

Audio Professional's Guide to Picking the Right Hard Drive

Storage isn't the most exciting part of your setup, but it is an integral one. Whether you're building a mobile sound library or just need a working drive for your projects, we're here to help you find the right solutions for your needs and break down some best practices that can help keep your sessions flowing and more secure.

G|DRIVE™ mobile SSD

Perfect For: High-Speed/Mobile Libraries & Project Files; Live Recording; Electronic Music



IP67 Water/Dust Resistance



The G-Drive Mobile SSD is a great all-around option for most audio professionals. Noise a concern? This SSD is silent. It is also bus-powered (no separate power supply), and with up to 2TB capacity, you can take a lot of samples, plugins, and projects with you. Need a little more space? Opt for two; one as your 'read from' (samples and plugins), the other for recording your projects to. Doing live recordings or in need of something that can handle frequently accessing lots of samples? This mobile SSD has you covered.

Highlights: Mobile: Up to 560MB/s¹ Read Speeds; Up to 3.5x Faster than Most Portable HDD's²; Up to 2TB²; Super-Durable Design; 5-year Limited Warranty

ARMORATD™

Perfect For: Low-Speed/Mobile Libraries or Project files; Mobile/Budget Backup



IP54 Water/Dust Resistance



This drive is your basic and budget-friendly option. It's good for letting you stay mobile and keeping plenty of your sample libraries, plugins, or projects on. It's built to survive you being an on-the-go artist or if you just want to keep a backup on you. As with any typical 2.5" buspowered drive, it may not be up to accessing your samples and projects at the same time from a single drive. If you need a little more oomph, opt for two drives, with the ArmorATD as your recording drive, and the G-Drive Mobile SSD for your libraries.

Highlights: Up to 5TB²; Rugged Durability; 3-year Limited Warranty

G|DRIVE™ with Thunderbolt™ 3

Perfect For: Mid-Speed Libraries or Project Files; Studio/Budget Backup



Thunderbolt 3 Ports



This is the standard 'go-to' desktop drive with a nice mix of performance, cost, and capacity, at up to 18TB². With the ability to daisy chain over Thunderbolt™ 3, you can connect multiple units or other devices, which means making backups is easier and only takes one system port. You also get a 5-year limited warranty with the enterprise class drive inside, giving you the same reliability of drives found in high-performance RAID's and data centers.

Highlights: Up to 18TB²; Daisy-Chain Multiple Devices; 5-year Limited Warranty

G|SPEED™ SHUTTLE

Perfect For: Studio Master or Studio Backup; High-Cap/High-Speed Libraries; General Workhorse



Thunderbolt 3 Ports

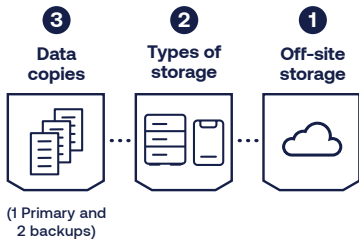


The G-SPEED Shuttle is a beast. It provides a range of capacities with the RAID options you need for your studio, in a 'made to travel' package. The G-SPEED Shuttle is capable of giving you comparable throughput to some SSDs, but with far more capacity. This is a 4-Bay unit, which means you can run in a RAID 5, giving you both added speed and a single drive failure tolerance for redundancy⁴. This way if you have 1x drive fail, you don't have to reconstitute every TB, only the portion you lost. Just be sure to follow backup best practices and not rely solely on any RAID's redundancy as your 'backup'.

Highlights: Up to 72TB²; up to 1,020MB/s¹; 4-Bay (HDD); Optional Custom-Cut Cases; 5-year Limited Warranty; Multiple RAID Options



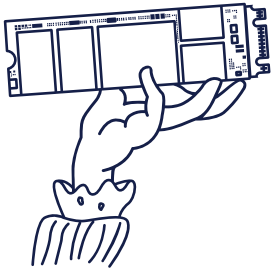
3-2-1: The Gold Standard



The ‘Gold Standard’ for protecting your work is the 3-2-1 Rule: **THREE** copies, one that you work off of, and two backup⁴ copies; saved on **TWO** different types of storage (HDD/SSD, Tape, etc.); **ONE** copy stored in a different location in case of fires, accidents, etc. The key is to keep your backups current, otherwise they’re not very good backups. Setup a system that works for you and your team. When you travel, don’t pack copies together, even if it’s just between home and the studio. This way, if a bag is lost or stolen, then all your work isn’t gone as well. If you’re looking at the cloud for one copy, there are lots of options. Whatever you choose, just be mindful of accessibility and duration of downtime to recover and make sure they’re acceptable.

Tip: If the cloud doesn’t work for you, and a second location is hard, try a fire-proof safe, safety deposit box, or even the glove compartment of your car.

To SSD, or Not To SSD...That is The Question



SSD’s are great, but there are differences to know between them and HDD’s. First, like any drive, SSD’s are NOT failproof and don’t last forever, so no matter what you’ve heard, you still need a backup. HDD’s are best for cost to capacity but are usually slower than SSD’s. You can get HDD RAID’s to increase speeds and/or add redundancy, but you may not need all that space and added cost. There are SSD RAID’s, but they are overkill for most. In the end, SSD’s are fast and silent, but more limited in capacity. Also, be aware SSD’s generate heat over sustained use, so they may slow down to prevent overheating (we have some with heatsinks to help prevent this ‘thermal throttling’). Ultimately, both may have a place in your workflow; just pick what fits your needs, not the hype.

Tip: Unless downtime hurts you, back up an SSD with a less expensive and slower HDD. This gives you setup that can meet your needs without breaking the bank.

Those Bothersome Backups



What we described in 3-2-1 about managing backups may sound like a lot of work, but how many hours’ worth of work do you have sitting on that hard drive? How many late nights have you poured into those projects? If the idea of losing your work makes you anxious, but you’ve been lax on backups in the past, you need to setup a system. Get your drives lined up, make a workflow, and automate as much as you can. It might take some time to dial it in, but once you do, you’ll breathe easier knowing that everything you do is that much safer. Remember, just because you’ve never had a problem before doesn’t mean it can’t happen to you. Don’t lose your work.

Tip: Simplify your workflow with software that will automatically run your backups on a schedule. Checkout Chronosync and Carbon Copy Cloner for local copies, or Carbonite for offsite storage.

[1] Based on read speed, unless otherwise specified. As used for transfer rate, megabyte per second (MB/s) = one million bytes per second. Performance will vary depending on your hardware and software components and configurations. [2] As used for storage capacity, one gigabyte (GB) = one billion bytes, and one terabyte (TB) = one trillion bytes. Total accessible capacity varies depending on operating environment. For RAID products, storage capacity is based on RAID 0 mode. [3] Based on read speed. Based on internal testing. [4] Always follow backup best practices and do not rely solely on any RAID’s redundancy as your ‘backup’, because a backup is only a copy that exists on a physically separate device.