

# UNTAPPED DISK POTENTIAL

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Your Apple hard disk may have a megabyte or more of concealed space. Free space usually exists on an Apple hard disk unless HD SC Setup has been used to create a custom partition. Simply initializing an Apple hard disk creates a standard-size partition regardless of the disk's actual capacity. An Apple HD40SC hard disk, for example, always initializes at 40,000k. The Quantum 40 disk mechanism used in many HD40SC drives has an actual capacity of over 41,000k. Mechanisms made by Sony and others, which Apple also uses in many HD40SC drives, may also have different capacities

To find out if your disk has extra space, start the HD SC Setup utility (it's on the System Tools disk that comes with the Mac). Click the Partition button. If you then see a dialog box listing several predefined partitioning schemes, click the Custom button. (If instead you see a message warning you that a volume is in use, click the Continue button.) Next you'll see a diagram of disk space allocation. The gray space in that diagram represents the amount of free space on the disk (see "Hidden Disk Space"). [This is a diagram in the magazine on page 248. What you see will be a big screen with 5 buttons and a picture of your Hard Disk. The top section will have the Mac Driver listed. The second section will have the name of your hard disk with its size next to it on the left. And on the third and bottom section you will see a gray region with a size next to it. This is the amount of free space on your hard drive.]

To recover idle disk space, first make a backup of your entire hard disk. Next, start the HD SC Setup utility. Click the Partition button and then the Custom button. You should now be looking at the disk allocation diagram. Click the white rectangle labeled with the name of your disk and then click the Remove button. Click near the top of the gray rectangle, which shows the amount of hidden disk space, and drag all the way to the bottom of the dialog box. [I think this was a typo in the issue. What I did was click anywhere in the gray region and drag the pointer to the top of the display to the "Mac Driver" section. As you drag, you'll see your hard disk size grow.] When you release the mouse button, a list of partition types appears. Click Macintosh Volume to select it. You can adjust the size by typing in the box to the right of the list of partition types. The maximum size appears immediately below this box. Click the OK, Done, and Quit buttons in sequence to return to the Finder. Finally, restore your disk from your backup.

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Typist's comments:

I was kind of uneasy about trying this, after all, how much extra could a 20mb have on it? Well, I got an extra 971k out of my drive, and I think people with bigger drives will have even more space left to them. Make sure you backup, 'cause this erases it all. With a 20mb, it wasn't too bad using floppies, but if you've got something bigger, use a friend's hard disk, or tape backup. Good luck!