Snowline

External Storage Enclosure for
5.25" Optical Devices

User Manual

& Installation Guide

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Icon Key

Throughout this manual you will see icons on the left margin that denote either Notes or Special Remarks as outlined below:

General Notes and Tips

Remarks for PC users and Microsoft Windows OS

Remarks for Mac users and Apple Macintosh OS

The Snowline 400 (1394a) is pre-set and optimized for either a Hard Drive or a CDRW Burner.

If you originally bought it for a HDD and now want to use an optical device or the other way around, you may have to contact your vendor and let them adjust it, to assure optimized performance and compatibility!

The Snowline

Practical design and robust construction, the Snowline enclosure is an ideal desktop CDRW storage enclosure. It is designed to house either a single 5.25" optical device, or a single 3.5" hard drive* with the optional front bezel. The enclosure comes with internal power supply and onboard fan.

Product Dimensions: 27.0cm x 19.5cm x 6.0cm
                          10.63" x 7.68" x 2.36"

Available Interfaces

- USB 2.0 High Speed
- Firewire 1394a
- Firewire 1394a & USB 2.0

* Important note for Firewire Models, see remark on left side!

System Requirements

PC Requirements

- Minimum Intel Processor II 350MHz, 64MB RAM
- USB 1.1 equipped PC; Win98SE, WinME, Win2000, WinXP
- USB 2.0 equipped PC; Win98SE, WinME, Win2000, WinXP
- 1394a equipped PC; Win98SE, WinME, Win2000, WinXP

Mac Requirements

- Minimum Apple G3 processor, 64MB RAM
- USB 1.1 equipped Mac; Mac OS 9.1, 9.2, 10.1.5, 10.2, 10.3
- USB 2.0 equipped Mac; Mac OS 10.2, 10.3
- 1394a equipped Mac; Mac OS 9.1, 9.2, 10.1.5, 10.2, 10.3

Package Contents

- Snowline
- Power Cord
- Interface Cable
- Driver CD (single USB 2.0 and 1394a/USB2.0 version only)
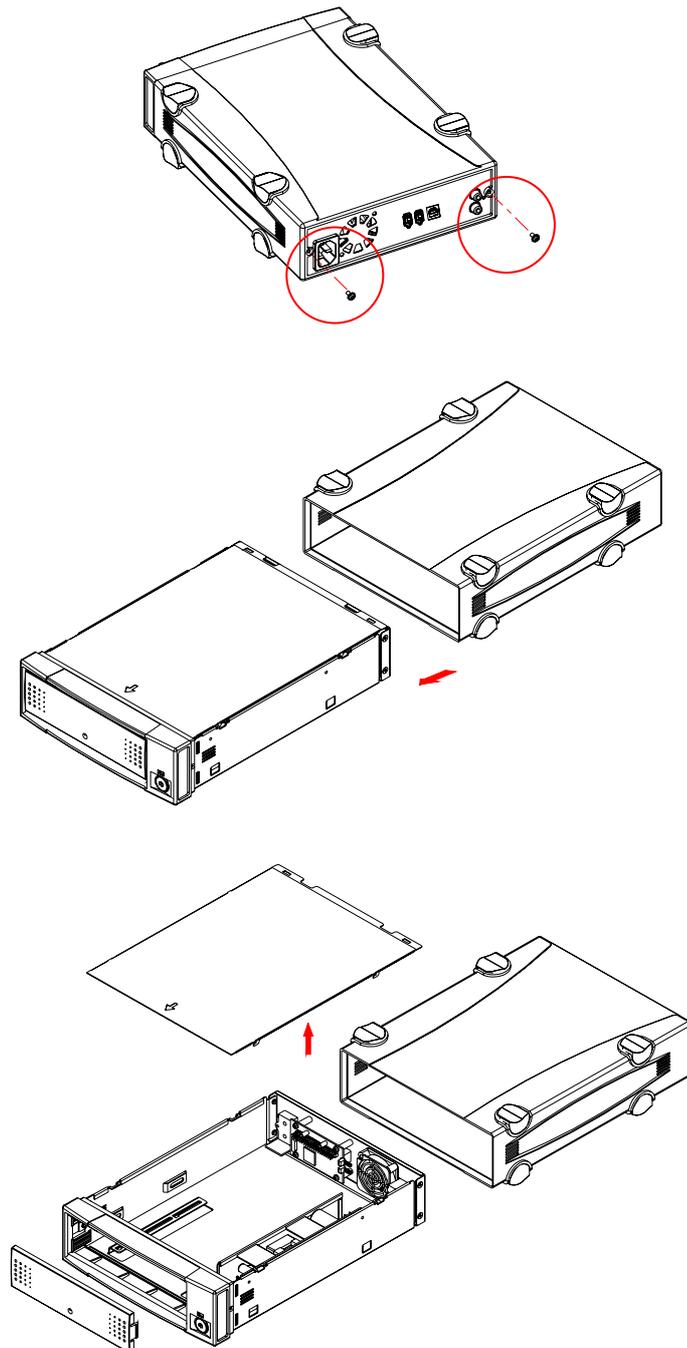
Chapter 2 - Installing the Drive

