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## Crucial CT128M4SSD2

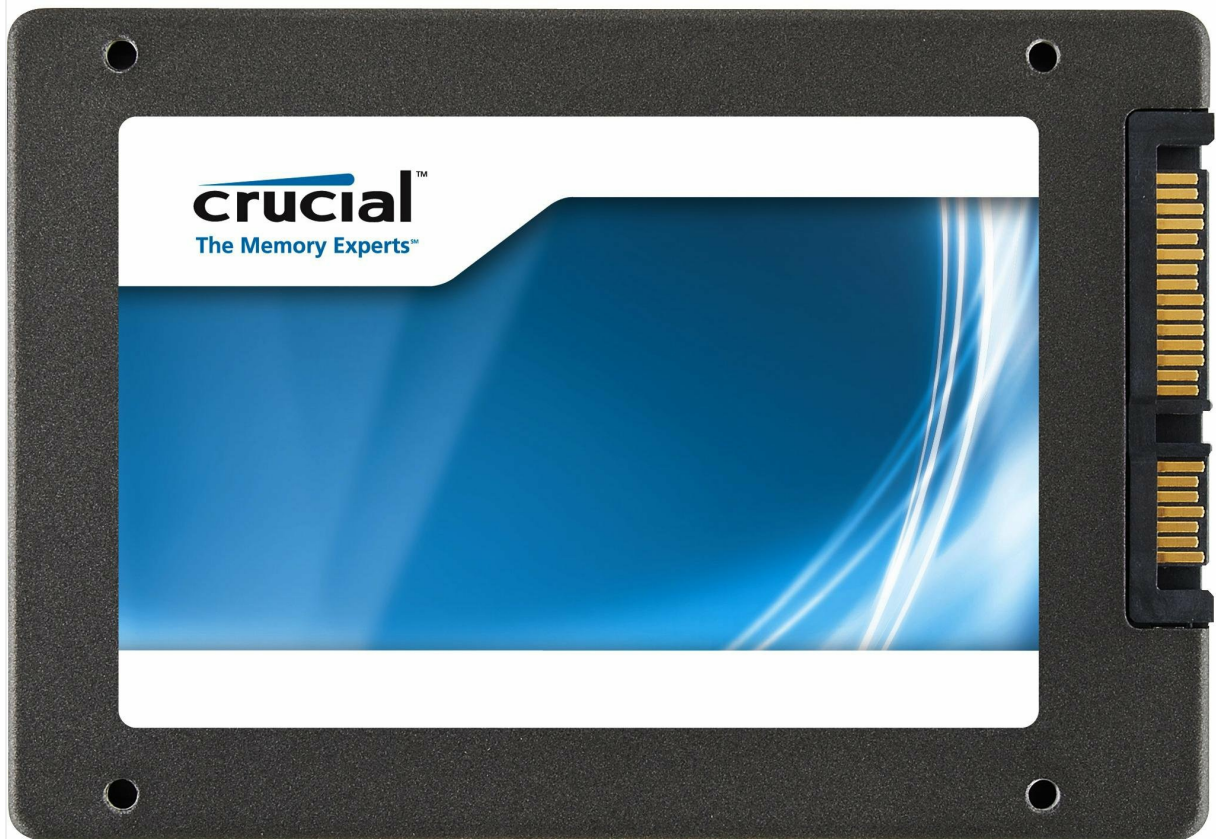
# Crucial m4 128GB 2.5-Inch SATA 6Gb/s Solid State Drive User Manual

Model: CT128M4SSD2

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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The Crucial m4 Solid State Drive (SSD) is designed to significantly enhance your system's performance. Utilizing a SATA 6Gb/s interface, this 2.5-inch internal drive offers faster application load times, quicker boot sequences, and improved overall system responsiveness compared to traditional hard disk drives. Its solid-state design provides increased durability and reliability.



*Image: Angled view of the Crucial m4 128GB Solid State Drive, highlighting its compact form factor and standard SATA connectors.*

## 2. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	CT128M4SSD2
Digital Storage Capacity	128 GB
Hard Disk Interface	Serial ATA-600 (SATA 6Gb/s)
Form Factor	2.5 Inches
Item Weight	5 ounces
Product Dimensions (LxWxH)	0.75 x 5.13 x 5.13 inches
Hardware Platform	PC, Mac, Unix, Linux
Special Feature	Shock Resistant

## 3. SETUP AND INSTALLATION

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Installing the Crucial m4 SSD involves physical connection and software configuration. It is recommended to perform a fresh operating system installation for optimal performance and to ensure all SSD-specific optimizations are enabled.

