



# NexStar-SX

EXTERNAL 2.5" HDD ENCLOSURE

## Owner's Manual

[www.vantecusa.com](http://www.vantecusa.com)

# Package Contents:

## ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

- 2.5" HDD Enclosure
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- Screwdriver
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- USB Cable
- Installation Screws

## TRADEMARKS

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## 1. Introduction:

Form and functionality collide with style in the NexStar-SX 2.5" External Hard Drive Enclosure from Vantec. With its mirror finish in two classic colors--- Onyx Black and Metallic Silver, the Vantec NexStar-SX stands out from the crowd. The sturdy drive cage protects your hard drive while the aluminum case effectively draws away the heat, protecting your drive from overheating. The NexStar-SX also utilizes USB 2.0, offering speeds up to 480Mbps, 40 times the speed of USB 1.1! But if you are using USB 1.1, the NexStar-SX is still an ideal way to store and transfer large amounts of data. The Vantec NexStar-SX is a high performance, lightweight, and durable portable storage solution and lets you store your personal data in an enclosure with style!

## 2. Specifications/Features:

### ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

#### Features:

- Hot-Swappable & Plug-n-Play
- Supports High Speed USB 2.0 & 1.1
- Easy Installation
- Powered by USB
- Compatible With 2.5" IDE Hard Drives **(NST-285U2)**
- Compatible With 2.5" SATA Hard Drives **(NST-285S2)**
- Aluminum Casing Cools Down Your Hard Drive

#### Specifications:

- Interface: IDE to USB 2.0 **(NST-285U2)**
- SATA to USB 2.0 **(NST-285S2)**
- Dimension: 130mm x 75mm x 15mm
- Material: Aluminum Alloy
- Supports: Window 98SE / ME / 2000 / XP / Vista  
Mac OS 8.6 & Above

### 3. System Requirements:

- Intel Pentium II 350MHz-compatible or Apple G3 processor and greater
- Microsoft Windows 98SE/ME/2000/NT/XP/Vista or Mac OS 8.6 and greater
- USB-equipped system
- For USB 2.0 speeds, the system must support USB 2.0 specifications
- CD Rom drive (if drivers are needed)

## 4. Installation:

1) Press the buttons on both side of enclosure and remove the top cover.



## 4. Installation:

2) Connect the 2.5" hard drive to the Connector.

3) Press the buttons on both side of the enclosure and remove the bottom cover.



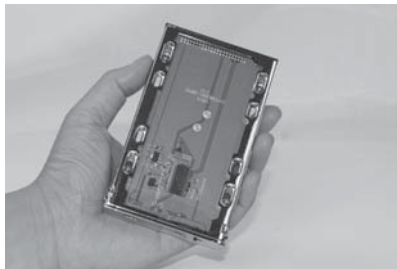
(2)



(3)

## 4. Installation:

- 4) Secure the hard drive to the hard drive caddy by screwing it in place through the back of the caddy.



## 4. Installation:

5) Slide both the top & bottom cover back in place.



## 4. Installation:

*Connecting the Nexstar SX to your computer:*

- 1) Connect both USB-A connectors of the included USB/Power cable to two different USB ports on your computer. USB is used to power the drive. The second USB connection is to provide additional power if the drive needs it.  
*\* You need to connect the USB cable to draw power from either your PC or Laptop.*
- 2) Connect the mini USB-B connector of the USB/Power cable to the enclosure.
- 3) Your operating system should detect the Nexstar SX and automatically install the necessary drivers (if you have Windows 98SE/MacOS 8.6, you will need to install drivers). Once your operating system finishes setting up the Nexstar SX, it will mount your hard drive. On Mac OS systems, the new volume should appear on the desktop. On a Windows PC, the new volume will appear under My Computer.

NOTE: For new hard drives, you will need to initialize and partition your hard drive before it will appear in Windows Explorer or on your Mac desktop. Please refer to your hard drive manufacturer's documentation or read the "Creating a New Partition" section of this manual.

- 4) Your Nexstar SX External Hard Drive is now ready for use.

## 5. Driver Installation:

### ***Windows ME/XP/2000/Vista***

- 1) No drivers are necessary when using Windows ME/XP/2000/Vista. If the hard drive does not appear under My Computer, be sure to partition your hard drive.