Preparing the Enclosure

Unfasten the two screws on the back and remove the plastic cover. Lift the metal cover a little on the back and push it towards the rear to open the case.

The jumper settings of the drive should be master or factory default.

Be careful not to damage any cables or components and double check the connection between the cables, the bridge board and your drive before you close up the case.

Drive Assembly

Connect the ATA cable and the power line to your drive. Install the drive and fasten the screws. Align the metal cover with the body and push it towards the front until it snaps back into place. Replace the plastic cover, fasten the screws, then connect the power cord and interface cable.
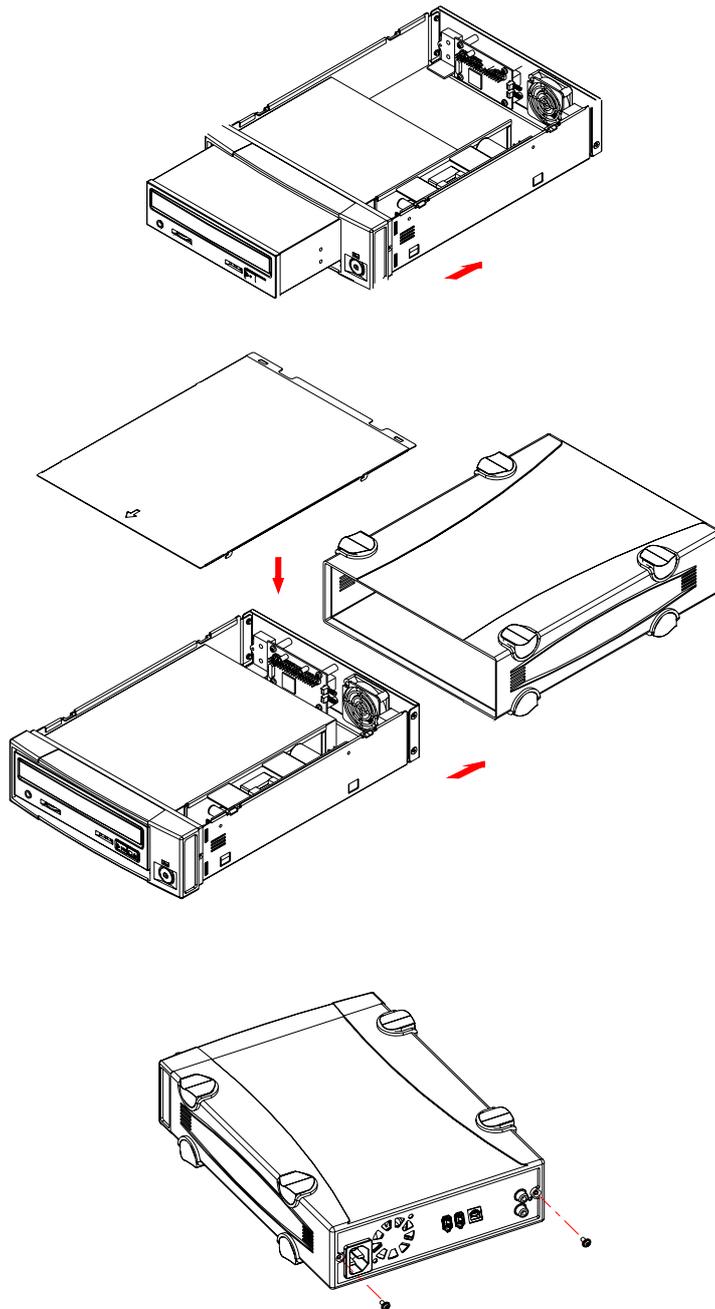
Chapter 3 - System Set Up

