

SCSI Disk Update — November 2000

Dear Alpha Microsystems VAR:

Here is the latest information on our SCSI disk drive product line. We're announcing a new 18GB wide SCSI disk drive, and announcing limited availability of our smaller 4.3GB wide SCSI disk drive as the market moves to larger capacity disks. In addition, we've reviewed the overall status of the narrow entry-level 1.2GB disk drives, and announced discontinuation of new drives of this model when our current inventory is depleted. In the future, as our current inventory or new drives is depleted, remanufactured units, with limited warranties, will be utilized to satisfy demand. Consult your Order Administrator for details on these units.

Brief descriptions of each disk drive appear below. See page 4 for technical details.

New 18GB Wide SCSI Disk Drive Announced

Alpha Micro has expanded the top end of its disk drive line with the PDB-00440-08, a new high-speed 10000 RPM Ultra-2 SCSI drive. This drive has essentially the same advanced technology and high performance as our current 9GB 10000 RPM drive (PDB-00440-07), but with double the storage capacity.

Compatibility

The PDB-00440-08 should work in any system that provides SCSI-2 support, sometimes called "dispatched SCSI", but it is only supported on the Eagle 250 and 450 systems, AM-6000 family and AM-7000 family of systems. Operation on any other systems is not supported.

The PDB-00440-08 has a Wide SCSI (68-pin) interface, A Wide SCSI Adapter, PDB-00440-90, is required for installation in a system with a narrow (50-pin) SCSI bus.

Specifications

Key specifications for the new drive are:

Part number:	PDB-00440-08
Capacity:	17.4GB formatted AMOS capacity
Systems Supported:	Eagle 250, Eagle 450, AM-6000, AM-6060, AM-7000, AM-7060
SCSI Interface:	Wide Ultra-2 SCSI, 68-pin. Order a Wide SCSI Adapter, PDB-00440-90 to install the disk in a narrow SCSI system.
Seek, average:	5.2 msec read / 5.8 msec write, typical
Seek, track-to-track:	0.7 msec read / 1.1 msec write, typical
Average latency:	2.99 msec
Rotational speed:	10025 RPM
On-disk cache:	4 MB
External transfer rate:	10 Mbytes/sec on narrow SCSI; 20 Mbytes/sec on Wide SCSI
Documentation:	DSS-10509-16, Rev. A07; available online at www.amos-online.com

Performance

This disk drive has the same performance characteristics as our PDB-00440-07. See Marketing Bulletin AMB99-21 for performance details.

On-board, Forced-air Cooling

As with all of our 10000 RPM disk drives, which require forced-air cooling, the PDB-00440-08 comes equipped with two miniature fans that mount just inside the front panel and immediately in front of the disk drive. The two fans, each equipped with their own filters, draw air in through the perforated front panel and blow straight across the disk drive.

Single Logical Drive Formatting

Using FMFS2, you can format this disk drive as one or multiple logicals. If you elect to format the drive as one logical, make sure you have the following software:

SP2040: AMOS.MON 2.3A(485) or later	hash = 070-324-447-627 (use MONHSH)
BITMAP.LIT 2.1(118)-2 or later	hash = 052-154-570-143
SCZRR.SYS 1.0(117)-1 or later	hash = 371-754-225-662

1.2GB Narrow Disk Drive Update

To continue to meet your needs for entry-level storage, we have attempted to maintain an inventory of 1.2GB drives. This drive is a Narrow SCSI device. Narrow SCSI refers to the 8-bit SCSI bus used in Eagle 100/300/500 and Super Eagle systems, among others, and offered as a selectable alternative in Eagle 450, AM-6000, and other newer systems. We offer the 1.2GB drive in two configurations: one for SCSI-2 systems and the other for SASI systems.

1.2GB PDB-00436-40 — In this configuration the 1.2GB drive is compatible with SCSI-2 systems only.

1.2GB B0E-00436-40 — Compatible with SASI (non-parity) systems only, this is the same 436-40 disk described above, but bundled with a small (3" x 1") adapter card. The adapter makes the SCSI-2 disk look 'SASI-compatible' to the bus in the host system.

As stated earlier in this bulletin, we still have a limited supply of new 1.2GB disk drives, and when this supply is depleted, we will attempt to satisfy your demand for these older technology drives using remanufactured product, subject to availability.

These drives should only be used to support your installed base of older systems, and as the system disk drive for entry-level systems like the Eagle 100.

4.3GB and 9GB Wide SCSI Drive Status

Our 4.3GB Wide SCSI disk drive (PDB-00440-06) is still available, but in limited quantities. Check with our Order Administration Department for availability status from time to time.

