

PREFACE

Getting Started

Introduction

This chapter does just what its title says; it gets you started. It provides a brief introduction to the RamFactor™ card, explains what a RAM disk is, and describes the manual. Please take a few moments to read this chapter thoroughly before installing the RamFactor.

About RamFactor

RamFactor is a plug-in accessory card which expands the Random Access Memory (RAM) capacity of your Apple® II, Apple II Plus, Apple IIe, and IIGS® personal computer. But, it is more than just a memory expansion card! The RAM on the RamFactor card expands the computer's storage capacity by emulating a solid-state disk drive, or RAMdisk™. In other words, the computer recognizes the RamFactor card not only as more memory but also as a peripheral device, a disk drive.

Special programs, permanently stored on the RamFactor card (computer jargon: "firmware"), allow you to separate RamFactor's memory into individual ProDOS™, DOS 3.3™, CP/AM 5.1™, and Pascal 1.3™ work areas, or "partitions." This allows you to very quickly exit from one program (or operating system) and boot into another by simply selecting a menu option. And without changing a single disk!

Although RamFactor's expanded memory normally functions as a RAMdisk, it can also be used to enhance the performance of certain application programs specially written to take advantage of its extra RAM. For example, AppleWorks® (1.3, 2.0, and 2.1) uses the memory to expand its Desktop space.

Using RamFactor is not difficult. You don't have to be a programmer or computer whiz, but you must have a basic understanding of the overall operation of your computer system. Learning several new things at one time can be very frustrating, so before jumping into this manual, please read the owner's manual that came with your computer and become familiar with any software you wish to use with RamFactor. Everything you need to know about using RamFactor should be in this manual. We ask you to read it carefully and thoroughly.