



Keith Shaw's
Cool Tools



My Passport Studio portable hard drive

by Western Digital, about \$300 (for 2TB; other capacities include 1TB for \$200, 750GB for \$180 and 500GB for \$160)

► **What it is:** A portable high-speed storage drive designed for the Mac, the My Passport Studio provides two FireWire 800 ports and one USB 2.0 port and a solid metal enclosure that gives Mac users additional storage capacity. The drive can act as a Time Machine backup for the Mac, as well as just providing file storage space. The unit also comes with WD Drive Utilities and WD Security apps, which provide diagnostics, a sleep timer, erase functionality and encryption.

► **Why it's cool:**

I like the addition of a second FireWire 800 port. This lets you daisy chain an additional external storage drive, or you can attach a different peripheral — this is handy if you have multiple



devices that need the FW800 port on your system. Another plus is that the drive comes with a FW800 and USB 2.0 cable, instead of having them sold separately.

During my speed tests, I achieved between 62M and 65MBps of write speeds, and between 15M and 35MBps of read speeds (depending on the test and platform performed). This was slower than some tests I've done via USB 3.0 drives, so don't expect super-speed data transfers with this drive (if you are, head to Thunderbolt-connected units).

► **Bottom line:** If you're a Mac user and you're looking for a solid drive with a ton of capacity (you'd be amazed about how fast your hard drive fills up when editing/creating videos), this is worth a look.

► **Grade** ★★★★★

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