Connection to your Computer

A few tips on how to connect your external storage enclosure:

- Make sure your PCI Host Card is installed correctly
- Double check that the Host Card driver is up to date
- If required, update your Operating System or BIOS
- Only one interface at the time can be used
- Only one computer at the time can access the drive
- To use one drive on several computers, it can be shared through one computer on the network (1394 network, company network)
- Firewire can be daisy chained
- All devices in a daisy chain have to be switched on to permit the hub/daisy chain function
- Do not cover the Enclosure and leave enough room around it for the drive to cool down
- Do not expose the product to water or humid conditions
- If possible, arrange the cables so they do not cross each other
- Always check for visible damage and defects of power and interface cables before using it
- We recommend using the cables and adapter supplied with your product

Most problems occur due to driver problems on the Host Card side!

Installation on a PC (Microsoft Windows)

Win2000 or WinXP with a USB or Firewire connection:
- Turn on your Computer and start Windows
- Connect the Snowline and turn it on
- Let Windows search and install the driver automatically
- Open "My Computer" to see your external drive

Win98SE with a Firewire connection:
- Turn on your Computer and start Windows
- Connect the Snowline and turn it on
- Let Windows search and install the driver automatically
- Open "My Computer" to see your external drive

Win98/SE with a USB connection:
- Turn on your Computer and start Windows
- Insert the driver CD into your internal CD-ROM
- Connect the Snowline and turn it on (in some cases the driver must be installed before connecting the device, see note on CD or readme file)
- Follow the onscreen instructions and install the drivers
- Open "My Computer" to see your external drive

If the system doesn't recognize the drive, turn on the power first, before connecting the USB/Firewire cable.

Win98 does not support Firewire, you need to upgrade your OS to Win98SE or higher.

For safe removal of your drive, always follow the unplug procedure. If not, an error message will show up.

Unplug Procedure:
- Click on the taskbar icon for external hardware
- Choose your external drive and confirm to remove it

If the system doesn't recognize the drive, turn on the power first, before connecting the USB/Firewire cable.

For Mac OS 8.6, the USB extension has to be at least v1.41.

For Mac OS 8.6, the Firewire extension has to be at least v2.6.

For save removal of your drive, always follow the unplug procedure. If not, an error message will show up.

Installation on a Macintosh (Apple Mac OS)

Mac OS 9.x or Mac OS 10.x with a Firewire or USB connection:
- Turn on your computer and start Mac OS
- Connect the Snowline and turn it on
- No driver installation required
- The external drive will mount and show up on your desktop**

Mac OS 10.2 or 10.3 with a Firewire 800 or USB 2.0 connection:
- Turn on your computer and start Mac OS
- Connect the Snowline and turn it on
- No driver installation required
- The external drive will mount and show up on your desktop**

Unplug Procedure:
- Drag the external drive icon into the trash bin to eject the CD and then turn it off or disconnect it.

** The CDRW/DVD drive only shows up on the desktop if a CD or DVD is inserted!

You can choose to create several partitions but be aware that if you want to change this at a later point, it's required to format the drive again or use 3rd party software.

Win98/SE and WinME do not recognize NTFS formatted drives, so if you want to use your drive on those platforms, we recommend you to use FAT32 instead.

