A New Tool

Newertech's USB 2.0 Universal Drive Adapter is definitely going into my computer toolbox. It's a USB cable kit that turns your IDE or SATA (Serial ATA) laptop or desktop hard drive into a temporary external unit. If you ever need to copy files from a discarded drive, or one with an OS (operating system) on it that no longer boots, you can use the Adapter to plug it into a working computer's USB port, and hopefully access it.

Included in the box are power adapters

to run most types of drives. This isn't a poor man's external drive kit, however, as it doesn't encase the drive in a protective enclosure. A bare hard drive is vulnerable to bumps, spills, magnetic fields, and other hazards, so buy a quality enclosure kit if an external drive is what you really want.

Refreshingly, this kit just works. I used it to access an ancient Windows 95 notebook drive that hasn't seen much action since Windows 98 shipped. Bravo, Newertech!

