

FDC+ Operation with a Z80 at 4MHz

The FDC+ works with a 2 or 4 MHz Z80 CPU board when using the serial disk server.

The FDC+ works with a 2 or 4 MHz Z80 CPU when used with real 5.25" drives and Altair mini-disk software (NOT 8" software). The data transfer loop in mini-disk software is not timing dependent.

To use real drives and original Altair 8" software (Disk BASIC, Altair DOS, CP/M for Altair, etc.), a 2 MHz CPU is required. This has nothing to do with the FDC+ hardware, but instead, the fact that all Altair 8" software reads and writes two bytes per iteration of the data transfer loop and the timing of the second byte is dependent on a 2 MHz CPU clock.

To use 1.5Mb CP/M with the FDC+, a 2MHz CPU is required since the data transfer loop is timing dependent.