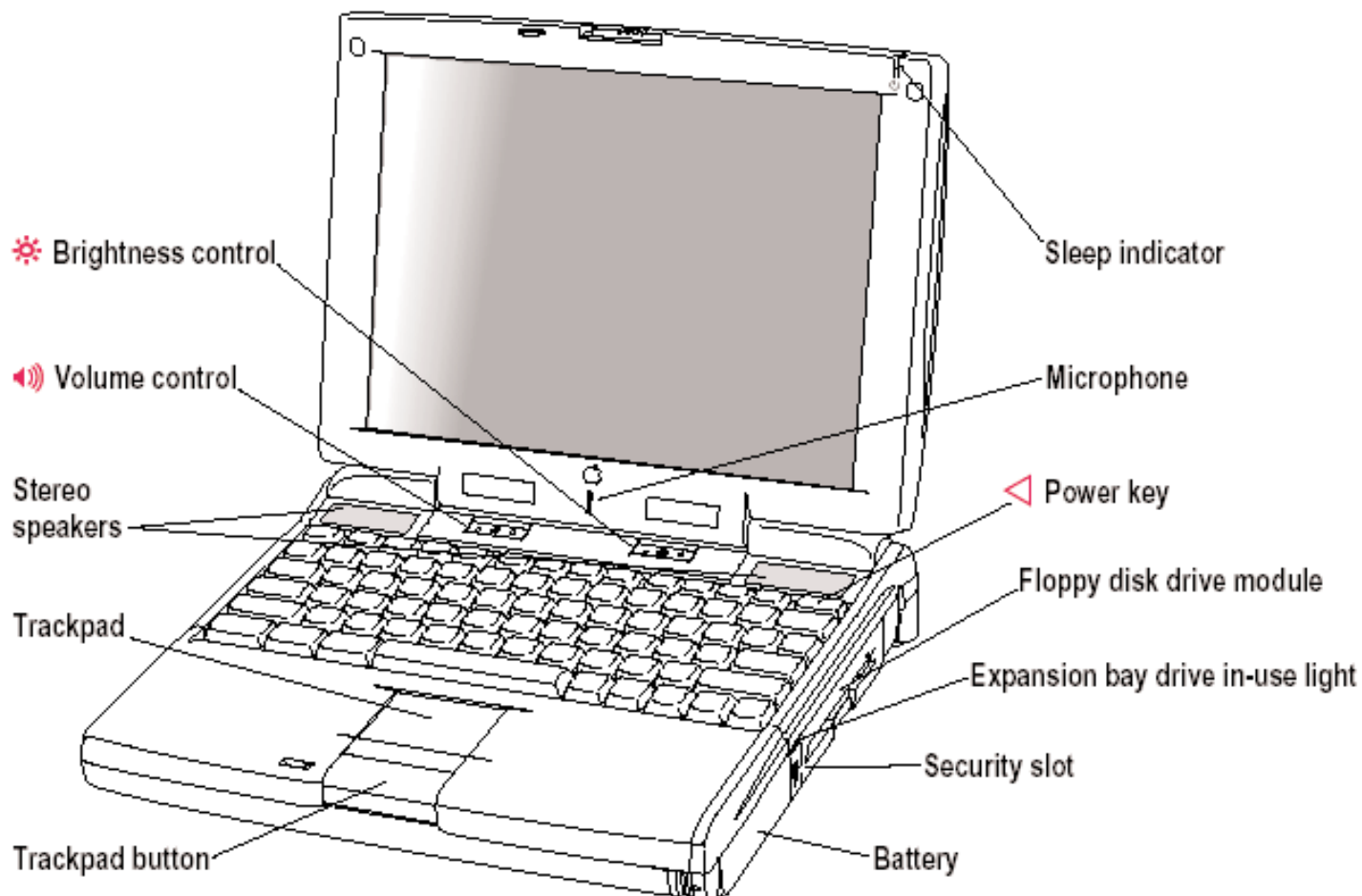
CD-ROM drive or modem/Ethernet card (\$500 extra). The basic 3400/200 went for \$5,500.00, and the basic 3400/240 with 16 megs of RAM retailed for \$6,500.00 US. Those were the days when RAM was expensive and RAM for the 3400 models was no exception. A 128 megabyte memory upgrade for the 3400 retailed for \$1,365.00 in the ads in the back of the August 1997 MacUser Magazine.

