

POWER MAC G4 CUBE

ACCESSORIES

Displays, input devices, sound, storage + useful peripheral possibilities



Build the desk around the Cube

The Cube's small footprint leaves room for a surprisingly large peripheral world. Start with the essentials, then add only what improves the way the machine is actually used.

A practical order

- Display first: choose a screen the graphics card can drive comfortably.
- Keyboard and mouse next: wired USB remains simple and dependable; wireless choices can work through compatible USB receivers.
- Sound matters because the Cube has no conventional internal speaker for everyday audio output.
- Storage, networking and specialty devices can expand the Cube far beyond its original Y2K desk role.

Connection reality

- The Cube's USB ports are USB 1.1. Newer USB devices may connect, but they operate at the Cube's slower bus speed.
- FireWire 400 is especially useful for external drives, iSight and other period-correct peripherals.
- ADC, Ethernet and the Cube's USB arrangement shape which accessories are easiest to use.



Apple Cinema Display - the natural visual partner

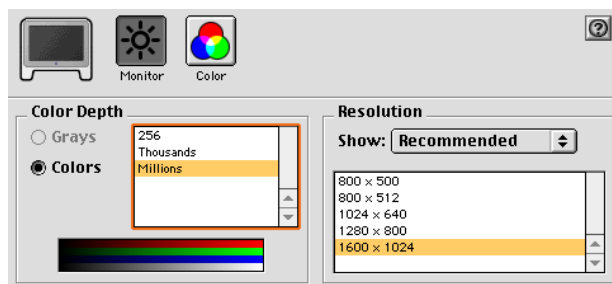
Apple's clear and graphite displays complete the Cube's original desk language, while compatible third-party monitors can provide a practical alternative.

Apple display choices carried in the guide

- 17-inch Apple Cinema Display: up to 1280 x 1024.
- 20-inch Apple Cinema Display: listed in the manuscript at 1620 x 1050.
- 22-inch Apple Cinema Display: up to 1600 x 1024.
- 23-inch Apple Cinema Display: listed at up to 1920 x 1080.

Match the display to the graphics card

- The stock ATI Rage 128 Pro and later graphics upgrades do not all support the same displays or resolutions.
- ADC carries display signal and power in one connection. Inspect ADC pins carefully; bent pins can create an unnecessary troubleshooting adventure.
- A second display may require an appropriate ADC-to-DVI adapter depending on the graphics card and monitor combination.



Maintaining Your Display

To maintain your display and ensure its long life:

- Do not press on the surface of the display screen.
- Do not write on the screen or touch the screen with a sharp object.
- If you will not be using your display and computer for a day or more, turn off the computer and display or use Energy Saver.
- Turn off your monitor, turn down the brightness, or use a screen saver program that dims or varies the image on the screen when the computer is idle for a prolonged time.

The controls change the whole feel of the desk

Original Apple hardware keeps the period experience intact; later wired and wireless choices can make the Cube easier to use every day.

Apple keyboard

- The wired Apple keyboard is reliable, substantial and includes two additional USB ports.
- Its extended layout is useful when the extra keys matter, although the large footprint is not for everyone.
- The original keyboard has no backlighting, so low-light use can favor a later backlit wired keyboard.

Backlit keyboard

- A compatible wired backlit keyboard can add brightness controls, application keys, media playback, volume and eject controls.
- Some keyboards can flash their backlight during startup, giving a visual cue when no boot chime is heard.

Mouse choices

- The original wired Apple Pro Mouse keeps the Cube visually period-correct and needs no wireless receiver.
- A later wireless mouse can add separate left/right buttons, a scroll wheel and a familiar ergonomic shape.
- A wired USB trackball is another useful choice for a compact workstation.



Give the silent Cube a voice - and a camera

Audio and video peripherals turn the Cube from a beautiful object into a communications, music and media workstation.

Sound

- The guide's accessory pool includes the original Harman Kardon Cube speakers, SoundSticks with clear woofer, and later powered speaker systems.
- The Cube's second USB port was intended for the original USB speaker system and is the natural starting point for Cube audio.
- USB audio adapters and compatible USB sound devices can open additional speaker, headphone or microphone possibilities.

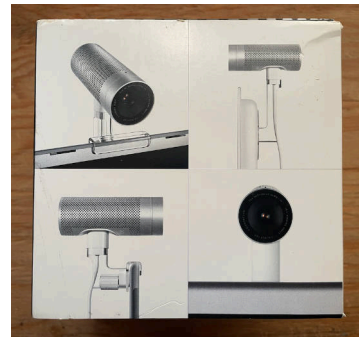
iSight + recording

- Apple iSight connects by FireWire 400 and can provide live video, conferencing and audio/video recording with compatible software.
- A microphone can support voice recording, instrumental tracks, podcasts and speech features when the software and audio interface cooperate.



