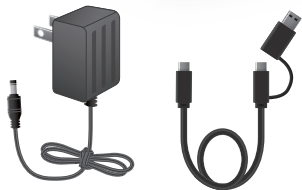


# Installation Guide



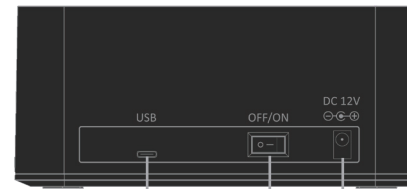
- 1 Verify packaging contents. If you notice any missing items, please write to [support@vantecusa.com](mailto:support@vantecusa.com) for help immediately within 7 days of receiving your product.

Front



LED (Power / Activity)

Back



USB C Port Power Switch (ON/OFF) Power Plug (12VDC)

## LED Status

System Running, Dock Active, no disk activity, LED ON

System Running, Dock Active, disk activity, LED flashing

System Sleep, Dock Sleep, Drive spin down, LED OFF

BOTTOM



Rubber Feet Model Serial Number

2.5" SSD/HDD 3.5" HDD

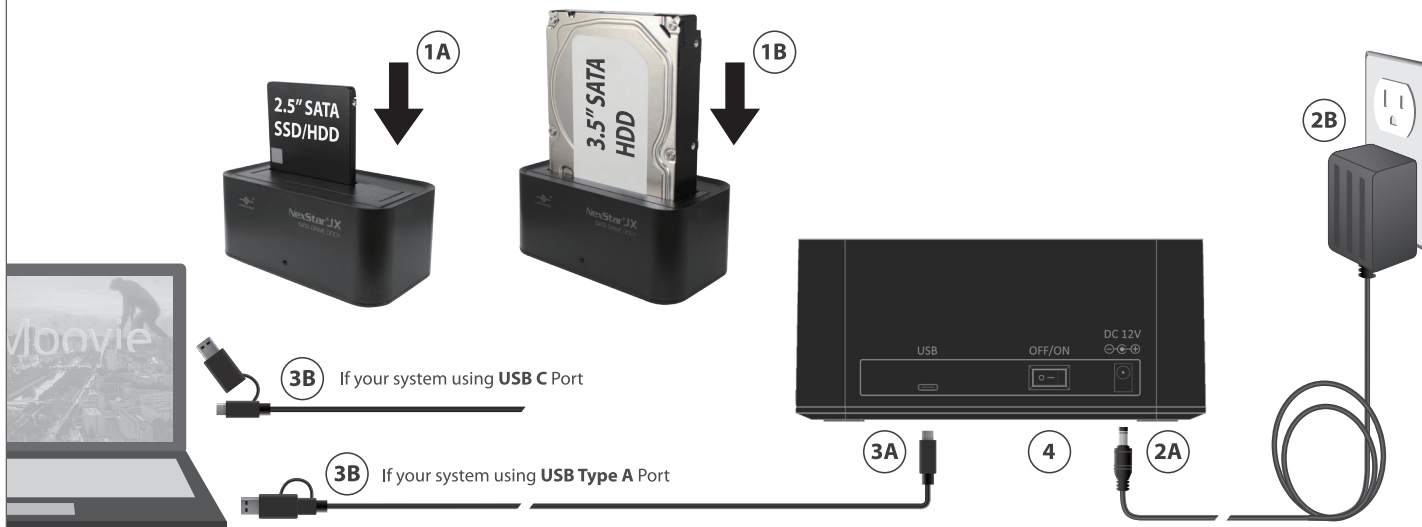


SATA Interface TOP



SATA Bay

- 2 Identifying unit functions.



## 3 Setup Steps:

- 1A or 1B Fully insert your SATA drive interface onto the SATA interface in the Bay.
- 2A and 2B plug AC adapter to the back power plug and the wall outlet.
- 3A and 3B plug USB C cable end the rear of the Dock and depending on your system USB port, you may use either USB C or use USB Type A (using C to A adapter)
- 4 Turn ON the power switch.

- 4 Once powered ON, the system will detect the mounted drive.

If this DRIVE IS NEW, you will need to prepare the drive for use.

Use Disk Management ( Windows OS ) or Disk Utility ( OS X ) to prepare the drive.

Access our website for FAQ if you need help preparing your new drive.

If this DRIVE IS NOT NEW AND HAS DATA on it, just use the file explorer to access the drive.



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

NST-D158C3-BK

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v1.01

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See the back of this page for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)





## Read Me First



*Thank You* For Choosing VantecUSA Product.

We are committed to providing you with the best service and support. If you have a problem with installing, getting the product to function or other product related question, please feel free to write to us. We will help you answer your question.



You can write to us at : [support@vantecusa.com](mailto:support@vantecusa.com)

For the latest Drivers, Manual and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), they are available at our website at [vantecusa.com](http://vantecusa.com) or write to us.

**QRCode to product Page,  
Drivers, Manual, and FAQ.**

Thank you,  
VantecUSA Support Team.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### In testing the dock by plugging in a drive and turning ON the power, nothing happens, why?

This is one of the most common questions, this dock like all our products is designed to save energy, when it detects no connection to a working system, it will go into sleep mode and not power ON.