OK, that was then, this is now. How does my PowerBook 3400 /240 with 3 gig HD and 144 Megs of RAM stack up as a candidate for a low-end PowerBook purchase in late 2003?

Obviously I thought the 3400c was a workable low end PowerBook or I would not have bought it. This 240 MHz PowerBook will replace a tired



12 Volt Adapter



Performa 580CD (upgraded to PPC 75 MHz) that I have been using at work to write articles like this one and it will travel between home and work as soon as I get a laptop carry bag for it. (I have a Targus bag on the way. Another Low End Mac SWAP List find at \$10.00 US plus postage). I have the Performa 580CD at work connected to an external Seagate 4-Gig Hard Drive and the PowerBook will take its place.

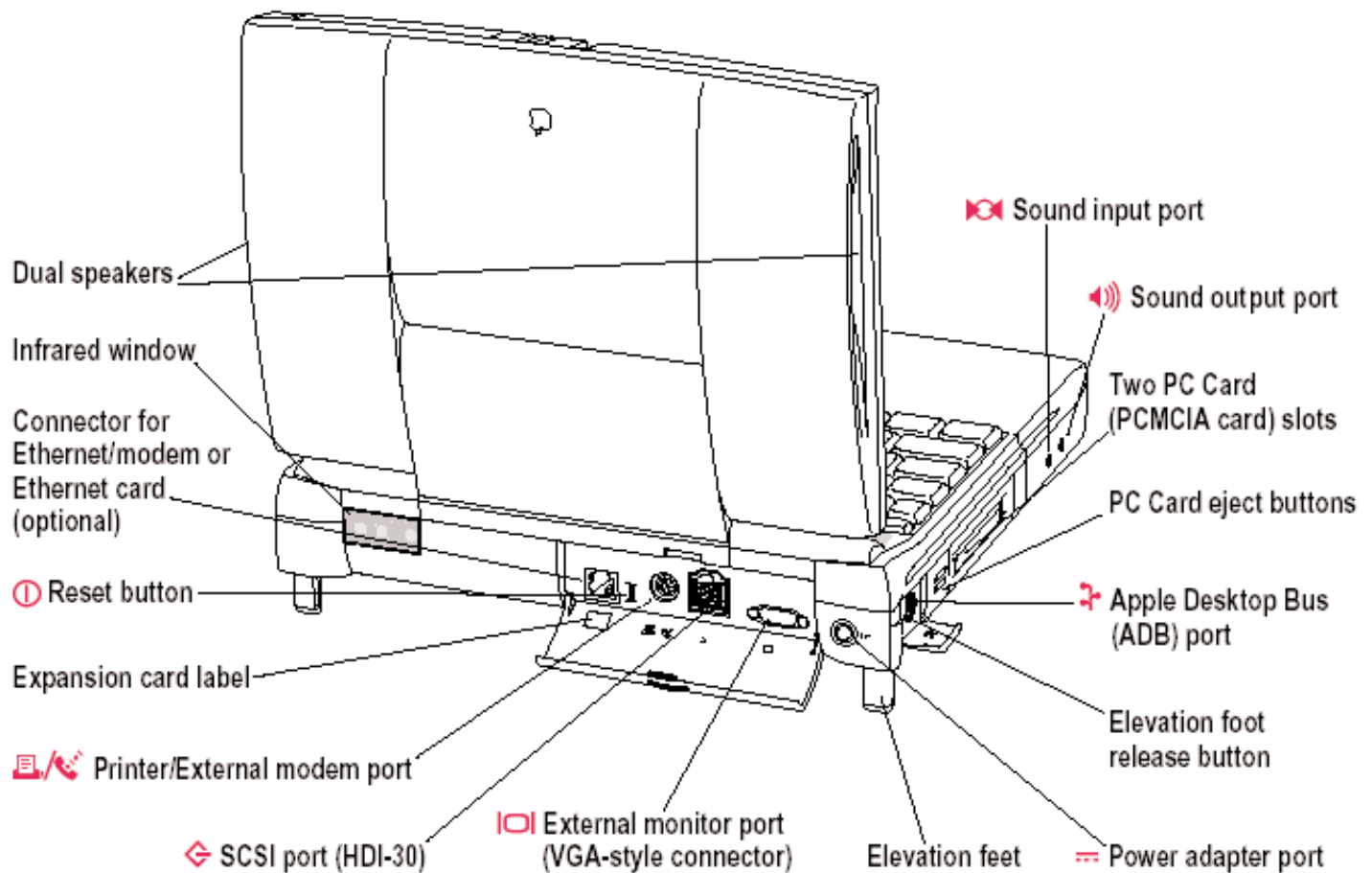
Old age is overtaking the pre-G3 PPC machines, and while the 6-slot 604-based desktop models especially have received a new lease on life through G3 and G4 processor upgrades, the 3400 has no really practical upgrade path. Paying a lot of money to have an original G3 250 motherboard swapped in just doesn't make much economic sense, even if you can find one.

