

DRIVE DOCK ROUNDUP

OUTSIDE THE BOX

When you're shopping for an external hard drive, you could go the conventional route and use a drive that comes in a sealed, tomblike enclosure, or, for more flexibility, you could consider using a drive dock, which will allow you to quickly swap raw SATA hard drives in and out, as if they were CDs or floppy disks. Not only are raw SATA drives cheaper than external models, they also can save space: Set a drive-swapping

enclosure on your desk and then keep the SATA drives themselves on a shelf, like old-school VHS tapes (you can find protective drive cases online for a few bucks each). If you frequently move large amounts of data around, it's far more efficient than a desk full of bulky, conventional drives, each with its own cables and power supply. —*Helmut Kobler*

Voyager Q

The NewerTech Voyager Q is a basic model that's perfect for casual users. It accepts a single 3.5-inch desktop or 2.5-inch laptop SATA drive, and features USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800, and eSATA ports, so you can connect it to any Mac. eSATA and FireWire 800 data transfers will be roughly 3 times faster than USB 2 and FireWire 400, which is true for all three enclosures reviewed here.



The Voyager Q's power button is right on the front, so it's easy to reach. Also, the enclosure has no internal fan, so you'll hear only a very faint whir from the drive itself. But even without a fan, our drives didn't get too hot in this enclosure.

The bottom line. It's simple and has connections to suit any situation. **Simple, quiet, and connected.**

VOYAGER Q

NewerTech
www.newertech.com
Price: \$99
Requirements: Mac OS 10.2 or later; USB 2.0, FireWire 400 or 800, or eSATA port

+ Plenty of connection options. No-hassle operation.

- A little pricey.

MacLife **GREAT**
RATED

Next Step

The Next Step is a sleek, black, aluminum enclosure that's perfect for casual users. It accepts a single 3.5-inch desktop or 2.5-inch laptop SATA drive, and features USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800, and eSATA ports, so you can connect it to any Mac. eSATA and FireWire 800 data transfers will be roughly 3 times faster than USB 2 and FireWire 400, which is true for all three enclosures reviewed here.



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Requirements: Mac OS 10.2 or later; USB 2.0, FireWire 400 or 800, or eSATA port

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MacLife

The MacLife is a sleek, black, aluminum enclosure that's perfect for casual users. It accepts a single 3.5-inch desktop or 2.5-inch laptop SATA drive, and features USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800, and eSATA ports, so you can connect it to any Mac. eSATA and FireWire 800 data transfers will be roughly 3 times faster than USB 2 and FireWire 400, which is true for all three enclosures reviewed here.



The MacLife's power button is right on the front, so it's easy to reach. Also, the enclosure has no internal fan, so you'll hear only a very faint whir from the drive itself. But even without a fan, our drives didn't get too hot in this enclosure.

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