

OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA
Dual Drive Serial ATA Solution
Owner's Manual

We thank you for your purchase of your new OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA Dual Drive Solution and are happy to provide you with one of the newest, fastest, and easiest ways to add mass storage to your computer!

For more information about Serial ATA,
please visit our tech center at:
http://eshop.macsales.com/tech_center/index.cfm

Before starting, if your new OWC Mercury Elite-AL Hard Drive is delivered under extreme hot or cold conditions, you should allow the contents of the package to reach room temperature prior to use.

Treat your new OWC Mercury Elite-AL product just like you do your computer - keep it dry, out of direct sunlight, clean, and avoid static electricity.

Installation / Setup Instructions

Software installation:

Mac OS X 10.2 or later: Drivers not required. Proceed to hardware installation.
-Earlier versions of Apple operating systems not supported-

Windows XP: Drivers not required. Proceed to hardware installation.
-Earlier versions of Windows operating systems not supported-

Hardware Installation:

If you have not installed your Serial ATA PCI Controller Card (not included), please do so now following the instructions from the manufacturer.

Be certain that the Serial ATA PCI Controller card in your computer has ESATA ports, or if you have a SATA-1 PCI Controller card, that you have obtained converter cables (not included) to use your SATA-1 PCI Controller card with the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA Dual Drive Serial ATA Solution.

Unpack your new OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA Dual Drive Serial ATA Solution and examine it's contents.



Familiarize yourself with the connections on the back of the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA Dual Drive Solution - you will need to use these to connect your new drive to your computer.



Hardware Installation:
Installation of the hardware is simple on any platform.

1. Plug the AC power cord into the wall and to the DC transformer.
2. Plug the DC power cord into the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA
3. Connect the two Serial ATA cables from the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA to your PCI Serial ATA Card..
4. Power on the OWC Mercury Elite-AL. If you wish to create a RAID using the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA drive, please turn the page over.

Definition of RAID 0, RAID 1, and Concentrated Disk Set

RAID 0: A RAID 0 (also known as a **Stripe**) distributes data evenly across two or more disks. This method is very fast and is primarily used for audio and video capture, and is fantastic for editing because of the high speed. However, there is no redundancy when used, and if one drive fails in the RAID 0 stripe, data will be lost.

RAID 1: A RAID 1 (also known as a **Mirror**) writes exactly the same data to more than one drive. This is primarily used where data redundancy is the primary focus, always having a backup.

Concentrated Disk Set (JBOD): This is not truly a RAID. A Concentrated disk set is when you have multiple drives that you wish to show up as one contiguous volume, but do not want to stripe the drives together using a RAID 0. While both accomplish the same task, taking multiple drives and creating one large volume, the Concentrated disk set, or JBOD (Just a Bunch of Disks) does not write data evenly across the drives - it simply fills one drive up, and then continues writing to the next drive, and so on. If a drive were to fail using this setup, data recovery is much more probable than a RAID 0 setup.

