

y Clint Howard

## omega Zip Drive

For those of you who aren't familiar with data storage systems like the Zip, let me give you the run down. Storage systems like these are used by everyday people to back up their files, run applications or even store photos. The thing I like best about these types of systems is the ability to take it anywhere. I find myself running all over to help friends whose mac or PC has decided to take a break from the daily grind. That's right, PC. Included with the Zip is a disk that will let you plug right into a PC, given that the PC has a SCSI connection. So, that's one reason to get the Zip. Why not a magneto-optical? First off, the average cost of a magneto-optical system is going to set you back about \$450.00. Then the disks are additional \$22-\$70 depending upon how much data the disk will store. The Zip will cost you around \$150.00 with disks running at \$20.00. The Zip will record on 25 Meg and 100 Meg disks. The 25 Meg disks are slightly lower in cost. Given, the magneto-opticals are definitely faster. Magnetos have an average seek time of 13.5 milliseconds, while the Zip runs at 29 milliseconds. But I can honestly tell you that the average user will not need the extra speed. If you do, then step up to lomega's Jaz Drive and get 1 Gig per disk at the same speed as the magnetos. Just like so many products out there, a person can always spend the money and get the fastest most reliable storage system there is. But if you're looking for room to back up your hard drive or want a separate unit to run applications or games, then the Zip is the answer.

A quick sidenote to this article. I store all my articles for the Savvy on my Zip and guess what, yeah you guessed it. It froze the day I was to turn my writings in. Luckily I know the people at my local computer store very well and they hooked me up with a new one. It was under warranty anyway. Maybe that's not the best way to end a review, but even a MacWorld 1996 World Class Winner has its bad days.

\*\*\* For those that don't know yet, there's new software for the Zip. It's vers. 4.3 You can find it at [www.iomega.com](http://www.iomega.com) or Keyword: lomega on AOL

### Requirements:

- \*SCSI Port
- \*020 processor or higher
- \*4 Megs RAM
- \*System 7.0 or later

ony SRS PC300D

So, you've tricked your mac out. It now has 48 Megs of RAM, 4 Gig hard drive, 17" monitor and you're

ready to play your favorite games and compact discs. But wait. There's something missing! That's right. You need some kicking personal speakers. I mean those built-in speakers just don't cut it and who wants to wear headphones all the time. That's where this system comes to the rescue. Given, there's more expensive and better sounding systems out there, and I'll be the first one to tell you I haven't heard, let alone know all the great systems there are to offer out there. But, if you happen to have a couple hundred to blow, then this set is well worth the hard earned cash. It took eleven days for mine to come in, but when I plugged this baby into my mac I thought I was listening to a high end rack system. First thing to come blaring out of these Sonys was Full Throttle. Oh man! Then it wasn't long before I found myself tearing into my CD case and turning the bass up. I got so engrossed in the sound of Jock Jams pounding my chest, the next thing I know the neighbor's banging at my door telling me to turn it down. I've had this system for six months and nothing has gone wrong, unlike my last set. Lately, I've plugged my laser disc player into the 'ol mac and had the guys over to watch movies. They all say they can't believe the sound and the tremendous amount of bass that comes from such a tiny subwoofer. Needless to say I'm more than pleased with it and I recommend them to anyone looking to beef up the sound of their mac.

#### Tech Stuff:

- \*3-Piece system with powerful subwoofer.
- \*Magnetic shielding for use next to PC monitor. (I suggest spreading the speakers out for optimal sound)
- \*Built-In power amplifiers for all three speakers.
- \*Two audio inputs with switchable input mixing and headphone jack.

Suggested Retail Price: \$249.95 (I got mine for \$199)

Check out other Sony products on their web site: [www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com)

#### hrustmaster

If you consider yourself a game aficionado, then you've definitely heard of Thrustmaster. In my opinion they offer the best there is. I don't play any type of flight game without it. For you driving enthusiasts out there, I talked with Steven T.A. Carter (Macintosh Product Manager), and he told me that Thrustmaster is getting ready to release it's mac version of the T2. The T2 is a wildly successful PC driving wheel. It should be out by the end of August. He also told me that their going to release new software for the mac flight system. It should be out by the end of the year.

#### MFCS (Macintosh Flight Control System) Mark I

The ThrustMaster MFCS (Macintosh Flight Control System) takes its cue from the FCS for PC. Modeled after the stick found in the F-4 Phantom, A-10 Warthog, and many others, and benefiting from the extensive ergonomic research done by the US military, the MFCS grip is designed so that the user can control multiple functions in the program without looking at the stick. The MFCS features three buttons, one trigger, and our patented four-way hat switch. Fully programmable through the ThrustMaster

Visual Programming Interface, the MFCS can be used in any Macintosh software title. Whether you're flying the hottest simulation, or fighting for your life in the tunnels of "Descent", the MFCS is the stick of choice.

The MFCS is designed to work with the MWCS (Macintosh Weapons Control System) and the RCS (Rudder Control System). With the MFCS in your right hand, the MWCS in your left and the RCS at your feet, nothing can stop you. The MFCS connects to any standard Macintosh ADB connector. In addition, a low power draw allows the MFCS to operate with the Macintosh line of Power Books.

Note: Both the MWCS and RCS require the MFCS to operate.

Suggested Retail Price: \$149.95  
(Taken from the Thrustmaster web page)

#### MWCS (Macintosh Weapons Control System)

The fighter's axiom of "lose sight, lose the fight" holds true for computer pilots as well as the real fighter jocks. ThrustMaster has taken this to heart and created the MWCS (Macintosh Weapons Control System). With the MWCS you keep your eyes focused on the action instead of looking for keys on the keyboard.

The MWCS design is taken from the F-15 throttle handle and therefore is designed to be used by the left hand, while the right hand operates the stick. The MWCS has six buttons and a three-way rocker switch placed in strategic locations on the handle. Moving the handle fore and aft provides thrust control. Idle and Afterburner detents (or clicks) are detectable as the throttle handle is moved, providing tactile feedback for enhanced control and awareness.

The MWCS is completely user configurable when used with the MFCS (Macintosh Flight Control System). Buttons and throttle can be programmed to generate keyboard characters or can be used without programming in directly supported software games and simulations. Programming is quick and easy. You can configure buttons to simply generate one character per press or create exotic combinations like macros, repeating keystrokes - just about anything you would need to enhance game play. The MWCS does require the MFCS, and when these two are paired together, the outcome is lethal.

Note: The MWCS requires the MFCS.

Suggested Retail Price: \$99.95  
(Taken from the Thrustmaster web page)

The RCS (Rudder Control System) works with in conjunction with the MFCS and MWCS. I wouldn't be caught playing a flight game without this set. Yeah, the whole thing will cost you around \$400.00, (the RCS costs around \$149.95 also), but I guarantee you'll feel like a real pilot. Besides, you don't have to buy it all at once you can upgrade piece by piece. Take it from the proficient gamer himself. "If you crave flight games like I do, you simply need this."

Thrustmaster Web Page: [www.thrustmaster.com](http://www.thrustmaster.com)