# Tech Info Library

## Color Printers for the Apple IIGS

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TOPIC -----------------------------------------

Are there any third-party vendors that make a color printer for the Apple
IIGS?

I know the ImageWriter II prints color, and most Apple IIGS software talks
PostScript.

I am interested in the HP PaintJet and other HP color printers, but I wonder if
they can do the job: since they are not QuickDraw-compatible, most Apple IIGS
software probably won't work.

DISCUSSION ------------------------------------

With the advent of GS/OS for the Apple IIGS, printer communications follow a
Macintosh-style architecture; both Macintosh OS and GS/OS printing are
driver-based.

The print driver technique allows a wide variety of printers to be attached to
the Apple IIGS -- once the driver is written.  This allows Apple IIGS-specific
applications to talk with the Print Manager.  In turn, the Print Manager
communicates with the Graphic Control Panel-selected print driver, which is
installed in the Apple IIGS.  Thus, the communication to printers relies on the
availability of print drivers for the Apple IIGS, not on the specific
application.

As shipped from Apple, GS/OS 5.0 provides direct connection drivers for the
ImageWriter, ImageWriter LQ, and the Epson printers.  For LocalTalk printers,
LaserWriter, AppleTalk ImageWriter, and AppleTalk ImageWriter LPG drivers are
included.  Only the ImageWriter drivers provide color support; the Epson driver
does not provide color capabilities.

Hewlett-Packard does not support the Apple IIGS-to-PaintJet (or other HP

printers) connection.  Apple Tech Comm does not know of any third-party Apple
IIGS print drivers that allow the selection of the PaintJet from the GS/OS
Graphic Control Panel.

Orange Micro markets a product called Grappler C/Mac/GS.  This is a
serial-to-parallel converter.  The Grappler device also provides ImageWriter II
emulation for Epson, Okidata, Panasonic, and other Epson-compatible parallel
printers.  The Grappler C/Mac/GS can print in color on parallel color printers.
We have been unable to define which of the following printers are color;
however, Orange Micro has provided this list of Grappler C/Mac/GS-compatible
printers:

- Epson     : EX, FX, JX, RX, LX series; and the MX series with Graftrax
- Star      : SD, SR, SG series; and Gemini 10X, NX-10 (in Epson FX mode)
- Okidata   : 190, 290 series
- C.Itoh    : C310XPR (Epson FX mode), ProWriter Jr.
- Panasonic: 1080, 1090 series
- Citizen   : MSP-10 (Epson FX mode)
- Printers fully compatible with any listed above.

For more information, search under: "Orange Micro"

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