If you use this device to backup your data using a 3rd party software running MS-DOS, we recommend you to format the drive using FAT32.

Partitioning & Formatting a Hard Drive

Be aware that this will destroy all your existing data on the drive, so make sure you have a backup! This step is usually only required the first time you install a factory new hard drive, if you change the format or want to erase all data on your drive.

PC running Win98/SE or WinME:
MS-DOS command "fdisk" (press Enter to confirm)
- Type "fdisk" and press Enter
- Select "Y" and press Enter
- Enter "5" to change the drive
- Select the drive you want to format
- Choose "1" and follow the onscreen instructions
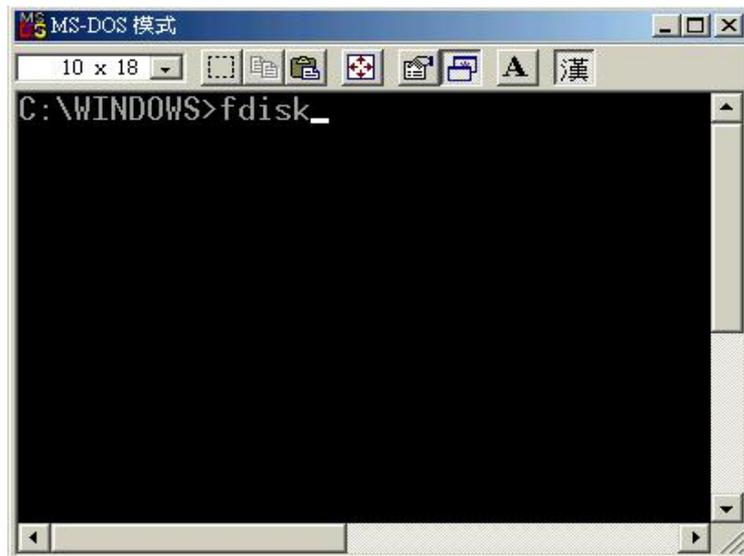
Mac OS does not recognize NTFS formatted drives, to use your device on both platforms, we recommend you using FAT32.

If you use Win2000 or WinXP and FAT32, the biggest single partition you can create will be 32GB. To create larger partitions, you need to use the DOS command under Win98SE or WinME or change to NTFS format.
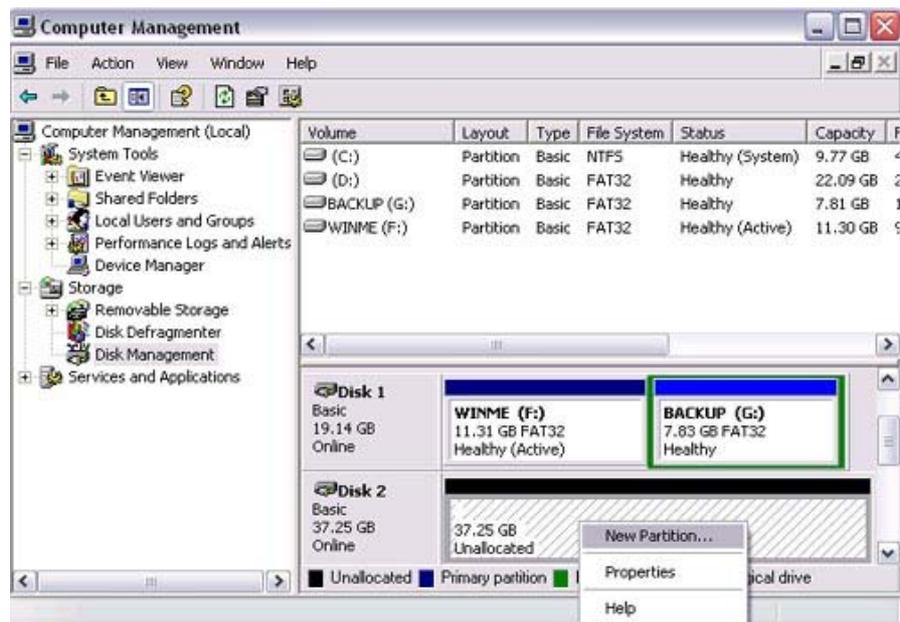
If you can not see the drive, make sure the jumper settings of your hard drive are correct, the drivers are installed and the power is turned on!

