User’s Guide

TravelMate® 6000NT Series Notebook Computers

Notice

This device has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This device generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this device does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the device off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna
- Increase the separation between the device and receiver
- Connect the device into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/television technician for help

Notice: Shielded Cables

All connections to other computing devices must be made using shielded cables to maintain compliance with FCC regulations.

Notice: Peripheral Devices

Only peripherals (input/output devices, terminals, printers, etc.) certified to comply with the Class B limits may be attached to this equipment. Operation with non-certified peripherals is likely to result in interference to radio and TV reception.

Caution

Changes or modifications not expressly approved by the manufacturer could void the user's authority, which is granted by the Federal Communications Commission, to operate this computer.

Notice

Use Conditions

This part complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules.Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

Notice: Canadian Users

This Class B digital apparatus meets all requirements of the Canadian Interference-Causing Equipment Regulations.

Remarque à l'intention des utilisateurs canadiens

Cet appareil numérique de la classe B respecte toutes les exigences du Règlement sur le matériel brouilleur du Canada.

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TravelMate 6000NT Series Notebook Computers
User's Guide
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Model Number

Serial Number

Purchase Date

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1
Using Documentation

This chapter describes this manual and the other documentation that ships with your computer. It tells you how to use the TravelMate® Online Manual and how to delete those files from your hard disk drive if you are running short of space.

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Printed Manuals

Contents of the User's Guide

This manual provides the information you need while the computer is turned off. The computer could be turned off for a variety of reasons.

- Setting up
- Installing accessories
- Traveling
- Solving problems

With the computer turned on, you have access to this and much more information in the *TravelMate Online Manual* and other online documents.

Other printed documents

Your computer ships with the following printed manuals.

Manual	Information
Quick Reference Card	Describes indicators, connectors, special keys, and how to contact TI
Safety Instructions	Contains important precautions about personal safety
Warranty Card	Describes the limitations of your warranty protection
Software license agreement	Describes your rights and obligations concerning use of included software
Windows® NT documentation kit	Includes an overview of the Windows NT operating system and the Microsoft® Certificate of Authenticity

Advantages of online documentation

Online documentation has the following advantages.

Feature	Benefit to You
Weightless	Gives you access to the equivalent of several pounds of manuals without increasing the weight you have to carry
Electronic links	Allows retrieval of information more quickly
Paperless	Conserves natural resources
Available online	Lets you reload, update, or even use directly from the World Wide Web

TravelMate Online Manual

The *TravelMate Online Manual* provides you the information you need while the computer is turned on.

The online manual is in HTML format. HTML stands for Hyper Text Markup Language and is the standard "language" of the World Wide Web.

You can view the online manual using the Microsoft Internet Explorer software included on your computer. After loading the online manual, you can retrieve information by clicking on a topic in the index.

Each topic has a hyperlink pointing to a place in a file. If a topic has more than one entry, each page number has a separate hyperlink.

Online Manuals

Other online documentation

Microsoft includes online the manuals that document Windows NT.

In addition, almost all software on you computer has online help, which you can view by pressing **F1**.

Starting the online manual

Follow these steps to start the *TravelMate Online Manual*.

1. Click on **Start**.
2. Point to **TravelMate Notebook Center**.
3. Click on **TravelMate Online Manual**.

Windows NT launches the Internet Explorer and loads the index for the *TravelMate Online Manual*.

Viewing a topic

Your main point of access to the *TravelMate Online Manual* is an index of topics arranged alphabetically. To view a topic, scroll through the index until you find the topic you want. When you click on the topic, Internet Explorer or your default browser loads the file containing the topic you have selected.

To return to the index from a topic, click on the back-arrow button in Internet Explorer or equivalent button in another browser.

Printing current page or range of pages

To print a page, select **Print** from the File menu. When the **Print** dialog box appears you can choose a page or range of pages to print.

Deleting the TravelMate Online Manual

Why not to delete

Although you can delete the online documentation, it is not recommended that you do so for the following reasons.

- Most documentation for your computer is only available online. If you delete it, you will no longer have access to the information.
- The *TravelMate Online Manual* serves as the online help for all custom utility packages for your computer. If you delete it, you will no longer have help files for those utilities.
- The large storage capacity of the hard disk drive makes the relatively small space required to store the online documentation less significant than in the past.

How to delete

To delete the *TravelMate Online Manual*, follow these steps.

1. Click on **Start**.
2. Move to **Settings** and click on **Taskbar**.
3. Click on **Start Menu Options** tab.
4. Click on **Remove**.
5. Click on **TravelMate Notebook Center** two times.
6. Click on **TravelMate Online Manual**.
7. Click on **Remove**.
8. Click on **Close**.
9. Click on **OK**.
10. Empty the recycle bin.

2
Getting Started

This chapter helps you install the computer for the first time. The chapter contains information to help you make decisions during the setup process, details of the Windows NT setup program, and a description of the multimedia demo program.

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General Cautions

Read Safety Instructions

The Safety Instructions for your computer are in printed form so you can read them carefully before turning on your computer for the first time. The Safety Instructions include the following information.

- Protection from physical hazards
- Avoidance of repetitive motion problems
- Comfort

Install with AC power connected

Always use the AC adapter during initial setup. When you receive your computer, the battery is largely discharged. If the computer loses power during initial setup, you can experience irreversible file damage.

Install without options

It is best to install the computer for the first time as it ships from the factory. Do not change the accessory in the modular bay or insert a PC card until after completing initial setup.

Sufficient time

The Windows NT setup takes a few minutes. Because of the way Windows NT structures its files, stopping in the middle of the setup process can cause irreversible file damage.

Access to AC power

Although the battery pack may have some charge, it is probably insufficient for the entire set up. Loss of power during setup can cause irreversible file damage.

Certificate of Authenticity

You will need to type the number on your Windows NT Certificate of Authenticity during Windows NT Setup. This certificate is part of the Windows NT documentation kit.

When to back up your system files

A CD containing the Windows NT operating system is included with the computer. The other software loaded on the hard disk drive at the factory, including recent upgrades with Windows NT, is not included on the CD, To preserve backup copies of this software, you should make backups as soon as possible after running your computer for the first time.

Refer to the instructions at the end of this chapter to make backup floppy disks.

Setting up Windows NT

After gathering information, you are ready to run the setup program. The first time you turn on your computer, your system automatically runs the Windows NT Setup. The following steps help you through the Windows NT Setup.

