
POWER MAC G4 CUBE

START HERE

A simple first guide to living with an Apple Retro G4 Cube.



Restore. Test. Preserve. Upgrade. Curate. Support.

Welcome to the Cube.

The Power Mac G4 Cube is a computer worth getting to know slowly. Start Here is the front door: what to notice, what to protect, how to begin, and where to go next.

Use this guide when...

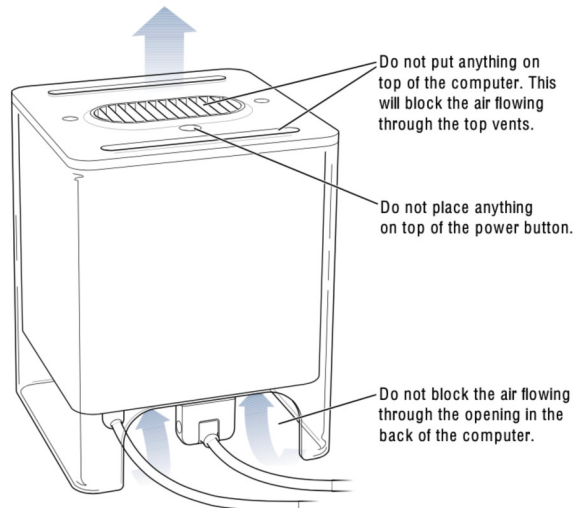
- ✓ you have just received or set up a G4 Cube.
- ✓ you are returning to a Cube after a long time away.
- ✓ you want the basic care rules before opening or modifying anything.
- ✓ you need to know which deeper Apple Retro guide to open next.

So much technology. So little space.



Know the machine before you touch the machine.

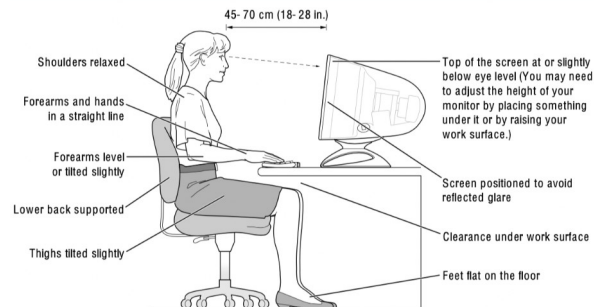
Think of the Cube in three physical areas - **TOP**, **INSIDE** and **BOTTOM** - plus the connected devices around it. It is an easy way to learn the machine without drowning in specifications.



TOP - Power control, optical-disc slot and ventilation path. Keep the top clear.

INSIDE - The removable core contains the working hardware. Modified machines may differ substantially from a stock Cube.

BOTTOM - The handle is used when extracting or reseating the core. Treat ports and cable connections deliberately.



Before ordering a part or following an upgrade procedure, identify what is actually installed in your Cube.

Five things first.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| 1 | AIR | Give the Cube breathing room. Do not block the top or rear airflow. |
| 2 | CABLES | Seat connections carefully. Never force a plug. |
| 3 | POWER | Finish the physical setup before connecting power and switching on. |
| 4 | DATA | Back up anything important before drive work, partitioning or upgrades. |
| 5 | PATIENCE | Change one thing at a time, then test it. |



A useful restoration habit

If you are performing several upgrades, do them one at a time. Each change gets a chance to prove itself, and a failure is much easier to isolate.

The clear case is part of the machine.

The Cube's transparent enclosure is beautiful, but it deserves gentle treatment. Keep alcohol away from the plexiglass.

**DO**

Use a fine soft cloth for fingerprints.

Use water and gentle dish soap only when necessary, followed by a thorough rinse and dry.

Move the enclosure carefully.

AVOID

Alcohol on the plexiglass.

Blocking ventilation.

Rough handling.

Working on connected hardware while power is attached.

A calm first run

Power on and let the installed operating system finish loading. Confirm the display, keyboard, mouse and storage volumes. Try peripherals one at a time. Save and reopen a small test file, then shut down normally.

Start simple. Learn what your Cube does.

On the first few sessions, resist the urge to change everything at once. Learn the machine's normal behavior first; upgrades and troubleshooting are easier when you have a baseline.



Old computers don't have to become old memories.

A restored machine can be useful, enjoyable and interesting again.

A little Apple Retro intermission.



GEM

Max Mod G4 Cubes run happiest - and will give their longest life - when the room temperature is cool and comfortable.

TRIVIA

Jobs and Wozniak were how old when their friendship began?

- a) kindergarten / grade school
- b) grade school / high school
- c) high school / college
- d) college / masters degree

Original guide answer: c.

QUOTE

*"yeah, we did one before
cubes are very efficient spaces
what makes this one [special] for me
is not the fact that it's a cube, but that
it's like a brain in a beaker
it's just hanging from this perfectly
clear, pristine crystal enclosure"*

- Steve Jobs, as quoted in the source guide

Start Here is the map, not the whole territory.

CARE + RESTORATION

Cleaning, safe handling, opening the Cube, tools, screws and teardown basics.

UPGRADES

CPU, graphics, RAM, storage, optical drive, cooling and other modifications.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Startup, display, memory, modem, mouse, power, PMU, CPU/ROM, sound and USB.

SOFTWARE + OS

OS 9, OS X, optimization, Leopard/Sorbet material, Linux, applications and games.

ACCESSORIES

Displays, keyboards, storage, iSight, audio and other compatible companions.

RESOURCES

Links, videos, collector material, stories, quotes, trivia and the fun stuff.



Vintage Macs, restored with care.

Technical details and compatibility can vary by configuration. Confirm your specific machine before modifying hardware.