

The seven expansion slots on the Apple IIe's main circuit board are used for installing circuit cards containing the hardware and firmware needed to interface peripheral devices to the Apple IIe. These slots are not simple I/O ports; peripheral cards can access the Apple IIe's data, address, and control lines via these slots. The expansion slots are numbered from 1 to 7, and certain signals, described below, are used to select a specific slot.

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**Apple II and II Plus**

The Apple II and Apple II Plus have an eighth expansion slot: slot number 0. On those models, slot 0 is normally used for a language card or a ROM card; the functions of the Apple II Language Card are built into the main circuit board of the Apple IIe.

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Interrupt support on the enhanced Apple IIe requires that special attention be paid to cards designed to be in slot 3. A description of what you need to watch for is given at the end of this chapter.

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**Original IIe**

The interrupt support built into the enhanced (and extended keyboard) Apple IIe is an enhanced and expanded version of the interrupt support in the original Apple IIe.

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## Peripheral-card memory spaces

Because the Apple IIe's microprocessor does all of its I/O through memory locations, portions of the Apple IIe's memory space have been allocated for the exclusive use of the cards in the expansion slots. In addition to the memory locations used for actual I/O, there are memory spaces available for programmable memory (RAM) in the main memory and for read-only memory (ROM or PROM) on the peripheral cards themselves.

The memory spaces allocated for the peripheral cards are described below. Those memory spaces are used for small dedicated programs such as I/O drivers. Peripheral cards that contain their own driver routines in firmware like this are called *intelligent peripherals*. They make it possible for you to add peripheral hardware to your Apple IIe without having to change your programs, provided that your programs follow normal practice for data input and output.