

Doubleclick

The Newsletter of the
Macintosh Users East

Doubleclick

October 2001

Doubleclick

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Double Click on the web at: www.mause.ca

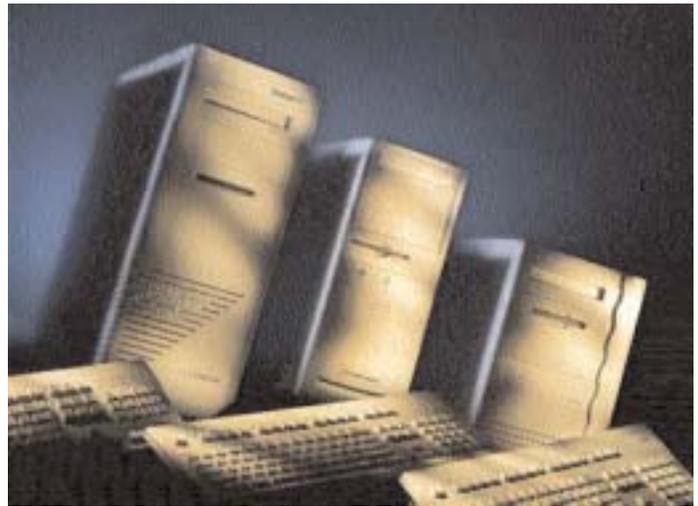
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From the Editor

There was an interesting episode in Apple's history during the mid-1990s when companies other than Apple built Macintosh OS computers...often referred to as "clones". In this issue we'll take an in-depth look at one of the biggest and most expensive of these ersatz Macs. I hope you enjoy this little bit of Mac lore.



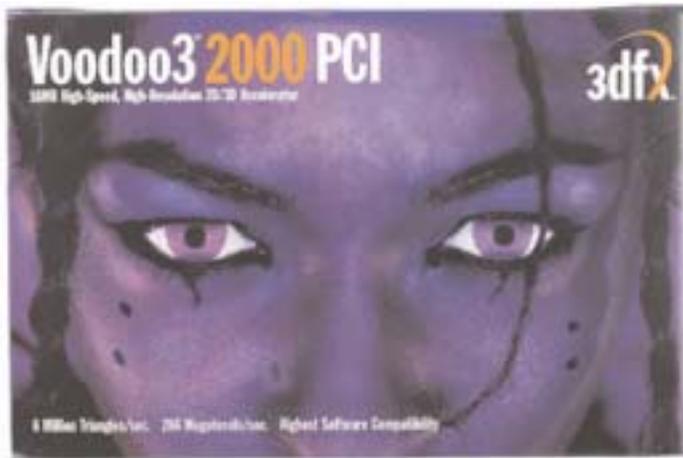
Small Print

What you are looking at is the October, 2001 edition of the **Double Click** monthly newsletter from the **Macintosh Users East**, (MaUsE), a motley collection of old and new Mac users who reside in Southern Ontario with a motley collection of old and new Macintosh computers. What more do you need to know? Oh, yes. This Newsletter is created by Michael Shaw, Double Click Editor, on a Sonnet-accelerated Macintosh PowerPC 6500/400 and a Daystar Genesis MP 800+. Submissions from MaUsE Club members, 'though rare, are always welcome. Send them to: michael_shaw@sympatico.ca. I have never refused a submission yet. There's always room for another piece on ANY Mac-related topic and I'll make room if there isn't. I would like your submissions. But I won't beg.

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Voodoo3 2000 PCI

I'll tell you what really ticks me off about Macintosh computers: no matter what I want to buy for my Mac I can get it cheaper if it fits a PC. Memory, printers, external CD burners, CD-ROM drives, modems, video cards, hard drives, and just about everything else. I was so very glad that Apple started to equip Macintosh computers with PCI slots cheap IDE ATA hard drives, and PC 100 memory. But when I wanted to upgrade the anemic video in my Sonnet G3 L2 6500/400 I found that there were amazing PC-only 8, 16 and 32 Meg video cards selling on eBay for next to nothing and only a very few Mac-compatible cards, like the ATI cards, for a lot of money. The

only 16 Meg video bargeon I could find was a 3dfx Voodoo3 2000 PCI video card in the PC video cards category that doubles as a Mac card. The way this works is you get the PC video card, install it in your Mac and load the software, and then run an application that updates the video cards firmware to make it Mac-compliant. Neat, eh ? If you ever decide to use the card in a PC you have to flash it again to change it back. To find out for sure if this would work I checked out the Apple site to check out the specs of the PCI bus of the PowerPC 6500 went onto the internet to the 6400 Zone, a website dedicated exclusively to owner/operators of the Performa 6400 and PowerPC 6500 models. The consensus there was that I would be delighted with the performance of the Voodoo3 2000 PCI card. The Apple site said that the card would not fit but the Low End Mac site said that it would.