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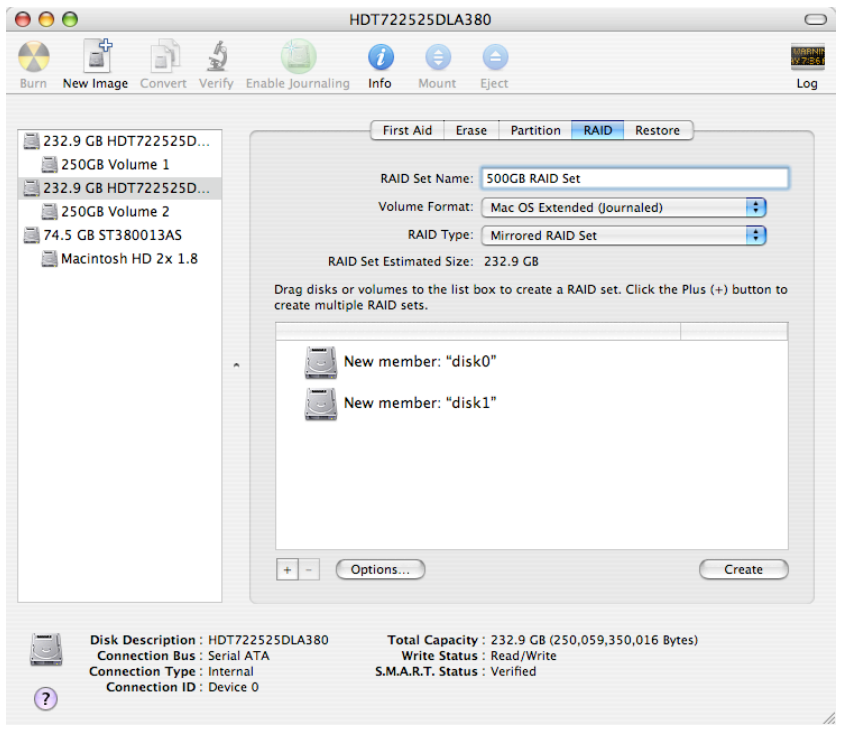
Creating a RAID using the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA

The OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA drive ships with both of the hard drives contained inside formatted using the Mac OS Extended file system, as 2 individual volumes. This is done because you need to create the RAID on your computer, it cannot be shipped already configured.

The two volumes are identical, and have been tested here at OWC before shipping to you. Both contain nearly 2GB of share-ware/freeware contained in a folder. If you wish to keep this data, you will need to copy it over to your existing internal hard drive, or to another storage medium. You can of course copy it back onto the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA drive once the RAID is completed.

Creating the RAID is a simple task. Begin by hooking up your OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA drive to your computer.

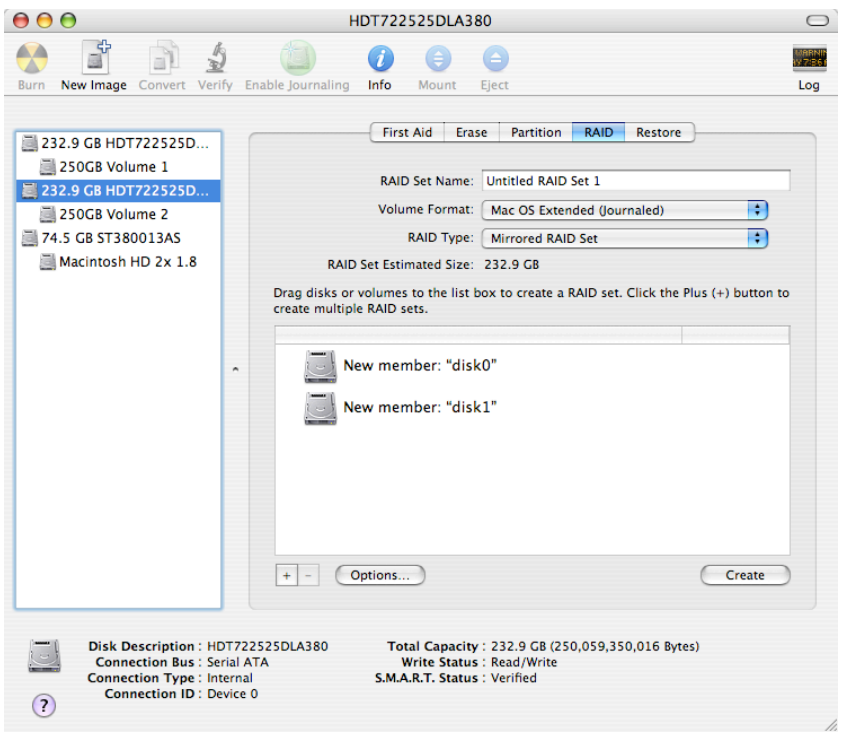




Now that you've decided on what type of RAID you wish to use, type the name of your drive you wish to use in the top box. You can also decide what format you wish to use, the most common for Mac OS X is Mac OS X Extended (Journaled), as shown here.

