

SAVING GRACE

THE LATEST PORTABLE AND DESKTOP STORAGE TOOLS DELIVER SMARTS, SPEED AND SPACE | BY JONATHAN BARKEY



**HYPERDRIVE
COLORSPACE UDMA**



**NEWERTECH
VOYAGER Q**



**DATA ROBOTICS
DROBOPRO**



**OWC MERCURY
ELITE-AL PRO QX2**



LACIE 2BIG QUADRA



**ACER ASPIRE
EASYSTORE H340
HOME SERVER**



**EPSON P-7000
MULTIMEDIA
PHOTO VIEWER**



**G-TECHNOLOGY
G-DRIVE MINI SSD**

GOTTA HAVE IT



As Moore's Law predicted, **SanDisk Extreme Pro CompactFlash** memory cards have doubled their top read/write speed in just two years — from 45 MB/second (300X) to a blistering 90MB/second (600X). And that's a good thing given the onward march of sensor resolution, especially in D-SLRs and medium format; the growing popularity of RAW shooting; and the heavy bandwidth needed for high-definition video. Pro cards employ an all-new "multilane" Power Core Controller and UDMA 6 card-to-camera interface. They're also tough, operating reliably between -13°F and 185°F at up to 90 percent humidity. Capacities include 16GB, 32GB and 64GB.

BUY IT: \$300 (16GB), \$500 (32GB) OR \$800 (64GB); sandisk.com

THE SHORT OF IT	Superfast memory-card backup	Easiest way to swap bare hard drives	Smarter than RAID; doubles original capacity	Four-drive RAID for faster eSATA transfers
THE LONG OF IT	This portable memory-card backup and display unit might be the fastest of its kind. It can back up and verify digital file data at a pace-setting 2GB per minute (40MB/second), and its new Li-ion battery provides an exceptional 250GB (two hours) of backups per charge. One inch thick and about the size of a 3x5 index card, the 10-ounce ColorSpace can decode, browse, display and zoom RAW files from any D-SLR and four different medium-format brands, displaying them on its 3.2-inch, 320x240-pixel LCD.	Thoughtfully designed, this hard-drive dock lets you swap out backup drives as if they were memory cards in a card reader — eliminating conventional enclosures that require disassembly. Drop a Serial ATA (SATA) drive of any capacity into the Voyager Q's toaster-style slot, then lever-eject it when you're done. The Voyager Q accepts 3.5-inch (full size) and 2.5-inch (laptop size) drives, and supports hot-swapping.	Like the original, revolutionary four-bay Drobo, this massive Pro version employs dynamic disk-spanning and data protection that is simpler to manage than more-familiar RAID systems, but even smarter. Designed for power users, it can hold eight 3.5-inch SATA disks totaling up to 16TBs. It lets you mix drive sizes and add capacity simply by swapping out the smallest disk. It can even tolerate two simultaneous disk failures; you replace the bad drive(s) and it restores data automatically.	Compared with two-disk RAID systems, OWC's latest four-drive unit doubles maximum data transfer speed — to a smokin' 300MB/second with an eSATA cable. Its five operating modes include RAID 5, for high speed and data protection with three or more disks. You can set it up so if one fails, the system restores data to its replacement. The aluminum case has a locking drive-bay cover and front-panel selector switch; disks are secured with thumb-screws. Configurations range from 2TB to 8GB.
CONNECTIONS	Accepts 14 different memory card types, supports incremental backups and can even copy its contents to an attached USB drive.	You get a choice of USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800 (two FW 800 ports), and the superfast eSATA interface — assuring compatibility with any computer and supporting external booting (depending on OS).	DroboPro has both USB 2.0 and FireWire 800 (two ports), plus iSCSI, offering a very fast connection to your computer or network using a standard Ethernet cable.	"Quad" interface includes eSATA, FireWire 800, FireWire 400 and USB 2.0. Backup software supports both Windows and Mac OS.
BUY IT	From \$249 to \$499 (depending on capacity); hyperdrive.com	\$95; newertech.com	From \$1,300; drobostore.com	From \$550 to \$2,080 (case without drives, \$330); macsales.com

Two-drive RAID gives you speed, safety or both	Runs Windows Home Server	Leave your laptop at home	Fast, safe and silent
This two-drive RAID shares genes with the larger 4big Quadra, but costs much less. It features four different RAID modes: Fast (no data backup), Big (for the most space), Safe (mirrors data on both drives) and our favorite, Mixed (creates separate Fast and Safe volumes). The LaCie sports lockable, hot-swappable disks; USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and FireWire 800 ports; and eSATA, for superswift 165MB/sec data transfers in Fast mode. The 2big can be rack-mounted, or stacked and daisy-chained with other 2big.	This compact, good-looking NAS server features Gigabit Ethernet capability and four hot-swappable SATA drive bays, with a 1TB drive included. It runs Windows Home Server — Microsoft's user-friendly networking system — so it can back up and restore to multiple PCs, host shared files and make them available online, and stream digital-media content simultaneously to multiple devices and apps. Though the easyStore isn't RAID-based, with two or more drives installed its redundant system protects data if one disk fails.	Epson's virtuoso viewer can virtually replace your laptop in the field. Its stunning 4-inch LCD displays photos with 640x480 resolution and over 16.7 million colors. Nearly all card formats are supported; UDMA CF cards download at 600MB/minute to its 160GB drive. The inch-thick, 3.5x6-inch P-7000 reads JPEG and RAW files, zooms to 400 percent, displays EXIF data and histograms. Plays five video and audio formats through built-in speakers, headphones or video-out; allows basic image editing.	This rugged, pocket-size solid-state drive trumps conventional 2.5-inch hard drives for safe backup of irreplaceable HD video, audio and multimedia files — not to mention photos made on demanding location assignments. Relying on static flash memory instead of a spinning platter, it's immune to mechanical failure, much faster at reading and writing, drop-proof to 1,500 Gs and silent in operation. Measuring 4.9x3.2x.9 inches and weighing only 8.5 ounces, the mini is housed in a fanless aluminum case.
Compatible with Apple's Time Machine backup system, it includes additional backup software with disaster-recovery options for both Windows and Mac OS, and is available in configurations from 1TB to 4TB.	Five USB 2.0 ports and one eSATA port further extend storage capacity, and one of the USB ports allows one-touch backup of any connected USB device. The easyStore has fewer frills than similar HP models, but it's a lot cheaper.	Now supports tethered USB 2.0 image capture from compatible D-SLRs. (Previous owners can download this upgrade from epson.com.) Pict-Bridge-capable for direct-to-printer output, with cropping and sizing.	Has USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and FireWire 800 ports for bus power without an AC adapter. But the cutting edge costs dearly — five to eight times more than standard drives with comparable gigs, at least for now.
From \$300 to \$700; lacie.com	\$390; newegg.com	\$800; epson.com	\$599 (128 GB) or \$1,299 (256 GB); g-technology.com