
Subject: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [Alex Ander](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 00:54:31 GMT

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So I just plugged in a 8100 that is 20 years old. POP goes the PSU. A few bang noises very very little smoke.

I guess repairing these isn't worth it.

If I want to get a replacement from a PC, what would I be looking for?

The PSU in the machine is a Delta Electronics DPS-225AB

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Subject: RE: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [Wesley Furr](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 01:26:11 GMT

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Don't know much about that series of Mac...but in looking online, doesn't look like it is a stock standard type (AT/ATX/etc) power supply. May be able to re-wire an ATX power supply, though the power-on part might be a challenge. Probably worth pulling the cover off and having a look inside - could just be a blown capacitor or something easily replaced.

Wesley

From: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com [mailto:vintage-macs@googlegroups.com]
On Behalf Of Alex Ander

Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 7:55 PM
To: Vintage Macs
Subject: PSU failure on 8100

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Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100
Posted by [Alex Ander](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 01:28:21 GMT
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I will completely remove it and open it, I'll share a pic here If you guys want.

On Mon, Feb 27, 2017 at 3:26 AM, Wesley Furr <wesley@megley.com> wrote:

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> *Subject:* PSU failure on 8100

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Subject: RE: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [Wesley Furr](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 01:44:08 GMT

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Wesley

From: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com [<mailto:vintage-macs@googlegroups.com>]

On Behalf Of Alexander

Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:28 PM

To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com

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Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [vintage-macs](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 11:31:10 GMT

Alex,

It's more likely to be failed electrolytic capacitors - it's a common problem with old machines. If you are in the United States, head over to Maccaps.com and Charles Phillips can repair it for you. Even with my background in electronic engineering, the first time I opened a faulty Mac, replaced the capacitors and heard it chime into life, I was speechless.

Charles is an expert when it comes to capacitors and repair work.

Of course, if you happen to live elsewhere, a local TV repair shop or electronics repair shop could do the same job for you but they might charge you more.

It might be less expensive to get another PSU off eBay but then you cannot be sure that it will work flawlessly if the capacitors have not been replaced. It is only a matter of time before they fail.

At least if you get the original PSU repaired, you know that it will fit into the case again.

All the best,

Keith

From: Wesley Furr <wesley@megley.com>

To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com

Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017, 1:44

Subject: RE: PSU failure on 8100

They're all different, but shouldn't be too difficult. May be able to see what is going on without totally tearing it apart. Wesley

From: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com [<mailto:vintage-macs@googlegroups.com>] On Behalf Of Alexander

Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:28 PM

To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com

Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

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Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 7:55 PM

To: Vintage Macs

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Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [Robert Hesson](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 13:55:04 GMT

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Also, if the caps in the PSU are going, the caps on the logic board are going too. Mac caps did my centris pretty inexpensively and it works great (after my power supply was recapped..)

I learned video editing on an 8100/80 back in the day so that machine holds a special place in memory for me. Good luck.

Sent from my iPhone

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<vintage-macs@googlegroups.com> wrote:

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Posted by [vintage-macs](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2017 14:29:50 GMT

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Alex, adding to what Robert has said, Charles at Maccaps.com doesn't use bulk-buy low quality capacitors which can also give you problems due to poor quality control during manufacturing. At Maccaps, they use branded capacitors, with specific values to cover or exceed the original specification of the PSU. The original caps may be rated to 85 degrees centigrade but modern caps are rated to 105 degrees so will last longer.

That's essentially what has happened inside your PSU. It heats up and causes the semi-liquid electrolyte to eventually become dried up. This changes the values of the capacitors so that they no longer function as required and your PSU stops working.

Sometimes, as the capacitors are being heated, they boil what little is left of the electrolyte and you hear a pop. a little bit of smoke may escape from the case and this is also the remains of the electrolyte.

As well as meeting the voltage and capacitance values, another important factor in PSUs is ESR and leakage - that's electrical leakage. Capacitors can be likened to batteries in that they store a charge and release it at a set rate in a set time. If you have batteries stored in a cabinet for years and they are three years past their USE BY date, chances are the electrical charge in the battery has dropped below the required level and you will find they no longer work or they only work for a short period of time. A PSU needs to release the charge from the capacitor at a certain rate to ensure a smooth voltage output to power the logic circuits and the power circuits.

