

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20170830.005

Accession Date: 30-Aug-2017

Accession By: Dr.Mike Brady

Object name: Apple Macintosh iMac G3/500 Model M5521

Vintage: c.2001

Synopsis: Stylish tear-drop Apple consumer desktop machine, S/N: VM2201F5MDE.

Description:

Apple introduced the *iMac* in Aug-1998 in a novel “tear-drop” (or “egg-shaped”) semi-translucent coloured case designed by Sir Jonathan Ive that included both the computer and its 15” CRT monitor with a built-in handle and built-in stereo speakers; the only other accessories needed were its free-standing keyboard and mouse (just like the original Macintosh). They were the first Macintosh to have a USB port but no floppy disk drive or Apple Desktop Bus (ADB). Later the iMac product line changed to a more traditional form, but these somewhat quirky early iMacs were and remain instantly recognisable. The ‘*i*’ prefix was proposed by Ken Segall and has become integral to Apple’s product lines with *iPod*, *iPad*, *iPhone*, *iTunes*, etc.

The iMac in this collection could be one of a dizzying number of models, but is marked:

S/N: VM2201F5MDE

MAC: 00-03-93-70-DA-EE

IMAC: 500/IN/128/20/CD/ULTRA/56K/FW/VGA

MODEL: M5521

EMC: 1857

So this iMac is a Model M5521 conforming to EMC 1857, has a 500MHz CPU, is “Indigo” coloured, has 128MB RAM, a 20GB hard disk, a CD, 56K modem, and Firewire and VGA ports. Thus it must be the 18-Jul-2001 *slot-loading* iMac G3/500 release (the earlier 22-Feb-2001 release Indigo colour only had 64MB RAM, the 19-Jul-2000 release only included 500Mhz CPUs in Graphite and Snow colours, and the 1st generation conformed to EMC 1821). Officially it would be a PowerMac 4.1, with a 32-bit G3 PowerPC 750cx CPU with 64kB of L1 and 256kB L2 on-chip caches.

The 2nd generation (19-Jul-2000, 22-Feb-2001 and 18-Jul-2001 releases) also included ATI Rage 128 Ultra (AGP 2X) graphics with 16MB of VRAM, 100Mbps Ethernet, IEEE 802.11b WiFi (*Airport*), IrDA, 2 x Firewire 400, 2 x USB 1.1, audio in and out ports, fanless convection cooling, and an updated shape. Keyboard and mouse were connected via USB.

This M5521 runs Mac OS 9.2.1, although M5521 iMacs can run up to Mac OS 10.4.

Many thanks to Mike Brady for donating this item.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
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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.20170830.005	Apple Macintosh iMac G3/500 Model M5521. S/N: VM2201F5MDE

References:

1. Wikipedia, *iMac*, see:
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IMac>
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.
2. Wikipedia, *iMac G3*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IMac_G3
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.
3. Wikipedia, *Timeline of Macintosh models*, see:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Macintosh_models
Last browsed to on 30-Aug-2017.



Figure 1: Apple Macintosh iMac front left three-quarter view



Figure 2: Apple Macintosh iMac front closeup



Figure 3: Apple Macintosh iMac rear view



Figure 4: Apple Macintosh iMac right side view



Figure 5: Apple Macintosh iMac left side view



Figure 6: Apple Macintosh iMac I/O ports



Figure 7: Apple Macintosh iMac bottom view



Figure 8: Apple Macintosh iMac manufacturing label

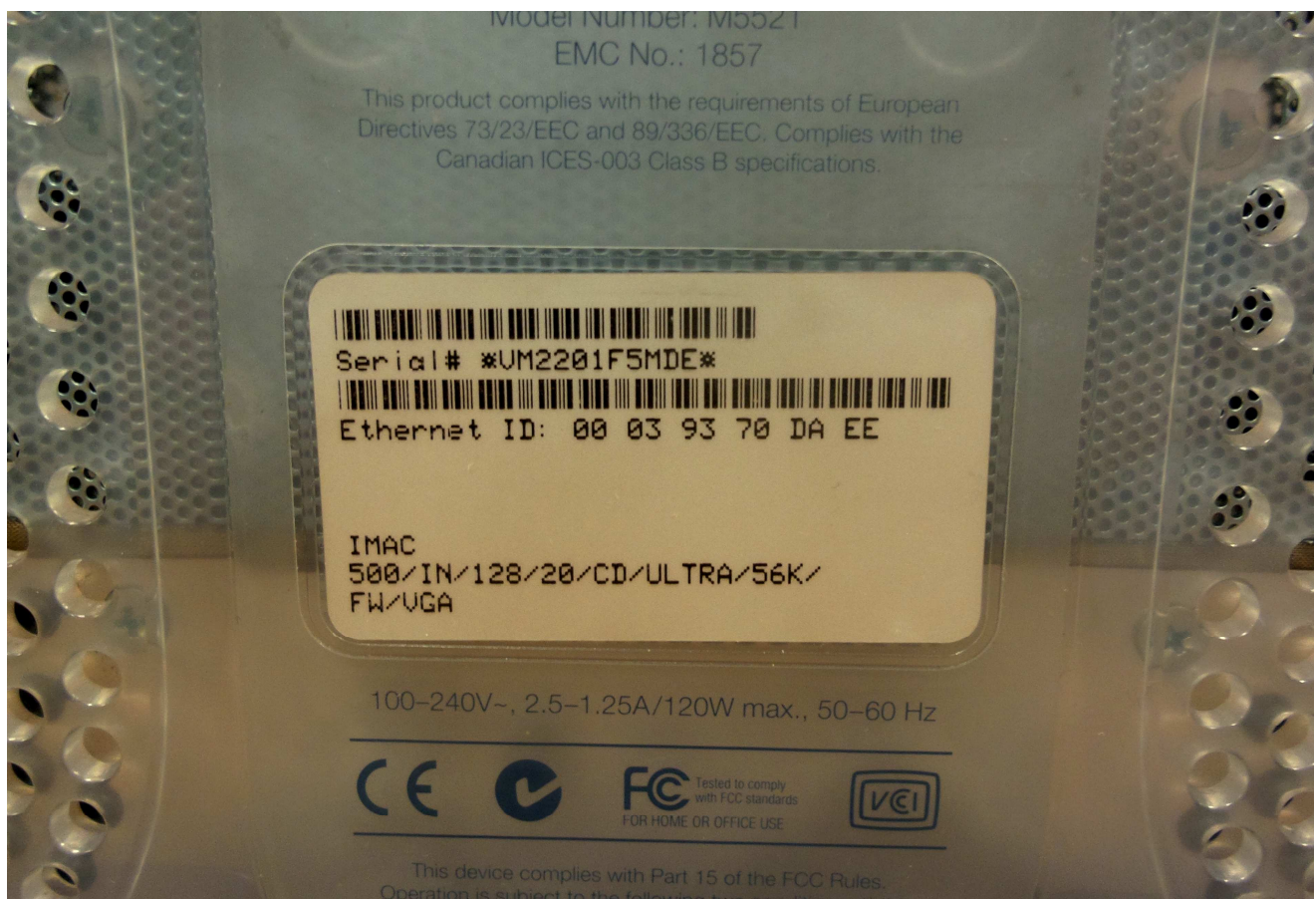


Figure 9: Apple Macintosh iMac serial number