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Handling New Media
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DIGITAL STORAGE DEVICES

Device Name: 5 1/4" floppy disk drive.

Date Introduced: (year) 1975

Dates in Use: (years): 1975-mid 1990s.

Dimensions: Varies by manufacturer.

Variations and/or Identifying Features: In the years when standards for floppy drives were changing to the 3 1/2" floppy, some drives were made that could handle both media.

Common Manufacturers/Brands:
Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC), Apple, IBM, NEC, Atari

Associated Hardware: Were manufactured as an internal or external disk drive.

Associated Media: 5 1/4" floppy.

Interface/Connectors: Pin-out.

Primary Usage: Reading, writing, and formatting 5 1/4" floppy disks.

Risks: The heads move at a very fast speed, and so run the risk of damaging the fragile magnetic media.

Condition Assessment: Obsolete equipment, no longer in production.

Conservation Issues: If the plastic binder material on the floppy disk itself is unstable, it can harm the drive if used in the drive while in this unstable state.

Sources:

http://www.interfacebus.com/PC_Floppy_Drive_PinOut.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floppy_disk

<http://www.computerhistory.org/collection.html>