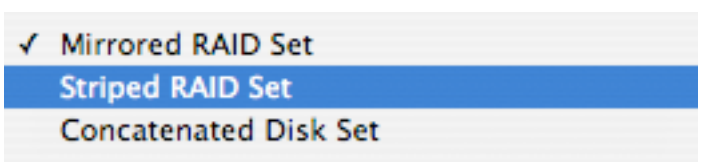


When you're ready to create your RAID, click on the Create button. Remember, you're erasing the drives!
You did remember to copy the OWC Freeware/Shareware folder off of one of them, right? :>)

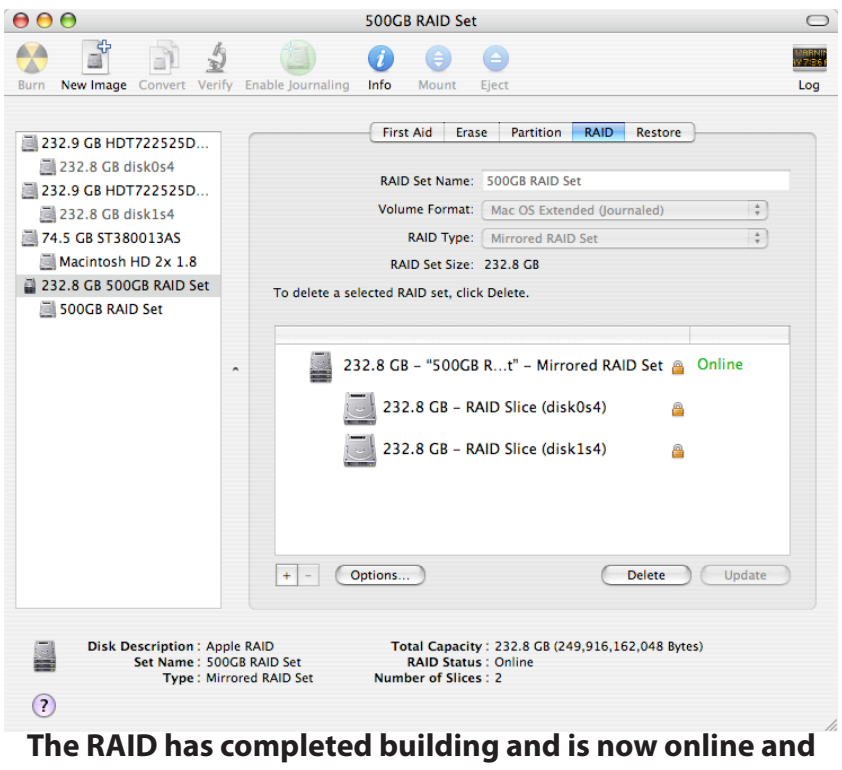


Open Disk Utility (Macintosh HD/Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility) and look at the mounted volumes on the left side of the screen. Choose one of the identical drives in the SATA Dual Bay Case, here they are named 250GB Volume 1, and Volume 2.

Click on either of the drives, and the above screen will appear. Then, click on the RAID tab, and drag the 2 identical drives, one at a time to the window as shown.



Notice the button named "RAID Type". You can choose from RAID 0 (Striped), or RAID 1 (Mirrored). You also can concentrate the two discs into one large partition. See the end of this manual for explanations as to what each type of RAID offers.



The RAID has completed building and is now online and ready to be used. Enjoy!

Troubleshooting:

If you disconnect the OWC Mercury Elite-AL SATA RAID from the computer, you must hook up the SATA cables back into the same ports as you disconnect them from. You may want to number the cables, and the ports as if you cross the cables, the RAID will break. It's simple to fix - just reverse the cables. If you experience problems with the RAID, Apple has a support page here for this issue: http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=106987

Also, you may experience booting problems to your RAID after an unexpected shutdown, or if you reset your PRAM. If your machine does not see your RAID as a startup volume, reboot holding down the option key.