1. Turn on your computer.

   After displaying several preparatory screens, the computer displays the Software License Agreement.

2. Read the agreement and click **I Agree** to continue.

   The program displays the **Windows NT Setup** screen.

3. Click on **Next**.

   The program displays the **Name and Organization** screen.

4. Type in your name and company then click on **Next**.

   The program prompts you for the number on your Certificate of Authenticity.

5. Type the number from your Certificate of Authenticity then click on **Next**.

   The program prompts you to identify your computer with a name that has 15 or fewer characters and is unique on your computer network.

6. Type in the computer name and click on **Next**.

   The program asks you to enter and confirm a password of 14 or fewer characters for the Administrator account. The password is case sensitive.

7. Type the password in the spaces next to both **Password** and **Confirm Password**, and click on **Next**.

   You are given an opportunity to make changes before continuing.

8. Click **Back** to review what you have entered and make changes.

9. When you are satisfied with the information you have entered, click **Next** to continue.

   The program installs Windows NT and asks you to click to restart the computer.

Starting Windows NT for the first time

After you click on the **Restart** button, follow these steps to start Windows NT for the first time.

1. Click on the **Restart** button.

   The computer starts to reload Windows NT. After some preliminary activity the computer pauses on a screen with the startup options for the computer.

2. Press **Enter** to continue with the default option.

   The Window NT initial screen appears.

3. Press **Ctrl-Alt-Del** to log on.

   The program asks you for the Administrator password.

4. Type the password exactly as you defined it during the setup process and press **Enter**.

   The Windows NT desktop appears with the Windows NT welcome screen.

5. Close the welcome screen, and your computer is ready to use.

Making Backup Disks

Backed up software

Although the computer ships with a backup copy of Windows NT on a CD-ROM, you still need to create backup disks for the remaining software that is loaded on the hard disk drive at the factory. The computer makes the following backup disks.

Software	No. of Disks
AudioRack	1
PC Doctor	2
NT Enhancements	2
ESS Sound Drivers	1
WinNT Service Pack 1	3

Creating backup disks

Follow these steps to create backup disks.

1. From the Windows NT desktop, double-click the **Start Doing Extraordinary Things** icon.

   The computer displays the **Start Doing Extraordinary Things** screen.

2. Click on **Make Backup Disks**.

   The computer displays the **TI Backup Disk Maker** screen.

3. Click on the program you want to back up.

   The disk maker prompts you to insert a floppy disk into the floppy disk drive.

4. Follow the prompts to back up the program.

5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for each program in the list.

3
Installing Internal Accessories

This chapter describes how to install the accessories that reside inside the computer.

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Preventing Damage from Static Electricity

If possible, use a grounding strap

Internal accessories, especially memory, are vulnerable to damage from static electricity while they are out of the computer. Although modular bay accessories and PC cards are hardened against static electricity, ideally, you should use a wrist grounding strap when handling memory modules or other electrostatically sensitive devices.

What to do if you don't have a grounding strap

If you do not have a grounding strap, you still need to protect your computer and accessories from static electricity. Follow these steps before opening the computer or handling internal accessories.

1. Sit down. Static electricity builds up as you walk around.
2. Touch a large, grounded appliance, for example an external monitor, to discharge static electricity.

It is now safe to open the computer or handle internal accessories.

Use the antistatic bag

If you received the internal accessory in an antistatic bag, the accessory is sensitive to static electricity. Always keep the accessory in its antistatic bag until you are ready to install the accessory.

Operate the computer with something in the modular bay

Operating the computer with the modular bay empty can give static electricity access to sensitive components inside the computer. Before operating the computer, make sure the modular bay contains something: a drive module, a second battery, or a weight-reduction module.

Tools required

- Small, flat-blade screwdriver
- Wrist grounding straps (*recommended*)

Maximum memory

Your computer ships with 32MB of memory. You can add either one or two 8-MB memory modules for a total of 40 MB or 48 MB of memory or another 32-MB memory module for a total of 64 MB of memory. You cannot use a 16 MB memory module with the 32 MB memory module.

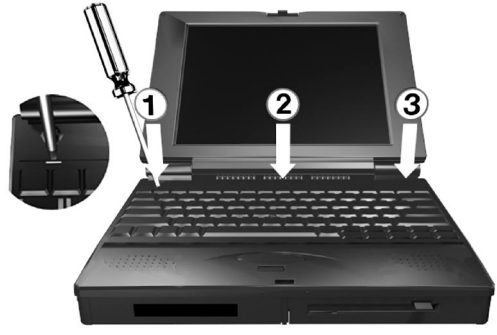
Preparing the computer

The installation procedure involves opening up the computer. Before proceeding, follow these steps to protect yourself and your computer.

1. Turn off the computer.
2. Disconnect the AC adapter from the computer.
3. Remove all battery packs.
4. Ground yourself following the instructions on the previous page.

Locating the keyboard latches

The keyboard has three small plastic latches that hold it in place. These latches are along the rear of the keyboard.



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Removing the keyboard

Follow these steps to remove the keyboard.

1. Insert a small, flat-blade screwdriver into the depression between the back of the keyboard and the base of the computer at the leftmost latch.
2. Carefully rotate the screwdriver backward to move the keyboard from under the left latch.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 for the other latches.
4. Using the screwdriver, rotate the keyboard toward you until it rests flat on top of the hand rest. Be careful not to kink or disconnect the two ribbon cables connected to the keyboard.

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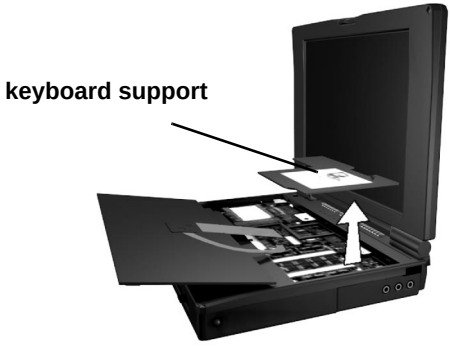
5. Lift out the keyboard support.



