#138: Using KanjiTalk with a non-Japanese Macintosh Plus

See also: *KanjiTalk Usage Notes*
Script Manager Developers Package

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This Technical Note describes the minor differences between using KanjiTalk with the Japanese Macintosh Plus and KanjiTalk with a standard Macintosh Plus.

There are two differences between the Japanese Macintosh Plus and the standard Macintosh Plus: The Japanese Macintosh Plus has the Kanji 12 and 18 point fonts in ROM and it is shipped with the Kana keyboard. It is not necessary to have this keyboard in order to use KanjiTalk. (See the KanjiTalk Usage Notes for details on how to use it with a non-Kana keyboard.) It is, however, necessary to have 12 point Kanji in order to use KanjiTalk; the 18 point Kanji is optional.

When using KanjiTalk with a standard (non-Japanese) Macintosh, the user supplies these fonts on disk and the Macintosh loads them into RAM. At boot time, the Macintosh looks for the 12 point Kanji font file in the system folder of the boot disk. If it cannot find the font, it will look through the root directory of all mounted volumes. (The font has to be at the root level; it cannot be in a folder.) If it still doesn't find the font, it will prompt the user to insert a disk with the font file in the root directory. Once KanjiTalk finds the 12 point font, it will go through the same process looking for the 18 point font. The user can cancel this search if the optional 18 point font is not necessary.

When KanjiTalk finds the fonts, it loads them into memory. The 12 point font takes up approximately 100K of memory and the optional 18 point font takes up approximately 250K of memory. The KanjiTalk code itself takes up about 180K of memory. Because the fonts take up quite a bit of memory, many applications will not work on a Macintosh 512K with the Kanji fonts installed.

Accessing the fonts from ROM is faster, but we have not noticed any significant speed problems when the fonts are accessed from RAM. There is, however, a noticeable difference in speed when the Macintosh is booted. It takes a couple of seconds to load the 12 point font and about 6 seconds to load the 18 point font.

Note that the Japanese Macintosh is unique; Apple has not produced other foreign versions of the Macintosh for different scripts. The introduction of the Arabic Interface System, for example, did not include an Arabic ROM version.