I decided to get one of these cheap 16-Meg PC video cards being sold off on eBay still new in the box as "new old discontinued stock". There were lots just like it up for grabs that had been used and removed from PCs by previous owners but they lacked the Voodoo3 software CD and manuals that I wanted. To make absolutely sure I checked out the hardware reviews from Macworld and PC magazines on the internet. The dirt is that the card is a snap to install and the Voodoo3 2000 PCI pumps out over 100 billion operations per second to make possible resolutions as high as 2046x1536 and video speeds of up to 60 frames per second. The focus of many of the internet articles that mention the Voodoo3 2000 were specifically about running demanding games. Generating 6 million triangles per second, the Voodoo3 2000 PCI's Patented Single pass, Single Cycle, Multi-Texturing delivers the brilliant color and amazing clarity that has made it the standard in PC entertainment.

The history of the card and company are interesting. On March 20, 2000 **3dfx Interactive**, the company that made and marketed this card, announced that, according to research firm PC





Data, the company realized the best selling computer-related retail product based on both revenue and unit sales for the month of January. The Voodoo3 2000 PCI video card took the number one spot as measured by both unit sales and revenue for the eighth consecutive month. The Voodoo3 family of products held the top spot in retail for nine consecutive months, ever since the products were introduced in April 1999. For January, 2000, PC Data's report showed that 3dfx had the top four selling retail graphics boards in the U.S. in terms of revenue, with the Voodoo3 2000 PCI, Voodoo3 3000 PCI, Voodoo3 3000 AGP and Voodoo2(TM) 1000 PCI. Additionally, 3dfx held six of the top seven spots for revenue, rounding out with the Voodoo3 3500 TV and Voodoo3 2000 AGP. PC Data's report also showed that 3dfx took the top three positions in unit sales with the Voodoo3 2000 PCI, Voodoo2 1000 PCI and Voodoo3 3000 PCI. Voodoo3 3000 AGP, Voodoo3 2000 AGP and Voodoo3 3500 TV hold the fourth, fifth and sixth places respectively.

You might think that this 3dfx story has a happy ending. Well, it doesn't. One of the reasons why the Voodoo3 cards (16 Megs), Voodoo4 cards (32 Megs), and Voodoo5 (64 Megs) are cheap on eBay is that the company that made them is no longer in business, so there is no official support for these cards. By the end of year 2000 the company

reported a net loss of \$178.6 million for the quarter, or \$4.53 per share, using 39,442,000 shares in the per share calculation. For the nine months ending October 31, 2000, the company reported a net loss of \$291.5 million, or \$9.69 per share. I went to the 3dfx website and found only a notice dated December 15th, 2000:

To our valued customers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you've given 3dfx over the years....

The company, after all that success and all those big hit numbers closed down and its assets were picked up by Nvidia. Luckily the software to drive the cards in Pentium based PCs is right there on the CD and the software to make the cards run on PCI Macs and PCs is available for download from the internet. A search for "Voodoo3 2000 PCI" will take you to any number of sites where information and the software can be found.

Be on the lookout for similar bargain 3dfx products and other PCI video cards as they become available on eBay. As the AGP interface becomes the dominant interface for video and other expansion cards there should be lots of PCI interface bargoons that will add video in and video out capabilities to your Mac at a fraction of their true value.





The Daystar Genesis MP 800+

In what turned out to be a misguided effort to expand their market share Apple computer licensed its operating system to a slew of companies back in the mid '90s, a decision which was soon reversed. But not before Akia, APS Tech, Centralen Norrland, Centro HL, ComJet, Computer Warehouse, DynaTec, Gravis, Hardware Research, International Computer, MacTell, MacWay, MacWorks, Marathon, MaxxBoss, Pios, PowerDome, PowerEx, Power Tools, RedBox, Shaye, Storm, Tatung, Vertegri, VisionPower UMAX, PowerComputing, Motorola, Daystar, Radius and others whipped up and sold a selection of high-value Mac "clones". Compared to the pricey Apple Macs many of the cloned Macs were better equipped and more competitively priced, which made for interesting hardware reviews and cute comparison "Clone vs. Apple" advertisements in which processor speed, expansion capabilities and dollar value info always favoured the clones. Macworld's unbiased testing and Reviews confirmed the boasting in the ads: in most instances the Mac clones were faster, more upgradable, and had features not available from comparably priced Mac models. The decision to sub-license the Mac OS, (which created a few years of intensive R & D and healthy competition that drove Mac prices down and made Mac computers an even better deal for end users), was reversed in 1997 leaving clone makers no choice but to cease and desist from making PPC Mac clones. Support for these models ended soon after

From the January 1997 Macworld magazine we find in their "Mac Superguide" section (below) a very un-Macintosh selection of really terrific desktop computers. The systems rated are the ones that were actually commercially available at the time of printing. The systems were rated on performance and price. The results of the seven categories tested and the winners were a bit of a shock. Of the 15 desktop systems reviewed that received the highest ratings **there were only four Macintoshes listed**. The rest were "clones" ...wonderful clones. Image editing, 3-D graphics, and multimedia awards, categories usually dominated by Macs were all taken by the **Daystar Genesis MP (Multi-Processor) 720+**.

JANUARY 1997 MACWORLD

(Editors Choice systems in bold text)

Office System

Power Computing PowerCenter 150

Apple Power Mac 7600 / 132

Small Office / Home Office

Power Computing PowerBase 240

Apple Performa 6400 / 200

Educational System

Power Computing PowerBase 180

Apple Power Mac 5400 / 180

Image Editing and 3-D Graphics System

DayStar Genesis MP 720 +

Apple PowerMac 9500 / 180MP

DayStar Genesis MP 360 +

Publishing and Design System

UMAX SuperMac S900 / 225 E.C.

