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Macintosh Built in Serial Ports: Not Identical

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TOPIC -----

Are there any differences between the two built-in serial ports on Macintosh computers?

DISCUSSION -----

The two built-in serial ports on Macintosh products are nearly identical, except for the differences detailed in this article. Here are the differences:

- Port A (the modem port) has a higher interrupt priority; it is more suitable for high-speed transmission.

Ordinarily, Port B (the printer port) should be used for output-only connections, or at low baud rates; the Port A (the modem port) has no such restrictions. Whenever interrupts are turned off for longer than 100 microseconds, the Serial Driver stores any data received through Port A (the modem port,) and later passes the data to the modem port's input driver.

Note: For more information, see "Inside Macintosh Volume 2."

- Port A on the Macintosh SE and Port A on the Macintosh II support synchronous transmission, but Port B does not. Earlier Macintosh products do not support synchronous transmission through either port.

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