

FAQ's on Portable Drives

Q. What should I look for in a portable drive for use

A. That depends on the type of project you plan to create. Below are questions that are related to specific types of projects and storage needs.

Q. I am working on photos in Photoshop – what type of drive should I use?

A. Most photos range between 1MB (medium resolution) and 25MB (very high resolution) in size. Depending on your project size, you will probably want to use a minimum of a **4GB USB thumb drive**.

Q. I am working on an audio project – what type of drive is right for me?

A. Most audio projects are small enough to be saved onto an **8GB USB Flash drive**. If you are creating an extensive audio project with many hours of interviews, you may need a larger drive.

Q. I am working with video – do I need a Firewire portable drive?

A. We highly recommend using a Firewire portable drive for video projects. Especially when you are:

- a)** Working with video files that are larger than 1GB or working with HD.
- b)** Working directly from your external drive with video apps such as Final Cut Pro.
- c)** Moving large media files (1GB or larger) between a Mac and an external drive.
- d)** Capturing or log & Transfers lengthy video files to an external drive.

Q. What should I look for when purchasing a Firewire portable drive?

A. When purchasing a portable external drive for video or lengthy audio projects, you will want to look for drives that are **Firewire/USB, Macintosh compatible**, with **Firewire 400/800 ports**, and a **minimum of 160 GB of space**.

Q. Should I read product reviews before I purchase a portable drive?

A. Yes! Because of the wide variety of portable drives available, and because of the changing nature of the portable drive industry, it is always good to read reviews before purchasing any drive. That way you will be aware of the pros and cons of various drives.

Q. Will my portable drive fail?

A. All types of external drives have the potential to fail, so purchasing a second back-up drive and backing up all your important files regularly is highly recommended.

Q. What type of "Firewire Drives" are recommended?

A. Most Firewire drives work just fine. It is recommended that the Firewire drive be compatible with Firewire 400/800 ports and has USB 2.0 port. Also, the drives should be mini drives and not the desktop drive that requires ac adaptor connected to it, this ensures for easy portability and usage. Lastly, the drives would need to be Mac compatible and Mac formatted.

Q. What type of "Flash Drives" are recommended?

A. Most thumb drives work on all UWB computers; both PC & Mac. However, we do recommend that you have one that is large enough for the type of files you will be working with, as noted above.

Q. Can I work directly off a USB drive?

A. USB processes data much slower than Firewire, so it is not recommended that you work directly off a USB drive, especially when working with large files such as video. Working with video on USBs can lead to corrupting your data and data hang-ups. In some cases students may even lose their work. The safest bet is to only work directly off a drive if you are using Firewire.