Power Computing PowerTower Pro 225

UMAX SuperMac S900 / 200

Multimedia and Video Creation

DayStar Genesis MP 720 +

Web and Intranet Server

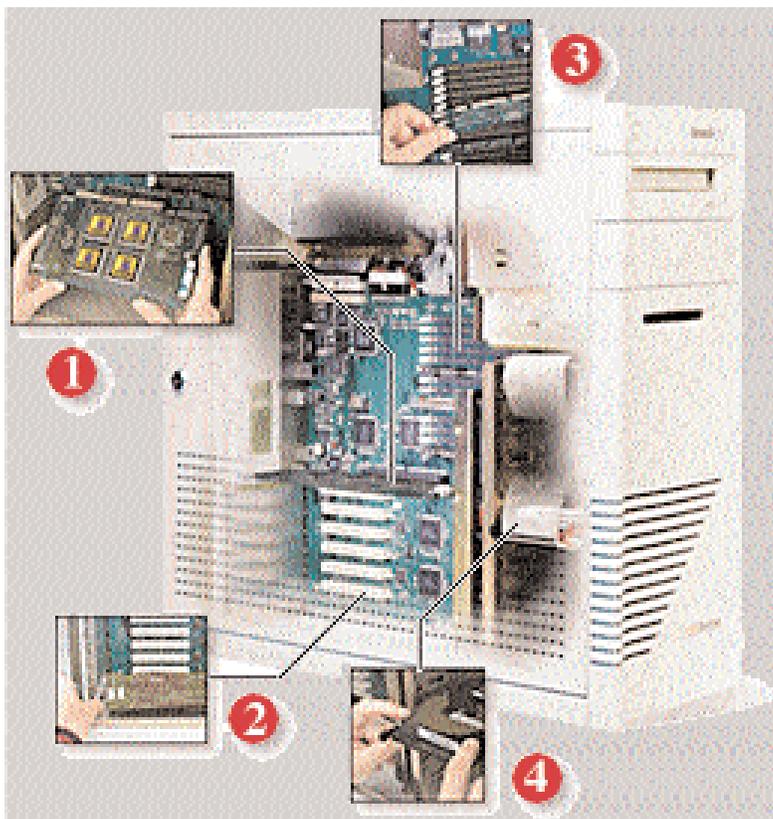
UMAX SuperMac S900 / 200

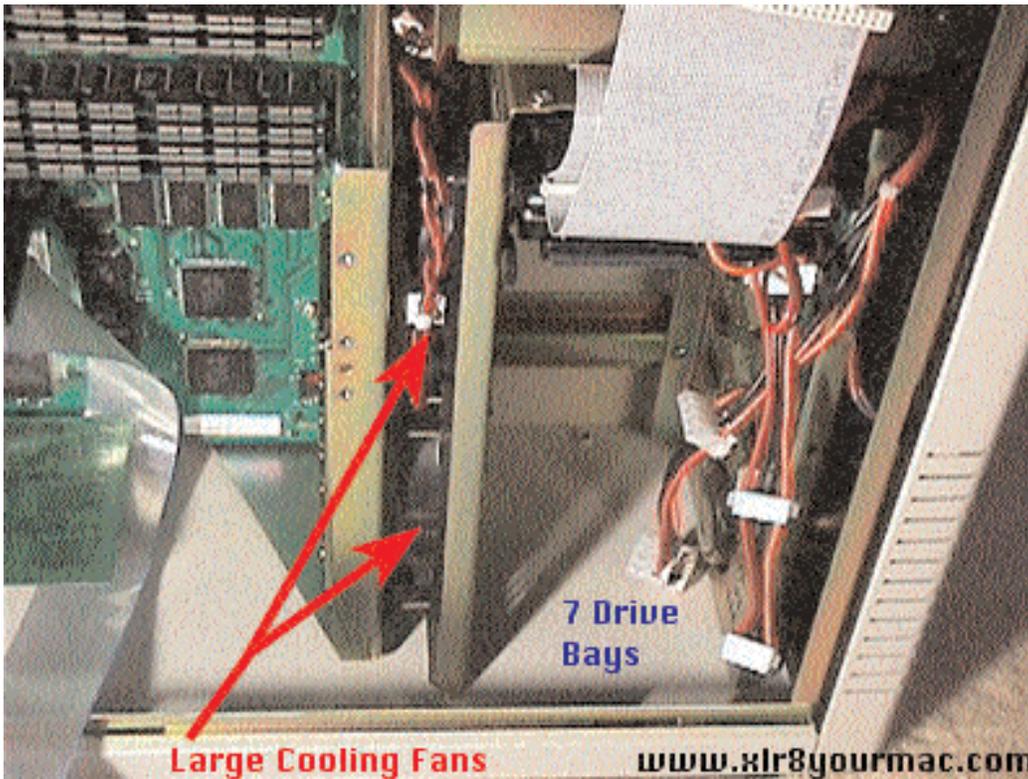
Apple PowerMac 9500 / 200

As a seller of Macintosh accessories DayStar has been in business for years, providing processor upgrade boards that plug into the Mac's Processor Direct Slot (PDS), and this upgrade vendor has significant experience with Mac hardware design and the MacOS. My own Macintosh IICI has a Daystar Charger Plus nubus Photoshop accelerator and a 40 Mhz Daystar Turbo '040 processor upgrade in it and they both work extremely well. Back in the dark days of '96 and '97, when Apple decided to license its operating system to the clone makers, DayStar was already one of the leading forces in Mac-compatible multi-processing OS extensions and system designs. Although the company licenses system-control ASICs from Apple, both Apple and UMAX licensed DayStar's multiprocessing APIs. UMAX used DayStar's technology in its MP (multiple processor) systems, and Apple built the DayStar API support into System 7.6. Apple's decision to cancel Daystar's license abruptly put an end to the promising development of software designed to make the most of multi-processing hardware. Hopefully the interest in the new MP G4s will re-awaken interest in this area of activity. When MP-aware software meets the right MP hardware the results can be very impressive.