Our 9GB disk drives, both 7200 RPM (PDB-00440-04) and 10000 RPM (PDB-00440-07) versions remain in the product line and available, subject to availability from the drive manufacturer.

Discontinued Models

1.2GB Narrow SCSI-2 PDB-00436-68 — Discontinued; no longer available.
and B0E-00436-68

1.2GB Narrow SCSI-2 PDB-00436-40 — Discontinued, subject to current inventory.
and B0E-00436-40 Remanufactured product will then be supplied to support field installations.

Disk Compatibility

AMOS Environments — See the table on page 4 for AMOS compatibility considerations.

Technical Prerequisites — For boot PROM revision levels, formatting utilities, and other software requirements, see the disk drive information sheet (DSS-10509-XX) furnished with each drive. Drive information sheets are available free at www.amos-online.com. Look under “Disk Drives/ Tape Drives” on the Documentation page.

Best regards,

Linda Simpson
Manager – Customer Administration

The last sheet of this bulletin is a change page for your copy of the AMOS Price List
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SCSI Disk Drives — Specifications

Disk Drive Part Number →		B0E-00436-40	PDB-00436-40		PDB-00440-06	PDB-00440-04	PDB-00440-07	PDB-00440-08
Nominal Capacity		1.2GB	1.2GB		4.3GB	⑥ 9GB	⑥ 9GB	⑥ 18GB
Drive supported in systems That offer SCSI-2 support (“parity systems”) ①		NO	Yes		Yes (but <i>not</i> with AM-540)	Yes	Yes	Yes Eagle 250,450, AM-6000, AM-7000
Drive supported in systems That allow SCSI-2 disk on SASI port (“non-parity”) ②		Yes; see ④	NO		NO	NO	NO	NO
Delivery Status		Limited Availability	Limited Availability		Available	Available	Available	Available
Dimensions	3.5-inch form factor 4" wide x 5.75" deep x 1" high							
SCSI Interface <i>Nar</i> = 50-pin; <i>Wide</i> = 68-pin		Narrow SCSI-2	Narrow SCSI-2		Wide Ultra ③	Wide Ultra ③	Wide Ultra ③	Wide Ultra ③
Formatted AMOS Capacity		1.19 GB	1.19 GB		4.34 GB	8.68 GB	8.7 GB	17.4 GB
Seek, average (read/write) ms		12ms	12ms		7.1/7.8	7.1/7.8	5.2/5.8	5.2/5.8
Seek—track-to-track		3ms	3ms		0.8/1.5	0.8/1.5	0.7/1.1	0.7/1.1
Average Latency		6.67ms	6.67ms		4.17ms	4.17ms	2.99ms	2.99ms
Rotational Speed		4500RPM	4500RPM		7200RPM	7200RPM	10000RPM	10000 RPM
On-disk Cache/Buffer Size		128 Kb	128 Kb		512Kb	512Kb	512Kb	4 Mb
External Transfer Rate		10MB/sec	10MB/sec		20MB/sec	20MB/sec	20MB/sec	20MB/sec
DSS-10509-xx (on Web site)		10509- 08	10509- 08		10509- 17	10509- 16	10509- 16	10509- 16

Notes

- ① *Drive supported in systems that offer SCSI-2 support (“parity systems”)*—The word **Yes** in this row means the drive works in systems that provide SCSI-2 support (“dispatched SCSI”), unless specific system models are specified. SCSI-2 support based systems include any system with a Roadrunner; any Eagle system; any AM-3000M/LC with AM-540 SCSI-2 controller (except where otherwise shown); and any AM-4000, AM-6000, AM-6060 Network Server or AM-7000. These are sometimes called “parity systems.”
- ② *Drive supported in systems that allow SCSI-2 disk on SASI port (“non-parity”)*—**Yes** means the drive will work in a system that supports SCSI disks on a SASI port. **NO** means we don’t support such usage. General exception: SCSI-2 disk drives are **not** supported as a bootable disk in AM-1500 systems or in S-100 bus-based systems.
- ③ Installing this drive in a system with standard 50-pin SCSI bus requires a **Wide SCSI Adapter**, PDB-00440-90. External transfer rate with standard SCSI bus is 10MB/sec.
- ④ B0E-00436-40 is a bundle consisting of a PDB-00436-40 disk drive and a small adapter card that makes the disk look ‘SASI-compatible’ to the host system bus. See AMB99-04, *SCSI Disk Breakthrough*, 1/22/99, for details.
- ⑤
- ⑥ Use FMTS2 utility to format this drive. With the current version of FMTS2, entire drive can be formatted as a single logical. See DSS-10509-16 Rev A07 or later for additional details.