



# THUNDERBAY 6

Assembly Manual & User Guide



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## 1.1 Minimum System Requirements

### 1.1.1 OS Requirements

- macOS 10.12 or later
- Windows 10 or later
  - Boot Camp is not supported.

### 1.1.2 Hardware Requirements

- Computer with a Thunderbolt 3 port
  - Thunderbolt and Thunderbolt 2 hosts require the Apple Thunderbolt 3 (USB-C) to Thunderbolt 2 Adapter

### 1.1.3 Supported Drives

- 3.5 inch SATA drives and 2.5 inch SATA drives
- NVMe or AHCI M.2 SSD with 2280 form factor (see Section 2.3 for more information)

## 1.2 Package Contents



OWC ThunderBay 6



Thunderbolt cable



Power cable

### Notes:

- Drive mount screws are included with empty enclosures, but not pictured.
- Security keys not pictured.

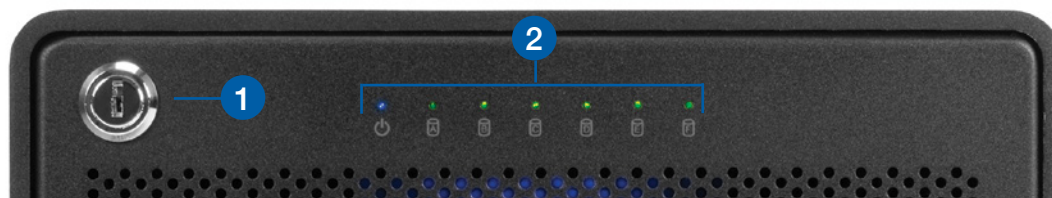
## 1.3 About This Manual

The images and descriptions may vary slightly between this manual and the unit shipped. Functions and features may change depending on the firmware version. The latest product details and warranty information can be found on the product web page. OWC's Limited Warranty is not transferable and subject to limitations.

## 1.4 Front View

### 1.4.1 Front Features

- Locking faceplate — Use the included keys to lock or unlock and remove the faceplate.
- LED indicators — See the chart below for LED details.



LED	COLOR	POWER ON	SLEEP	DRIVE ACTIVITY	DRIVE BAD/BAY EMPTY
Power	Blue / Amber	Solid blue with active data connection	Amber	N/A	N/A
Drive (A, B, C, D, E, F)	Green	None Active	None Active	Flash Green	Not Active

## 1.5 Rear View



### 1.5.1 Rear Features

1. Security Slot — Connect a security tether here.
2. Thunderbolt 3 ports — Attach the included Thunderbolt cable to one of these ports and to your computer, or to another Thunderbolt device. Use the other Thunderbolt 3 port to add more Thunderbolt devices to the chain. USB-C devices supported.
3. ON/OFF switch — Turn the power on and off using this switch.
4. DisplayPort — Connect a DisplayPort display here. Adapters for other display connector types (such as DVI or HDMI) are not supported.
5. Power input — Connect the included power cable here.

## 1.6 Usage Notes

- Although the ON/OFF switch controls power to the device, the OWC ThunderBay 6 requires an active data signal for powered operation. As long as the ON/OFF switch is in the 'ON' position, the ThunderBay 6 will turn on when it receives a data signal through the Thunderbolt cable. If there is no Thunderbolt cable connected, or if the computer is off or in a sleep or hibernation mode, the ThunderBay 6 will turn off and its power LED will turn orange to indicate that it is not receiving a data signal.
- In order to use any Thunderbolt devices chained through the ThunderBay 6, the ON/OFF switch of the ThunderBay 6 must be in the 'ON' position.
- For the safe removal of your drives and to ensure that no data is lost, always eject or unmount the drives from your operating system before unplugging the ThunderBay 6 or removing the drives.
- Thunderbolt device chains can support up to six Thunderbolt devices.
- By using the DisplayPort feature, the overall performance of the drive may decrease somewhat, as the DisplayPort shares bandwidth with the Thunderbolt 3 ports. The same is true if you connect a display to one of the available Thunderbolt 3 ports (this can be done with either a native Thunderbolt 3 display or with a Thunderbolt 3 display adapter).
- Thunderbolt 3 is backwards compatible with Thunderbolt 2 and Thunderbolt, but speeds can be impacted depending on where in the chain a device is connected. If mixing Thunderbolt 3 with Thunderbolt 2 and/or Thunderbolt devices, use the device order shown at right, if possible. **Computer > Thunderbolt 3 devices > Thunderbolt 2 devices > Thunderbolt devices**

