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Group test: what's the best portable hard drive?

The Top 5 Portable Hard Drives of December 2010

PC Advisor staff

PC Advisor reviews the Top 5 best portable [hard drives](#) you can buy in the UK right now. Updated 3 December 2010.

Number 5: Iomega eGo 500 BlackBelt, £90 inc VAT

Slightly faster than most other USB 2.0 drives, the eGo is no slouch. The inclusion of FireWire 800 is welcome. Chunky with rubber straps to limit the adverse effects of unintentional jolts, the eGo's innards are well protected. Iomega's QuickProtect utility can be downloaded free of charge, and Mozy Home supplies you with 2GB of free online storage.

[Iomega eGo 500 BlackBelt review](#)

Number 4: iStorage diskGenie, £163 inc VAT

The iStorage diskGenie is about as secure as storage gets, with all data encrypted on the fly using 256bit AES and a numerical keypad demanding passcode entry. This didn't slow down transfers in our tests, with the drive's 29MBps read speeds and 12MBps writes using USB 2.0 fairly standard. The non-slip rubbery finish collects dust rather well, however.

[iStorage diskGenie review](#)

Number 3: Western Digital My Passport Studio, £115 inc VAT

Pushed down to third place, the [Western Digital](#) remains a good choice for those who need lots of storage space. Aimed primarily at Mac users but usable on Windows PCs too, the attractively styled Studio offers good FireWire performance. An e-label display allows personalisation of up to 12 characters of text, and full 256bit hardware encryption is included.

[Western Digital My Passport Studio review](#)

Number 2: A-Data NH01 Nobility, £90 inc VAT

A blisteringly fast USB 3.0 interface is a good reason to track down this hard-to-find drive (we had some success at Ginger6). Hot-swappable and requiring no additional power, the Nobility is ideal for use on the go. We'd like to see a 7,200rpm drive used rather than the 5,400rpm model seen here, but our tests recorded healthy read/write speeds of 94MBps.

[ADATA NH01 Nobility review](#)

Number 1: G-Technology G-Drive mobile, £140 inc VAT

Styled for Mac users and just as quick on Windows, the G-Drive houses a 2.5in laptop drive within a single-piece aluminium chassis. Two FireWire 800 ports and one USB 2.0 port are included. The soft plastic top is prone to scuffing. Our testing saw transfer speeds up to 61MBps using FireWire. USB 2.0 transfer speeds were 31Mbps writing and 35Mbps reading.

[G-Technology G-Drive mobile review](#)