PC running Win2000 or WinXP:

Disk Management Program
- Right click on "My Computer" and choose "Manage"
- Select "Disk Management"
- Choose the drive you want to format and right click on it for further commands (Choose New Partition)
- Follow the Partition Wizard

If you want to use your drive on a PC running Microsoft Windows as well as on your Mac, we recommend you to use a PC to format the drive. Choose FAT32 when formatting and do not change anything on the partition or format on your Mac, otherwise the PC will not be able to recognize the drive anymore.
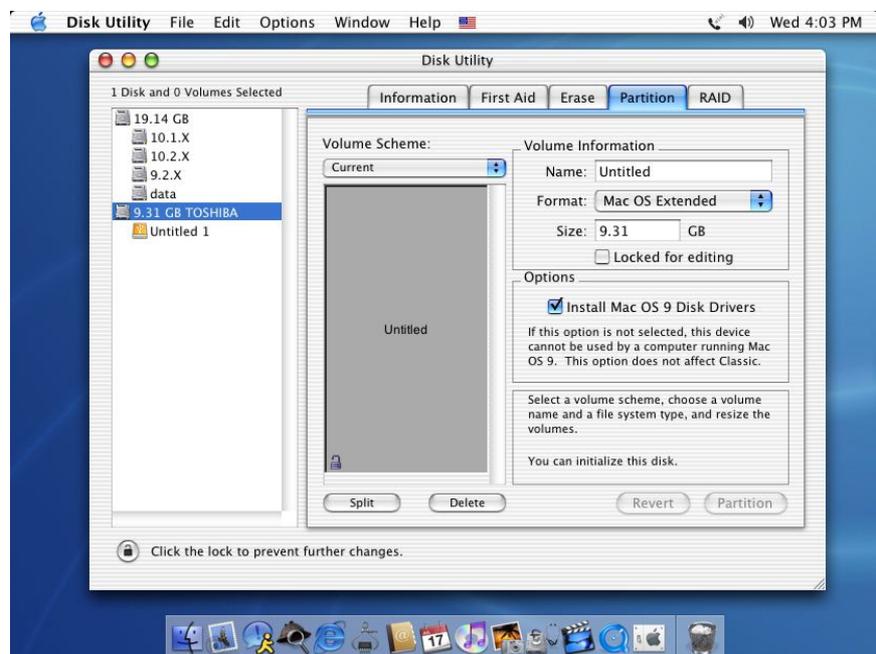
If you can not see the drive, make sure the jumper settings of your hard drive are correct, there are no extension conflicts and the power is turned on!

Mac OS:

Mac OS9.2 and earlier, does not support creating partitions on an external drive. To do that, you would need to purchase additional 3rd party software. Initializing is no problem on all Operating Systems.

For Mac OS X, use the Disk Utility to format and create partitions on your external disk.
- Select "Disk Utilities" in the utilities folder
- Choose your external drive and format it according to your requirement

Burning a CD/DVD

To burn a CD/DVD, we recommend using third party software like 'Nero' for the PC or 'Toast' for Mac. If you have an internal CDRW but want to use an external DVD burner instead, change the burner under 'Recorder' or click on the drop down list and choose your external device.

For further information, please refer to the manual and instructions of your burning software.

Technical Questions

For RMA and other questions, please contact your vendor or check out their online support area!

About this Manual

This manual covers all interfaces and combinations for the 'Snowline' Enclosure. Images and descriptions might therefore slightly vary between this manual and the actual product you have.

iDVD does not support external drives, we recommend you to install a third party software like 'Toast'.

If you run Mac OS 9.x and the external CD/DVD burner is not recognized, check your USB/Firewire extensions for possible conflicts.

Please read your warranty carefully, as this may vary between different vendors!