by selecting "About This Macintosh" under the Apple menu from the Finder. Divide the number you get by 1024 to determine your current memory in megabytes. Remember that 1 MB equals 1024 KB, not 1000 KB, so don't be surprised if you get a number like 4096 or 8192.

Upgrade Rules of Thumb

Use this handy guide to simplify your memory choice.

1x9 SIMMs (1MB)

9 chip   3 chip

For most 386 machines (some 486s):
The 1x9 SIMMs (1MB) shown above, are appropriate for most 386-based systems and many early 486-based systems. Each 1x9 is a 1MB 30-pin SIMM, so you can check the memory in your system and count the pins (the shiny teeth) on the module to see if this is right for you. 1x9s are typically installed four SIMMs at a time.

1x36 SIMMs (4MB)

12 chip   3 chip

For most 486 machines (some Pentiums):
The 4MB SIMM in the 1x36 configuration shown above, is compatible with most 486-based IBM-compatible PC systems, except for some early 486s that used 1x9 SIMMs and newer systems using 1x32 SIMMs. The 1x36 is a parity SIMM, and in most typical 486s, they can be installed one at a time.
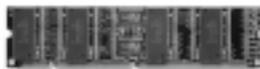
1x32 SIMMs (4MB)

8 chip   2 chip

For most Pentiums & Macintoshes:
Many newer 486 systems, Pentiums and Macintosh systems utilize the 4MB non-parity 1x32 SIMM. Most 486 and Macintosh systems use one SIMM at a time. For Pentiums and PowerMac 6100, 7100 and 8100, SIMMs must be installed two at a time.

1x64 DIMM (8MB)

For all DIMM-based Power Macs:
The latest generation of PowerPC Macintosh computers use the 8MB DIMM (Dual Inline Memory Module) in the 1x64 configuration shown in Figure... DIMMs are the newest memory technology and can be installed one at a time.