

# Hard Drive Docking Stations (for Bare SATA Drives)

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# What is a Hard Drive Dock?

- Allows bare hard drives to connect to computers
- Easy drive connection and disconnection
- Interfaces to computer through USB
  - Also have e-SATA, Firewire and Ethernet (network) versions
- Typically use both 3.5” and 2.5” SATA hard drives

# Thermaltake BlacX

- Dock base has top slot for both 3.5" and 2.5" drives
- Push button to eject drives
- Powered by AC adapter
- Instant USB drive



# BlacX Top Slot for Drives



# Using the Dock

- Raw drives must be formatted
  - XP can format under My Computer - Manage
- Can be used like any external USB drive
- Add drive label for identification
- Can hot swap drives (I don't recommend this)
- Useful to prepare drives for remote backup storage

# Other Brands - Aluratek



- Very similar to Thermaltake BlacX

# Other Brands - NexStar (by Vantec)



- Also similar to Thermaltake BlacX

# Other Brands - Sabrent



- Also similar to Thermaltake BlacX

# Other Brands - D-Link



- Full enclosure, but allows quick drive change like a dock
- Holds two drives
- Network interface only

# Dock Advantages

- Quick set up and change of drives
- Work on any SATA drives
- Easy to use
- Easy to add more / larger storage

# Dock Disadvantages

- Risk to drives due to handling
  - Drives have exposed circuitry
  - Risk of static damage
  - Bare drives must be handled properly
  - Bare drives must be stored properly
- Only work on SATA drives, not IDE

# Acknowledgements and References

- Thermaltake BlacX P/N N0028USU  
[www.thermaltakeusa.com](http://www.thermaltakeusa.com)
- Aluratek P/N AHDDS100F  
[www.aluratek.com](http://www.aluratek.com)
- Vantec NexStar P/N NST-D100SU  
[www.vantecusa.com](http://www.vantecusa.com)
- Sabrent P/N DSH-USB2 (Fry's)

# Additional Acknowledgements and References

- D-Link P/N DNS-321 and DNS-323  
[www.dlink.com](http://www.dlink.com)