



# Tech Info Library

## Macintosh Portable & PowerBook: Using Abroad (3/95)

Revised: 3/23/95  
Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

Can the Macintosh Portable and PowerBook computers operate on voltages used internationally?

Also, will there be any damage to my data by passing my PowerBook through an airport security scanner?

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh Portable Power Adapter has the following specifications:

Input voltage

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85-270 Volts AC, 120/240 nominal (The Portable itself is rated at 70-270 Volts AC)

Frequency

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48Hz to 62Hz, 50/60 nominal (because it converts to DC, the frequency is almost insignificant)

The Macintosh PowerBook 100 series Power Adapter has the following specifications:

Input voltage

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100-240 Volts AC

Frequency

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50Hz to 60Hz (because it converts to DC, the frequency is almost insignificant)

The PowerBook 200 series power adapter has the following specifications:

Input voltage

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100-240 Volts AC

Frequency

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50Hz to 60Hz (because it converts to DC, the frequency is almost insignificant)

The PowerBook 500 series power adapter has the following specifications:

Input voltage

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100-240 Volts AC

Frequency

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50Hz to 60Hz (because it converts to DC, the frequency is almost insignificant)

The Macintosh Portable and PowerBook computers should work fine in any country which falls within the range of specifications above. However, you may need to use an adapter for the wall outlet itself.

The Macintosh Portable and PowerBook computers are powered by the battery at all times, even when the battery is charging. If there is a power outage, you would not lose data unless the battery had insufficient charge to power the computer.

The amount of electromagnetic interference generated by airport security systems varies widely across the world. Security systems in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa have the potential to cause more problems with internal hard disks than systems in the United States. Still, there are very few reports of X-rays or other magnetic radiation damaging computer media. The hard disk in the Macintosh is no more susceptible to problems than other hard disk systems. We suggest you have the system hand-checked whenever possible to reduce the possibility of data loss.

Article Change History

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23 Mar 1995 - Listed power adapter ratings for all PowerBook models.

30 Apr 1993 - Rewrote and clarified, generalized for all portable Macintosh models.

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