Recently I had the chance opportunity to see not one but two of these historic monsters in action. The DayStar system is housed in an extra-wide tower case, which is one of the best constructed and most expandable I've ever seen. Lots of steel instead of plastic and everything pops off easily and snaps back together. Huge just doesn't do it justice. I already have the biggest Mac made, the 37-pound Quadra 950, but at 50 pounds the 21 by 22 by 8.5 inch Daystar Genesis MP 800+ CPU makes the Quadra look puny. Nine internal bays are present in addition to the standard 3.5-inch floppy disk drive and 8X CD-ROM drive bays. The machine comes equipped with not **one**, not **two**, but **four** 200-MHz PowerPC 604e CPUs (**1**) on a single large daughterboard (the vendor calls its MP hardware nPower). For further expansion at the back of the box there are six full-size PCI slots (**2**) for video cards and the like. In addition, the daughterboard is bounded by a bracket that makes removing or upgrading easy. There is also 512K of L2 cache on the motherboard. The board has 12 memory slots (**3**) that accommodate 168-pin DIMMs; by installing 128MB DIMMs, you can expand total system memory to 1.5 GB. Most of the drives (**4**) are easily installed sideways on sets of snap-on rails included with the Daystar Genesis CPU.



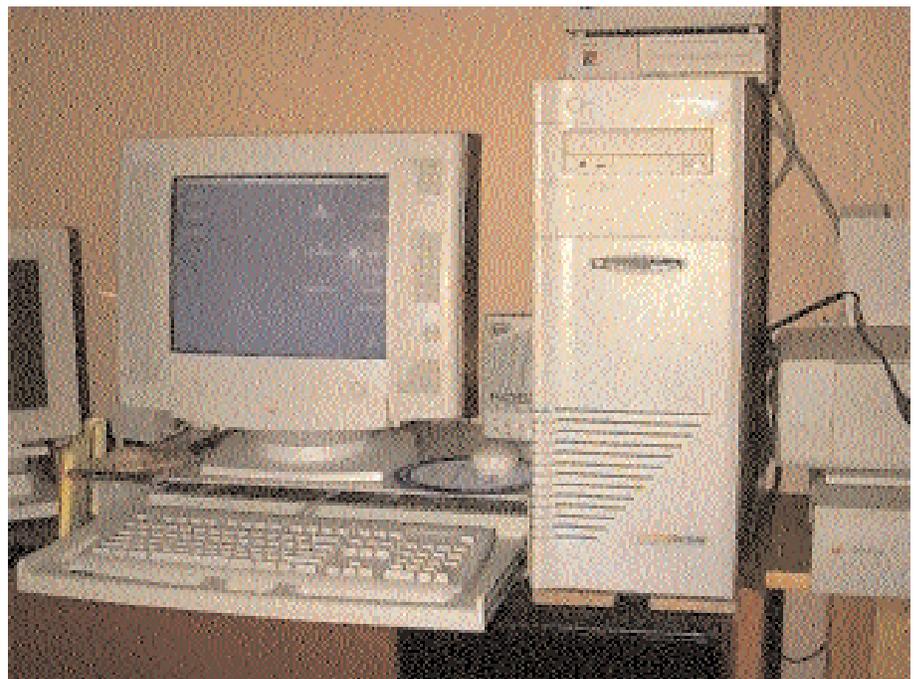


aware of multiple processors would be wonderful. With all four processors racing the Genesis is truly a force that even a G4 might cover before in certain situations. Any computer that can compete with any new piece of hardware 4 years after being discontinued is a rare thing, I think the people at Daystar deserve a pat on the back for putting together such an amazing machine.

