

The Apple 3.5 DrivePlus

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There has been quite a bit written about the Apple 3.5 drives as any search of the net will show. Apple produced 3.5" floppy disk drives of two capacities – 800 Kb and 1.44 Mb, and it is the 1.44 Mb drives that are the subject here.

Up until now it has been generally acknowledged that Apple's 1.44 Mb 3.5" drive was manufactured and marketed under two names, both bearing the G7287 model/family number – the Apple 3.5" FDHD drive and the Apple SuperDrive. But I have recently acquired another Apple 3.5" 1.44 Mb drive that is labelled with another name: the **Apple 3.5 DrivePlus** and also bears the model/family number G7287 (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The Apple 3.5 DrivePlus, Model No. G7287.

Compare the Apple 3.5 DrivePlus label with that of the Apple SuperDrive (Figure 2). Note that both have the model/family designation of G7287. Both drives appear to be identically internally, with the exception of the DrivePlus having an additional metal housing (Figure 3).

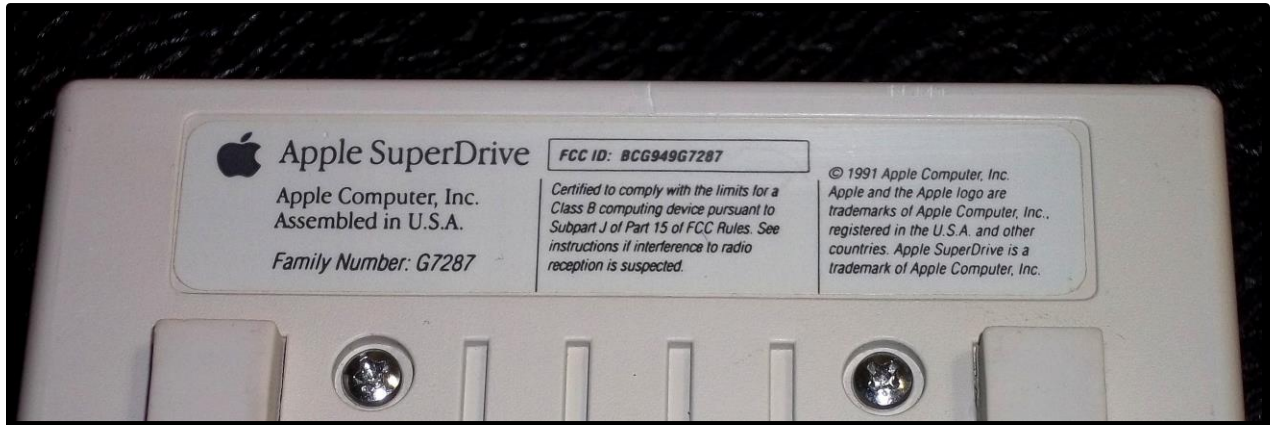


Figure 2. The Apple SuperDrive 3.5" 1.44 Mb floppy disk drive.

Both drives used the Sony Model MP-F51W-23 floppy disk drive mechanism, as shown in Figure 4.

From the front, the Apple SuperDrive and Apple 3.5 DrivePlus are indistinguishable. Both have the activity light in the upper left and the eject button in the upper right. The only difference in appearance is the label on the bottom panel.



Figure 3. The additional metal housing found in the Apple 3.5 DrivePlus.



Figure 4. The Sony 3.5 floppy disk drive mechanism used in the Apple 1.44 Mb floppy disk drives.