 [Wikipedia](#)

Apple Speakers · Harmon-Kardon



Digital Amplifier Headphone Jack Specifications



One slow bus - many useful possibilities

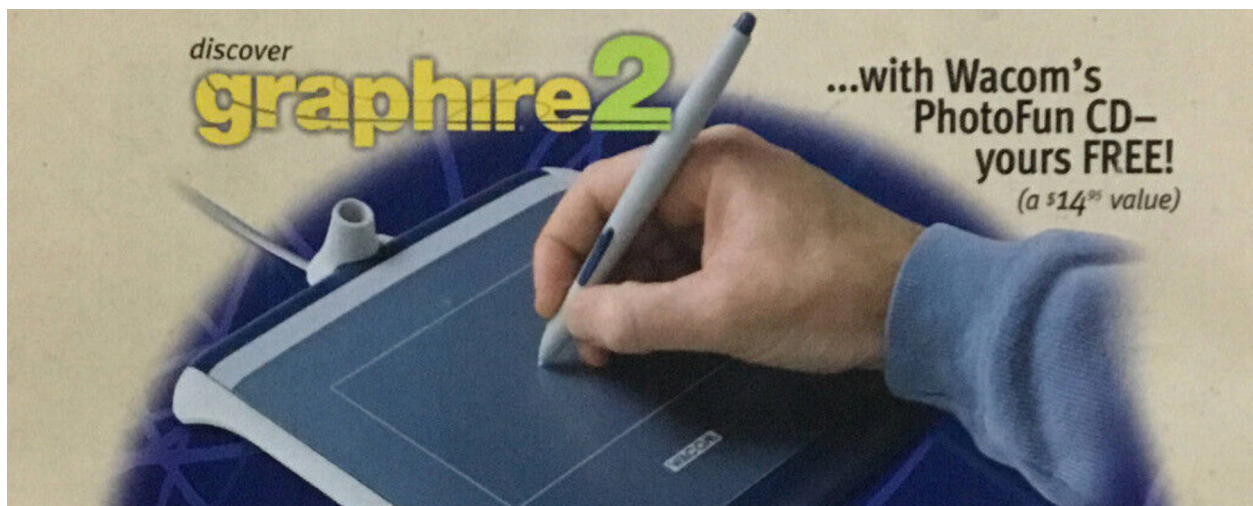
USB 1.1 is a limitation, but hubs and carefully chosen devices can make the Cube far more flexible.

USB hubs

- A powered multi-port USB hub expands the number of attached devices and can reduce the need to keep swapping plugs.
- Remember that the Cube remains the bottleneck: a USB 2 or USB 3 accessory does not turn the Cube into a USB 2 or USB 3 computer.
- Low-bandwidth devices such as keyboards, mice, receivers and many control surfaces are natural candidates for the USB bus.

Creative expansion

- A MIDI keyboard can turn the Cube into a period music-production station.
- A Wacom tablet can provide a drawing and design interface when paired with compatible drivers and software.
- Arduino-style USB hardware and other hobbyist devices are possibilities when their software still supports the Cube's operating system.



FireWire, Zip, RAID + the pleasure of removable media

External storage is one of the easiest ways to expand a Cube without disturbing its internal build.

FireWire drives

- FireWire 400 is well suited to period external hard drives and can be far more satisfying than moving large files through USB 1.1.
- External drives can hold backups, working files, installers or alternate boot systems when the drive and operating system support booting.
- The original guide used LaCie external drives heavily, including multi-partition setups for OS 9 and Classic-era systems.

Removable + network storage

- External Iomega Zip drives bring 100 MB, 250 MB, 500 MB, 750 MB and 1 GB removable-media eras back into the workflow, depending on model.
- Network storage can serve the Cube over Ethernet even when the NAS itself is much newer or no longer officially supported.
- Large external SSDs may be useful for general storage, but USB 1.1 makes them poor showcases for SSD speed; FireWire or Ethernet can be the more sensible path.

The Universal Serial Bus (USB) specification stipulates rates:

- USB 1.0/Low-Speed: 1.5 Megabits per second (Mbps)
- USB 1.1/Full-Speed: 12 Mbps.
- USB 2.0/Hi-Speed: 480 Mbps.
- USB 3.0/SuperSpeed: 5 Gbps.
- USB 3.1/SuperSpeed: 10 Gbps.

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The Cube can still run a surprisingly complete workstation

Printers, scanners, handhelds and power accessories turn the desk into a working little time capsule.

