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3rd Edition

# MacBook®

FOR

# DUMMIES®

## Learn to:

- Use your MacBook, MacBook Pro, or MacBook Air®
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- Use iLife® to get the most out of your photos, movies, and music
- Connect to wireless devices and share access

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If you decide that you *do* need to upgrade your MacBook's internal drive, I strongly recommend that you don't install your new hard drive yourself. Call on the services of an Apple technician to upgrade your drive!

## *Consider your external options*

If you *do* need additional hard drive space, I recommend using an external drive! Use a high-speed FireWire or USB port to connect a second hard drive the quick and easy way. (If your MacBook model isn't equipped with a FireWire port, you can concentrate on USB.)

Most of today's FireWire and USB peripherals don't even require the driver software that Mac old-timers remember with such hatred. You simply plug in a FireWire or USB device, and it works. You can move your external drive between different Macs with a minimum of fuss and bother.

An external hard drive can do anything that your internal hard drive can do. You can boot from it, for example, or install a different version of Mac OS X (great for beta testers like me). External optical drives work just the same as internal models; Apple sells an external USB SuperDrive optical drive for the MacBook Air for about \$100.



Apple's Time Capsule unit is an external hard drive with a difference: It stores the huge Time Machine backup files created by the Macs running Snow Leopard on your network, and it uses a wireless connection to transfer data! (In fact, if you're thinking of adding a wireless base station to your wired network, your Time Capsule actually acts as a full AirPort Extreme Base Station, complete with USB port for connecting a USB printer.) At the time of this writing, Time Capsule is available with either a 1TB (\$299) or 2TB (\$499) drive.



Here's one problem with external drives: Data transfers more slowly this way than via an internal drive (even with a FireWire 800 connection). That's why most Mac owners use their external drives for storing lesser-used documents and applications, or for Time Machine backups. Their favorite applications and often-used documents are housed on the faster internal drive.

Figure 22-6 illustrates a popular external hard drive that offers FireWire 400, FireWire 800, and USB 2.0 connections: the Airhawk A9, from Rocstor ([www.rocstor.com](http://www.rocstor.com), about \$170 online). I carry this drive with me in my laptop bag, because it's not much larger than an iPhone and doesn't even require a separate power supply — yet the A9 provides 500GB of quiet external storage, making it a great choice for a Time Machine backup that travels with you! The drive is preformatted for Mac OS X, and it couldn't be easier

to use (just connect the drive to your MacBook, and it's ready to use). If you install Snow Leopard on the A9, you can also boot directly from the external drive.



**Figure 22-6:** The Rocstor Airhawk A9 offers three different connections to your MacBook.

### *Putting a port to work*

A MacBook can carry up to three kinds of high-speed ports, any of which is a good match for connecting any external device.

#### ***USB 2.0***

The USB standard is popular because it's just as common in the PC world as in the Mac world. (Most PCs don't have a FireWire port.) Your laptop carries at least one USB 2.0 port on the side of the case. Hardware manufacturers can make one USB device that works on both types of computers.



I heartily recommend that you avoid using any USB 1.1 devices (except, perhaps, a USB 1.1 keyboard or mouse). USB 1.1 is very slow compared with the USB 2.0 standard, although you can connect a USB 1.1 device to a USB 2.0 port with no problem. You should buy only USB 2.0 external hard drives, CD/DVD recorders, or flash drives. 'Nuff said.

#### ***FireWire 400***

The original FireWire (also called *IEEE 1394*) is the best port for most digital video camcorders. Use your FireWire port for connecting external devices to your older Mac laptop.



Current MacBook models no longer include a FireWire 400 port, but they were standard equipment on most older MacBooks.