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Inserting the memory module

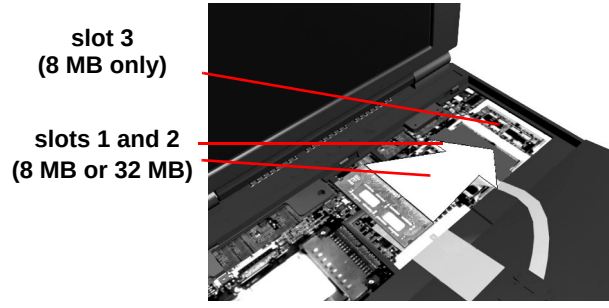
The system board has three slots for memory modules. The center slot (slot 2) is already occupied by the factory-installed memory.

- You can add 8-MB memory modules to either slot 1 or slot 3.
- You can add a second 32-MB module only to slot 1.

Note: Slot 3 can only accept 8-MB memory modules. Slot 3 ships with a dummy board in position to prevent you from accidentally inserting a 32-MB memory module into it.

Follow these steps to insert a memory module.

1. Remove the memory module from the antistatic bag.
2. If you are installing an 8-MB memory module into slot 3, remove the dummy card from slot 3.
3. Insert the memory module into the slot. The memory modules are keyed to insert in only one direction.



4. Align the connector edge of the memory module with the key in the connector.
5. Insert the edge of the memory module board

into the connector matching the key on the memory board with the tab near the center of the memory connector. Use a rocking motion to fully insert the module.

6. While holding out the retainer with one hand, push downward on each side of the memory module until it snaps in place.
7. If you are adding a second memory module, repeat steps 1-5.

Closing the computer

Follow these steps to put the keyboard back in place.

1. Insert the keyboard support.
2. Insert the four tabs on the bottom of the keyboard into the corresponding slots on the top cover.
3. Rotate the keyboard back into position so that the keyboard is resting on top of the latches.
4. Starting with the rightmost latch, lightly press down on the keyboard to the right of each latch until the keyboard snaps into place.

Using the modular bay

By using the modular bay on your computer, you can modify your computer as your needs change. The modular bay can accept the following accessories.

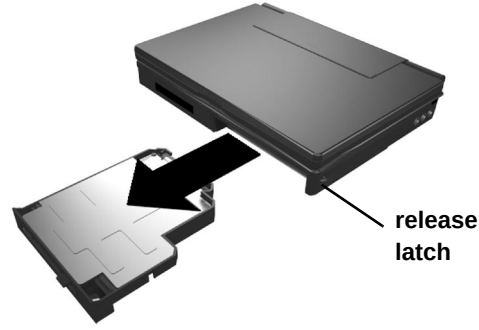
Accessory	Added Functionality
Floppy disk drive module	Read from and save to standard 3.5-inch floppy disks
CD-ROM drive module	Read from audio CD, photo CD, or CD-ROM
Second battery pack	Doubles the time you can operate on battery power; allows hot-swapping of batteries
Second hard disk drive module	Substantially increases the hard disk capacity on your computer
Avatar drive module	Gives you more than 200 MB of extended storage on removable media
Cellular battery charger module	Allows you to use your computer to charge your cellular phone battery
Weight-reduction module	Reduces the carrying weight by around 1/2 pound (225 g) when a drive accessory or battery is unnecessary

Installing Modular Bay Accessories

Changing modules

Follow these steps to change modules.

1. Turn off the computer.
2. Press the release latch on the right side of the computer.



3. Lift the front of the computer slightly, and pull out the accessory currently in the modular bay.
4. Remove the new accessory from its carrying container.
5. Insert the new accessory into the modular bay.
6. Slide the new accessory into the modular bay and push the accessory until it latches into place.
7. Place the original accessory into an optional carrying container if available and store in a safe place.
8. Turn on the computer.

Using PC cards

The computer can accept two PCMCIA Type I or II cards or one Type III card. The following PC cards available from Texas Instruments work with your computer.

PC Card	Added Functionality
28.8 kB/second cellular modem	High-speed, data/fax; connects to cellular phone
Token Ring	Connects to a token-ring local area network
Ethernet® 10BaseT/twisted pair	Connects to an Ethernet local area network

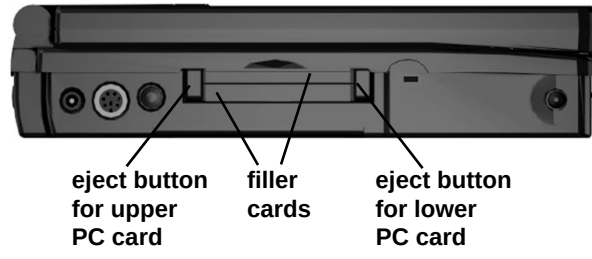
Note: Most PC cards that have Windows NT 4.0 drivers should work with your computer. For specific questions about compatibility of PC cards, call 1-800-TI-TEXAS.

Inserting a PC card

Insert all PC cards while the computer is off.

Follow these steps to insert a PC card.

1. In the PC card slot, press an eject button to eject a filler card. If you are installing a Type III card, press both eject buttons.



2. Insert the connector end of the PC card label-side up into the slot.

3. Gently push the PC card in as far as it can go.
4. Save the filler card for later use.

Removing a PC card

For ease of access your computer does not cover the slots for the PC cards. For this reason it is important at all times to have both slots occupied by a PC card or a filler card.

Whenever you remove a PC card, replace it with the original filler card.

Configuring Ethernet PC cards

Some Ethernet cards expect to use a portion of memory reserved for the video adapter. If this happens, you must reconfigure the Ethernet card. Refer to the *TravelMate Online Manual* for instructions.

4
Setting Up Your Desktop

Although your computer gives you high performance wherever you are, you can make your computer more usable as a workstation by setting up your desktop properly. This chapter describes your options while preparing your computer to function like a permanent workstation.

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Why to add external accessories

There are several reasons to add external accessories to your computer.

Advantage	Example
Increased functionality	Printers, higher resolution monitors
Improved comfort and ergonomics	Keyboard, pointing devices
Convenience	DockMate Docking Solution, numeric keypad, external floppy disk drive

Environmental considerations

Under most circumstances an office or home environment falls within the specifications for your computer. The one exception is relative humidity. On cold winter days the relative humidity indoors often falls below 20%. During the winter you should protect your computer and external accessories from electrostatic discharge by spraying the carpet around your work area with antistatic spray or by installing an antistatic mat.

Preparing To Install External Accessories

Available accessories

The following external accessories are available for your computer.