The PowerBook 3400c is a very nice, comprehensive package, with a complete set of PowerBook legacy ports, PC Card slots, a floppy drive (which is no hardship to have around, even if the CD-ROM drive occupies the expansion bay most of

the time). The four-speaker stereo sound system may not be great, but it's a lot better than the iBook's mono system. The 3400c has a nice screen the same size as the iBook's, a reasonably good keyboard, and it's a proven solid and dependable machine.

Here's an impressive list and outline of the interfaces that the PowerBook 3400c commands:

- Two PC Card (PCMCIA card) slots support either two Type I or Type II cards, or one Type III card; the lower slot also supports "zoom video," a method of displaying video signals sent from a PC Card
- Expansion bay slot accepts a removable expansion bay module, including the 1.44 MB floppy disk drive (installed at the factory), optional CD-ROM drive, or other modules
- Built-in infrared, with support for two types of transmission—230 kilobit per second IRTalk and 1 megabit-per-second IrDA
- Internal PCI card slot, optionally with Ethernet/modem card or Ethernet card installed
- Apple Desktop Bus (ADB) port for keyboard,



mouse, or other input devices using a low-speed, synchronous serial bus

- Serial port for printer, modem (including GeoPort support), LocalTalk network, or other serial devices (RS-422)
- SCSI port (HDI-30 connector) for hard disk drives, scanners, printers, and other devices; also supports PowerBook SCSI disk mode
- Sound output port for external audio amplifier/powered speakers, stereo mini-jack, 3-connector, standard 3.5-mm stereo miniplug
- Sound input port for stereo sound input (line level), stereo mini-jack, 3-connector, standard 3.5-mm stereo miniplug
- Video port for up to 16-bit/thousands-of-color video output to most Apple monitors (with the supplied adapter), VGA monitors (640 x 480), and SVGA monitors (800 x 600, 1024 x 768)

With the usual array of ports on the back the 3400c can connect to Ethernet, use external SCSI drives, ADB input devices, (like keyboards, drawing slates, and mice), headphones, serial devices, printers, scanners and even an external monitor. It won't run OSX or anything that

requires a G3 or G4 processor, but for what I want it to do it won't have to. As long as I can write articles like this on it, run OS 8.6 and OS 9.1, and play a few music CDs I'll be happy with it.

For those of you who are still using an antique Mac IIci or old PPC 7200 for your main word-processing Mac an upgrade to a used PowerBook, especially one like the PowerBook 3400c I got, would be a step you can make in the right direction right now without breaking open the piggy bank or mortgaging the farm.

I know that many of you have bought new Macs recently. Feel free to put something together for the Double Click to let us know your impressions and submit it to me here at the Double Click offices: michael_shaw@sympatico.ca.



Lemon

When Apples Go Bad

A few years ago I wrote a piece for the Double Click about which of the older Mac models were the best bargains in terms of being cheap, plentiful, well-designed, upgradable, and capable. The inference is that when you are shopping for a bargain in a used Mac there are some models that are more desirable than others. And it can certainly be argued that there certainly have been a lot of outstanding Macintosh models that Apple got very right. Unfortunately the corollary of this argument is also true: if some Macintosh models are above average then others must be below average. In fact there were quite a few Macintosh