If you purchased the ThunderBay 6 with drives, they have been installed prior to shipment — please skip to Section 2.2, Step 4. If you are installing your own drives, follow the steps in Section 2.1 to install 3.5 inch hard drives into your ThunderBay 6 enclosure, or to replace existing 3.5 inch drives. Note: it is possible to install 2.5 inch SATA drives using the fine-threaded screws (24 included), and the four screw holes on the bottom of each tray (highlighted in step 5 below).

## 2.1 Hard Drive Installation

Follow these steps to install hard drives into your ThunderBay 6 enclosure, or to replace existing drives. Repeat steps 1 through 8 as necessary for each drive you are installing.



1. Insert one of the included keys into the lock on the upper left of the faceplate.
2. Turn the key clockwise, then pull it towards you. The faceplate will swing open, as shown.
3. Once the faceplate has swung open as far as it will go, pull up to remove it.
4. On the drive tray you wish to remove, turn the thumbscrew counter-clockwise until you no longer feel resistance. Then hold onto the thumbscrew and pull the drive tray out.
5. Set the drive tray as shown on your work surface. If you are replacing an existing hard drive, unscrew it from the drive tray at this time. Note: the highlighted screw holes are for 2.5 inch drives. The holes for 3.5 inch drives are highlighted in green (Step 7).
6. Place the drive inside the tray as shown. The label should face up and the SATA connectors should be at the far rear corner.
7. Fasten the drive into the drive tray using six of the included screws (three per side).
8. Slide the drive tray back into the rails in the ThunderBay 6 and push until it is seated fully, then push in on the thumbscrew and turn it clockwise until it stops turning. If you encounter resistance, do not force the drive tray. Remove it, check to make sure that there are no obstructions and that the drive tray is lined up correctly, then slide it in again.