Accessory	What it adds
DockMate™	Easy connect/disconnect to desktop accessories
DockMate Plus	Easy connect/disconnect to desktop accessories; connection to SCSI® devices
DockMate Net Ready	Easy connect/disconnect to desktop accessories; connection to Local Area Networks via Ethernet
Keyboard	Comfort, ease of use, better ergonomics
Pointing device	Ease of use, better ergonomics
Monitor	Larger viewing area, increased resolution, more comfortable view height
Monitor stand	Less desk space used because DockMate and computer can fit below external monitor; better management of cables
Numeric keypad	Convenience for entering numbers when external keyboard not attached
Floppy disk drive cable	Access to floppy disk drive while modular bay loaded with another accessory
Printer	Hard copy
Sound	Headphone, more powerful speakers/ microphone
Kensington® lock	Theft deterrence

Advantages of a DockMate Docking Solution

A DockMate Docking Solution connects to the back of your computer and replicates the various ports on the computer. A DockMate connected to your computer has the following advantages.

- Saves time disconnecting and reconnecting computer to external accessories
- Adds functionality depending on DockMate model
- Reduces risk of damage to computer connectors

DockMate models

Three DockMate models allow easy connection to external accessories. All models have two PS/2 ports, allowing you to connect both a keyboard and a mouse. The DockMate Plus and DockMate Net Ready models have additional connectivity options.

- DockMate Plus includes a fast SCSI II connection, space for an optional small form-factor PCI card, stereo speakers, and external sound connections.
- DockMate Net Ready includes a ThunderLAN™ Ethernet connection.

Note: The DockMate Plus model has an AC adapter. When connecting the computer to a DockMate Plus, connect AC adapters to both the DockMate Plus and the computer.

What you need before installing

A DockMate connects easily without tools to the rear of your computer.

Each external accessory needs a cable. While most accessories except for printers have built-in cables, older accessories might require

adapters to fit the connectors on the DockMate.

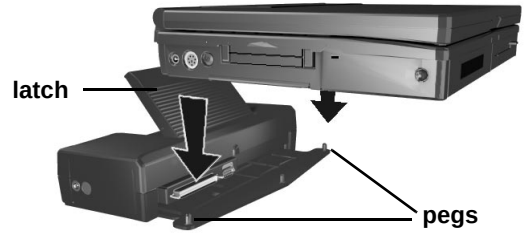
- Serial cables with 25-pin connectors require an adapter to fit a 9-pin connector
- Older keyboards require an adapter to fit a PS/2® port

Many connectors have screws attached to secure the connection. If you want to secure the connectors to the DockMate, you might need a small screwdriver.

Installation Procedure

To connect your computer to a DockMate Docking Solution, follow these steps. You might find it easier to connect all of the external accessories to the DockMate before docking the computer.

1. Turn off the computer.
2. Open the access door on the back of the computer.
3. Lift the latch on the DockMate.
4. Lower the back of the computer onto the pegs on the DockMate.



5. Close the latch.
6. Follow the installation procedure accompanying your DockMate model to complete the installation.

Configuring the computer for a DockMate

Follow these steps to configure the computer to work with a DockMate docking solution.

1. Turn on the computer or restart the computer if it is already on.
2. Before the computer starts to load the operating system, press **F2** to go into setup mode.
3. Press → to highlight the **Advanced** tab.
4. Press ↓ to highlight **Dock B Integrated Peripherals**.
5. Press **Enter**.
6. Press the space bar until the **Dock Type** matches your DockMate model.
7. Press **Esc** twice, then press **Enter** to save and exit setup.
8. Press **Enter** to continue.

Connecting a Keyboard

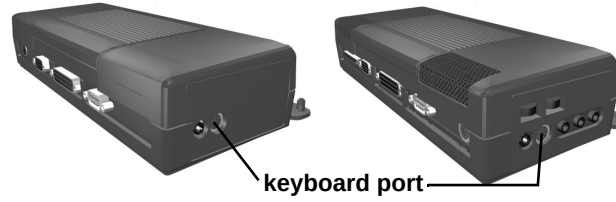
Required cables/ connectors

Keyboards almost always have a built-in cable. Most keyboards today have a PS/2 connector and can connect directly to the PS/2 port on the DockMate or on the computer.

Older keyboards have larger connectors, which require a PS/2 adapter.

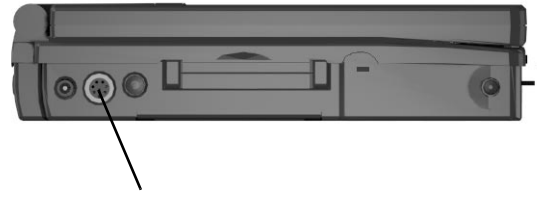
Connecting to a DockMate

Each DockMate model has two PS/2 ports — one for a keyboard and one for a pointing device. You should connect the keyboard to the PS/2 port on the side of the DockMate.



Connecting directly to computer

The computer has one PS/2 port. Connect an external keyboard to this port.



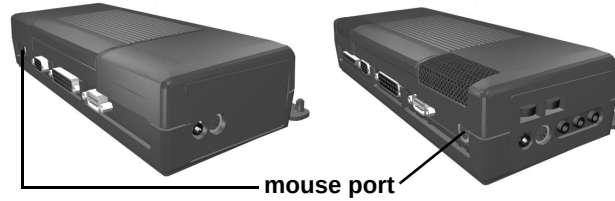
Required cables/ connectors

A mouse, glidepad, trackball, or other pointing device comes with a built-in cable. Most pointing devices have a PS/2 connector, although some may have a serial connector.

If you are not connecting to a DockMate and have an external keyboard connected, you must connect the pointing device to the serial port. In this case, you might need an adapter to convert the PS/2 connector for the pointing device to a 9-pin serial connector.

Connecting to a DockMate

Each DockMate model has two PS/2 ports — one for a keyboard and one for a pointing device. You should connect the pointing device to the PS/2 port on the rear of the DockMate.



Connecting directly to computer

The computer has one PS/2 port.

- If you have not connected an external keyboard, you can connect the pointing device to the PS/2 port.
- If you have connected an external keyboard, connect a pointing device to the serial port.

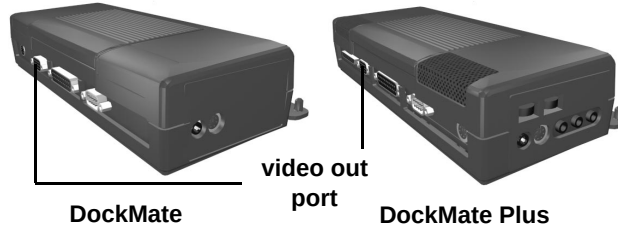
Connecting a Monitor

Required cables/ connectors

External monitors usually have a built-in cable. Monitor cables use a standard connector, so an adapter is probably not required.

