

Hard drives

You could be forgiven for thinking that all hard drives are the same apart from size - but that's not the case. There are several different types of hard drive that can be used for storing your images. The most obvious is the internal drive that sits inside your computer, but in most cases these are relatively low capacity and therefore fill up very quickly.

External drives

An external drive works in the same way as the one inside your computer, but you can disconnect it to store it away from your main machine for day-to-day back-up or long-term archiving. This not only allows you to put it in a safe place, but also means that you can share images between computers. The capacity of external drives has steadily increased at a similar rate to that of file sizes from the latest DSLRs, so you can buy some high capacity products. There is a school of thought that says that you shouldn't put all your eggs in one basket, so you may prefer to use more smaller drives, rather than one large one.



LaCie Rugged XL 1TB £110

If you intend to keep your hard drive with you at all times, then the LaCie Rugged XL has been designed for you. The drive is a standard disk that comes in a variety of capacities, but the difference lies in the case design. The Rugged XL has an aluminium shell that is also shielded by an external shock-resistant rubber sleeve. The combination of the sleeve and shell makes it reassuringly resistant, and will prevent it getting damaged as easily as other drives might. Connectivity is by USB 2.0 and the Rugged XL is at home with both PC and Mac operating systems.

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