

GUARDIAN MAXIMUS MINI ▼

Quad Interface Portable RAID Solution

Review by Chris Main & Todd Willis

If you're a photographer or designer on the go, there's nothing more important than backing up your files. Newer Technology, Inc. has you covered with their new Guardian MAXimus mini RAID storage solution. The unit contains two 2.5" drives; is ready to plug and play on the Mac (but easily formatted for the PC); and is set by default to RAID-1, which means any data you put on one drive is automatically copied (or mirrored) to the second drive.

If storage capacity is more important, simply use the Menu and Enter buttons (which are really small and hard to press) in conjunction with the LCD screen to change the drive to RAID-0 (also known as striping). This will reformat the drive, so make sure your data is backed up. RAID-0 will also give you a significant speed boost when using eSATA (see below). Lights on the front indicate activity, drive failure, or rebuilding.

The drive supports FireWire 400/800, USB 2, and eSATA. FireWire 800 is bus powered for easier portability (eSATA requires either FireWire 800 or the included adapter for power and USB requires the adapter). The Guardian MAXimus mini has a relatively small footprint (5.2x3.5"), but keep in mind it contains two drives, so it's taller (2.1") than your standard portable drive. The size and weight (1.5 lbs), however, are still very manageable on the go. The



brushed aluminum enclosure is designed to resist impacts and dissipate heat. It's also fanless and runs coolly and quietly.

Here are some of the average (rounded) read/write results in MB/s for the 1-TB, 7,200-rpm unit we tested using the included Intech SpeedTools Utilities. RAID-1—eSATA: 98/97; FireWire 800: 67/56; USB 2: 38/28. RAID-0—eSATA: 164/152; FireWire 800: 64/54; USB 2: 38/28.

If you're looking for a RAID-1 solution to take on the road, we recommend that you give the Guardian MAXimus mini a serious look. It's available in seven pre-configured hard drive and Solid State drive options up to 1.5 TB. ■

Company: Newer Technology, Inc.

Price: \$299.99 (as tested)

Web: www.newertech.com

Rating: ◆◆◆◆◆

▲ Hot: RAID-1 on the go

▼ Not: Menu and Enter buttons