



- [ZDNet on your Palm](#)
- [Free newsletters](#)
- [Free downloads](#)



Try it for free,
[click here!](#)

Search ZDNet: Search

» [Try our Advanced Search](#)

FIRST LOOKS STORAGE DEVICE



◀ previous next ▶

ThumbDrive

Pros Portability; ease of use; up to 256MB storage.

Cons Cost per MB is expensive.

Verdict Incredibly small storage device, but comes at a price.

Price as reviewed (ex. VAT) £38

BEING ABLE TO DOWNLOAD just about anything from the Internet, plus ever-increasing file sizes, means that transporting your data has become an issue. Zip drives have given us a good solution, but you've got to carry the drive and the disks with you. The ThumbDrive is billed as the world's smallest storage device, and this tiny unit will give you quick and easy access to your data when you're on the move.

The device measures just 57 by 17 by 10mm, weighs just 30g, and is slightly smaller than a typical cigarette lighter. The ThumbDrive is a flash memory device and connects to your desktop or notebook via a USB port. No additional adapters, power, batteries, cables or card readers are required. A disk-write protection switch at one end of the device helps to protect your data from being overwritten and Datamind claims information stored on the ThumbDrive can be preserved for up to 10 years.

The ThumbDrive is a hot pluggable device with Windows 98/SE and 2000 Professional. There are also plans to include support for Linux, Macintosh and Palm.

While the ThumbDrive is not as fast as an external hard disk drive, it claims to have a read speed (ThumbDrive to PC) of 0.7MB/s and a write speed (PC to ThumbDrive) of 0.35MB/s.

Our review unit transferred 7.2MB of data from a PC hard disk drive running Windows 98SE to the ThumbDrive in 24 seconds, and then copied it back to the PC in 14 seconds (faster than any floppy disk or Zip drive).

There are currently six models available, including 8MB, 16MB,

PC MAGAZINE SECTIONS

- [Reviews Home](#)
- [Labs Reviews](#)
- [First Looks](#)
- [Power User](#)
- [Network Edition](#)
- [Trends](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Columns](#)
- [Service and Reliability](#)
- [This Month's PC Magazine](#)

Quicklink services



» [Search, Select & Buy](#)



» [Compare prices](#)



» [Bid on this product](#)

FIRST LOOKS CONTENT

- [Full contents](#)

ThumbDrive

mediapps
THE INFORMATION AGGREGATOR

Out of date?

Out of time?

Out of touch?

Lost that
competitive
edge?

Net.Portal

Keeping you up
to date with
personalised
information

click here to
visit online

32MB, 64MB, 128MB and 256MB configurations.

Convenience however, doesn't come cheap. With a starting price of £38 (ex. VAT) for 8MB, scaling up to the 256MB version at £625 (ex. VAT), you have to ask yourself whether the ThumbDrive is really a cost-effective solution. However, if portability is your main concern, you can't get more portable than this. ashley mckinnon

Distributed by Datamind 39 Seymour Road, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1SQ

(0800) 870 1416

<http://www.thumbdrive.org.uk/>



The ThumbDrive is a tiny USB storage device that has a capacity of 8MB to 256MB. No extra adapters, power, batteries, cables or card readers are needed to transfer data from your PC to the ThumbDrive and back again.



This article appears in the February 2001 issue of *PC Magazine*

◀ previousnext ▶



 [Free Newsletters](#) | [Free Stuff](#) | [TalkBack](#) | [Broadband Britain](#) | [Update your PC](#) | [ZDNet on WAP](#) | [Terms](#) | [MyZDNet](#)
[Contact Us](#) | [Your Privacy](#) | [ZDNet International](#) | [Advertise](#) | [ZDNet Jobs](#)

Copyright © 2001 CNET Networks, Inc.
ZDNET is a registered service mark of CNET Networks, Inc. ZDNET Logo is a service mark of CNET NETWORKS, Inc.