The other problem is that over time, the electrolyte in the PSU will leak as it heats up and it will leak out of the aluminum can. The electrolyte is corrosive and will eventually damage thin circuit tracks on the logic board. It will also cause a short circuit between tracks as it is partially conductive. This leads to other problems.

As part of the capacitor replacement service, maccaps.com clean the boards thoroughly to remove any contaminants such as old electrolyte to ensure that the board works correctly.

Here is a link (it's for a Dell PSU but it will give you an idea about what is going on): Dell Inspiron 530 Power Supply Repair Capacitors

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Dell Inspiron 530 Power Supply Repair Capacitors
quick and dirty partial recap | |

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hope this helps,
Keith

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To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com

Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017, 13:55

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<vintage-macs@googlegroups.com> wrote:

Alex,

It's more likely to be failed electrolytic capacitors - it's a common problem with old machines. If you are in the United States, head over to Maccaps.com and Charles Phillips can repair it for you. Even with my background in electronic engineering, the first time I opened a faulty Mac, replaced the capacitors and heard it chime into life, I was speechless.

Charles is an expert when it comes to capacitors and repair work.
Of course, if you happen to live elsewhere, a local TV repair shop or electronics repair shop could do the same job for you but they might charge you more.
It might be less expensive to get another PSU off eBay but then you cannot be sure that it will work flawlessly if the capacitors have not been replaced. It is only a matter of time before they fail.
At least if you get the original PSU repaired, you know that it will fit into the case again.
All the best,
Keith

From: Wesley Furr <wesley@megley.com>
To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com
Sent: Monday, 27 February 2017, 1:44
Subject: RE: PSU failure on 8100

They're all different, but shouldn't be too difficult. May be able to see what is going on without totally tearing it apart. Wesley
From: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com [mailto:vintage-macs@googlegroups.com] On Behalf Of Alexander
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:28 PM
To: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Thanks, that's an option as well, although I don't have too much experience with opening PSUs I will completely remove it and open it, I'll share a pic here If you guys want.

On Mon, Feb 27, 2017 at 3:26 AM, Wesley Furr <wesley@megley.com> wrote:

Don't know much about that series of Mac...but in looking online, doesn't look like it is a stock standard type (AT/ATX/etc) power supply. May be able to re-wire an ATX power supply, though the power-on part might be a challenge. Probably worth pulling the cover off and having a look inside - could just be a blown capacitor or something easily replaced. Wesley

From: vintage-macs@googlegroups.com [mailto:vintage-macs@googlegroups.com] On Behalf Of Alex Ander
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2017 7:55 PM
To: Vintage Macs
Subject: PSU failure on 8100

So I just plugged in a 8100 that is 20 years old. POP goes the PSU. A few bang noises very very little smoke.

I guess repairing these isn't worth it.

If I want to get a replacement from a PC, what would I be looking for?

The PSU in the machine is a Delta Electronics DPS-225AB

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Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [Alex Ander](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2017 02:18:41 GMT

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Thank you all for the great help!

I will take it to an electronics store as I am not comfortable working with the PSU.

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Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Posted by [vintage-macs](#) on Tue, 28 Feb 2017 06:46:46 GMT

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Sometimes with a loud BANG, a blue flash, a curl of smoke and miniature shrapnel all over the place. That usually only happens when the pressure relief (the X or K stamped into the top) fails to burst and either the electrodes inside a capacitor short together or some other component has failed and allowed higher current or voltage to hit the capacitor.

From: 'Keith Jamison' via Vintage Macs <vintage-macs@googlegroups.com>
To: "vintage-macs@googlegroups.com" <vintage-macs@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:29 AM
Subject: Re: PSU failure on 8100

Sometimes, as the capacitors are being heated, they boil what little is left of the electrolyte and you hear a pop. a little bit of smoke may escape from the case and this is also the remains of the electrolyte.

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