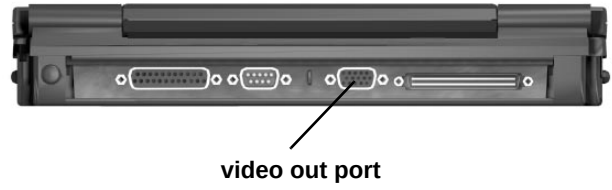
Connecting to a DockMate

Connect the cable to the video out port on the rear of the DockMate.



Connecting directly to computer

Connect the cable to the video out port on the rear of the computer.



Supported monitors

Your computer has built-in support for the following resolutions and colors.

Resolution	No. of Colors
640 x 480	256, 64K, 16.8M
800 x 600	256, 64K, 16.8M
1024 x 768	256, 64K
1280 x 1024	256

If your monitor has special requirements, follow the directions provided by the manufacturer of your monitor to install the correct driver.

Operating the computer with an external monitor

You can use the **Fn-F12** function key to toggle between viewing the image on the internal screen, an external monitor or both.

Some external monitors use resolutions that are incompatible with the screen on the computer. When this is the case, you cannot view both the computer screen and the monitor at the same time.

Connecting a Numeric Keypad Accessory

Required cables/ connectors

The numeric keypad accessory comes with an integrated cable and is designed to connect to the keyboard PS/2 port.

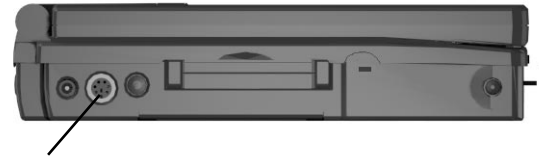
You cannot use the numeric keypad accessory and an external keyboard at the same time.

Connecting to a DockMate

Each DockMate model has two PS/2 ports — one for a keyboard and one for a pointing device. You should connect the numeric keypad accessory to the PS/2 port on the side of the DockMate.

Connecting directly to computer

The computer has one PS/2 port. Connect the numeric keypad accessory to this port.



Connecting an External Floppy Disk Drive

Required cables/ connectors

With the addition of a special cable, you can connect the floppy disk drive module to the parallel port. This enables you to have another device in the modular bay and still use floppy disks.

The floppy disk drive can only be connected directly to the computer. *You cannot connect the floppy disk drive to the parallel port on a DockMate Docking Solution.*

Connecting directly to computer

Follow these steps to connect an external floppy disk drive module directly to your computer.

1. Turn off the computer.
2. Connect the cable to the parallel port on the back of the computer.

3. Connect the other end of the cable to the connector on the back of the floppy disk drive module.

Connecting a Printer

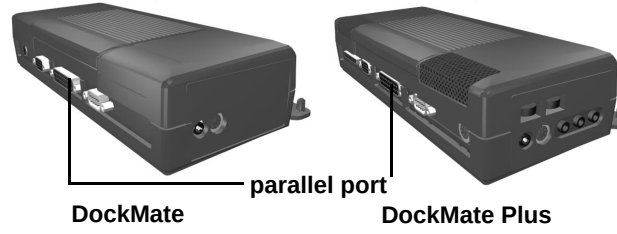
Required cables/ connectors

Most printers do not ship with a cable, so you may need to buy one.

Most printers connect through the parallel port on the computer using a standard, Centronics™-type parallel cable.

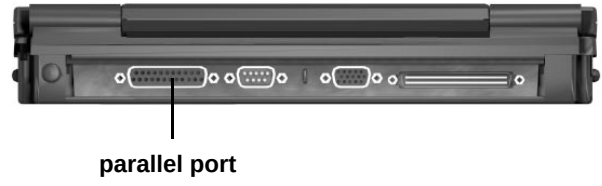
Connecting to a DockMate

If you are connecting a printer to a DockMate, connect it to the parallel port on the back of the DockMate.



Connecting directly to computer

If you are connecting a printer directly to your computer, connect it to the parallel port on the back of the computer.



Installing a printer driver

Your operating system supports a wide range of printers. If your printer is not supported by the operating system, follow the instructions provided with your printer to install a Windows NT printer driver.

Types of sound equipment

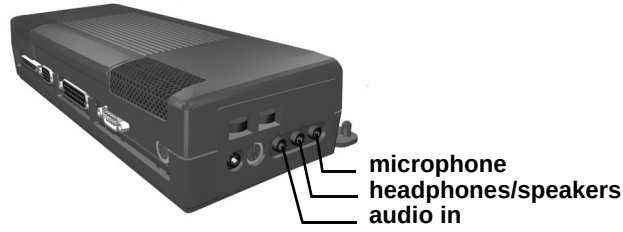
Your computer has a 16-bit sound card, stereo speakers, and a built-in microphone. By adding external sound equipment, you can improve the quality of sound production and increase convenience. When purchasing external sound equipment, keep the following in mind.

- Speakers and headphones— connect to the audio-out port on a DockMate Plus or the computer; speakers must have own source of power
- Microphone — connects to the microphone port on the computer or DockMate Plus

Note: Connecting external sound equipment disables the corresponding internal sound functions of the device to which it is connected.

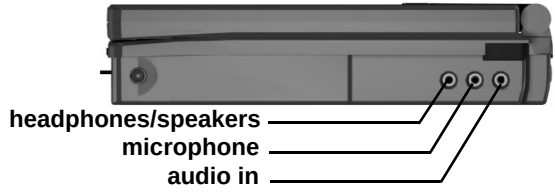
Connecting to a DockMate Plus

The following illustrations show the audio connections on a DockMate Plus.



Connecting directly to computer

The following illustration shows the audio connection on the computer.



Securing the Computer

Why to secure computer

It's an unfortunate fact of modern life that something as portable and valuable as your computer has a chance of leaving your desk in the wrong hands. While the computer itself can be replaced, the data it contains may be irreplaceable. An investment of a few dollars and a few moments can prevent a disaster.