1. Portable • September 1989
2. IIfx • March 1990
3. Classic • October 1990
4. IIsi • October 1990
5. LC • October 1990
6. Classic II • October 1991
7. LC II • replaced LC in March 1992
8. Color Classic • February 1993
9. IIfx • September 1992
10. Mac TV • October 1993
11. Quadra 800/Power Mac 8100 case • February 1993
12. Centris (the name) • February to October 1993
13. PowerBook 150 • July 1994
14. PowerBook 5300 • 1995
- 15. 5200-53xx and 6200-6320 • • • • several different models sharing the same flawed design, introduced April 1995 and later**
16. Power Mac 7200, 8200 • March 1996
17. PowerBook 1400 / 117 • October 1996
18. Power Mac 4400 • February 1997
19. PowerBook G3/233, no cache • May 1998
20. Power Mac G4 Cube • July 2000
21. Beige Power Mac G3 (Rev. A) • November 1997
22. Power Macintosh G4 (Yikes!) • August 1999

models that had flaws that made them infuriating or disappointing to own. I should know. My first Apple computer was possibly the very worst and most offensive of them all.

Back in 1995 we bought a Performa 6200CD with 8 megs of RAM and a one Gig hard drive. I referred to it as "the Box of Delights" but it was anything but.



These machines were built around the Quadra 630 form factor. The system usually included a built in 14.4 Global Village modem and a built in CD-ROM. These were the first Apple machines built with internal IDE drives instead of SCSI drives. Some options available were a TV/video/cable controller and an external remote control for multimedia/TV controls. Internally, the machine contained some standard components found in all Apple models. Slots included an LC PDS/NuBus slot and a Comm Slot. There are two SIMM slots. There is one ROM/L2 cache slot (that is not upgradable).

A more complete and critical description of the Performa 6200CD lists the extremely poorly designed minimalist motherboard and badly matched components which limited this afflicted model. Basically it is a Centris 630 with a choked PowerPC processor only partially supported by the rest of the hardware its own motherboard. many of them were returned to Apple for repairs due to a serious problem with some of the chips.

I was cruising around on the Low End Mac site on the internet looking up information and opinions about the PowerBook 3400c that I recently

acquired when I found a list of Macs whose names will live in infamy. They are the "Road Apples" that have been rated as less than desirable. The Performa 6200



was rated as the absolute worst of the bad. Over the years I have come to trust the Low End Mac people and have found their website to be a source of sensible advice and correct information.

Take a good look at the list. If you haven't already you probably will soon see at least one of these models for sale somewhere. Or you may see one going for very little money at the Goodwill store or a local garage sale or on-line auction.

Resist the urge. Each has a severely limited upgrade path or some tragic design flaw that renders it less than desirable. A little research on the internet or a visit to the Low End Macs website will get you all of the information you need.

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 Authorized Value Added Reseller

BookEnds

After I bought the PowerBook 3400c I went back on the LEM SWAP List to ask about a bag to carry it in. I did get offered a bag but I got offered a BookEnds for it as well. As you can see from the picture, the BookEnds is an interface dock manufactured by TechWorks that the PowerBook fits into to provide a place where external cables and devices can be connected and left on a permanent basis. With a ADB Keyboard and mouse, external SCSI devices, and an external monitor connected to the BookEnds unit the PowerBook can become the center of a desktop system.

Back in 1997 the BookEnds was considered an expensive accessory but after paying six and a half thousand dollars US for the PowerBook putting out another couple of hundred dollars for a dock for it is really not too outrageous. The going price for them now on eBay is anywhere from \$10.00 to \$15.00. This is actually a great price for the convenience of having all of your cables held for you if you want to simplify setting up the PowerBook on your desktop.

When the PowerBook slips into the dock the male BookEnds connectors match up with the female ports on the PowerBook. The computer can be easily removed and carried away without disturbing all of the cable connections. Any connectors that you do not want to use can be removed from the BookEnds to save wear and tear on the PowerBook. The Macintosh AC Power Adapter



plugs right into the BookEnds unit and charges the PowerBook battery while the 'Book is in the 'Endz.

