



## **Notice of Compatibility of Persistor CF1 with Memory Cards Manufactured After Approximately July 2012**

At the time of this writing, Persistor recommends and supports Western Digital Silicon Drive II series 4500 or 4600 memory cards with Persistor products. This document pertains specifically to the Persistor CF1 using those memory cards but may also apply to memory cards of other manufacturers. This notice does NOT apply to the Persistor CF2 or CF8 or CF8V2.

As of August 2012, the most recent deliveries of Western Digital Silicon Drive II series 4500 or 4600 memory cards do not work in Persistor CF1s. At power up the CF1 detects that the memory card is installed, but PicoDOS erroneously reports "CompactFlash card not formatted, most features disabled." This failure appears to be certain, rather than intermittent.

By deduction, the problem is a change within the memory cards which is allowed by the latest CompactFlash specification. When the CF1 was designed, more than a decade ago, the CompactFlash signal /REG was not used in TrueIDE mode, which the CF1 uses, and /REG is grounded on the CF1. Version 5 of the CompactFlash specification now says that /REG is pulled high by the card and is active in every mode. Disconnecting /REG from ground allows the CF1 to work properly with the latest recommended cards. Disconnecting /REG from ground neither prevents the CF1 from working with samples of older supported cards, nor does it appear to cause "floating line" induced current problems. Therefore:

CF1s (PERCF11M) with serial numbers higher than 53707 (sold after July 31, 2012) will have CompactFlash pin 44 removed or disconnected from the CF header and be labeled "**REV 8-12**." We do not expect this change to affect the use of older memory cards purchased from Persistor Instruments.

Any "older CF1" (PERCF1C, PERCF1I5, or PERCF11M) with serial number less than 53708 will probably not work with Western Digital Silicon Drive II Series 4500 or 4600 memory cards manufactured after approximately July 2012. We do not have information that would help determine whether a specific Western Digital card will work properly or not with an older CF1. Older CF1s that will be used with "newer memory cards" must be modified.

Customers who do not intend to use a newer memory card with an older CF1 do not need to make this change. This may become a point of confusion, however, as time passes.

We do not recommend that customers make the modification themselves. Persistor will remove the pin, retest the CF1, and add a label saying "**REV 8-12**" for \$15 per unit plus the cost of return shipping. Returned CF1s will be retested first, and the customer advised if the CF1 has any other problem. CF1s with damaged CF headers can be returned for header replacement, including retest, for \$50 each. Contact [sales@persistor.com](mailto:sales@persistor.com) for an RMA to return older CF1s for modification.

Persistor CF2s have /REG pulled high and do not suffer from this problem.

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