Tech Info Library

Macintosh: Multiple Monitors via NuBus Expander (8/93)

```
Revised:        8/19/93
Security:       Everyone
```

Macintosh: Multiple Monitors via NuBus Expander (8/93)

===

Article Created: 19 August 1993

TOPIC ---

I want to connect multiple monitors to a Mac II or IIfx (via a NuBus
expander) to give me as many NuBus slots as possible.

Is there is a limit to how many monitors that can be handled by:
a) the monitors control panel?
b) the Macintosh hardware?

DISCUSSION --

Using an 8 slot expansion chassis such as the one from Second Wave, Inc.,
you could connect up to 13 monitors to a Macintosh II or IIfx. That is,
the expansion chassis uses one of the NuBus slots in the Macintosh, leaving
5 NuBus slots available in the Macintosh for video cards. The expansion chassis
can house 8 cards. Second Wave informs us that video cards used in their
expansion chassis must have 32-bit clean drivers. Video cards that are
24-bit will not work in the expansion chassis (but will in the Macintosh).

Second Wave's chassis is able to provide 130 watts and additional chassis'
cannot be daisy chained off of the first chassis. They recommend you
request, at no additional charge, the highest volume fan they distribute in
their chassis for this application.

Apple has tested the connection of 6 monitors to a Macintosh and Second
Wave has tested 13. It will vary from Macintosh-to-Macintosh slightly as
the memory map and other managers varies somewhat. If you are able to
connect a greater quantity of monitors to a Macintosh, please let us know.

The Pallet Manager could begin to have problems above 32 monitors unless
you use a bit depth of 8 or less. The parameter RAM on a Macintosh II
family machine only has support for 6 NuBus slots, and the VIA chips have
specific interrupts for the six slots. Many of the issues that may arise
depend on how the NuBus expansion chassis manufacturer handled the

technical issues surrounding the slot manager, parameter RAM, multiplexing
multiple slots through one slot, and the VIA interrupts.

To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor's name as a
search string.

Copyright 1993, Apple Computer, Inc.

Tech Info Library Article Number:13014