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Support Group Application Note
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Pocket Book

General Hints and Tips

Applicable Hardware :	Acorn Pocket Book	Related Application Notes:	None

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Using the A-Link with the Acorn Pocket Book

Starting an A-Link session

When connecting the Pocket Book to an Archimedes machine via the A-Link, it is important to follow the guidelines below to ensure a proper connection between the two.

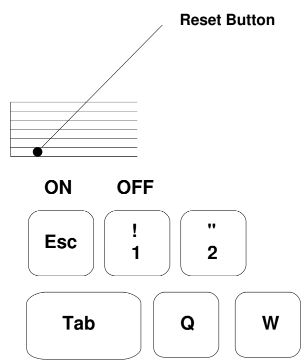
NOTE: When Using the A-Link it is advisable that a mains adaptor be used as using the A-Link places a very heavy load on the batteries and can seriously reduce their expected life time. The A-Link will not work if there less than 50K free memory on the Pocket Book. To find out how much memory you have free, press Acorn-M when in the desktop. More memory can be made available by quitting applications which are currently running in the background or by deleting files from the RAM disk. For details on how to do this, please refer to the User Guide supplied with the Pocket Book.

❶ Ensure that both the Pocket Book and the Archimedes are switched off
❷ Connect A-LINK to Archimedes
❸ Switch on Archimedes
❹ Load A-Link software
❺ Connect A-Link to Pocket book
❻ Switch on Pocket Book
❼ On the Pocket Book, set the Remote Link to On (press Acorn-L)
❽ On the Archimedes, click on PocketFS icon

At the end of an A-Link session, it is important to remember to dismount the A-Link correctly. Following the procedure below will help to prevent any future problems with the A-Link and Pocket Book.

❶ Using the option in the PocketFS menu, Dismount the A-Link
❷ On the Pocket Book, set the Remote Link to OFF (press Acorn-L)
❸ Quit PocketFS software
❹ Switch off Pocket Book
❺ Remove A-Link from Pocket Book

If problems persist, **reset** the pocket book by pressing gently on the reset button via the reset hole using an unfolded paper clip. The reset hole is located just above the ON/Esc key.



Transferring Write, Abacus and Card files

Although the Acorn A-Link can be used to transfer any type of file between the Archimedes and Pocket Book (and vice-versa) the most common use of the A-Link is to transfer files to and from the applications that are supplied with the Pocket Book as standard i.e. Write, Abacus and Cards.

Because Write, Abacus and Cards files cannot directly be understood by Archimedes applications, it is necessary for the A-Link to convert them to a standard which they can. Below is a table of which format the files from the standard applications will be converted to by the A-Link software

Application Name	Write	Abacus	Cards
A-Link file format	ASCII	CSV	CSV

What does ASCII and CSV mean?

An ASCII document is one which contains only *plain text.* It does not contain control codes, or document formatting information, therefore, any documents which are converted to ASCII format will loose any font, style or layout information that was in the original. An ASCII file can be read by almost all word processors and desktop publishing packages available for any machine.

CSV stands for *Comma Seperated Value* file. A CSV file will contain items or information seperated by the ',' symbol e.g. a database record in a database is normally made up of several fields, see below;

NAME:	**Mr. Smith**
ADDRESS:	**Normal Street**
TEL:	**0123 456789**
FAX:	**0987 654321**

If a record such as the one above were to be exported as a CSV file, it would look something like this;

"Mr. Smith","Normal Street","0123 456789","0987 654321"

Most Database and Spreadsheet applications on the Archimedes will import a CSV file without difficulty but again, it is necessary to realise that only the data will be transferred, any formatting or layout information will be lost in the transition.

With Spreadsheets, another fact to bear in mind when using a CSV file is that formula or calculations will not be transferred, only the results obtained from using these formulae.

Possible Errors when using the A-Link

Already opened by another process

The file which you are attempting to transfer is currently being used (or held open) by an application on the Pocket Book. In order to make this file available for transfer, it will be necessary to quit the application which is using the file. An application can be quit by highlighting its icon on the desktop and pressing Acorn-Q. If this fails, try resetting the Pocket Book. For details on how to reset the Pocket Book see the paragraph above.

Please insert Pocket Book

The A-Link can no longer find the Pocket Book, this may be a result of a bad connection between the machine and the Pocket Book. Check connections and start again.

Backing up files from the Pocket Book

When backing up files from the Pocket Book, it is possible that the files, once stored on an Archimedes formatted disk will have their names truncated e.g. 'Application' will be truncated to 'Applicatio'. This can make re-installing the backed up files quite awkward.

As the structure of a PC formatted disc matches more closely that of the Pocket Book, files which are backed up to a DOS formatted disk on the Archimedes will not be truncated or renamed. For this reason, it is recommended that Pocket Book files be backed up to DOS Formatted floppy disks.

Please refer to the Archimedes User Guide for details on formatting DOS disks.

NOTE: This section only applies to users of PocketFS 2 and greater. Earlier versions of the PocketFS software, when re-installing backups, added the .ris extension to file names which had a *DATA* file type on the Archimedes.

Expanding the Pocket Books Storage Capacity

There are two different options available when upgrading Pocket Book memory, by using either Flash or RAM disk SSDs (Solid State Disks).

Both Flash and RAM SSDs are storage devices similar to floppy or hard disks on the Archimedes. Flash disks are available in several sizes, 128K, 256K, 512K, 1 Megabyte and 2 Megabytes. RAM SSDs are available only in sizes of 128K, 256K and 1 Megabyte.

Flash and RAM SSDs differ in several areas. A Flash disk cannot re-allocate storage space once it has been used so it is therefore inevitable that reformatting the disk will be necessary after heavy usage. RAM disks, have an on-board battery which provides power for reading or writing data where as Flash disks depend on the Pocket Books main batteries for power. Flash disks do not however, require any power to retain their data when removed from the Pocket Book. Due to the nature of RAM SSDs, the Pocket Book can access these disks much quicker than a Flash disk. Access times are in fact really only worth considering in speed critical environments.

Prices for RAM and Flash disks vary according to size and type. RAM Disks are however, generally more expensive than Flash disks. All of these devices can be plugged directly into either of the expansion slots in the Pocket Book.

Battery Low Warnings

It is not necessary to replace the Pocket Books main batteries when the first Battery Low warning is given. It is in fact, quite safe to continue to use the Pocket Book until it no longer switches on due to dead batteries. All files stored on the Pocket Book are protected by a backup battery which is used only when the main batteries are dead. The backup battery can keep files safe for up to two months but will not power the Pocket Book itself.

Replacing the Backup Battery

Before removing the Backup Battery, you must ensure that the main batteries are installed and charged, otherwise, all files will be lost!