

D-Link DWA-171

D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter User Manual

Model: DWA-171

1. INTRODUCTION

The D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter provides wireless connectivity for desktop and laptop computers. This adapter supports the 802.11ac standard, offering dual-band operation (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz) for improved wireless performance and reduced interference. It is designed for easy installation and use, allowing users to connect to wireless networks quickly.

Key features include:

- Dual-band connectivity (2.4 GHz up to 150 Mbps, 5 GHz up to 433 Mbps)
- Backward compatibility with 802.11a/b/g/n devices
- WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) button for easy and secure connection
- Compact design for portability



Figure 1: D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter

This image shows the compact D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter, highlighting its small form factor suitable for laptops and desktops.

2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

Verify that your package contains the following items:

- D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter
- Quick Installation Guide
- Driver CD-ROM (for Windows/macOS drivers and utility)

If any items are missing or damaged, please contact your local D-Link reseller.

3. SETUP

3.1 Driver Installation

1. **Insert the Driver CD-ROM:** Place the included driver CD-ROM into your computer's CD/DVD drive. If your computer does not have an optical drive, download the latest drivers from the official D-Link support website (support.dlink.com).
2. **Run the Setup Program:** Navigate to the CD-ROM drive or the downloaded driver folder and run the setup executable (e.g., setup.exe for Windows or the installer package for macOS).
3. **Follow On-Screen Instructions:** Proceed through the installation wizard, accepting the license agreement and choosing installation options as prompted. You may be asked to restart your computer after installation.

3.2 Connecting the Adapter

1. **Locate an Available USB Port:** Find an open USB port on your desktop or laptop computer. For optimal performance, use a USB 2.0 or 3.0 port.
2. **Insert the DWA-171 Adapter:** Carefully plug the DWA-171 adapter into the USB port. Ensure it is fully seated.
3. **Verify Recognition:** Your operating system should detect the new hardware. A notification may appear indicating that the device is ready for use.

Wireless AC Wave 2

802.11ac Wave 2 is a networking standard that produces high-throughput wireless speed on the 5 GHz band.

Enjoy clear, smooth streaming HD video from your favorite websites and services, lag-free online gaming, and clear audio and video calls over the Internet.



Figure 2: DWA-171 Adapter connected to a laptop

This image illustrates the DWA-171 USB WiFi adapter plugged into a laptop's USB port, ready for network connection.

3.3 Connecting to a Wireless Network

After installing the drivers and connecting the adapter, you can connect to a wireless network.

Windows:

1. Click the wireless network icon in the system tray (usually bottom-right corner).
2. A list of available wireless networks will appear. Select your desired network (SSID).
3. Click **Connect**. If prompted, enter the network security key (password).
4. The adapter will attempt to connect. Once successful, the network icon will indicate a connected status.

macOS:

1. Click the Wi-Fi icon in the menu bar (usually top-right corner).
2. Select your desired wireless network from the dropdown list.
3. Enter the network password if required.
4. The adapter will connect to the network.

Using WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup):

If your wireless router supports WPS, you can use the WPS button for a quick and secure connection.

1. Press the WPS button on your wireless router.
2. Within two minutes, press the WPS button on the DWA-171 adapter (if available, or initiate WPS connection from your computer's wireless utility).
3. The adapter will automatically connect to the network without requiring manual password entry.

4. OPERATING

4.1 Verifying Connection

After connecting to a wireless network, you can verify the connection status:

- **Windows:** The network icon in the system tray should show a connected status (e.g., full signal bars). You can also open Network and Sharing Center to see network details.
- **macOS:** The Wi-Fi icon in the menu bar should show full signal strength, and the network name should be selected.

4.2 Switching Between 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz Bands

If your router broadcasts separate SSIDs for 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands, you can manually select which band to connect to from the list of available networks. The 5 GHz band typically offers higher speeds but shorter range, while the 2.4 GHz band offers wider coverage but potentially lower speeds due to more interference.

5. MAINTENANCE

- **Keep Drivers Updated:** Periodically check the D-Link support website (support.dlink.com) for the latest drivers for your DWA-171 adapter. Updated drivers can improve performance and stability.
- **Clean USB Port:** Ensure the USB port on your computer and the adapter's connector are free from dust and debris to maintain a reliable connection.
- **Protect from Damage:** Avoid bending or applying excessive force to the adapter when it is plugged into a USB port. Store it in a safe place when not in use.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

6.1 No Wireless Connection

- **Check Adapter Connection:** Ensure the DWA-171 adapter is securely plugged into a functioning USB port. Try a different USB port.
- **Verify Driver Installation:** Confirm that the drivers are correctly installed. Check Device Manager (Windows) or System Information (macOS) to see if the adapter is recognized without errors. Reinstall drivers if necessary.
- **Check Network Availability:** Ensure your wireless router is powered on and broadcasting a Wi-Fi signal. Try connecting other devices to the network.
- **Correct Password:** Double-check that you are entering the correct wireless network security key (password).

6.2 Slow Connection Speed

- **Signal Strength:** Move closer to your wireless router to improve signal strength. Obstacles like walls and large appliances can degrade signal quality.
- **Band Selection:** If your router supports it, try connecting to the 5 GHz band for potentially faster speeds, especially in congested areas.
- **Interference:** Other wireless devices (cordless phones, microwaves, Bluetooth devices) can cause interference. Try changing the wireless channel on your router.
- **Router Performance:** Ensure your router is functioning optimally and is not overloaded by too many devices or bandwidth-intensive tasks.

6.3 Adapter Not Detected

- **Restart Computer:** A simple restart can often resolve detection issues.
- **Try Different USB Port:** Test the adapter in another USB port on your computer.
- **Reinstall Drivers:** Uninstall any existing D-Link DWA-171 drivers and perform a clean reinstallation.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Model Number	DWA-171
Hardware Interface	USB 2.0 (802.11 ac/b/g/n compatible)
Data Link Protocol	802.11ac/b/g/n
Data Transfer Rate	Up to 583 Mbps (150 Mbps on 2.4GHz, 433 Mbps on 5GHz)
Frequency Band	2.4 GHz and 5 GHz (Dual Band)
Compatible Devices	MAC, PC, Android (driver support may vary)
Compatible Operating System Family	MacOS, Windows
Minimum Required Operating System Version	Mac OS 10.15 Catalina (check D-Link support for Windows versions)
Item Weight	4 Grams
Color	Black

8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

8.1 Warranty Information

The D-Link DWA-171 AC600 Mini USB WiFi Adapter comes with a manufacturer's warranty. Please refer to the warranty card included in your product packaging or visit the D-Link website for specific terms and conditions applicable to your region.

EU Spare Part Availability Duration: 5 Years.

8.2 Technical Support

For technical support, driver downloads, or further assistance, please visit the official D-Link support website:

<https://support.dlink.com/>

You may also find contact information for D-Link customer service in your region on their website or in the product documentation.