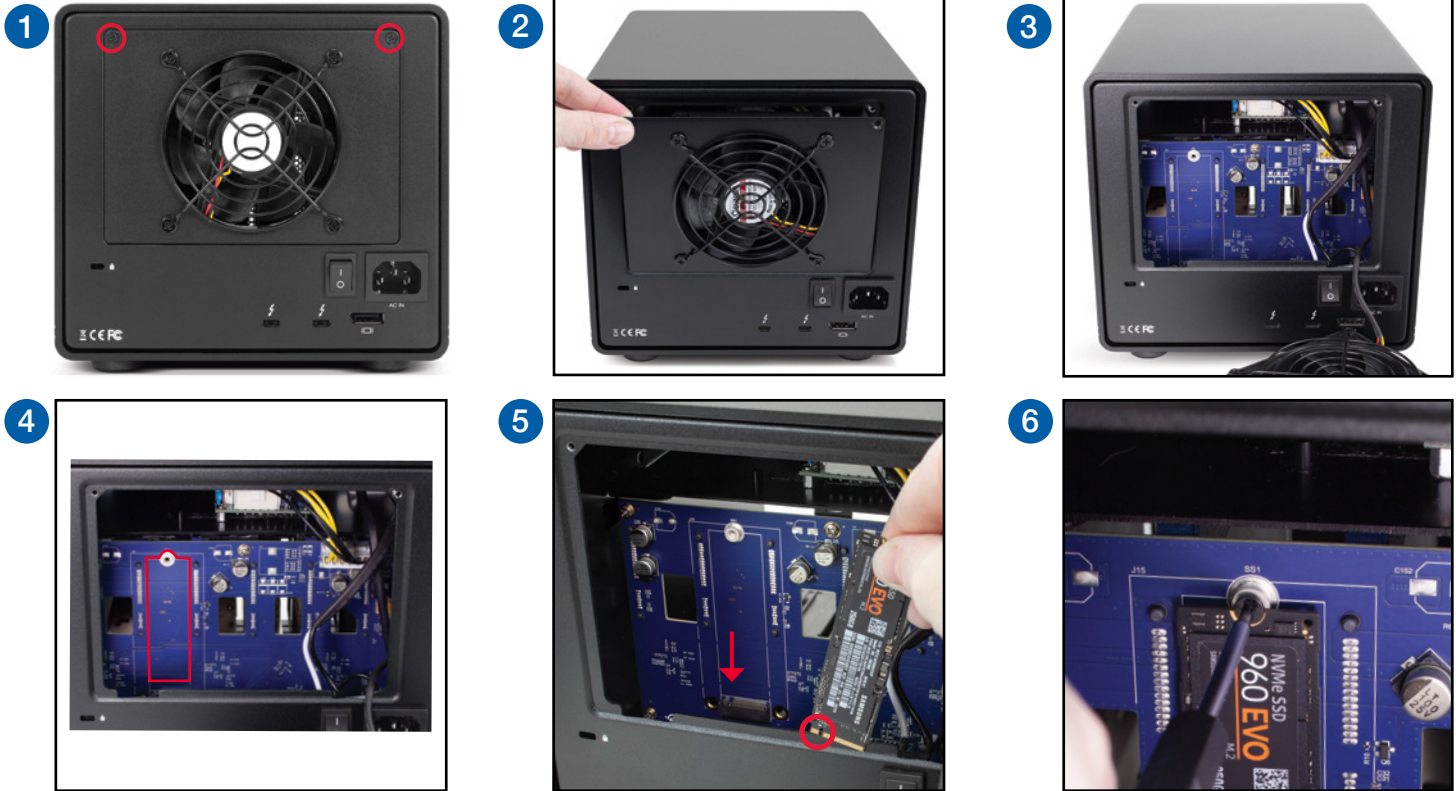
## 2.2 Changing Drives & Drive Failure

You can add or remove any drive without needing to turn off the device or to unmount any of the other drives. Each drive operates independently of the others and is not affected by the addition or removal of another drive unless you set them up as members of a RAID array using software.

By itself, the ThunderBay 6 does not monitor drive health or alert you to a drive failure. You can monitor the health of your drives through software in order to determine when a drive has failed or is in a pre-failure state. To replace a failed drive, simply remove the drive from its bay and replace it with another drive, following the steps in Section 2.1. The ThunderBay 6 does not need to be turned off during this process.

## 2.3 M.2 SSD Installation

Follow the steps shown below to install the optional M.2 drive. This drive can be formatted and used like any other, including with SoftRAID arrays. NVMe and AHCI M.2 SSDs are both supported.



1. Use the Phillips driver to remove the two fan housing screws highlighted above.
2. Steady the fan housing, allowing it to tilt away from the rest of the enclosure. Note that the fan cabling will remain connected.
3. Carefully set the fan housing flat on the work surface as shown, taking care not to disconnect or damage any cabling.
4. Note the location of the M.2 slot and screw post, highlighted at left. Remove the screw from the post and then set it aside.
5. Hold the drive so that the “M-Key” (highlighted) is on the left, then place the drive inside the case so its connector align with the corresponding notch (see arrow) and M.2 connector on the circuit board.
6. Use the screw that was removed in Step 12 to affix the M.2 drive to the mounting post.
7. Reseat the fan housing that was removed in Step 3, then re-affix the two screws removed in Step 1.

## 2.4 Quick Start

1. Install hard drives into the ThunderBay 6 according to the instructions in Section 2.1.
2. Connect the power cable to the enclosure and a power outlet, then make sure the ON/OFF switch is set to the ‘ON’ position.
3. Connect a Thunderbolt cable between the ThunderBay 6 and a computer. When you do this, the ThunderBay 6 will turn on and the drives will be available for use on the computer.
4. If the ThunderBay 6 was purchased with drives, or if you are using new drives that have not been used before, the drives will need to be formatted before they can be used. Go to [www.owcdigital.com/format](http://www.owcdigital.com/format) for drive formatting options.

