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## Document # 2204

### *Sound Features of Various Backpack CD-ROM Models*

- All Backpack CD-ROM drives are capable of producing CD-AUDIO sound through the headphones/speaker jack on the Backpack or by connecting the LINE OUTPUT jack on the Backpack to the "line input" of a stereo amplifier or internal sound card.
- If the sound and video produced by your Backpack appears "choppy" or "broken-up", you may be encountering too slow of a parallel port data throughput. For faster data throughput, make sure that your computer's parallel port is at least Bi-Directional, or preferably an Enhanced Parallel Port (EPP). A standard Uni-Directional parallel port is fully compatible with all Backpack CD-ROM drives, but may not allow for fast enough data transfer rates for some Multimedia CD-ROM titles. To determine your parallel port type when using Backpack's 16-bit driver, run the utility: **CDDRIVES /X** and read the statistic labeled "PORT:" When using Backpack's 32-bit driver under Win95/NT, double-click on the Backpack icon in Control Panel and read the statistic labeled "PORT:"
- Micro Solutions offers a Windows and Win95 compatible stereo sound add-on card (Part #826) to produce multimedia sound in Backpack Models 163550(2x), 164550(4x), 165550(6x), and 166550(8x). Backpack CD-ROM drives with the multimedia sound card already included are available as Model 16x700 or [Backpack Bantam](#) Model 180200. (Some Backpack CD-ROM drive models: 160550, 162550 and Bantam Model 180100 do not have a sound upgrade option.)
- It is important to note that the CD-AUDIO sound is the type of sound produced by music CD's such as Classical, Top 40, or Rock music CD's found in the music department of retail stores. It is different than the compressed "WAVform" and "MIDI" sound included in most Multimedia CD-ROM programs. WAVform and MIDI audio requires that a special sound card is present within the computer, or within the Backpack. A standard CD-ROM drive requires an additional sound card to produce any sound other than CD-AUDIO sound. Most "Multimedia" systems include a SoundBlaster™ compatible sound card inside of the system. Some notebook computers (such as the Toshiba 4700cs, IBM ThinkPad 755cs, or Compaq Deskpro 450 XE desktop system) have the actual multimedia sound circuitry already built into the motherboard.
- If your computer already has a SoundBlaster-compatible sound card built-in, no special Backpack connections are necessary, since the computer will receive the sound-data along with all other CD-ROM data through the Backpack's 25-pin parallel port interface cable. No additional drivers or sound-card configurations should be necessary. Your computer will play the multimedia WAVform or MIDI sound automatically through the sound card speakers.
- Some people buy Backpack CD-ROM drives with the intention of turning their notebook computer into a "Multimedia" computer. For Backpack Model 163550, 164550, 165550, and 166550 owners, install Micro Solutions' stereo sound add-on card (Part #826). For Backpack Model 160550, 162550, or 180100 owners, you will need to have an available PCMCIA slot on the computer, and purchase a PCMCIA sound card. At the time of this writing, we are aware of only one sound card manufacturer providing a PCMCIA sound card option: New Media Corp. (WAVjammer) 800.227.3748.

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