Print + scan

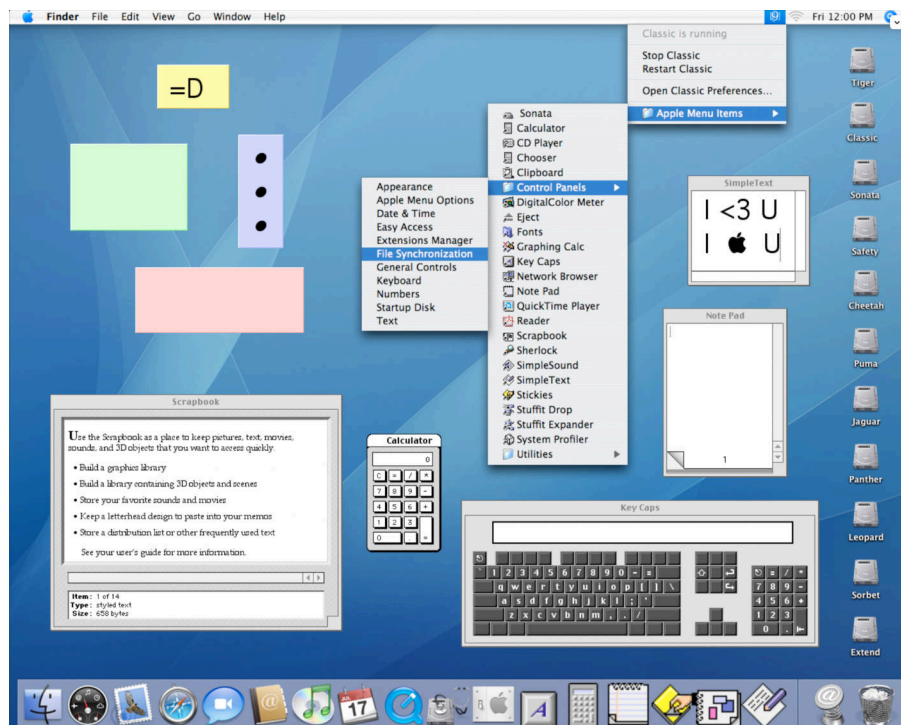
- Compatible Epson printer/scanner/fax units appear in the original accessory pool, connected by the appropriate USB cable and supported software.
- Driver availability matters more than the age of the printer itself. Match the device to the operating system before assuming compatibility.

Palm + iPod

- A Palm handheld can bring classic contact, calendar and organizer workflows back to life, with period apps and games adding to the experience.
- An iPod Classic can make a natural companion when the installed Mac OS and iTunes version support that particular iPod generation.

Power protection

- A compatible UPS or PowerChute-style setup can protect the workstation during a blackout and, where supported, provide automatic power-event handling.



Tiger running OS9 with Classic software

Apple around the Cube - pieces worth keeping nearby

Stickers, posters, magazines and films turn the workstation into a little piece of Apple history. None are required to use the Cube - they are simply part of the fun of collecting around it.

COLLECTOR'S PARTY

rainbow sticker

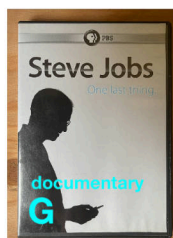
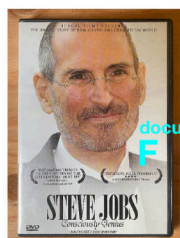
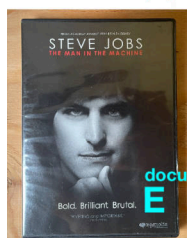
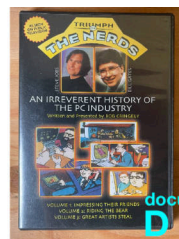
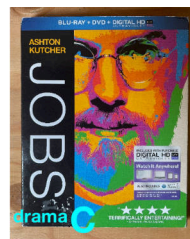
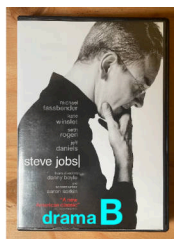
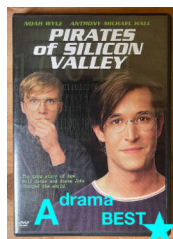
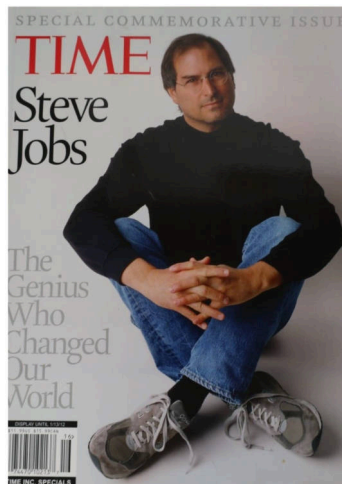


actual token rainbow sticker may vary

THINK DIFFERENT GENIUS POSTERS



picture from collectable poster item on [ebay](#)



Choose for the job - not simply because a port is empty

The best Cube setup can be historically faithful, heavily expanded, or somewhere happily in between.

Core desk

- Display - Apple Cinema Display or compatible monitor.
- Keyboard - original Apple, extended Apple or compatible wired backlit model.
- Mouse - Apple Pro Mouse, wireless mouse or USB trackball.
- Sound - Cube speakers, SoundSticks or another compatible USB audio path.

Expand when useful

- FireWire storage and iSight.
- Powered USB hub for low-bandwidth peripherals.
- Printer/scanner, Zip drive, Palm handheld or iPod.
- Microphone, MIDI keyboard or Wacom tablet for creative work.
- Ethernet-connected storage for larger archives and shared files.

Workshop note

- Compatibility varies by operating system, driver, graphics card and individual device. Test one addition at a time and keep known-good cables nearby.
- This Accessories chapter is condensed from the peripheral notes in the original AppleRetro Guide v3 manuscript.



Vintage Macs, Restored With Care.