

INSTALLATION Internal hard drives are fairly easy to install. If you're adding a second IDE drive to a cable, make sure you set the jumper to "slave." If you're replacing an old drive, create a boot disk first. Position the drive in an available 3.5-inch bay, and connect the ribbon (or SATA) cable to the motherboard and a power connector from the power supply to the drive. If you bought a kit rather than a bare drive, use the screws and cables that came with the drive.

SIZE If you're upgrading an older PC, a 120GB drive should provide plenty of storage for the future. Budding digital photographers, videographers, and gamers should go for at least 250GB.

ATA OR SATA Drives using the parallel ATA interface, also known as IDE, are the most affordable. But the newer Serial ATA (SATA) interface, which transfers data via a serial instead of a parallel connection, is replacing this technology. Capable of transferring data at 150MB per second, SATA uses thinner

cables than ATA, allowing for better airflow within your PC. ATA is adequate for the average user looking for inexpensive storage, but gamers who want maximum performance (and whose PCs support the interface) should consider a pricier SATA drive. With the introduction of SATA/300, compliant drives and PCs can now support data transfers of up to 300MB per second. For even faster data transfers, the Ultra-320 SCSI interface reaches rates of up to 320MB per second.

SPEED The speed at which a disk spins, measured in revolutions per minute (rpm), is directly related to how fast it can retrieve data. Your best bet is a drive spinning at 7,200rpm. At the consumer-drive high end, speeds reach 10,000rpm, but the capacities of these drives top out at 300GB.

BUFFER Hard drives store frequently accessed data in their own RAM, or buffer, because this solid-state memory is faster than the drive head at transferring data. The larger the buffer, the better. —Matthew Murray, Associate Editor

Model	Price	Bare Drive/ Kit	Capacity	Buffer Memory	Spin Rate	Interface	Warranty	Find Out More
HITACHI GLOBAL STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES								
Deskstar 7K80	\$59.95	Bare drive	80GB	2MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/133	Three years	www.hitachigst.com
Deskstar 7K250	\$79.99	Bare drive	250GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	800-448-2244
Ultrastar 10K300	\$169.99	Bare drive	73.4GB	8MB	10,025rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
Ultrastar 15K147	\$179.99	Bare drive	36GB	16MB	15,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
Deskstar 7K400	\$199.99	Bare drive	400GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/150	Three years	
Deskstar 7K500	\$215.99	Bare drive	500GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/133	Three years	
Deskstar E7K500	\$219.99	Bare drive	500GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
MAXTOR								
Maxline III Series	\$99.95	Bare drive	300GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/133	Five years	www.maxtor.com
200GB Ultra Series	\$129.95	Kit	200GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/133	Three years	800-262-9867
300GB Ultra16	\$139.95	Kit	300GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/150	One year	
DiamondMax II Series	\$189.99	Bare drive	400GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
Atlas 15K II	\$199.99	Bare drive	36.7GB	8MB	15,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
Atlas 10K V	\$399.99	Bare drive	147GB	8MB	10,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
SAMSUNG								
SpinPoint P Series HD160JJ	\$59.99	Bare drive	160GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	www.samsungusa.com
SpinPoint P Series SP2514N	\$67.99	Bare drive	250GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/133	Three years	800-726-7864
SpinPoint T Series HD300LJ	\$89.99	Bare drive	300GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
SpinPoint T Series HD400LJ	\$109.99	Bare drive	400GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
SEAGATE TECHNOLOGY								
Barracuda ST380011A-RK	\$65.99	Kit	80GB	2MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Five years	www.seagate.com
Barracuda ES ST3250820NS	\$75.99	Bare drive	250GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	877-271-3285
Barracuda 7200.9 ST3160812AS-RK	\$89.99	Kit	160GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	
Barracuda 7200.9 ST3300622AS-RK	\$138.99	Kit	300GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	
Barracuda 7200.7 Plus ST3400632A-RK	\$235.99	Kit	400GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Five years	
Barracuda 7200.9 ST3500641A-RK	\$299.99	Kit	500GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Five years	
Cheetah 10K.7 ST3146707LW	\$369.99	Bare drive	147GB	8MB	10,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
Barracuda 7200.10 ST3750640A	\$399.99	Bare drive	750GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	
Cheetah 15K.4 ST3146854LW	\$759.99	Bare drive	147GB	8MB	15,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
Cheetah 10K.7 ST3300007LW	\$779.99	Bare drive	300GB	8MB	10,000rpm	Ultra320 SCSI	Five years	
WESTERN DIGITAL								
Caviar WD400BB	\$51.99	Bare drive	40GB	2MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Three years	www.wdc.com
Caviar SE WD800JD	\$59.99	Bare drive	80GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	949-672-7000
RE WD1600SB	\$79.99	Bare drive	160GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Five years	
Caviar WD2000JB	\$82.99	Bare drive	200GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Three years	
Caviar SE16 WD2500JS	\$87.99	Bare drive	250GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
Caviar WD2500BB	\$87.99	Bare drive	250GB	2MB	7,200rpm	Ultra ATA/100	Three years	
RE WD2500YD	\$96.99	Bare drive	250GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	
Caviar SE WD3200JS	\$114.99	Bare drive	320GB	8MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Three years	
Raptor WD360GDRTL	\$125.99	Kit	36GB	8MB	10,000rpm	Serial ATA/150	Five years	
Caviar SE16 WD4000KD	\$179.99	Bare drive	400GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/150	Three years	
Raptor WD1500AFD	\$179.99	Bare drive	74GB	16MB	10,000rpm	Serial ATA/150	Five years	
RE2 WD5000YS	\$254.99	Bare drive	500GB	16MB	7,200rpm	Serial ATA/300	Five years	
Raptor X WD1500AHD	\$319.99	Bare drive	150GB	16MB	10,000rpm	Serial ATA/150	Five years	

