

Digital Gathering Toolkit

The Ultimate Gear Guide for Digital Photos and Videos



**CHAOS TO
MEMORIES**



Your Digital Gathering Toolkit

At Chaos to Memories we organize millions of digital photos every year for our clients. The average family has more than 250,000 digital photos and videos, and some clients have close to 10 million!

These digital collections come from a variety of sources and in many different formats, so a well-equipped Digital Gathering Toolkit is essential to gathering digital memories. We ensure that every project is through and efficient by having all the cords and cables, drives and devices, apps and adapters we might need.

Use this curated gear guide to build your ultimate Digital Gathering Toolkit for your next project. If you want to learn our complete Digital Gathering Workflow, I invite you to check out my online course at <https://chaos-to-memories.teachable.com/p/gathering-digital>

Adam Pratt
CHIEF MEMORY OFFICER



These are the tools in our Digital Gathering Toolkits. You can purchase everything up front or add to your toolkit when you encounter new devices and formats.

USB Cables

- USB Mini <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00NH13S44>
- USB Micro <http://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-usb-micro>
- USB-C <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LOF6AJI>
- USB-C to USB-A Adapter <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01GGKYITO>
- USB Mini-B 4-pin <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000I97IWG>
- USB-C to USB-A <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BPLSGGZ4>
- USB-C to USB3 Micro <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01GGKYIHS>
- USB Hub <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B087QZVQJX>

Apple Devices

- Apple Lightning <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-lightning>
- Apple 30-pin <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-apple30pin>

Memory Card Readers

- MultiCard Reader USB 3.0 <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01ARAH600>
- MultiCard Reader USB 2.0, SmartMedia and XD support <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07J9WQGDY>
- Micro-SD Adapter <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074N3GBYQ>

Drives

- Portable tray-loading CD/DVD drive <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-portableDVD>
- Optical Drive for CD/DVD/Blu-Ray <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-portablebluray>
- Floppy disk drive

Less Common Cables

- Thunderbolt 3 <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-thunderbolt>
- Thunderbolt 2 <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XPBTJTN>
- eSata <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000ENUCR4>
- Firewire 400 <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B002PRDPF8/>
- Fireweire 800 <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000AAZQJU>

Power

- Travel power strip with USB ports <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00ATZJ5YS>
- Generic power cord <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01IBIBZ6U>
- Extension Cord <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0153T1NF8>



Bare Drive Readers

Universal Drive Adapter for SATA and IDE drives

<https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-driveadapter>

USB Drive Dock for one SATA drive

<https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-drivedock1>

USB Drive Dock for two SATA drives, 2x faster

<https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-drivedock2>

Accessories

Collapsible Bins

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B015PIRCOC>

Carrying Case

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B072R23K8S>

Color circle stickers for marking completed devices

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01ACCP5YI>

Hard Drives

You need large and fast hard drives to gathering digital files quickly. I suggest starting every project with one Mac-formatted hard drive and one Windows-formatted hard drive. These are a few of my favorites:

- **Hard disk drive:** the lowest price per storage and some of the highest capacities, but it's also the slowest option. We've had good experiences with Western Digital drives: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07VTW2LPX>
- **RAID:** combines multiple hard disks into one large disk with extra speed and reliability, but at a higher price. We use a few of these in our studio: <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-RAID>
- **SSD:** compared with a spinning hard disk, an SSD drive is smaller, faster, and has no moving parts, but has less capacity and a higher price. This is a good option: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08RX3TWJZ>
- **NVMe:** like an SSD drive on steroids, and a Thunderbolt connection offers incredible performance. We love the Envoy Pro FX drive: <http://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-nvme>
- **ThunderBlade:** combines multiple NVMe drives into a superfast RAID that connects with Thunderbolt. It's insanely fast, expensive, and the best drive I've ever used: <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-thunderblade>

Cross-platform Software Solutions

If you need to work with Mac-formatted hard drives on a Windows PC, consider these software solutions:

MacDrive: <https://go.chaostomemories.com/OWC-macdrive>

HFS+ for Windows: <https://www.paragon-software.com/us/home/hfs-windows>

APFS for Windows: <https://www.paragon-software.com/us/home/apfs-windows>

If you need to write to Windows-formatted hard drives on a Mac, consider this software solution:

NTFS for Mac: <https://www.paragon-software.com/us/home/ntfs-mac/>

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