

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.079

Accession Date: 8-Dec-2012

Accession By: Dr.Mike Brady

Object name: Apple Macintosh M5126 portable computer

Vintage: c.1991

Synopsis: Revision of first-generation Apple portable to incorporate backlit display and psuedo-SRAM. S/N: C CK10601TM61.

Description:

The first generation Apple Macintosh portable was introduced in Sep-1989 with a white active-matrix LCD display and static RAM. The second-generation Apple Macintosh M5126 portable computer, released in Feb-1991, was a revision of the first-generation Apple portable to incorporate a backlit display and psuedo-SRAM.

The Mac M5216 had a 16MHz MC68HC000 CPU, 1-8MB of memory in just one slot, 256kB ROM, and was capable of about 1.3 MIPS. The machine in this collection has a 1.44MB 3.5" double-sided floppy disk drive and a 40MB Conner CP-3045 low-power hard disk (these disks have a proprietary SCSI connector but it is said that these machines will work with a standard SCSI disk). When the handle was pushed in, the 9.8" display would hinge open upwards from the keyboard and trackball. The display provided 640 x 400 at 77dpi.

At the rear there was a DB-15 3-row video connector, an Apple DB-19 external floppy disk connector, an Apple DB-25 SCSI connector, a proprietary modem slot, an ADB port for keyboard and mouse, a RS-422 DIN-8 serial port each for printer and modem, and a stereo headphone socket. The total weight was 15.8 pounds, about 8 times heavier than modern laptops.

The DB-15 3-row video connector was for an external video adapter (powered from the connector) which was never sold. The *Inside the Macintosh Portable* HyperCard stack [1] indicates it was designed to allow connection of a monochrome or RGB desktop display, projector, VCR, or PAL, NTSC or SECAM TV.

One of the problems of this model was that the battery was charged in series with the computer, so that if the battery failed then the machine could not boot. Compounding issues were that the 6V 5Ah sealed lead-acid batteries weighed over 2 pounds and that they failed if allowed to fully discharge. It is said that they will run from a Powerbook 100 power supply if the internal battery is removed. There is a separate 9V battery for the configuration PRAM.

Trivia: first portable used in space, in 1991.

Many thanks to Mike Brady for donating this item, which he was given by Apple for writing an Imperial College *micro-Prolog* to Prolog translator and interpreter.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
Click '*Accession Index*' (1st column listed) for related folder, or '*About*' for further guidance.
Some of the items below may be more properly part of the other categories of this catalog, but listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object and Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.079	Apple Macintosh M5126 portable computer. S/N: C CK10601TM61, FCC ID: BCGM5126

References:

1. *Inside the Macintosh Portable* HyperCard stack, see the related PDF in the associated folder in this catalog: *TheMacintoshPortableProductSampler.pdf*
2. Wikipedia, *Prolog*, see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh_Portable
3. Wikipedia, *Micro-PROLOG*, see: <https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micro-PROLOG>