Like all Apple PowerPC of that era, most of the DayStar's peripherals are attached via built-in

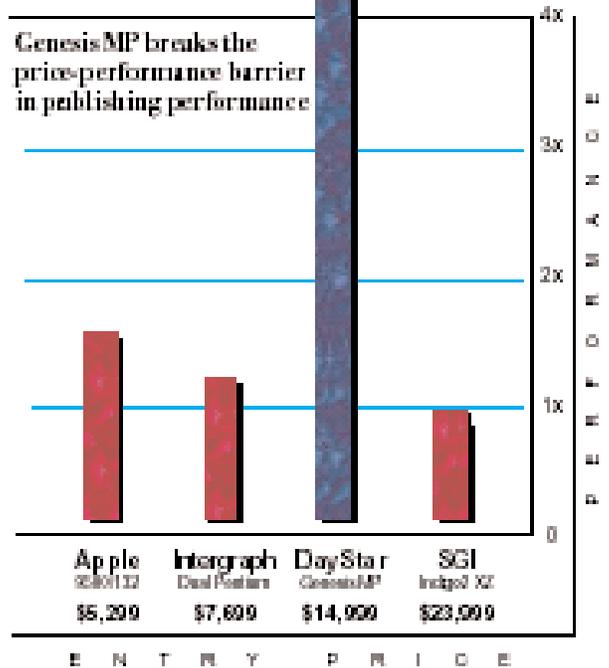
Throughout the history of Macintosh computers, their premiere use has almost always been content creation. And the chief among content creation applications has always been Adobe Photoshop. Therefore a very important aspect of any Mac is it's performance in Photoshop. The Photoshop crown has been passed from system to another throughout the years. The Mac II passed it's crown to the IIfx, which in turned yielded it to the IIfx. After the Mac II series, the Quadras took control, the 900, the 950, and the 840AV each took it's turn in the spotlight. Once the Quadras had faded into obsolescence, the era of the PowerPC dawned, and different PowerPCs tossed the crown around for a few years. in 1997 it definitely went to the Daystar Genesis MP 800+ This extraordinary piece of \$10,000 U.S. hardware is a juggernaut of computing power and a stunning example of the brute force approach to computing. The Genesis currently lays in the desert of the non-SMP OS that is MacOS today, however I think that they may enjoy a revival when the fully SMP Mac OS X is released this coming summer. Software written to be

SCSI-2 internal and external connectors. In addition, the unit features integrated 10-Mbps Ethernet, sound input/ output ports, two modem/ geoports, and a single ADB (Apple Desktop Bus) port for keyboard, mouse, or tablet connections. For power, a 350 watt power supply. For cooling there are two really big fans centrally located between the seven drive bays and the logic board, and another in the power supply. Using the Daystar Genesis MP has a few surpris-





*DayStar
Genesis MP...
5-7 times faster!*



es right from the OS 7.6.1 Startup ! The software adds its own Daystar desktop patterns and opening graphics. On the System CD there are lots of demos of multi-processor-aware programs and a few folders of plug-ins for programs like Adobe Premier and Adobe Photoshop. For some of the other programs and utilities the implementation of multiple processing activity is achieved as simply as opening up a Menu item and selecting the number of processors you wish to turn on. The difference is immediately apparent.



The Apple System Profiler recognizes the Daystar Genesis MP for what it is: Machine ID and model name and all the four processors show up. Once engaged the MP capability makes a visible difference...like going from impulse to warp drive. The Genesis does everything it can to justify its expense. Back in 1996, when the PowerPC 9500 was Apple's fastest Mac, and cost \$ 5,299.00 U.S., the Daystar Genesis MP cost \$14,999.00 U.S. but for running Photoshop there was nothing on the planet that could compete with it.

Rather than marketing through dealers or directly to the public, DayStar sold stripped-down computers (with no memory, hard disks, graphics cards, keyboard, or mouse, but with four processors) to retailers to configure as they saw fit. Unfortunately there were only a very of these potent Daystar Genesis clones sold during the fourteen months that Daystar made clones (from May 1996 to August 1997) and the last and fastest of them, the Daystar Genesis MP 932+, with four 233 Mhz 604e processors, was only in production for 14 days in August 1997 when Apple pulled their plugs. The revoking of the clones' licenses may have saved Apple computers but the tragedy of this was that software support for the Daystar pioneered multi-processor technology evaporated once there were no more plans for better and faster MP computers and the companies whose software was already MP compliant



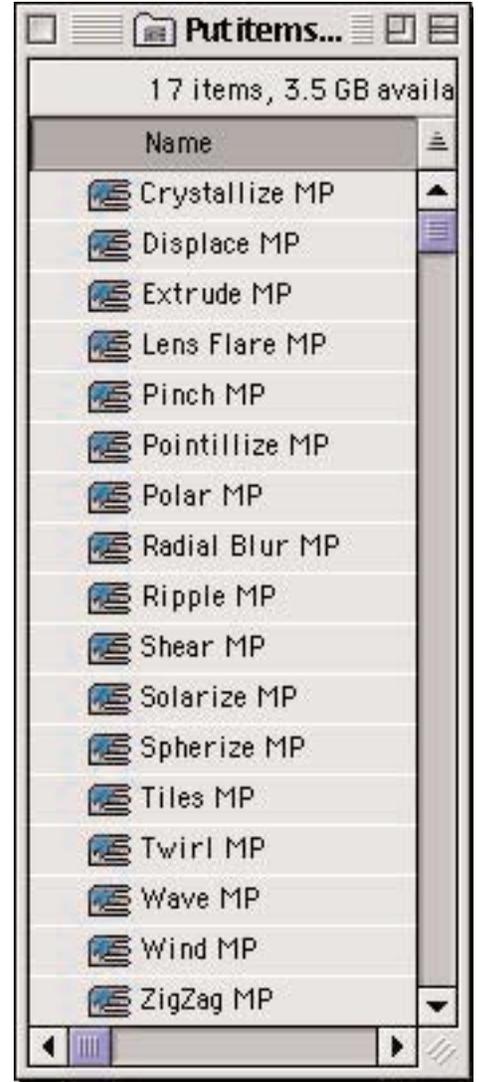
did not concern themselves with keeping their software upgrades MP aware. With most of these programs, like Bryce, the acceleration works invisibly in the background but others, like Photoshop and Premier, require that libraries of MP plug-ins be installed. Many of the operations computers perform occur so quickly that the acceleration is unnoticeable. Some of the popular Macintosh programs that recognize and draw on the multiple processor abilities of the Daystar Genesis multiple processors are:

- **Adobe**
After Effects
Dimensions
Illustrator
Photoshop
Premiere
Streamline
- **Artel Software**
Boris Effects
- **Autodesk**
FormZ
RenderZone
- **Deneba**
Canvas
- **Electric Image**
Electric Image Animation System
- **Emagic**
ZAP-Zero-loss Audio Packer
- **Fractal Design**
AddDepth
Dabblers
Detailer
JAG II
Painter

- Poser
Ray Dream Studio
- **Image Xpress**
ScanPrep Pro
- **Insignia Solutions**
SoftWindows
- **LightWork Design**
LightWorks Renderer
LightWorks Plug-in Render for QuickDraw 3D
- **Live Picture**
Live Picture
- **Macromedia**
Deck II
- **Media 100**
100 Editing software
- **MetaTools**
Bryce
Convolver
Final Effect
Kai's Power GOO
Kai's Power Tools
KPT Actions
Studio Effects
- **NewTek**
LightWave 3D
- **Quark**
QuarkXPress
- **Scitex**
MicroSphere
- **Specular**
Backburner
Collage
Infini-D
LogoMotion
Replicas
TextureScape

- **Strata**
Media Paint
StudioPro
Video Shop
- **Steinberg**
CuBase
- **Synergy International**
Hollywood FX
- **Ultimate**
Ultimate

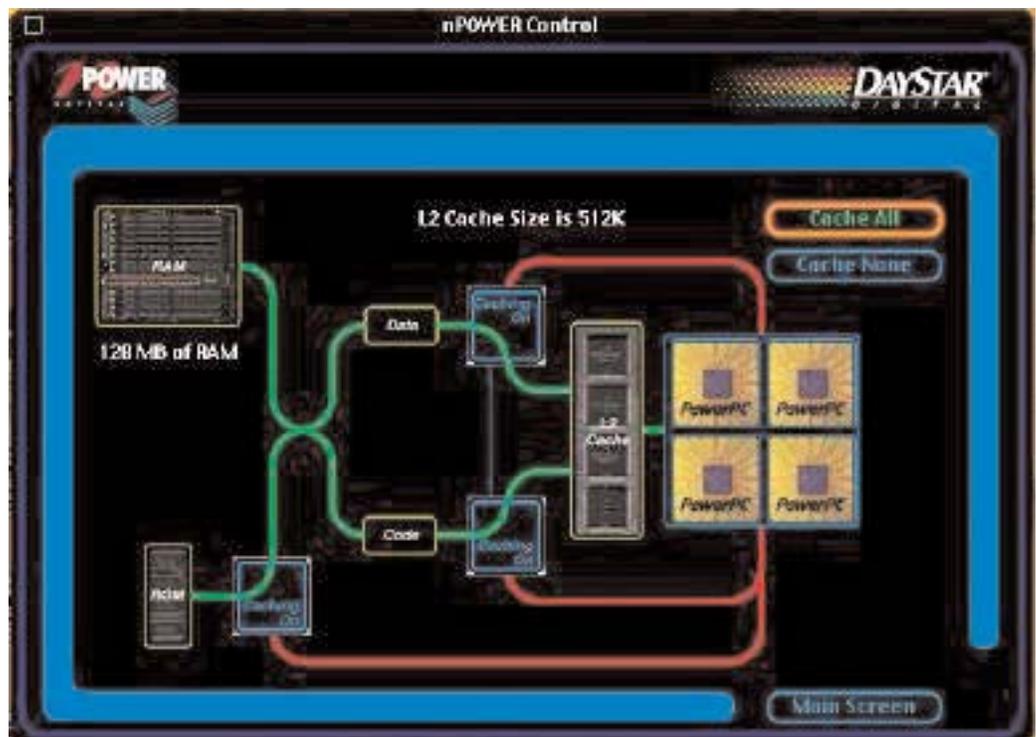
Of all these programs the one that intrigues me the most is Bryce. Running Bryce on the Daystar Genesis is actually faster than running it on my Sonnet-powered L2 G3 400 Mhz 6500.



The proprietary Daystar software that activates the processors is called nPower Control. This is more of an application than a Control Panel and entails a selection of graphic windows and visual aids to help monitor the Multi-Processing processes. The nPower application provides information about the system in six windows and also contains a set of testing utilities and routines that can be used to investigate and verify the

processors, application load, SCSI buses, memory L2 Cache and PCI cards. Many of the pictorial representations of components shown in the nPower Control are actually buttons that can change the way the computer works so its best to read up on this utility before trying it out. Fortunately there are lots of .PDF and HTML documents and manuals on the Daystar System CD that explain the function of the nPower software. Although Daystar does not sell or support these machines any more there is still a Daystar genesis website where all of the manuals and software updates can be downloaded and an unofficial Genesis support site at <www.tweek.com> where they have Daystar manuals, brochures, and information about MP software updates.