## 2.5 About Software RAID

OWC ThunderBay 6 manages and protects your data with our advanced SoftRAID engine. SoftRAID for Mac offers multiple RAID options (0, 1, 4, 5, 1+0), giving you the ability to set up your storage for speed, data security or the best of both worlds. Packed with features from active predictive disk failure monitoring, to multiple array volume spanning, SoftRAID from OWC brings technology typically found only in data centers to your workstation or editing bay. To learn more about SoftRAID please visit: [www.softraid.com](http://www.softraid.com)

ThunderBay 6 also supports Windows Storage Spaces to create storage pools and simple, mirror or parity spaces based on the mix of data protection and performance you need. If you run low on capacity, just add more ThunderBay units to the storage pool.



## 3.1 Troubleshooting

Begin your troubleshooting by verifying that the power cable is connected to the ThunderBay 6 and to a power source. If the power cable is connected to a power strip, make sure that the power switch on the strip is turned on. Then, verify that both ends of your cables are properly plugged into the computer and the ThunderBay 6.

If the ThunderBay 6 is still not working properly, try connecting to another computer or using another Thunderbolt cable. Remember that the ThunderBay 6 needs an active data signal in order for the power to remain on. If it is disconnected from the computer, or if the computer goes to sleep or turns off, the ThunderBay 6 will go to sleep. If you are still experiencing problems, consult Section 3.4 for OWC technical support contact information.

## 3.2 About Data Backup

To ensure that your files are protected and to prevent data loss, we strongly suggest that you keep two copies of your data: one copy on your OWC ThunderBay 6 and a second copy on your internal drive or another storage medium, such as an optical backup, or on a second external storage unit. Any data loss or corruption while using the ThunderBay 6 is the sole responsibility of the user, and under no circumstances may OWC, its parent, partners, affiliates, officers, employees, or agents be held liable for loss of the use of data including compensation of any kind or recovery of the data.

## 3.3 Online Resources

To access our online knowledge base, please visit: [www.owcdigital.com/support/faq](http://www.owcdigital.com/support/faq)

## 3.4 Contacting Technical Support



**Phone:** M–F, 8am–5pm Central Time  
(866) 692-7100 (N. America) | +1 (815) 338-4751 (Int'l)



**Chat:** M–F, 8am–8pm Central Time  
[www.owcdigital.com/support](http://www.owcdigital.com/support)



**Email:** Answered within 48 hours  
[www.owcdigital.com/support](http://www.owcdigital.com/support)



## Changes:

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## FCC Statement:

### **Warning! Modifications not authorized by the manufacturer may void the user's authority to operate this device.**

NOTE: This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference with radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

- Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment to an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.

## Health And Safety Precautions:

- Read this user guide carefully and follow the correct procedures when setting up the device.
- Use proper anti-static precautions while performing the installation of your hard drives into this drive enclosure. Failure to do so can cause damage to your drive mechanisms and/or the hard drive enclosure.
- Do not attempt to disassemble or modify the device. To avoid any risk of electrical shock, fire, short-circuiting or dangerous emissions, never insert any metallic object into the device. If it appears to be malfunctioning, contact OWC technical support.
- Never expose your device to rain, or use it near water or in damp or wet conditions. Never place objects containing liquids on the drive, as they may spill into its openings. Doing so increases the risk of electrical shock, short-circuiting, fire or personal injury.

## General Use Precautions:

- Do not place objects on top of the device.
- To avoid damage, do not expose the device to temperatures outside the range of 5° C to 40° C (41° F to 104° F).
- Always unplug the device from the electrical outlet if there is a risk of lightning or if it will be unused for an extended period of time. Otherwise, there is an increased risk of electrical shock, short-circuiting or fire.
- Do not use the device near other electrical appliances such as televisions, radios or speakers. Doing so may cause interference which will adversely affect the operation of the other products.
- Do not place the device near sources of magnetic interference, such as computer displays, televisions or speakers. Magnetic interference can affect the operation and stability of hard drives.
- Protect your device from excessive exposure to dust during use or storage. Dust can build up inside the device, increasing the risk of damage or malfunction.
- Do not block any ventilation openings on the device. These help to keep the device cool during operation. Blocking the ventilation openings may cause damage to the device and cause an increased risk of short-circuiting or fire.

For up-to-date product and warranty information, please visit the product web page.

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