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Review: Addonics Saturn Hard Drive Kit

If you like playing mix-and-match with your hard drives and PCs, Addonics Saturn kits make it easy to meet your systems' specific needs.

By Bill O'Brian [Desktop Pipeline](#)

Addonics has gone one step further in 3.5-inch drive portability with its Saturn Hard Drive Kit. By offering a variety of interchangeable sub-components, the company has made it possible for users to share a single hard drive among PCs, either internally or externally.

The hardest part may be actually purchasing the kit. Addonics offers so many varied options that it can be confusing unless you know exactly what you want. For example, let's say you wanted a removable external ATA hard drive for your computer's 5.25-inch bay. First, you'd browse on over to a [large chart](#) on Addonics' Web site, where you'll find four major categories and a total of 25 different kit options. When you reach "Saturn Mobile Rack," you would stop and you'd select the SMR I.

What would show up on your doorstep is an IDE hard drive cradle and an IDE hard drive enclosure. The cradle installs in the 5.25-inch bay in your computer and connects to the motherboard-based IDE and power cables that you'd normally attach to a drive.

The hard disk itself (which you provide -- it doesn't come with the kit) installs easily in the Saturn hard drive enclosure. You simply open the top, attach the enclosure's power cable to the drive, lower the drive into the enclosure, slide it back until it locks in place with the enclosure's IDE connector, screw the drive in place from the bottom, and put the top back on. Except for actually sliding the drive enclosure into the cradle in your PC so you can access the drive, you're done. And it's only cost you just under \$50 -- and that's for aluminum parts, not plastic, with a fan on the cradle to keep the drive cool, and a lock with a key so no one can "borrow" the drive.

If you decide later that you wanted to take that drive, in its Saturn enclosure, and use it in another computer, just order an additional internal cradle for the second PC. Or, if you preferred an external USB 2.0 connection for the second system, instead of SMR I, you could initially order a Saturn Hard Drive Combo kit that also includes a USB cable and external power supply for about \$66.

In fact, if you have an imagination, the possibilities are nearly endless. Addonics has SATA as well as ATA kits; interfaces for USB, FireWire, and PCMCIA; hot-swappable RAID kits; and external conversion kits. All of the kit components are also available individually (including SATA to ATA or ATA to SATA identity changers) for an incredible mix-and-match madness. It's about as close as you can get to "When Hard Drives Go Wild" without the downtime.

Saturn Hard Drive Kit SMR I
 Addonics Technologies
 Price: \$39.00
www.addonics.com