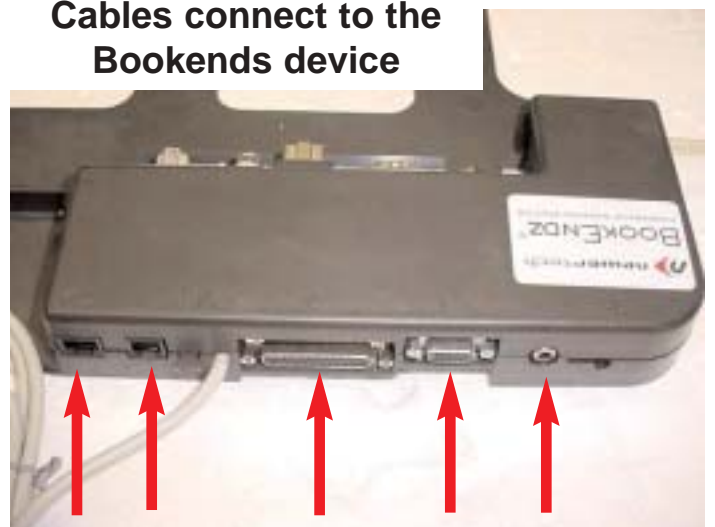
Features:

- Color and style matched to the computer
- No need to remove the rear door of the computer. Just lower it and slide computer in place.
- Supports all ports except audio
- No end user assembly required
- PC cards remain insertable and removable while docked
- IR window remains usable while docked
- The hardware reset switch is extended through rear of dock
- ADB port is docked with a simple lever, after the computer is docked with other ports
- Cover on ADB port must be removed for docking. It stores in a pocket on the right rear of the dock.

PowerBook connect to the Bookends device



Cables connect to the Bookends device





- Audio ports are manually accessible on the left side.
- 9 pin serial is a 6' M/F extension cable for high speed external serial devices
- 4 pin ADB is a 6' M/F extension cable for keyboard/ mouse or other ADB devices
- Power, SCSI (25 pin female), RJ-11 modem, RJ-45 10BT ethernet, and VGA receptacles are located on the rear of the dock. (for models without built-in modem and ethernet, this connector is removed by the end user)
- Cable capture area secures PC card cables for the user
- Security slot on the right side of the computer is usable while the computer is docked
- Expansion bay items can be removed or inserted while the computer is docked
- Computer must be undocked to exchange batteries
- This dock IS NOT compatible with the MS1A Monitor Stand

• This 3400 BookEnds model retailed in 1997 for \$219, with an estimated street price of \$199.



September MaUsE Meeting

John Fields brought a new Apple iSight camera and his new G4 tower, (recently rescued from CPUUsed in Toronto) and he set up a video conference between the MaUsE members at the meeting and our AWOL president, Jim Foster. Jim was home recovering from surgery but really wanted to come to the meeting.

Jim and John each appeared in a little video window on each others Desktop. From Jim's home in Courtice at his Mac we got an exciting look at how the future of inter-personal communications is evolving into a new visual direction.

We were also honored and delighted to have Lennie Clement, MaUsE member, local celebrity, and Mac fanatic who put on a musical presentation by composing a short piece of music for strings, piano and horns in real time. Lennie brought in a sound system, his G4 PowerBook and a small midi keyboard to show us how he could use Reason Software and the power of the Macintosh G4 processor to edit, record and synthesize music files.



Internet Email Scams

By John Kettle & Michael Shaw

A MaUse Member was contacted over the internet recently, apparently by AOL (America On Line) where she has an account. The email said that there was an accounting problem and they needed her PIN or password of her credit card in order to clear it up! No doubt thousands of other AOL users were contacted at the same time by the same people hoping to get the information they needed to commit a theft.

Of course no one should give anyone or any company or any email correspondent confidential information of this nature. The purpose of PINs and passwords is to shield your account information from thieves. According to a recent article in the Financial Times of London many internet users are being tricked by what are called "phisher" web sites. The web site designers make mass emailings to customers of companies like AOL and Best Buy, claiming to be offering incentives and directing the recipients to sites that look very similar to the company's real web site but are actually phony.

At these bogus websites AOL customers are asked to provide social insurance numbers, or credit card data to make purchases. Of course there is no actual merchandise. Customers of some banks have been lured to official-looking sites where they are asked to "reactivate" their accounts at new internet addresses. The websites look identical to the real bank's website. Customers are asked to enter their account numbers and other details, including passwords.

Its likely that owners of these "phisher" websites get their bulk email address lists by raiding and hacking databases of legitimate companies and businesses, so everybody is at risk.