### ***Windows 98SE***

- 1) The first time you plug in the Nexstar SX into a USB port of your computer, the [Add New Hardware Wizard] dialog box will appear.
- 2) Click on [Next]. Check the [Search for the best driver for your device] and click on [Next] again.
- 3) Insert the device driver CD into your CD-ROM drive if you have not already done so and click on [Next], a screen should be appears to show which Storage Device you installed. Click on [Next].
- 4) After the needed files are copied into your system, click on [Finish].
- 5) You should now be able to see the new hard drive under My Computer. A green Unplug or Eject hardware icon will appear in the system tray as well. If the drive does not appear, you may need to partition your hard drive first.

## 5. Driver Installation:

### ***Mac OS 9.0 or later***

- 1) No drivers are necessary when using Mac OS 9.0 or later. If the hard drive does not appear on the desktop, be sure to partition your hard drive.

### ***Mac OS 8.6***

- 1) Unplug the NexStar 3 if you currently have it connected.
- 2) USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 must be installed on your system. If it is not, you can download the USB Mass Storage Support 1.3.5 from the Apple Software Updates website: <http://www.apple.com/support>
- 3) Follow the direction associated with the USB Mass Storage Support driver to install.
- 4) Repeat the steps listed under "Connecting the NexStar 3 to your computer."

## 6. Disconnecting the Nexstar SX:

### ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

Warning: NEVER remove the Nexstar SX while the hard drive is in use. Doing so may corrupt the data on the hard drive or damage the hard drive, Nexstar SX, or computer.

#### *Windows 98SE/ME/XP/2000/Vista:*

- 1) Make sure all operations using the hard drive within the Nexstar SX have ceased.
- 2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the Nexstar SX.
- 3) If connected by USB, double click the green "Unplug or Eject Hardware" icon in the system tray and select [Safely Remove Hardware]. Select the device you wish to remove and click on [Stop]. The system should prompt, "It is now safe to remove the USB device." If not, wait for any programs still using the device to finish and try again.
- 4) Unplug the mini USB-B connector from the Nexstar SX
- 5) Unplug the USB/Power cable from the system.

## 6. Disconnecting the Nexstar SX:

*Mac OS:*

- 1) Make sure all operations using the hard drive within the Nexstar SX have ceased.
- 2) Close any windows and programs pertaining to the Nexstar SX.
- 3) From the Desktop, drag the Nexstar SX hard drive to the trash.
- 4) Unplug the mini USB-B connector from the Nexstar SX
- 5) Unplug the USB/Power cable from the system.

## 7. Creating A New Partition:

*Note: Most hard drives should come with a CD that includes its installation program. If not, a download should be available on the manufacturers website. The best way to partition a new hard drive is by using the manufacturers program. However, if that is not possible, please try the following instead (if using Mac OS 9 or below, please refer to your hard drive documentation for information on formatting/partitioning the hard drive):*

Warning: Doing the following will erase any existing data on the drive. If the drive is damaged and you wish to recover the data, continuing may overwrite the existing information!

Windows 98SE/ME:

- 1) You will need to use the FDISK utility that is included under MS-DOS. Please refer to Microsoft Knowledge Base Article – 255867 for complete instructions on how to use FDISK.  
(<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q255/8/67.ASP>)
- 2) Once complete, you should now be able to see the drive in Windows Explorer.

## 7. Creating A New Partition:

Windows XP/2000:

- 1) Right click on "My Computer" and choose Manage.
- 2) Under "Storage" on the LEFT pane, select Disk Management
- 3) Windows should now give you the option to initialize the disk. If not, locate the new drive, right click on the new disk (where it reads "Disk #") and choose Initialize. (This step may not be required for some hard drives.)
- 4) Go through the wizard.
- 5) Once complete, locate your hard drive in the bottom right pane. Right click on the area with a status bar (to the right of the "Disk #" area) and choose New Partition.
- 6) Follow the directions of the wizard. The recommended partition type is "primary" and the recommended file system is "NTFS." Please note that Windows XP/2000 limits FAT32 partitions to only 32GB. Also, Windows 98 is not capable of reading the NTFS file system.
- 7) Once complete, you should now be able to see the drive in Windows Explorer.

## 7. Creating A New Partition:

Mac OS X 10.x.x:

### *Initializing a Hard Drive:*

If you are using a new hard drive, you may need to initialize it first. You can initialize your internal hard drive using a program called Drive Setup, which is on the Mac OS CD that came with your computer.

1. Start up your computer from the Mac OS CD.
2. Locate the Utilities folder on the Mac OS CD and double-click it to open the folder.
3. Double-click the Drive Setup icon to open the program.
4. In the list of drives, select the drive you want to initialize.
5. Click Initialize.

