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Macintosh IIci: Built-in Video Memory Usage

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TOPIC ----------

I have a problem with a Macintosh IIci with 1MB of RAM, which allows only the Black/White option in the control panel -- even though the monitor is RGB. Is there a way to increase the RAM video to allow using 256 colors?

DISCUSSION ----------

A Macintosh IIci system with 1MB RAM supports up to 256 colors or grays, using RAM-based video (RBV). This chart details how much memory is used:

2 Colors/Grays (1-bit)	64K
4 Colors/Grays (2-bit)	96K
16 Colors/Grays (4-bit)	160K
256 Colors/Grays (8-bit)	320K

A 1MB Macintosh IIci system using 8-bit video would, in effect, be a 704K system. This is not recommended, because it doesn't leave much memory for the System software and application programs.

A 1MB Macintosh IIci system defaults to 64K of memory allocated for video. A Macintosh IIci system with more than 1MB defaults to 320K of memory allocated for video.

Here's how to adjust the amount of memory allocated to video:

1) In the Control Panel, select the Monitors CDEV.

2) Hold down the Option key. The icon that represents the built-in video will contain a very small Macintosh in addition to the monitor number.

3) Click on the "Options..." button.

The setting in the top half of the dialog allows the user to select the gamma table that is to be used to compensate for phosphor luminosity characteristics of specific monitors. This setting is not unique to the Macintosh IIci and has nothing to do with the amount of memory that is allocated to video RAM.

The bottom half of the dialog, labeled "Memory Allocation For Built-In Video", contains the radio buttons for setting how much memory is allocated to video. This setting limits the maximum number of colors/grays that will be supported.

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