The trick is to be suspicious of everything you receive on the internet. Printed on the page following this article is a copy of a genuine bogus message generated by one of these "phisher" fraud artists and delivered via email to the Double Click offices. This one pretends to be from our Bell Sympatico high-speed internet service provider. Included with the email was a link to a website where I could re-submit account information "within 48 hours" in order to avoid cancellation of my Sympatico account and the levy of a reactivate fee of \$24.95. I'm sure that if I did log onto their site and give them my credit card account number they would do their Christmas shopping with it.

Strangely enough, when I posted a copy of this phony email to the Sympatico offices and asked them if it were bogus or a sincere posting, they replied

**Dear Michael Shaw,
Thank you for your recent message regarding Bell Sympatico Internet Service. Please be assured that we have received your request. You can expect a response from a Sympatico Member Services support representative shortly. Please do not respond to this message. We appreciate you choosing Bell Sympatico.
Your Sympatico Member Services E-mail team**

They were so busy with bogus email issues that it took them several **weeks** to get back to me with a official determination that the message I had received was not from their own accounts people.

The lesson here is to always be alert and don't trust anybody who asks for personal or financial information on the internet.

Dear Sympatico User
michael_shaw@sympatico.ca,
A Flag or Error has occurred with your particular Sympatico Account. This could be caused by a number of reasons as follows;

1. Your credit card failed to be properly authorized, it has expired, or as been found to be on record with Sympatico under a different account. In order to remedy this problem it is suggested that you provide another credit card that can be billed for your Sympatico Services. In order to ensure that your Sympatico account remains active please make sure that the new credit card provided has not been used to pay for Sympatico services in the past 6 months, this is required in order to avoid further complications pertaining to your account.

2. Your Sympatico Account has been accessed by an outside source, other than yourself, causing Sympatico Representatives to issue you a different password. It is now required that you fill out and submit all necessary account information in order to verify that your Sympatico Account has not been further compromised by outside sources. You must enter a new credit card number that has not been used to pay for Sympatico Services within the past 6 months.

3. An E-mail was sent to your account that inquired about your account status. If you have received an E-mail from anyone other than an Sympatico Staff Member, please disregard that mail as it may be fraudulent, possibly causing a third party to gain access to your

Sympatico Account. After your new account information has been processed you will be redirected back to Sympatico.com. Please verify all of your entered information prior to submitting. Improper information or delay in providing said information may cause interruption in services or possible termination of your Sympatico Account.

This issued must be solved within 48 hours of receiving this email or your account will be suspended and or terminated and a reactivate fee of \$24.95 will apply if you choose to continue your Sympatico Experience. This charge cannot be waived once the account has been deactivated. For fastest processing, we have provided members with a secure billing site to verify their information. Please visit (Sympatico Verification Website) and verify your billing information. Once you have submitted your information a sales representative will review the information and email you within 12 hours if any problems persist with your account.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Sympatico Verification Department
Department

Mia's Language Adventure

The Kidnap Caper



Mia's Language Adventure

Today's young students are faced with a growing accessibility to new communication methods. These new tools and technologies can lead to new exchanges that could be enriched by learning foreign languages. With this in mind, Mia's new adventure, **The Kidnap Caper**, features an introduction to French or Spanish as a second language and is an ideal occasion for children to expand their knowledge of these two languages.

Mia's Language Adventure: The Kidnap Caper is the fourth learning adventure in the Mia collection and just like the previous games, it is a captivating role-playing adventure combined with solid educational content. The player guides Mia the mouse on her quest through her magically real world filled with challenges and learning activities and once again proves that it is possible to learn and have fun at the same time!

The software covers the following essential knowledge:

Knowledge related to vocabulary:

- Alphabet including introduction to letter sounds;
- Basic vocabulary words related to the immediate environment (e.g. objects of the everyday life, animals, fruit and vegetables, occupations, family members and much more;)
- Adjectives and verbs;
- Numbers;
- Prepositions.

Knowledge related to sentence and grammar:

- Sentence structure;
- Spelling;
- Verb tense (e.g. present, past, future).

In addition, the software contributes to the development of the following:

- Decoding the meaning of words in the second language using context, visual clues and sounds;
- Use of prior knowledge in mother tongue as a source of information to understand the second language;
- Concentrating and following instructions;
- Planning how to do the activities;
- Practicing, repeating and integrating the vocabulary of the second language;
- Self-evaluation (e.g. reflection on what has been learned as a student or as a player.)
- Accepting not understanding everything that is said or read in an activity.