The right way to use this dock is to make sure all the necessary cables are connected, your drive is properly and fully inserted into the dock, AND **your system is powered ON before turning ON the dock.**

**DO NOT insert your drive AFTER you have power ON the dock. The right way is to insert the drive(s) Before powering ON the dock.**

### Are Vantec USB Docks compatible with Windows 11/10 operating system, Mac OS X 10.10 or newer, and the Latest Linux OS?

Yes, all our USB Enclosures and Docks are compatible with Windows 11/10/8/7 Operating System, Mac OS X 10.10 or newer, and Latest Linux OS. Just plug into any USB port on your system and it should function just like your OS. You do not need to update any firmware or drivers. It is a plug and ready.

### Where can I download Drivers for your USB Dock?

All our USB docks do not need any drivers. It is a plug and ready. All our USB docks use the USB client drivers that are already built into the OS (Windows 7, 8, 8.1, 10, 11, OS X 10.10 or newer, Linux OS).

As long as your computer USB Host controller drivers are installed correctly and are working when you connect our docks to your computer, the OS will sense the USB storage and load the correct drivers automatically for you.

### What is the Maximum Capacity Hard Drive that can I insert into the Dock and the Power Requirement of the drive?

As of this writing of the QIG (May 30, 2025), the maximum capacity for the 3.5" SATA is 30TB, and the 2.5" SATA is 16TB or less. We provide an AC adapter that offers 12VDC, 2A. If your drive (info on the drive label) uses more, you will need to get a bigger AC adapter to work correctly.

**PLEASE CHECK WITH VANTEC SUPPORT BEFORE YOU TRY TO USE A BIGGER AC ADAPTER. WRONG SIZE AC ADAPTER WILL DAMAGE YOUR DRIVE AND THE DOCK, ANY NEWER AC ADAPTER MUST BE 12VDC.**

Often what we provide is enough and you do not need a bigger AC adapter. If you are not sure please ask, please contact [support@vantecusa.com](mailto:support@vantecusa.com) for help. We do not want you to damage the dock or your hard drive by getting the wrong AC adapter.

### The Product is not working correctly, what should I do?

Sometimes problems may occur during initial installation or use, we at VantecUSA like to help you get it working to resolve the problem.

We have a team of support staff that is here to help you. Please write to us first before you return the product to the place of purchase. We are committed to helping you get the product set up and working correctly. You can reach us via email at [support@vantecusa.com](mailto:support@vantecusa.com). We will reply to you very quickly to assist you.

### I follow the steps to mount and connect my hard drive but I still cannot see the drive in my File Explorer, what do I need to do to see it correctly in File Explorer?

This is a very common question. Here are some reasons why it is not seeing the drive in File Explorer.

- 1) There is a problem with the hard drive.  
Make sure it is a known good hard drive was working before putting it in this dock.
- 2) The hard drive was prep or formatted using another OS that your current OS is not capable of reading.  
For example, if the hard drive was used previously in a Linux OS and tries reading on this Windows OS system, it not be able to read the Linux file system. OR the drive may be prep to hold images that are not readable by this system.
- 3) The hard drive from another system or enclosure was prepared differently as a result this Dock cannot read it.  
If the hard drive was prep on another enclosure using the 4K sector, it will not be readable by this dock.
- 4) The drive file system was corrupted OR the drive was encrypted for security and requires a key to unlock it.  
If corrupted, you can get a data recovery to help, if encrypted, make sure you have the key to unlock it.

### How to use C to C/A USB cable on this dock?

The design of this Dock is using the USB C port on the back, plug the single USB C into the dock first and the other with the C/A to your system. If your system is using USB C, just plug the USB C into your system, or if your system has a USB Type-A port, just plug the C to A adapter into the USB C port and then connect to your system.

### I lost my AC adapter for this Dock, what size of an AC adapter do I need?

This NST-D158C3-BK dock comes with a 12VDC, 2A AC adapter. If you need to purchase a replacement AC adapter, you can just search online (google search) for them or the local store should have them too.

The Specs for the AC adapter are **12VDC, 2A, center pin positive, plug size Outer Dia: 5.5mm, Inner Dia: 2.1mm, Depth(length): 10mm.**

If you are planning to get one online, it is good also to make sure there are all the safety certifications on the AC adapter like UL, FCC, CE, for home use, and more. Not all AC adapters are made the same, We would suggest a similar AC adapter. If you are not sure please ask, please contact [support@vantecusa.com](mailto:support@vantecusa.com) for help. We do not want you to damage the dock or your hard drive by getting the wrong AC adapter.

### How to disconnect or remove the dock?

There are a few ways of doing it, but here is the right way so that it will not cause a problem with the data on your drive. If you are using Windows OS, select eject (safe to remove) on the taskbar USB icon (right corner of your screen), click on the USB icon, and select the dock drive to remove or eject. Wait for the system to respond with a "safe to remove" message.

Once you see the message, you can turn off the power via the power switch on the back of the dock.

To Swap to a different hard drive, do the same above, and after powering off, swap the hard drive and power it back on and you are ready to use it again.

See the back of this page for Quick Install Guide (QIG)