Playing with this new old clone has been a gas. Keep your eyes open and you may find other types of Mac clones from that exciting era of Macintosh innovation that was the Clone Wars.





Computer and accessed my eBay account. I innocently listed the radio on Tuesday, Sept. 11 with this description, which I felt to be accurate:

See the pictures. This PINK 110 Volt Canadian General Electric AM Radio is a joy to look upon. The Numbers are in cream paint. The Sound is excellent, too !! I have no idea of the date of manufacture but this unit is not a reproduction item. It is about 6 X 6 X 9.5 inches and made of rich lustrous plastic. It is an original old radio in very good condition. There are tubes inside instead of transistors. This would be a lovely addition to

any Deco collection...or any lovely room. Opening bid \$5.00. No PayPal. High bidder Pays \$8.35 S&H in North America. More elsewhere.

Mike & Irma's Excellent eBay Adventure

Well, this article is not exactly about Macs but it was made possible and easy by virtue of our exposure to Macintosh technology. eBay, like the Double Click, is just one more of the things I do with my Macs.

Our latest eBay adventure began on Saturday, Sept. 8th. Irma and I went to a few yard sales and she picked up, among other treasures, a squat pink art deco CGE plastic AM desktop radio. The woman selling it plugged it in and it worked just fine, so the \$2.00 she asked for it was acceptable. Once we got it home Irma wiped it off and decided that she didn't really want it after all. Rather than drop it off at the Goodwill I took a few pictures of it with the Apple QuickTake 150 and fired up my trusty Macintosh 6500



Lovely Art Deco CGE PINK radio !! LOOK !!!

Item # 1004583128

[Collectibles:Furnishings_Knives_Tools:Radios:Tube](#)
[Antiques & Art:Antiques_post1900:General](#)

Bidding is closed for this item.

\$361.53
1
Auction has ended.

First bid **\$5.00**
of bids **9** [bid history](#)
Location **Beautiful Oshawa, Ontario**
Country **Canada**

As you can see from the bidding record from that date through the next week, the bidding was fairly intense on the first day of bidding and then quiet until the last day. This is typical of many seven-day auctions. What is not typical in this auction is the size of the numbers involved . I submitted an opening bid of \$5.00 U.S. to get things started, and fully expected the bidding to go to \$15.00 or \$20.00 U.S. Imagine my surprise and Irma's delight when we checked back later in the day and saw the price hit \$30.00 U.S. and then soar to \$99.00. I got a few emails from potential and real bidders who wanted more pictures and information about the condition of the pink plastic case. of course I took more pictures and answered every query once I realized that serious money was involved.

By the end of the week the bidding was even more out of control and I had realized that I had accidentally listed a very rare, unusual and desirable little radio. One message I received read, in part:

I had anticipated the value of the set between \$250 and \$400 ... would have been amazing for it to go for less. This is an extremely rare and desirable plaskon set. There are no more than two or three pink plaskon or beetle plastic sets (made before the mid-50s) of which I am aware... (I) had only heard of the pink set--- never actually seen one in fifteen years of collecting plastic sets.

If I had known how rare this little pink radio was I might have advertised it differently on eBay, using some of their attention-getting banners and gimmicks but as it turned out the right people saw it and expressed their approval in the best eBay fashion.

On Tuesday, September 18th I received explicit instructions from the high bidder who wanted to make absolutely sure that the radio would be properly prepared for safe transportation to his home and on Thursday, the 20th, we received a

| Bid Amount | Date of Bid |
|------------|------------------------|
| \$361.53 | Sep-11-01 17:32:54 PDT |
| \$356.53 | Sep-17-01 15:25:20 PDT |
| \$323.63 | Sep-17-01 15:24:36 PDT |
| \$231.63 | Sep-17-01 15:23:44 PDT |
| \$200.00 | Sep-11-01 16:45:26 PDT |
| \$99.99 | Sep-11-01 19:44:06 PDT |
| \$30.00 | Sep-11-01 09:17:28 PDT |
| \$14.00 | Sep-11-01 05:04:39 PDT |
| \$5.50 | Sep-11-01 09:12:40 PDT |

certified cheque for \$587.00 Canadian to pay for the radio and shipping to its new home. When I emailed the buyer to confirm that the radio had arrived safely, triple-boxed with lots of bubble-wrap and styrofoam peanuts, he confirmed safe delivery and said that he was delighted with his purchase. After the transaction was completed I also received from the buyer a positive feedback comment on my eBay Feedback page to publicly express his approval of my conduct during the transfer of the radio to him and I left him a positive comment on his public feedback to indicate my approval of his conduct. This is one of the methods by which eBay buyers and sellers police themselves and each other.

