

COLOR CONTRAST II - MAC

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

General Information:

Color Contrast II is a computerized colored light exhibit that allows you to test your color sense and demonstrates how easily your perception of color is influenced by other colors. A monitor screen displays two large colored squares, each of which contain a smaller square of color. A trackball and button allow visitors to adjust the color of one small square to try to match the other small square. Another control allows the visitor to check whether the squares are in fact the same color. The background color of the two larger squares, as well as the colors of the smaller squares, can be changed.

Initial Setup and Operation:

The computer, a PowerMac 7300/180 running system software 8.5, is set to Little Rock time, and is configured to startup at 7:00am and shutdown at 7:00pm every day. Use the Date & Time control panel to change the time, and use the Energy Saver control panel to change the startup and shutdown times. The screen resolution should be set to 640x800 and to the highest frequency possible. Use a monitor adapter purchased from a local or mail order computer store if the display is not an apple display. To quit the program, which will run automatically at startup, access the keyboard and type command-Q (- Q).

Troubleshooting:

The Color Contrast II software is a Macromedia Director Projector. The file is located on the desktop, and an alias is located in the Startup Items folder so that it will run at startup.

If the computer doesn't turn on or the program does not run, check all the cables, try again, check that an alias of the Color Contrast II software is in the Startup Items folder, check that the time is correctly set, and check the Energy Saver control panel to be sure the startup and shutdown times are correct. For hardware problems, see a qualified computer technician. For software troubles, contact the local in-house guru and then call the Exploratorium.

Push-button Replacement:

The switches are accessed from underneath by removing the locking bottom. The micro-switches can be removed by sliding the wire connectors off and bending the plastic clip just enough to rotate the switch body out of the button mechanism. No tools are required and replacement is the reversal of this procedure.

Trackball Maintenance:

If the trackball becomes intermittent, it is probably due to dirt on the rollers. The ball can be thoroughly cleaned by disassembling the carrier it is mounted in. The bezel is held in place with four screws located at the corners. Unplug the two wiring harnesses, keeping track of their position. The trackball mechanism is held onto the bezel with four more screws and nuts. After these screws are removed, the trackball carrier can then be split by removing the six tapping screws and separating the case by lifting the top half off. The ball and rollers will then be quite accessible for inspection and cleaning. Clean the steel rollers with a cloth or paper towel. A detergent can be used on the ball. Check that the rollers turn freely. The bearings can easily be replaced if any feel glitchy, but check the cost of a new unit before getting much further involved. When replacing the flathead fasteners in the bezel, be careful not to over tighten as it is easy to crack the plastic. If the cursor on the monitor moves sideways after you're all done, the wiring plugs are probably swapped.