

The Miglia Firewire Drive an... REVIEW

The sale of Miglia Firewire drives at NWofUs is now completed and I thought I would share with the membership my initial impressions of the hardware. If you did not have an opportunity to purchase, perhaps my perspective (and there will be others) will convince you that you missed out on a very good purchase. I am also sure that there will be future opportunities to acquire Firewire drive hardware through the NWofUs.

I picked up my drive (along with a considerable number of other members) on

Saturday (June 3) at the NWofUs office and when I got home immediately "pounced" on my newest purchase. I found that the drive (I purchased the 320 MB unit) to be very easy to interface to my G4 Powerbook.

The components of the purchased Miglia product consisted of the drive unit (duh!), an electrical power unit for the drive, a Firewire cable (3-4ft long), a USB 2.0 cable (3-4 ft long), and a CD containing detailed instructions (in 4 languages) for hooking up



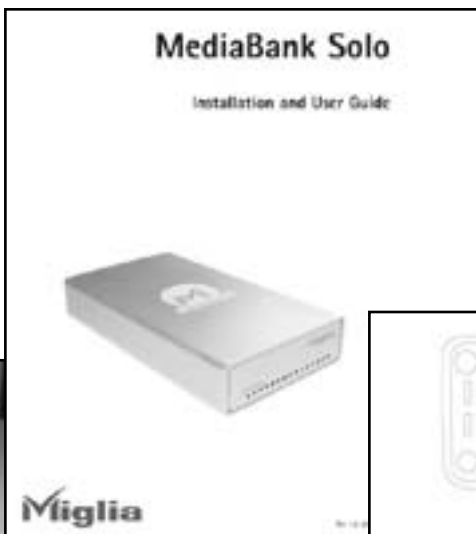
the unit to a computer (Mac) and for formatting the unit. I loaded the CD that came with the unit which is basically contains 4 PDF files called "MediaBank - User Guide" which describe the installation and usage of the Firewire unit. The instructions

are very easy to follow and are very clearly written. Remember, if all else fails, READ THE MANUAL!

You can wire the drive unit to the computer using either the Firewire cable or the USB 2.0. Using the Firewire approach, more than one drive unit or other Firewire accessories can be "daisy-chained" together (remember SCSI?). If you have purchased more than one drive, the "daisy-chain" approach is a way to go.

You can never have enough disk space! There are detailed instructions for partitioning the drive unit, which is an optional fea-

source to the drive unit, wire up either the Firewire cable or the USB 2.0 cable to your computer, turn on the power switch on the drive (the computer should have already been turned on) and the icon for the drive appears on the desktop. I was up and running in a matter of a couple of minutes. I observed that the transfer of files (e.g., PDFs) from the computer to the drive (drag-and-drop) is very fast, almost instantaneous. Thus backup of files should be fairly rapid. The unit is compatible with Mac OS X.x (I am running OS X.4) but can also be used with OS 9.x as well.



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ture. The drive, as received, is formatted for the Mac. If you want to use it with a PC running Windows 2000 or Windows XP, it is necessary to reformat

the drive or a particular partition if that is your desire.

The Miglia drives do require a power supply and a drive power unit is provided with each drive. To hook the unit to your computer, you wire up the power

Power Connection: MediaBank Solo ships with an external power supply. This power supply will function on 100VAC and 220VAC power sources, without any additional adjustments. You should not connect a third-party power supply to MediaBank Solo, as this may damage the drive's mechanism.

Firewire 400 port: MediaBank Solo features two Firewire 400 ports. Only one cable is required to connect MediaBank Solo to your computer; the remaining port is intended for use in daisy-chain drives.

USB 2.0 port: MediaBank Solo features one USB 2.0 Type B port. Please do not connect Firewire and USB 2.0 cables simultaneously to the unit.

Power Switch: This switch enables you to power up and down your MediaBank Solo.

1.3. Software support

MediaBank Solo is directly supported by compatible Operating Systems. There are however a small number of limitations you have to be aware of:

Mac OS Support:
Mac OS 9.1 to 9.2.2 have built-in support for Firewire hard drives. Earlier versions of the OS require third-party drivers and are not supported by Miglia. USB support is limited to USB 1.1 (Full-speed) speeds.

Mac OS X 10.2.4 and higher feature built-in support for Firewire 400 and USB 2.0 hard drives. No additional installation of software is required.

Windows Support:
Windows 98SE, ME and 2000 have built-in support for Firewire and USB drives, and MediaBank Solo will be usable, when the USB transfer speeds will be limited to 12 MBps, unless you use third party USB 2.0 drivers for your host card. Note that Miglia Technology does not support the use of MediaBank Solo with Windows 98SE or ME.

Windows XP supports Firewire and USB 2.0 hard drives without any modification. Service Pack 2 is recommended.

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...Initial Impression

REVIEW

by Dave Lankin



Since the drive is contained in a very nice aluminum case, the heat generated from the drive operation is transferred to the case, which will appear very slightly warm to the touch.

All-in-all, I feel that the purchase was a good one, well worth the money (and a good deal to boot!), and I was able to invest in what I consider to be a quality product, certainly worthy of the quality of the computer to which it is attached. I would encourage those members who did not participate this time in the Firewire drive purchase but are considering such a purchase for their work, be it for work or home use, should consider our next drive offering.