Getting onto eBay as a buyer entails a very simple procedure: go to < www.ebay.com > on the internet and register by selecting a name for yourself and providing a valid email address. Thats pretty well all there is to it. To sell on eBay its best to establish a record as a buyer first and then register as a seller and start dragging the junk out of the cellar. If you lurk on eBay you will notice a number in brackets after each persons name. The number after each buyer or seller's name indicates roughly how many auctions they have been successful in. Clicking on the number will take you to their Feedback page where you can read comments from the other eBay users who have been involved in transactions with this person.

September Meeting

And so begins another regular season of MaUsE meetings. Welcome back to the ones who made it out for this months meeting and for the rest of you, hopefully we'll see you in October. This is what you missed.



There were lots of stars shining at the September 26th MaUsE meeting. Our own Jim Foster and Bruce Cameron described their visit to MacWorld New York 2001 with Jim's photo slide show using the clubs new iBook and Bruce showed us a few videos outlining the abilities of Quickeys and raffled off a copy of that excellent program and some other treasures from their latest visit to MacWorld. Chris Greaves made the popcorn for membership to munch during the slide show and videos. Lennie Clement put in a surprise appearance with his new G4 Titanium PowerBook.

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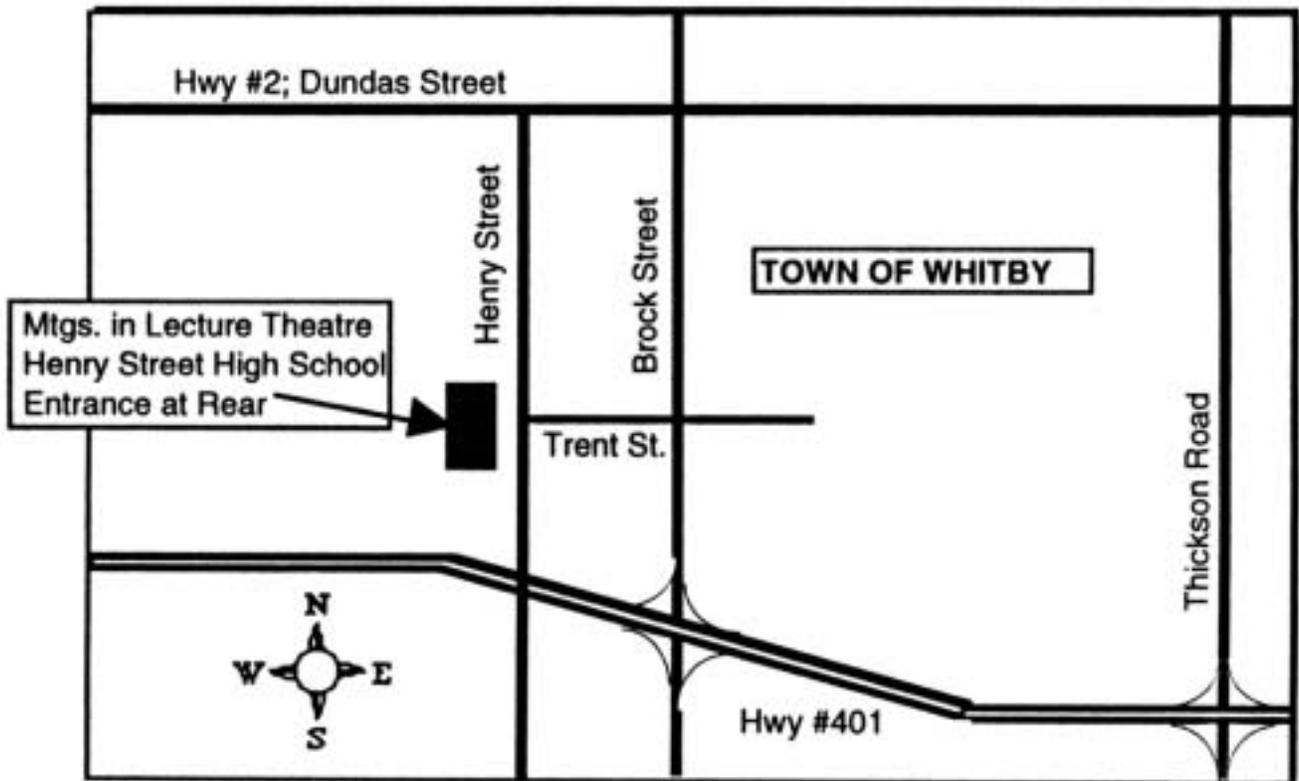
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OCTOBER 24th MAUSE MEETING NOTICE

We had a surprise visit at the September Meeting by Lennie Clement, (musician, photographer, artist, desktop publisher, father of one and soon to be two, millwright and all around local prodigy), who brought his new G4 PowerBook to the meeting and tentatively promised to return with it for the October 24th MaUsE Meeting to demonstrate some of the neat stuff he's been doing with it. That will be terrific. Be prepared to be entertained and surprised. I'll say no more.

The next meeting will be at the usual place, Henry Street High School, on Henry Street South in Whitby. Bring a friend or anyone you can think of who would enjoy the show and maybe we can fill up the room. Doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the Meeting starts at about 7:30 P.M. and is open to the public. Everybody welcome. Park to the rear of the school in the West Lot and enter through the West doors. Ask the Smoking Man, Bruce, for directions or follow the signs to the lecture theatre.

