

# Repurposing a Mac-N-Frost Unit as a “SystemSaverGS” For the Apple IIGS

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By Dr. Kenneth Buchholz  
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## Repurposing a Mac-N-Frost as a Kensington SystemSaverGS

Dr. Kenneth Buchholz

If you're an Apple IIGS owner, you more than likely have a number of cards in your system such as a MicroDrive/Turbo, CFFA3000, TransWarpGS, additional memory, and possibly even more! As such, the old Kensington SystemSaverGS units are in short supply and high demand, commanding an equally high price considering their age. Here's an alternative I did for one of my IIGS systems.

I purchased a Mac-N-Frost system on eBay for less than the recent SystemSaverGS units have sold for. Much less! With a very slight modification, the Mac-N-Frost provides the same benefits of a SystemSaverGS at a fraction of the cost.



Figure 1. View of a Mac-N-Frost unit's bottom.

With a very slight modification, you can make yourself a fairly good Kensington SystemSaverGS clone.

First, remove the black non-slip grip pads on the outsides of the fins on either side of the unit, just above the score lines in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2. Score lines for removal of fins.

Next, use a strong utility-type knife with a sharp blade and score along the fins as indicated in Figure 2 above. Once you have scored deep enough, carefully bend the fin back until it separates along the score line. I then used a rotary tool to smooth the cut edges. Make sure you remove the plastic ridge between the two fins so that, when done, the system will lay flat on the table surface. Figure 3 shows the unit after the fins have been removed.



Figure 3. Removal of the fins and ridge.

When the unit is inverted back to its upright position, it should lie flat on the table surface or IIGS case without any room to wobble (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Unit in its upright position after removal of the fins & ridge. Notice that the bottom should be flush with the surface it rests upon.

You should also note that the rear of the unit stands about 2.0" tall, whereas the front stands about 1.5" tall. I added the gray feet shown in Figures 4 & 5

to the front of the unit. These will be where the front of the Apple Monitor will rest. The “feet” I used only adds about 0.25” so the monitor, without the riser, will sit facing down ever so slightly. But if you add the riser to the bottom front of the Apple Monitor, it will sit facing slightly up. You can use different “feet” as risers on the Mac-N-Frost, but be sure you use something which has grip so that the monitor will not slide!



Figure 5. The unit shown in its upright position with the additional of gray non-slip feet in each front corner.

Figure 6 below shows a side view of the Apple Monitor resting on the unit atop the IIGS. Note that the front is still a bit lower than the back, resulting in the monitor being tilted down slightly. If you want the monitor to tilt up slightly, you can add the riser bar to the bottom front of the monitor, or use taller “feet”.



Figure 6. Side view of the system atop the IIGS with the Apple Monitor (sans riser bar) sitting atop the Mac-N-Frost unit.



Figure 7. Back of the Mac-N-Front showing the connectors.

The back of the unit features an electrical cable that will attach to the IIGS, as well as two regular grounded AC sockets, one of which can be used for your monitor (Figure 7 above).

Figure 8 below shows the front of the system assembled. Note that the space in the front between the Apple Monitor and modified Mac-N-Frost allows for good air circulation – better, I think, than the Kensington SystemSaverGS – but that is a matter of opinion (and your mileage may vary, as the auto industry says!). Using the riser on the Apple Monitor increases that space further.

