

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.001
Accession Date: 30-Aug-2017
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Object name: ICE Macrocube
Vintage: c.19xx
Synopsis: Storage unit, 10MB Model MC10, S/N: 180011.

Description:

This unit appears to be a storage unit for a Macintosh computer, although this cannot be confirmed as yet, as neither the company nor the product appear in literature searches. The unit has a 10MB 5.25" disk.

It has 25-pin D-type (DB-25) connectors *DISK IN* and *DISK OUT*, suggesting that it is a SCSI hard drive to be connected to the 25-pin SCSI port of the Apple Macintosh Plus or the Macintosh Classic. However, a DB-25 connector can be used for both SCSI or parallel-port disk I/O, e.g. there are SCSI DB-25 and parallel-port DB-25 versions of the Zip-100 disk. Connecting a parallel-port DB-25 disk to a SCSI DB-25 port can cause damage.

If it is SCSI DB-25 then this is unusual, as normally the Macintosh Plus has a SCSI DB-25 connector but its SCSI peripheral devices use a Centronics 50-pin connector, connected via an Apple DB-25 to Centronics 50-pin SCSI cable.

The fact that there are *DISK IN* and *DISK OUT* connectors suggests SCSI, which supports daisy-chaining up to 7 devices. But the fact that a short DB-25 cable bridges these connectors would be curious for SCSI, which would need one of the connectors to link to the Macintosh Plus. The Macintosh Plus does not have built-in termination, so a terminator is needed at the far end of the daisy-chain. The bridge cable does not look like a terminator; perhaps it is protection that short-circuits static charges when the disk is not in use.

More curious again (for SCSI) is that there is no facility to set the SCSI ID. On the Macintosh Plus the SCSI controller always adopted a SCSI ID of 7, while its SCSI devices could adopt any ID from 0 to 6. However, some hard disks avoided an ID selector by either assuming an ID of 0, or requiring that the user open the case and change the ID on the hard disk with jumpers.

The Macrocube also has a 9-pin D-type connector labelled *MAC*. But it is not obvious what this is for. On the Macintosh Plus a 9-pin connector is for a mouse.

The last Macintosh Plus OS version that can be used with SCSI DB-25 is System 6.

The unit is labelled as follows:

Serial No.	180011
Product Type	MC10
Size	10MEG
Voltage	220/240vac 50/60hz

Any further information on this unit would be welcomed.

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 are more properly part of the other categories of this catalog,
but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.001	ICE Macrocube 10MB Model MC10 storage unit. S/N: 180011.

References:

1. Wikipedia, *Macintosh Plus*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macintosh_Plus
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.



Figure 1: ICE Macrocube front left three-quarter view

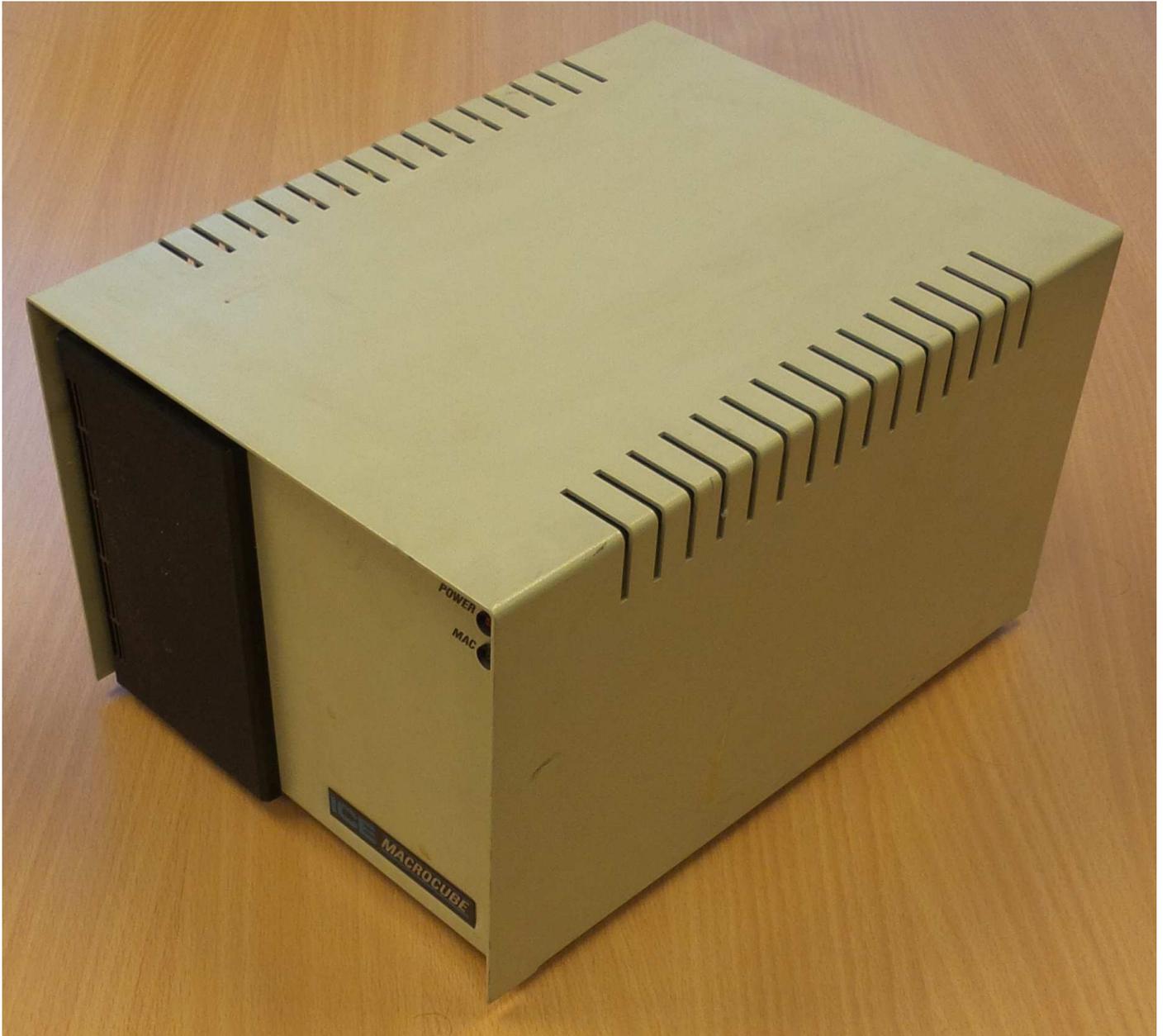


Figure 2: ICE Macrocube front right three-quarter view



Figure 3: ICE Macrocube rear view



Figure 4: ICE Macrocube manufacturing label