

Purchasing a Macintosh® for



Purchasing a new computer can be an overwhelming experience. There are hundreds of makes and models, and thousands of different parts and features that differ from system to system. This guide was written to help any new, or experienced computer user better understand what they need to be looking for when purchasing a new Macintosh® computer for use with FrameReady software.

Operating System	Recommended Computer
Mac® OSX Tiger Version 10.4.11	Intel® Core 2 Duo 1.5 GHz or faster 1 GB RAM 1024 x 768 or higher resolution video adapter and display.
Mac® OSX Leopard Version 10.5	Intel® Core 2 Duo 1.5 GHz or faster 1 GB RAM 1024 x 768 or higher resolution video adapter and display.
Mac® OSX Snow Leopard Version 10.6	Intel® Core 2 Duo 1.5 GHz or faster 1 GB RAM 1024 x 768 or higher resolution video adapter and display.

Processors (CPU):

The processor is basically the brain of the computer. Every task that the computer does is handled by the processor. The processor is the most important part in a computer and there are a few things you should know about this component.

The most basic characteristic that separates one from another is how fast they operate, measured in Mega Hertz (MHz) or Giga Hertz (GHz) (1000 MHz = 1.0 GHz). Nearly all new computers on the market today contain a processor of at least 1.0 GHz.

As of August 2006, all new Macintosh® computers are now equipped with the new Intel® based Multi-Core processors (core 2 Duo, i5, i7). The Multi-Core processor operates far more efficiently while consuming less power (ideal for notebooks since it extends battery life). A Multi-Core is more capable of multitasking (operating several programs at once) as well as handling demanding graphic and video applications. The PowerPC processor models of the G3, G4, and G5 are no longer available when purchasing a new Mac®.

SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends any Multi-Core processor at 1.5 GHz or higher for use with FrameReady software. The performance advantage and greater ability to multi task will allow FrameReady to process information faster and more efficiently.

Random Access Memory (RAM):

New Macs® use a type of RAM called DDR (Double Data Rate). This type of RAM is more than twice the speed of RAM used in older computers. RAM temporarily holds the data that your computer currently needs. This data can then be accessed by the CPU to perform the task that the user requested. The more memory that a computer has, the more data it can hold for the CPU. This allows the CPU to process data faster and more efficiently.

When selecting the amount of RAM to have installed in a new computer, you basically want to install as much as you can afford (without going overboard). SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends having at least 1-2 GB of RAM installed.

Hard Drives:

When purchasing a new Mac®, it is recommended that the computer be equipped with a minimum of an 100 GB hard drive. This size would allow limitless entries into FrameReady, as well as adequate space for other programs that may be required (e.g. Accounting software, Adobe® Photoshop, etc.).

CD Drives:

To install the FrameReady program, a CD-ROM drive is required. When purchasing a Mac®, SoftTouch Solutions Inc. recommends that it is equipped with a DVD Writer (DVD-R/DVD+R). This type of DVD drive will allow the user to create backup copies of their FrameReady data. Regular backups are very important and should be done daily to insure against data loss which can happen in any computer system.

Operating Systems:

The current and upcoming versions of FrameReady software require the minimum of Mac® OSX 10.4.11. OSX is the standard operating system in all new Macintosh® computers, however, there are several different versions. SoftTouch Solutions strongly recommends the latest edition of OSX Version 10.6.

Case Forms:

Mac Mini®:

Only measures 6 1/2" x 6 1/2" x 2".

Very compact system that takes up little space, very affordable but does not include a monitor.

MacBook®/MacBook Pro®/MacBook Air®:

Notebook computers.

MacBook® and MacBook Air® is currently only available with a 13" display, MacBook Pro® comes with a 13", 15" or 17" option.

iMac®:

Computer built into an LCD monitor.

No need to purchase a monitor, attractive and space saving.

PowerMac®:

Traditional tower style computer.

Dual processors for Server based applications.

Powerful system designed for users that demand extreme performance.

Kelly Hext,

Computer Programmer, Certified A+ Professional

SoftTouch Solutions Inc.

