Western Digital WDBAPK0000NCH-HESN

WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender User Manual

Model: WDBAPK0000NCH-HESN

Western Digital

1. INTRODUCTION

The WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender is designed to expand the coverage of your existing wireless network to areas within your home that experience weak or no signal. This device supports dual-band operation (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz) and features a 3x3 antenna array for enhanced wireless performance. It offers a simple setup process to integrate seamlessly with your current network infrastructure.

2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW AND FEATURES

The WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender provides several features to improve your wireless network experience:

- **Extended Wi-Fi Coverage:** Expands your wireless network to hard-to-reach areas such as garages or backyards.
- **Dual-Band Support:** Operates on both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, allowing selection based on range and performance needs.
- **High-Speed Wireless-N:** Utilizes a 3x3 antenna array for improved wireless speeds, suitable for HD video streaming and online gaming.
- **Simple Setup:** Features push-button setup (WPS) for quick connection to compatible routers, or a web-based setup for manual configuration.
- **Signal Strength Indicator Lights:** Front-panel LEDs provide visual feedback on the wireless signal strength, aiding in optimal placement.
- **Gigabit Ethernet Port:** Includes one Gigabit Ethernet port for connecting wired devices to the extended network.

Figure 2.1: Front view of the WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender, showing the WD My Net logo and signal indicator lights.

Figure 2.2: Side view of the range extender, highlighting the WPS button, 2.4 GHz/5 GHz switch, Ethernet port, and DC IN

3. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- WD My Net Dual-Band N Range Extender
- AC Adapter
- Quick Install Guide

4. SETUP INSTRUCTIONS

Before beginning setup, ensure you have your wireless router's network name (SSID) and password available. The range extender can be set up using either the WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) button or a web-based interface.

4.1. System Requirements

- An existing wireless network (802.11b/g/n compatible router).
- For web setup: A computer with a web browser (Internet Explorer 7+, Safari 2+, Firefox 2+, Google Chrome 7+).

4.2. WPS Push-Button Setup (Recommended)

This method is the quickest way to connect your range extender if your router supports WPS.

1. **Power On:** Plug the AC adapter into the range extender and then into a power outlet. Wait for the power indicator light to become solid.
2. **Position Extender:** Place the range extender in an area where your existing Wi-Fi signal is still strong, but close to the area you want to extend coverage to.
3. **Activate WPS on Router:** Press the WPS button on your wireless router. Refer to your router's manual for the exact location and timing.
4. **Activate WPS on Extender:** Within two minutes of pressing the WPS button on your router, press the WPS button on the side of the WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender.
5. **Verify Connection:** The signal strength indicator lights on the front of the extender will illuminate as it connects. Once connected, the lights will show the signal strength from your router.

Note: If WPS setup fails, proceed to the Web-Based Setup.

4.3. Web-Based Setup

Use this method if your router does not have a WPS button or if the WPS setup was unsuccessful.

1. **Power On:** Plug the AC adapter into the range extender and then into a power outlet. Wait for the power indicator light to become solid.
2. **Connect to Extender:** Connect your computer directly to the range extender using an Ethernet cable, or connect wirelessly to the extender's default Wi-Fi network (usually named "WD_Extender" or similar, without a password). If using an Ethernet cable, ensure your computer's Wi-Fi is temporarily disabled.
3. **Access Setup Page:** Open a web browser and type **http://WDRangeExtender** or **192.168.1.230** into the address bar and press Enter.
4. **Follow On-Screen Instructions:** The setup wizard will guide you through selecting your existing Wi-Fi

network and entering its password.

5. **Configure Settings:** You may be prompted to choose the operating band (2.4 GHz or 5 GHz) and confirm network settings. The extender will typically maintain your current network name and security settings.

6. **Placement:** After configuration, unplug the extender and move it to an optimal location. Refer to Section 5.1 for guidance on placement.

5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

5.1. Optimal Placement

The placement of your range extender significantly impacts its performance. Use the signal strength indicator lights on the front of the device to find the best location:

- **Few Lights On:** Indicates a strong wireless signal from your router. This is a good starting point for placement.