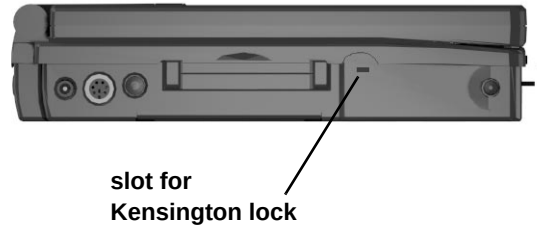
Required lock

You can secure your computer using a standard Kensington lock. If your computer store does not carry Kensington locks, you can buy one directly from Texas Instruments.

Connecting the Kensington lock

Follow these instructions to secure your computer using a Kensington lock.

1. Secure the looped end of the Kensington lock cable to a permanent fixture within reach of your computer.
2. Insert the Kensington lock into the slot on the left side of the computer.



3. Turn the key so that the Kensington lock is attached to the computer.
4. Remove the key from the lock.

5
Installing Software

This chapter provides some guidance to help you select and install software on the TravelMate 6000NT Series computer.

Selecting Software for the Computer
Purchasing new software 5-2
Using existing software 5-2

Loading Software
Loading software from floppy disks 5-3
Loading software from CD-ROM 5-3

Special Considerations
Screen resolution 5-4
Sound settings 5-4

Selecting Software for the Computer

Purchasing new software

When purchasing new software for your computer, check the carton and make sure the software is compatible with your computer in the following ways:

- *Operating system* — Make sure the application works under Windows NT. Some programs work only on Windows 95 or Windows for Workgroups.

  MS-DOS-based software should work under command mode.

- *Minimum requirements* — Make sure your computer has enough memory, screen resolution, and processor speed for the software.

Using existing software

Many software applications written for Windows for Workgroups or Windows 95 can also work under Windows NT. You may want to try loading an application that you already own.

- If it works without any problems, you do not need to do anything else.
- If it fails to work, you may be able to order an upgrade to the package that does work at only a fraction of the cost of a full software package.

Loading software from floppy disks

Your computer has both CD-ROM drive and a 3.5-inch floppy disk drive standard. If you are loading software from floppy disks, insert disk 1 into the floppy disk drive (Drive A) and follow the directions for installing the software.

Loading software from CD-ROM

If you are loading software from a CD-ROM, insert the CD-ROM disc label-side up into the carrier for the CD-ROM drive module and close the CD-ROM drive (Drive D). Follow the directions for installing the software.

Special Considerations

Screen resolution

Some software packages require a specific screen resolution (usually VGA) for optimal performance. If you have selected a different resolution, you may need to adjust the screen resolution before running the software.

Note: The display is fixed at SVGA. For the computer to fill the screen with a VGA resolution, it must interpolate the image, which substantially reduces visual quality. If possible, run VGA displays without adjusting resolution. The image area is smaller, but the quality is much better.

Sound settings

Some, mostly older software packages require you to provide information about your sound card. Here is the information you might need.

Sound Card	Sound Blaster™ Pro 16
Base memory	220H
DMA	1
IRQ	5

6
Battery Operation

When you are using your computer away from your desktop, you are usually running on battery power. This chapter shows you how to maximize your battery life.

General Information about Batteries

Battery characteristics 6-2
Battery safety 6-2
Disposing of used battery 6-3
Ordering a spare battery 6-3

Charging Batteries

Determining current charge 6-4
Charging the battery in the computer 6-4

Prolonging Battery Life

Reducing screen brightness 6-6
Caching the hard disk drive 6-6
Lowering inactivity timeouts 6-6
Using a weight-reduction module 6-6
Suspending operation while idle 6-7

Responding to a Low Battery Condition

Saving files 6-8
Turning off alarm 6-8
Reducing screen brightness 6-8
Connecting AC adapter 6-8
Suspending operations 6-8
Replacing battery 6-8
Suspending to Disk 6-9

General Information about Batteries

Battery characteristics

The battery pack fits into either the primary battery slot on the left of the computer or in the modular bay on the right of the computer.

The batteries have the following characteristics.

- Type: Lithium-ion (Li-Ion)
- Maximum charge: 35 Watt Hours
- Average life of charge: 2 to 3 hours per battery
- Conditioning is not required

Battery safety

The following general guidelines, as well as local codes and ordinances, must be followed when handling and replacing all batteries:

- Dispose of a used battery promptly.
- Do not dispose of a battery in fire or water.
- Keep batteries away from children.
- Do not puncture the battery case or disassemble.
- If a battery is leaking, do not touch the electrolyte.
- Do not short-circuit the battery. Burns may result.
- Do not expose to temperatures greater than 60°C.

Disposing of used battery

Always dispose of used batteries in accordance with local regulations. Battery recycling is available in some areas. Contact your computer dealer or call Texas Instruments at 1-800-TI-TEXAS for information about battery recycling programs.

Ordering a spare battery

The computer ships with a single battery. To order a second battery for use in the modular bay or simply as a spare, call your computer dealer or call Texas Instruments at 1-800-TI-TEXAS.

Charging Batteries

Determining current charge

The battery has four green indicators that light when the computer is on. The indicators show the charge remaining in the battery. The following table shows how to interpret the indicators.

Number of indicators lit	Charge remaining in battery
None	Fully charged
1	Less than 25%
2	26% - 50%
3	51% - 75%
4	76% - 99%

The battery also has a red indicator with the following meanings.

On — Less the 10% charge remaining

Blinking — Battery not accepting a charge

Note: The battery indicators are turned off to conserve the battery charge when the computer is disconnected from external power. To illuminate the battery indicators briefly, press the white circle on the front of the battery.

Charging the battery in the computer

Follow these steps to charge the battery in the computer.

1. Insert the battery into the computer.
2. Plug in the AC adapter.
3. Connect the computer to the AC adapter.
4. Allow to charge 4 hours if computer is off or 10 hours if computer is on.

Note: If you have both batteries installed in the computer, it will take longer to charge the batteries, since the batteries charge in parallel.

Charging Batteries

There are a number of actions you can take to reduce the rate at which your computer depletes the battery. By taking some or all of these actions, you can substantially increase the time you can operate on battery power before recharging the battery.

Reducing screen brightness

Although the screen controller uses new technology to increase brightness without increasing energy consumption, the screen is still the largest single consumer of the battery charge. Reducing the brightness to the lowest acceptable level increases battery life.

To reduce the brightness, press **Fn-**↓.

Caching the hard disk drive

By caching the hard disk drive, you can reduce the length of time the hard drive is rotating and using energy. Windows NT uses disk caching.