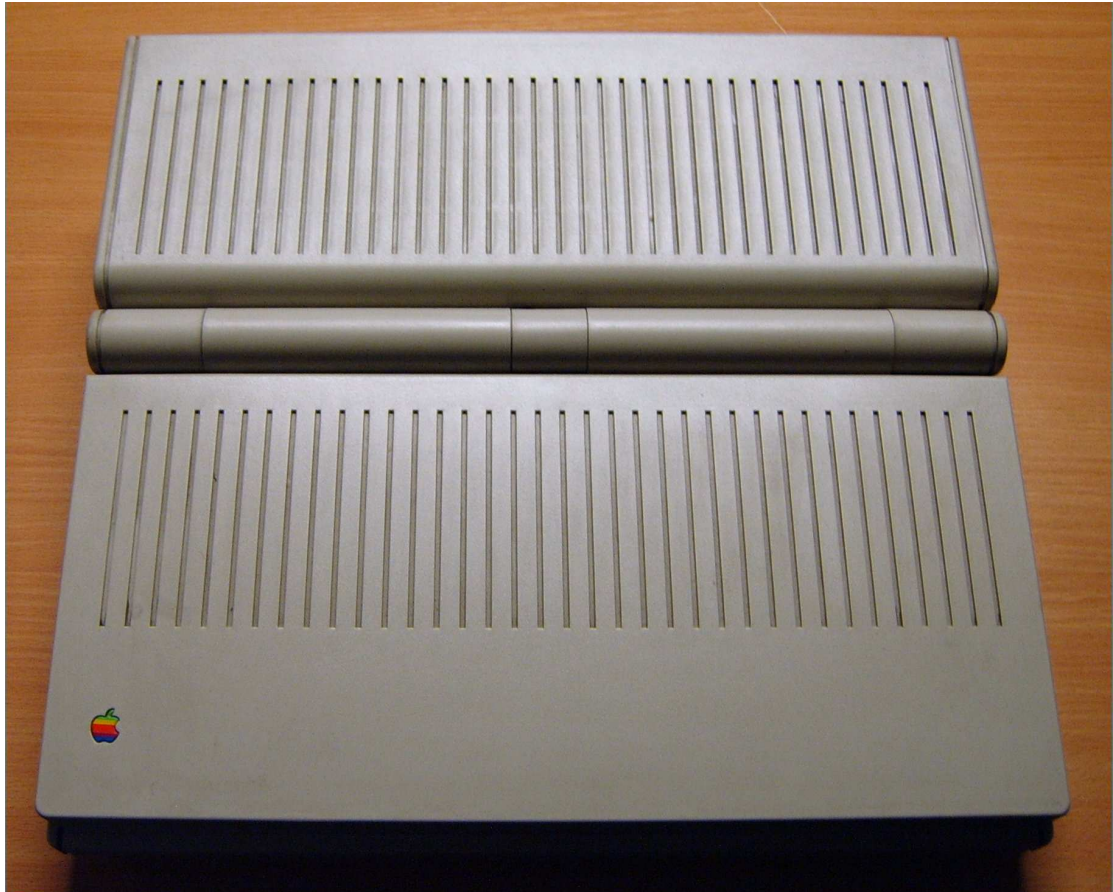


Figure 1: Apple Macintosh M5126 top front closed view



Figure 2: Apple Macintosh M5126 top right closed view



Figure 3: Apple Macintosh M5126 three-quarter open view



Figure 4: Apple Macintosh M5126 top front open view



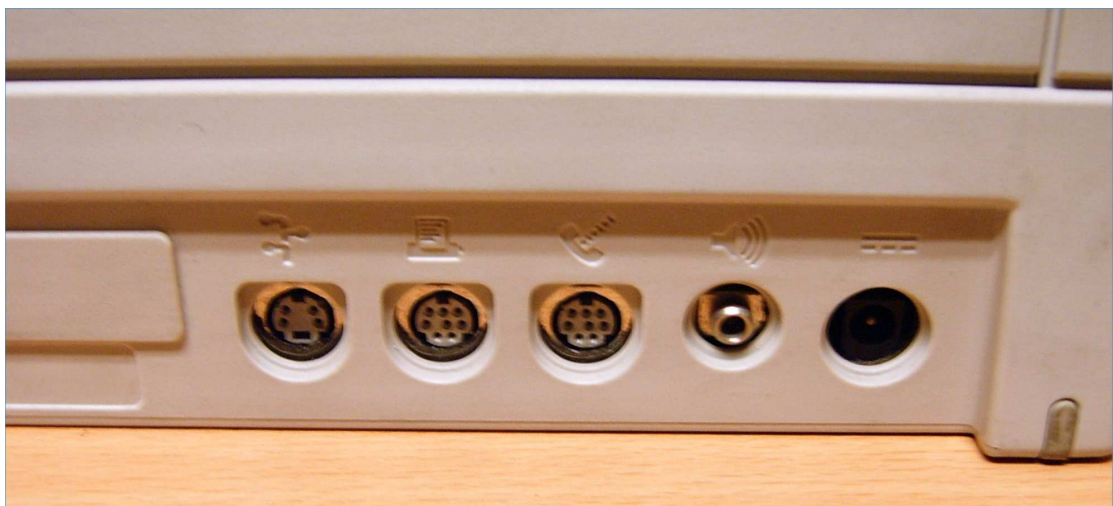
Figure 5: Apple Macintosh M5126 keyboard and trackball



Figure 6: Apple Macintosh M5126 rear view



*Figure 7: Apple Macintosh M5126 left rear closeup
DB-15 video adapter, DB-19 external floppy disk, DB-25 SCSI*



*Figure 8: Apple Macintosh M5126 right rear closeup
Proprietary modem slot at left,
ADB keyboard/ mouse port, RS-422 DIN-8 serial port for printer,
RS-422 DIN-8 serial port for modem, headphone socket, DC input*