- **Middle Range of Lights On:** Signal is sufficient for general internet use and low-resolution video streaming.

- **All Lights Lit:** Represents the optimal location, providing the strongest extended signal for activities like downloading files, chatting, and HD entertainment.

Place the extender between your wireless router and the area where you need extended coverage. Avoid placing it near large metal objects, concrete walls, or other electronic devices that may cause interference.

5.2. Selecting Dual-Bands

The range extender features a physical switch on its side to select between the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands. No software or PC is required for this selection.

- **2.4 GHz Band:** Offers a wider range and better penetration through walls, suitable for general internet use and covering larger areas.

- **5 GHz Band:** Provides faster performance and less interference, ideal for high-bandwidth activities like HD streaming and online gaming, but with a shorter range.

Choose the band that best suits the devices and activities in the extended area.

5.3. Network ID and Security

After setup, the range extender will typically broadcast your existing network's SSID (network name) and use the same security settings. This allows devices to seamlessly connect to the extended network without requiring new configurations or passwords.

6. MAINTENANCE

To ensure optimal performance and longevity of your WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender, consider the following maintenance tips:

- **Firmware Updates:** Periodically check the Western Digital support website for available firmware updates. Keeping the firmware current can improve performance, security, and compatibility.

- **Cleanliness:** Keep the device free from dust and debris. Use a soft, dry cloth for cleaning. Do not use liquid cleaners.

- **Ventilation:** Ensure the device is placed in a location with adequate airflow to prevent overheating.

- **Power Cycle:** If you experience network issues, try power cycling the range extender (unplug it from the power outlet, wait 10 seconds, then plug it back in).

7. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your WD My Net Wi-Fi Range Extender, refer to the following common troubleshooting steps:

7.1. No Internet Connection After Setup

- **Verify Router Connection:** Ensure your main wireless router is functioning correctly and providing internet access.
- **Check Extender Placement:** The extender might be too far from your main router. Relocate it closer to the router, ensuring at least a few signal strength indicator lights are illuminated.
- **Re-run Setup:** If the WPS setup failed, try the web-based setup method. Ensure you enter the correct Wi-Fi password for your main network.
- **Power Cycle:** Power cycle both your router and the range extender.

7.2. Weak or Unstable Signal in Extended Area

- **Adjust Placement:** Experiment with different locations for the extender. Use the signal strength indicator lights to find a spot where it receives a strong signal from the router and can effectively broadcast to the desired area.
- **Interference:** Move the extender away from potential sources of interference such as cordless phones, microwave ovens, Bluetooth devices, or large metal objects.
- **Band Selection:** If you are using the 5 GHz band, try switching to the 2.4 GHz band for better range, especially if there are many obstacles.

7.3. Cannot Access Web Setup Page

- **Direct Connection:** Ensure your computer is directly connected to the extender via Ethernet or its default Wi-Fi network.
- **Disable Wi-Fi (for Ethernet):** If using an Ethernet cable, temporarily disable your computer's Wi-Fi to ensure it's communicating only with the extender.
- **Browser Compatibility:** Try a different web browser or ensure your current browser is updated.
- **IP Address:** Try using the IP address **192.168.1.230** instead of **http://WDRangeExtender**.
- **Reset Extender:** As a last resort, perform a factory reset on the extender (refer to the Quick Install Guide for instructions). This will revert all settings to default.

8. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	WDBAPK0000NCH-HESN
Wireless Type	802.11b, 802.11g, 802.11n
Frequency Band Class	Dual-Band (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz)

Feature	Detail
Data Transfer Rate	Up to 450 Megabits Per Second
Antenna Array	3x3
Ethernet Ports	1x Gigabit Ethernet
Dimensions (LxWxH)	2.4 x 9.2 x 8.7 inches
Weight	1.24 pounds
Color	Black
Manufacturer	Western Digital

9. SUPPORT AND WARRANTY INFORMATION

For technical support, warranty claims, or to access the latest drivers and firmware updates, please visit the official Western Digital support website. The Quick Install Guide included with your product may also contain specific warranty details for your region.

Western Digital Support: https://support.wdc.com

Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty purposes.