Lowering inactivity timeouts

Inactivity timeouts turn off devices in the computer when you are not using them. Lowering the inactivity timeouts shortens the period of time the computer waits before turning off the device.

Inactivity timeouts are defined in the setup programs described in the *TravelMate Online Manual*.

Using a weight-reduction module

Although the CD-ROM or floppy disk drive module does not use much power while inactive, it does use some. Using a weight-reduction module instead eliminates all drain on the battery.

Suspending operation while idle

Although the computer goes into Suspend mode automatically after a defined period of inactivity, you can reduce energy consumption even further by pressing either **Fn-F3** (**Suspend**) or **Fn-F4** (**Standby**) as soon as you no longer need the computer to be active.

- Pressing **Fn-F4** (**Standby**) turns off the screen.
- Pressing **Fn-F3** (**Suspend**) turns off the screen, stops the hard disk drive, and reduces energy usage to the lowest level possible without turning off the computer.

Press the **Shift** key to resume activity from Suspend or Standby mode.

Responding to a Low Battery Condition

When you are operating the computer on battery power and the charge remaining is down to 20% of the maximum, the low-battery indicator blinks and an audible alarm sounds. When this happens you should take the following actions to conserve battery power and reduce the possibility of data loss.

Saving files

Save all open files frequently while the computer is in a low-battery condition.

Turning off alarm

Turn off the audible alarm by pressing **Fn-End** (**Mute**).

Reducing screen brightness

Reduce screen brightness by pressing **Fn-**↓.

Connecting AC adapter

If you have access to AC power, connect the computer to the AC adapter. You can do this without turning off the computer.

Suspending operations

Press **Fn-F3** (**Suspend**) or **Fn-F4** (**Standby**) to put the computer into Suspend or Standby mode whenever you are not actively using the computer. Press the **Shift** key to bring the computer out of Suspend or Standby mode.

Replacing battery

If you have a spare, charged battery, you can do one of the following.

- Insert the spare battery in the modular bay.
- If you already have a battery in the modular bay, you can replace the primary battery without turning off the computer.
- If you cannot insert the spare battery into the modular bay, suspend operations to disk by pressing **Fn-F2** and replace the battery. When you turn on the computer, the computer returns to the saved state.

Suspending to Disk

When the battery power becomes critically low (less than 10% charge remaining), the computer saves the current state of the computer to disk and turns off. When you turn the computer on again, the computer restores the state that was saved to disk.

7
Mobility

Although notebook computers can replace the desktop computer, the only reason to pay extra for a notebook computer is mobility. This chapter describes all the considerations to help you take advantage of your computer's mobility.

Overview of Mobility
Disconnecting from the desktop 7-2
Moving around 7-2
Taking the computer home 7-2
Traveling with the computer 7-2
International traveling 7-2

Disconnecting from the Desktop
Disconnecting from a DockMate 7-3
Disconnecting from external accessories . . 7-3

Moving Around
Preparing the computer 7-4
What to bring for short meetings 7-4
What to bring for long meetings 7-4

Taking the Computer Home
Preparing the computer 7-5
What to bring with you 7-5
Special Considerations 7-5
Setting up a home office 7-6

Traveling with the Computer
Preparing the computer 7-7
What to bring with you 7-7
Special Considerations 7-7

Traveling Internationally with the Computer
Preparing the computer 7-8
What to bring with you 7-8
Special considerations 7-8

Overview of Mobility

Disconnecting from the desktop

No matter where you are taking your computer, you need to disconnect it from your desktop accessories.

Moving around

"Moving around" refers to using your computer at different locations within the same building, for example, taking it with you to meetings.

Taking the computer home

Since you are taking the computer to the same place every night, you can save yourself time and effort by setting up a home desktop.

Traveling with the computer

The farther you get away from home or office, the more important it is to bring the necessary equipment and supplies with you.

International traveling

Traveling internationally with your computer creates special concerns you need to address before you leave the country.

Disconnecting from a DockMate

All DockMate Docking Solutions were designed to facilitate connecting and disconnecting the computer. Follow these steps if your computer is connected to a DockMate.

1. Save your work in progress.
2. Shut down the operating system.
3. Turn off the computer.
4. Disconnect the Kensington lock if you are using one to secure the computer.
5. Lift the release latch on the DockMate.
6. Lift the computer off the DockMate.

Disconnecting from external accessories

If your computer is connected directly to external accessories, follow these steps.

1. Save your work in progress.
2. Shut down the operating system.
3. Turn off the computer.
4. Disconnect the cord from the AC adapter.
5. Disconnect the keyboard, pointing device, printer, external monitor, and other external devices.
6. Disconnect the Kensington lock if you are using one to secure the computer.

Preparing the computer

You can carry the computer without turning off the power. Press **Fn-F3** (**Suspend**) to blank the screen, stop the hard disk drive, and save the current state of the computer. While in Suspend mode, the computer uses only minimal battery charge.

After placing the computer in Suspend mode, close and latch the cover. You can now safely take the computer anywhere you go within the building. To bring the computer out of Suspend mode, press the **Shift** key.

Note: Fn-F3 (Suspend) and **Fn-F4** (Save to Disk) do not work while the computer is docked. If you want to move the computer in suspend mode, disconnect the computer from the DockMate before going into suspend.

What to bring for short meetings

A fully charged battery runs the computer for 2-3 hours under most circumstances. If your meeting is shorter than that, you probably do not need to bring anything with you other than the computer.

What to bring for long meetings

If your meeting will last longer than 3 hours or if your battery is not fully charged, you may want to bring the AC adapter with you to plug in your computer in the meeting room.

If the meeting room does not have an electrical outlet, you can do the following:

- Double the battery life by inserting a fully charged battery in the modular bay.
- Reduce the drain on the battery by putting the computer in Standby or Suspend mode whenever you are not actively using the computer.

Preparing the computer

After disconnecting the computer from your desktop, follow these steps to prepare the computer for the trip home.

1. Remove all media from the drive in the modular bay. Failure to remove the media can damage the drive head.
2. Pack the computer in a protective case that can prevent the computer from sliding around and cushion it if it should fall.

Caution: Avoid packing items next to the top cover of the computer. Pressure against the top cover can damage the screen.

What to bring with you

Unless you already have some items at home, bring the following items with you.

- AC adapter
- Modular bay accessories that you might need
- The printed User's Guide (this manual)

Special Considerations

Follow these guidelines to protect your computer while traveling to and from work.