The child playing the game must choose to play it with the puzzles and activities in French or Spanish and at the Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced level. The animation and story software functions more or less the same with all choices but the difficulty and complexity of the vocabulary used in each language skill learning activity can be set so that the child does not get bored. Once the game is mastered at the Beginner level the child can increase the difficulty to the next higher level and learn at that level, or change to another language.



Mia

A little mouse with big adventures

Playing Mia is like being able to travel inside an animated cartoon. You explore at your own speed and you get to see the world from the magic perspective of a little mouse.

**Now with 3 adventures and
a creativity tool to choose from!**

Introduction to French or Spanish as a second language is an interactive teachware intended for children from six to ten years old. It can be used by children that are exposed to French or Spanish for the first time or by students that wish to revise their basic knowledge.

On one hand, the two disks can be use at home as a “teach yourself” software. It familiarizes children with French or Spanish and they can learn at their own pace. In addition, this software can also be used in class as a teaching-learning-accompaniment tool to learning French or Spanish as a second language.

Mia - Introduction to French or Spanish as a second language is a “three-step method” that emphasizes on progressive learning.

Firstly, the player needs to learn and apply effective listening strategies in order to understand the instructions of an activity. Those instructions are given by Mia or another character in English at the beginning of every activity.

Second, the player uses the appropriate strategies for effective understanding, such as decoding the meaning of words in the second language using context, visual clues, sounds; or his prior knowledge.

Third, the player must apply strategies to carry out specific tasks in order to complete the activi-

ty. Mia and the other characters of the game encourage the player. They repeat certain instructions and give additional clues when needed. As the adventure unveils, the player gradually familiarizes himself with the second language. Some of the characters of the game speak in the second language, while others are bilingual. The player will even meet characters that are learning French or Spanish just like him.

The creators of Mia are convinced that integrating educational content in an original and entertaining story has multiple advantages. In this perspective, a great effort is put into elaborating endearing characters, well-designed activities and beautiful graphics.

Mia’s popularity has confirmed the added value of quality interactivity and great storylines. Throughout the adventure, the player has to guide Mia using the mouse. There are clues to find, useful items to pick up and decisions to make. The game play and the interactivity have been designed to encourage the player to come up with his own ideas.

As the game progresses, numerous 3D animated sequences unveil the plot. Just like in the previous Mia games, the movies in this new adventure are of exceptional quality. Mia’s world is full of rich and colorful textures, stunning lighting and amazing graphic details. The music and the sound effects add to the atmosphere. The formu-

It remains the same as for the other Mia games: a compelling adventure, stunning graphics and wonderful animated scenes.

Freddy's Old Camera

Alphabet and spelling

Learning objective: To distinguish the letters of the alphabet in the second language and to spell words.

The Secret Mechanism

Colors

Learning objective: To identify and name colors in the second language.

The Lesson On Tape

Animals

Learning objective: To identify and name animals in the second language.

The 3D Glasses

Fruits and vegetables

Learning objective: To distinguish and name fruits and vegetables in the second language.

The Strange Calculator

Numbers

Learning objective: To be able to recognize numbers in the second language.

Roboto's Vacuum Transporter

Vocabulary

Learning objective: To be able to recognize and name objects of everyday life in the second language.

Salvador's Color Wheel

Adjectives and opposites

Learning objective: To be able to describe a person or an object using adjectives.

The Stamp Collection

Body parts, clothing, objects at school, objects at home, family members, occupations.

Learning objective: To be able to recognize and name objects of everyday life in the second language

The Collector

Prepositions

Learning objective: To be able to distinguish many prepositions in the second language.

Spike's Lullaby

Auditory Comprehension

Learning objective: To be able to identify several words in a song.

The Old Radio

To have and to be

Learning objective: To be able to conjugate the verbs "to have" and "to be".

The Hidden Word

Revision of vocabulary words

Learning objective: To be able to identify the words learned in the previous activities.

Mr. Mole's Mail Sorter

Construction of sentences

Learning objective: To be able to construct simple sentences from provided elements.

Freddy's Love Letter

Action verbs

Learning objective: To be able to identify several action verbs in the second language.

The Visio2000

To reconstruct a story

Learning objective: To put back in chronological order the images of a short story.

If you have any questions about the Mia Mouse language learning adventure CD come to the October MaUsE Meeting and I will answer them if I can.

