

What is a RAMdisk?

A conventional (mechanical) floppy drive or hard drive is a peripheral mass storage device capable of storing information on a recording medium, usually a magnetic disk. A RAMdisk uses Random Access Memory to emulate such a peripheral device. The conventional disk drive uses many moving mechanical parts to store and retrieve its recorded information. Because the RAMdisk has no moving parts, it can read and write files up to 20 times faster than a floppy drive or hard drive. Some larger disk-intensive programs, such as AppleWorks, when loaded into and executed from a RAMdisk, run appreciably faster.

About This Manual...

This manual is included with the Applied Engineering RamFactor peripheral accessory card. It explains what RamFactor is, how it can enhance the performance of your software and computer system, and how to install and use it.

How you intend to use RamFactor will determine which chapters you need to read. Use the chapter summary, below, to decide which chapters are applicable to your needs.

- Intro.:** *Getting Started* provides an overview of RamFactor, RAMdisks, and the manual.
- Chapter 1:** *Installing RamFactor* is a step-by-step guide to inserting the RamFactor card into your computer.
- Chapter 2:** *Putting RamFactor to Work* explains how to use RamFactor as a RAMdisk, a solid - state disk drive.
- Chapter 3:** *RamFactor Partition Manager* tells you how to divide RamFactor's memory into separate work areas, or partitions for different operating systems including ProDOS, DOS 3.3, and Pascal.
- App. A:** *Adding Memory to the RamFactor* tells you how to install additional memory chips on your RamFactor card
- App. B:** *Testing the RamFactor* contains information about using the RamFactor diagnostic programs included in the firmware and on the AW 2 Expander™ disk to check the basic operation and hardware reliability of your RamFactor card..