- Minimize the effect of temperature changes by keeping the computer with you.
- If you need to stop for an extended period of time and cannot bring the computer with you, leave the computer in the trunk of the car to avoid exposing the computer to excessive heat.

- Changes in temperature and humidity can cause condensation. Allow the computer to return to room temperature, and inspect the screen for condensation before turning on the computer. If the temperature change is greater than 18°F (10°C), allow the computer to come to room temperature slowly. If possible, leave the computer for 30 minutes in an environment with a temperature between outside and room temperature.

Setting up a home office

If you frequently work on your computer at home, it may be worthwhile purchasing a second AC adapter for use at home. With a second AC adapter, you can avoid transporting the extra weight to and from home.

If you use your computer at home for significant periods of time, you might also want to add some of the external accessories described in Chapter 4. Which external accessory to add depends on your use of the computer.

- An external pointing device usually improves convenience and is almost essential if you are using any drawing packages.
- An external keyboard is more comfortable if you do a lot of typing.
- An external monitor is helpful if you will be viewing high-resolution graphics.

Preparing the computer

Prepare the computer as if you were taking it home.

Be sure that the battery in the computer is charged. Airport security frequently requires you to turn on your computer when bringing it to the gate area.

What to bring with you

Bring the following items with you.

- AC adapter
- Modular bay accessories that you might need
- Spare, fully-charged battery packs
- Additional printer driver files if you plan to use another printer
- The printed User's Guide (this manual)

Special Considerations

In addition to the guidelines for taking the computer home, follow these guidelines to protect your computer while traveling.

- Always take the computer as carry-on luggage
- Have the computer inspected by hand. Do not put the computer through a security X-ray machine or a metal detector.

Traveling Internationally with the Computer

Preparing the computer

Prepare the computer as you would normally prepare it for traveling.

What to bring with you

Bring the following items with you.

- AC adapter
- Power cords that are appropriate to the country to which you are traveling
- Modular bay accessories that you might need
- Spare, fully-charged battery packs
- Additional printer driver files if you plan to use another printer
- Proof of purchase, in case you need to show it to Customs officials
- The printed User's Guide (this manual)

Special considerations

Follow the same special considerations as when traveling with the computer.

8
Care and Troubleshooting

Regularly take time to check your computer and clean the screen, keyboard, and case to ensure trouble-free computing. If you do experience a problem, use the troubleshooting guide in this chapter to help you correct it quickly.

Cleaning the Computer

Cleaning the case 8-2
Cleaning the screen 8-2

Troubleshooting Tips

Errors at startup 8-3
Keyboard 8-3
Battery 8-3
External Monitor 8-4
Docking 8-4
Sound 8-4
Accessories 8-5

Cleaning the Computer

Caution: Never use alcohol, benzene, thinner, or strong chemical agents that could damage the computer case. Never apply liquid directly to the computer, only to a clean cloth. Never spray cleaning fluid or any liquid directly onto the case or screen.

Cleaning the case

Keep the case of the computer free of dust. Apply a small amount of mild liquid cleaner to a dry, lint-free cloth, and wipe the case with the cloth.

Cleaning the screen

The surface of the screen is covered with a protective plastic film that may become smeared and accumulate dust during use. Avoid touching the screen with your fingers.

Clean the screen regularly by applying a small amount of diluted neutral detergent to a dry, lint-free cloth. Gently rub the surface of the screen with the cloth.

Errors at startup

Error	Corrective Action
Computer does not come on when power switch is in the on position.	• The battery may be low. Use the AC adapter and recharge the battery. • Ensure the AC adapter cable and power cord are securely connected. • Connect the AC adapter to another outlet.
Computer power is on but the screen is blank.	• Press **Fn-**↑ to increase screen brightness. • Press **Shift** to terminate Suspend mode. • The computer may be set to use the external monitor. Press **Fn-F12** to switch to the internal screen.
Event log indicates "Device not found" errors at startup.	This is normal. Windows NT is determining which optional devices are available before loading drivers.

Keyboard

The special function keys do not work.	The application is overriding computer BIOS interrupts. Notify your application provider.

Battery

Battery inserted, but LED's not lit.	Press the **Battery Status** button.
Battery Status button pressed, but indicators not lit.	• Make sure the AC adapter is plugged into the computer and power outlet. • Insert a different battery. If problem is corrected, first battery is dead. If problem persists, battery charger is defective. Call service.

Troubleshooting Tips

External Monitor

Error	Corrective Action
Image on external monitor shifts in SimulSCAN™ mode.	Monitor is not multisync. Use controls on the monitor to reposition the image.

Docking

DockMate does not dock to the notebook.	Ensure the port covers on the computer are open.
Computer does not recognize DockMate.	• Ensure that software has been properly loaded. • Ensure the computer is properly docked to the DockMate.
PS/2 device connected to computer does not work with PS/2 device connected to DockMate	Move PS/2 device on DockMate to rear PS/2 port.
PS/2 Y cable does not work on DockMate	Y cables only work when connected directly to computer. DockMate has 2 PS/2 ports, so Y cable not needed.

Sound

.WAV file recorded in PCM 16-bit mode is full of static	PCM 16-bit mode is “expert” mode, and Automatic Gain Control is disabled. Reduce input volume to correct problem.
AudioRack does not eject the disc tray.	The disc tray ejects mechanically. Press the eject button to eject the disc tray.

Accessories

Error	Corrective Action
Computer does not recognize the media device.	Check the configuration in Device Manager. Ensure the correct drivers are installed.
Computer does not recognize the accessory.	Check the configuration in Device Manager. Ensure the correct drivers are installed.
Error occurs when using new Ethernet PC card.	Change memory address to avoid conflict with video chip. (Refer to the *TravelMate Online Manual*.)
Ethernet card does not work while computer connected to DockMate.	Ensure properties of card defined correctly. (Refer to the *TravelMate Online Manual* for instructions of configuring Ethernet cards.

A
Where To Get Help

Technical assistance

Customer support for your computer is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please have your serial number ready when you call.

Phone (US / Canada)	(800) TI-TEXAS Option 3,2,2
Phone (International)	(817) 771-5856
Fax	(817) 774-6660
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World Wide Web

http://www.ti.com/notebook/index.html

Feedback on manuals

To comment on the manuals for your computer, send email to **PUBT@msg.ti.com*

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