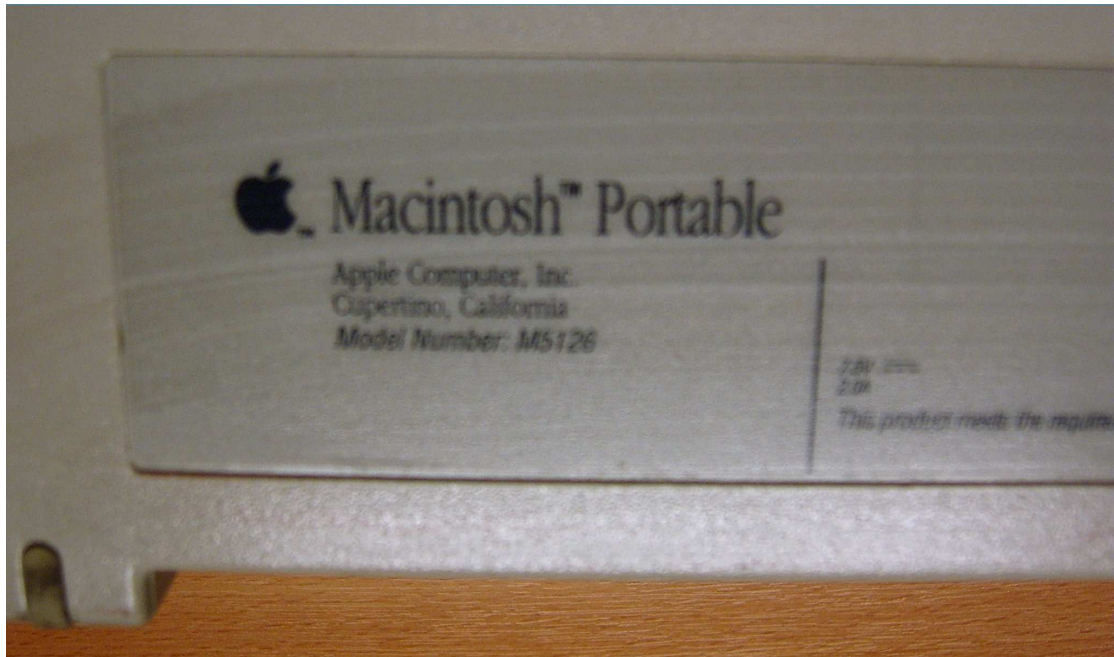
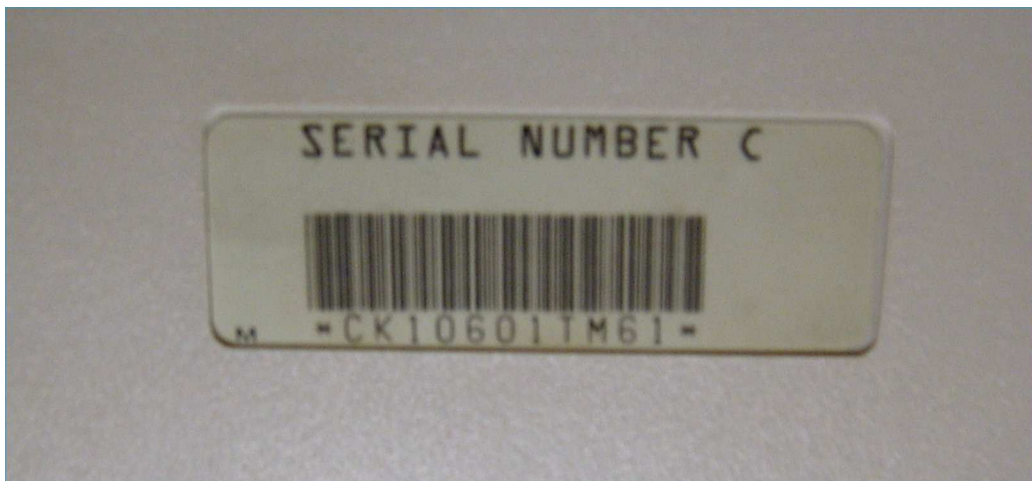


Figure 9: Apple Macintosh M5126 manufacturing label



*Figure 10: Apple Macintosh M5126 serial number
S/N: C CK10601TM61*