
Reading bank switches

You can read which language card bank is currently switched in by reading the soft switch at \$C011. You can find out whether the language card or ROM is switched in by reading \$C012. The only way that you can find out whether the language card RAM is write-enabled or not is by trying to write some data to the card's RAM space.

Auxiliary memory and firmware

By installing an optional card in the auxiliary slot, you can add more memory to the Apple IIe. One such card is the Apple IIe 80-Column Text Card, which has 1K bytes of additional RAM for expanding the text display from 40 columns to 80 columns.

Another 80-column text card, the Apple IIe Extended 80-Column Text Card, has 64K of additional RAM. A 1K-byte area of this memory serves the same purpose as the memory on the 80-Column Text Card: expanding the text display to 80 columns. The other 63K bytes can be used as auxiliary program and data storage. If you use only 40-column displays, the entire 64K bytes is available for programs and data. The Extended 80-Column Text Card is installed in the extended keyboard IIe and shipped with later models of the enhanced IIe.

Warning

Do not attempt to use the auxiliary memory from a BASIC program. The BASIC interpreter uses several areas in main RAM, including the stack and the zero page. If you switch to auxiliary memory in these areas, the BASIC interpreter fails and you must reset the system and start over.

As you can see by studying the memory map in Figure 4-4, the auxiliary memory is broken into two large sections and one small one. The largest section is switched into the memory address space from 512 to 49151 (\$0200 through \$BFFF). This space includes the display buffer pages: as described in the section "Text Modes" in Chapter 2, space in auxiliary memory is used for one half of the 80-column text display. You can switch to the auxiliary memory for this entire memory space, or you can switch just the display pages: see the next section, "Memory Mode Switching."