### 3.1 Physical Installation

1. **Prepare your system:** Power down your computer and disconnect all cables. Open the computer case to access the drive bays.
2. **Mount the SSD:** The Crucial m4 is a 2.5-inch drive. For desktop computers, you may need a 2.5-inch to 3.5-inch bay converter bracket (not included) to securely mount the SSD in a standard drive bay. For laptops, it typically fits directly into the existing 2.5-inch drive slot.
3. **Connect the cables:** Connect one end of a SATA data cable to the SSD and the other end to an available SATA 6Gb/s port on your motherboard. For optimal performance, use an Intel-designed SATA III port if available. Connect a SATA power cable from your power supply unit to the SSD.



*Image: Top view of the Crucial m4 SSD, clearly showing the SATA data and power connectors for installation.*

### 3.2 BIOS/UEFI Configuration

After physical installation, access your system's BIOS/UEFI settings (usually by pressing DEL, F2, F10, or F12 during boot-up). Ensure the SATA controller mode is set to **AHCI (Advanced Host Controller Interface)**. This mode is crucial for SSD performance and features like TRIM. Save changes and exit the BIOS/UEFI.

### 3.3 Operating System Installation

For best results, perform a clean installation of your operating system (e.g., Windows 7 or newer) onto the Crucial m4 SSD. This ensures that the OS is optimized for SSD usage, including automatic TRIM enablement. Avoid cloning an existing hard drive, as this may prevent proper SSD optimization.

## 4. OPERATING THE SSD

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Once installed and configured, the Crucial m4 SSD operates like any other storage device, but with significantly improved speed. Your operating system and frequently used applications will load much faster. The drive is designed for continuous high-performance operation.

- **Boot Drive:** The SSD is ideal for use as a primary boot drive for your operating system and essential applications.
- **Data Storage:** While excellent for speed, for very large data storage needs, it can be paired with a traditional hard drive.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and sustained performance of your Crucial m4 SSD.

### 5.1 Firmware Updates

Crucial periodically releases firmware updates that can improve performance, stability, and compatibility. It is highly recommended to check the official Crucial website for the latest firmware for your CT128M4SSD2 model and follow their instructions for updating. Firmware updates often resolve known issues and enhance drive reliability.

### 5.2 TRIM Functionality

TRIM is an ATA command that helps maintain the performance of an SSD over time by allowing the operating system to inform the SSD which data blocks are no longer in use and can be erased internally. Modern operating systems (Windows 7 and later, macOS, Linux) typically enable TRIM automatically when an SSD is detected. A fresh OS installation is the best way to ensure TRIM is properly configured.

### 5.3 Active Garbage Collection

The Crucial m4 SSD features Active Garbage Collection, an internal process that cleans deleted cells to restore the SSD to a healthy state and prevent performance degradation. To allow garbage collection to run effectively:

- **For PCs:** Disconnect the SATA data cable from the SSD, leaving only the power cable connected. Power on your PC and leave it in this idle state for 6 to 8 hours. This allows the SSD to perform its internal cleaning without OS interference.
- **For Laptops:** Power on the laptop with the SSD installed and enter your system BIOS/UEFI. Leave the laptop in the BIOS/UEFI menu for 6 to 8 hours.

After this process, reconnect the data cable (if disconnected) and restart your system. Your drive's functionality and performance should be restored.

### 5.4 Power Settings Adjustment

To prevent performance degradation, adjust your operating system's power settings to ensure the hard disk never enters a sleep state:

- Go to **Control Panel > Hardware and Sound > Power Options**.
- Select **Change Plan Settings** for your active power plan.
- Click **Change Advanced Settings**.
- Under 'Hard disk', set 'Turn off hard disk after' to **Never** (for laptops, apply this to both 'On battery' and 'Plugged in').

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

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If you encounter issues with your Crucial m4 SSD, consider the following troubleshooting steps:

- **Drive Not Recognized / Random Freezing:** This can sometimes occur. If the drive disappears from your BIOS or the system freezes, perform a power cycle. Boot your machine into the BIOS/UEFI and leave it for approximately 20 minutes. Then, reset the machine and repeat the process. The drive should reappear. Ensure your firmware is up to date.
- **Performance Degradation:** This is often related to deleted cells not being cleaned. Refer to the 'Active Garbage Collection' section (5.3) and ensure TRIM is enabled (5.2).
- **Installation Issues:** Double-check all SATA data and power cable connections. Verify that the SATA controller mode in BIOS/UEFI is set to AHCI.
- **Operating System Errors:** Ensure you performed a clean OS installation. If you cloned a previous drive, consider a fresh installation.

## 7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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The Crucial m4 SSD comes with a limited three-year warranty. For warranty claims or technical assistance, please contact Crucial customer support directly.

**Important Note:** This product is intended for shipment to the U.S. lower 48 states only. Shipments to APO or PO Box addresses are not supported.