

UNDERSTANDING
THE
MACINTOSH^{T.M.}
COMPUTER



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Understanding the Macintosh

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Understanding the Macintosh

PREFACE

If you are thinking about purchasing a desktop computer or you have recently bought a Macintosh™ computer, this book is for you. If you want to use a microcomputer for business or personal use, read on. This book illustrates what the Macintosh computer can do for you and how to get the most out of it. A few of the benefits you will derive follow:

- Are you familiar with state of the art software and the electronic "mouse"? Chapter 1 will acquaint you with the Macintosh software and hardware.
- Electronic spreadsheets are responsible for the desktop computer boom. See what MacPlan™ can do for you in Chapter 2.
- If you are still using pen, pencil and/or typewriter for letters, forms and other word processing applications, you are wasting valuable time. See how MacWrite™ can help increase productivity in Chapter 3.
- Voluminous columns and tables divert attention away from important matters. Explore the exciting world of Mac graphics in Chapter 4.
- One picture is worth a thousand words. See how MacDraw™ can help you draw presentation quality pictures and diagrams in Chapter 5.
- Put a MacChart™ in your MacWrite document to illustrate your thoughts. See how to exchange information between Macintosh documents in Chapter 6.
- What else is in store for the Macintosh computer? See what's planned and how you can influence further development in Chapter 7.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Specific challenges. If you are interested in an individual topic, such as "What are the specific features of MacPlan?", turn to the Contents or Index to locate the page number of the chapter which discusses that topic.

General challenges. If you can relate your challenge to one of the following general areas, direct your initial reading toward the related relevant chapters.

General area	Chapter
Macintosh computer software and hardware	1
MacPlan spreadsheet applications	2
MacWrite word processing applications	3
MacChart graphic applications	4
MacPaint diagram and picture applications	5
Macintosh application exchangeability	6
Macintosh coming attractions	7

APPLICATIONS PERSPECTIVE

This book emphasizes how to use the Macintosh application software from the personal business and home use perspective. Others, including engineers and programmers, will also find this book helpful for obtaining an overall understanding of the Macintosh software and hardware and the needs of users.

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Chapter 1

UNDERSTANDING THE MACINTOSH COMPUTER

During 1983, Apple Computer, Inc. ("Apple") introduced the Lisa computer, a revolutionary machine in personal computing. Over 100 man years of effort were devoted to developing the Lisa. While there are many functional similarities, the Macintosh™ ("Mac"), Lisa's little brother, differs in one significant respect—price. Mac sells for \$2,500, while big sister Lisa costs more than twice as much. Functionally, however, Mac had the benefit of all those years of hard work in developing Lisa and resembles her in many respects while bearing a price tag that many households and businesses can afford. With that bit of background, let's see what Mac is all about. In this chapter, we'll start by exploring the Mac hardware and application environment. The remaining chapters are all devoted to applications. That's as it should be; after all, what good is a computer if it doesn't do anything? As we will see, Mac does a lot!

INTRODUCTION TO THE MACINTOSH HARDWARE

The Mac computer system has four main parts, the first three of which are illustrated in Figure 1.1

- The mouse.
- The cabinet, which houses the computer itself as well as the display screen and built-in disk drive.
- The keyboard.
- The printer.



Figure 1.1 Front View of the Macintosh Computer.

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*Macintosh™ is a trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

The Mouse

Like a real mouse, the electronic mouse has a long tail connected to the computer, is small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, and can nimbly scurry around your desktop. Viewed from the top, the electronic mouse looks similar to the device used for remote slide projectors (rectangular in shape with a clicking button). However, when you turn the mouse over, you see a small metal ball that rotates when you move it around your desktop. What the mouse does is translate movement around your desk, both in terms of speed and direction, into electronic impulses that are sent through its tail into the computer.

The primary purpose of the mouse is to enable you to select options (and eliminate the need for you to memorize commands). When you move the mouse around your desktop, you also move the pointer (cursor) on the screen. As it moves around the screen, the mouse pointer itself changes shape according to the nature of the items on the screen. Figure 1.2 shows us some of the shapes. For example, the pointer assumes the arrow shape when pointing to objects. It turns into an "I beam" to help you indicate where you want to insert or delete text. After you click the mouse button, the I beam changes into a flashing insertion point line. Other shapes include the cross and directional pointers.

When you sit down at your desk (start the system up), the screen displays, among other things, tiny images of the tools available to you and the documents you have created and stored. You use the mouse to point to and select which documents you want to retrieve or which function you want to perform. When you are finished manipulating your data and documents, you use the mouse to tell Mac that you want to print your reports and graphs. After printing is completed, the mouse is used to store and save your documents until the next time you need them.

The Cabinet

The cabinet weighs approximately 20 pounds and, accordingly, is light enough to carry it with you should the need or desire to do so arise. Measuring less than 12 inches square at its base and 14 inches high, Mac is both light enough and

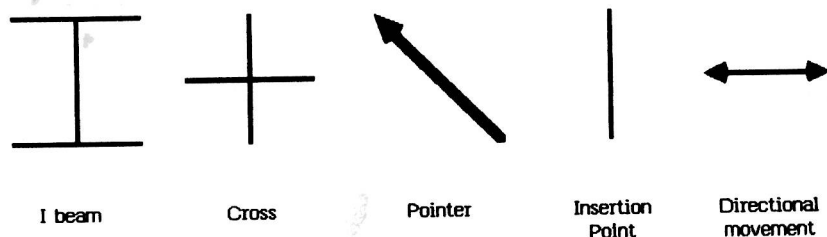


Figure 1.2 Examples of Mouse Pointer Shapes.