To format your hard drive with Mac OS Extended format, a method of formatting hard drives that allows for more efficient use of hard drive storage space, follow the steps below:

1. Click Custom Setup.
2. Select the desired partitioning scheme.
3. Open the Type pop-up menu in the Volume Info area and choose Mac OS Extended Format.
4. Resize the volumes if desired.
5. When ready, click OK.
6. Click Initialize.

## 7. Creating A New Partition:

If initialization fails, do the following:

1. Choose Initialization Options from the Functions menu.
2. Click the checkbox next to "Low level format", then click OK. Choosing this option adds significant time to the initialization process.

Mac OS X 10.x.x:

*Formatting a Hard Drive:*

1. Start the Disk Utility tool (under Applications)
2. Select the new hard drive you are trying to install
3. Click on the "Erase" tab
4. Choose a volume format and assign a name to the new drive.
5. Click on Erase.
6. Once complete, your new hard drive should be mounted on your desktop.

Note: If the hard drive will not mount on your system, format the drive with a FAT32 or NTFS partition first through a PC system. Once formatted, connect the NexStar Enclosure to your Mac and run the Disk Utility tool again. You should now be able to format the drive into a Mac partition and mount the drive

## 8. Troubleshooting/FAQ:

### ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

*Q. What are the specifications for the power adapter if I need one?*

A. The power adapter should be 5V and a minimum of 1A. The connector is center positive.

*Q. My computer recognizes the Nexstar SX, but it does not assign a drive letter to it.*

A. You are probably using a brand new hard drive. If not, then your computer may not be able to recognize the partition on the hard drive because it is damaged or not a valid format. Please refer to the section "Creating A New Partition" for information on how to create a useable partition on your drive. If your drive is formatted, look in device manager and see if your drive is listed. If it is, try changing the drive letter.

*Q. My computer sometimes recognizes the Nexstar SX, but sometimes gives me errors.*

A. If your computer is giving you problems with the Nexstar SX, be sure to connect the USB cable to a rear port, directly off the motherboard or USB PCI card. The cables connecting front USB ports are not always properly shielded and cannot properly handle USB 2.0 speeds, thereby corrupting the signal between the Nexstar SX and the computer.

## 8. Troubleshooting/FAQ:

### ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

*Q. Why is the data on my hard drive corrupted?*

A. Connecting your hard drive to the Nexstar SX is just like connecting a hard drive to the inside of your computer. The Nexstar SX itself will not corrupt your data. If your data has become corrupt, it is likely caused by the removal of the Nexstar SX while data was still being written to the hard drive. CAUTION: Never remove the Nexstar SX while data is being written to the hard drive! Doing so may cause the hard drive to become corrupt. Make sure all applications being run off the disk and all files in use are no longer in use before removing the unit.

*Q. Why is my computer not showing the full size of my hard drive?*

A. If you are using Windows 98SE, please refer to Microsoft's Windows 98 Support Center and download the large capacity drive patch. Else, verify that your motherboard supports large capacity drives. Some older motherboards cannot use drives larger than 137 GB. If Windows XP/2000 will not let you create a partition larger than 32GB, make sure you are using the NTFS file system, as Windows XP/2000 limits FAT32 partitions to only 32GB.

## 8. Troubleshooting/FAQ:

### ***Nexstar SX External 2.5" HDD Enclosure:***

*Q. Why can't Windows 98SE read my hard drive? It works with Windows XP/2000.*

A. Windows 98SE cannot recognize the NTFS file system. If you wish to use the device with Windows XP/2000 and Windows 98SE, you need to format the drive as FAT32.

*Q. Why can't I copy files larger than 4GB onto my Nexstar SX?*

A. You have probably formatted the hard drive in the FAT32 file system. FAT32 limits the file sizes to 4GB maximum. The NTFS file system does not have this limitation.

*Q. Why does my Nexstar SX work with just one USB connector on some systems, but requires 2 on others?*

A. USB specifications state that a USB port should provide 500mA of current. However, not all computers, notably laptops, actually provide that full amount. As such, if your hard drive requires nearly 500mA (0.5A) of current, then some systems may require the use of the second USB connector for additional power.

## 9. Warranty:

The Nexstar SX comes with a 1 year limited warranty (90 day parts). If your unit should become defective within that time frame, please go to <http://www.vantecusa.com> for information on how to receive warranty exchange or repair. Cosmetic defects and missing parts are not covered under this warranty. Please check the contents of the unit to make sure you received all parts. Also, check for any cosmetic flaws. If any parts are missing or if there are cosmetic defects, please contact the retailer from which you purchased the unit immediately and ask for a replacement.

## 10. Contact:

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