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Macintosh LC II: No NTSC Video Out

Revised: 3/19/92
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 23 March 1992
Article Last Reviewed:
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

Why doesn't the Macintosh LC II have NTSC video out?

DISCUSSION -----

NTSC video, unlike standard composite, is based on half-lines, not full lines of video. Standard Macintosh video starts at the top LEFT of the screen. The Macintosh then increments down the screen one line at a time, ending the scan at the bottom right. The NTSC scan starts at the top and MIDDLE of the screen, counts down every other line, and then ends only halfway across the screen on the bottom, again in the MIDDLE of the screen.

Now, the problem is that the current Macintosh LC and LC II video architecture is based on routines with the basic unit as one full line across. In order to do NTSC, the Macintosh LC II video architecture would have to understand half-lines.

The Macintosh Display Card 4•8 and 8•24 use a completely programmable timing logic, which can do NTSC timing quite easily. However, to implement this logic on the Macintosh LC II logic board would require 3 to 5 thousand more gates on video ASIC, which are just not available in the current package. Additional video circuitry would be required.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:9954