Akasa AK-HC-07BK

Akasa InterConnect EX User Manual

Model: AK-HC-07BK / ZUCR-058

Introduction

This manual provides detailed instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the Akasa InterConnect EX, a versatile 5.25-inch bay internal card reader and USB hub. Please read this manual thoroughly before installation and use to ensure optimal performance and safety.

Product Overview

The Akasa InterConnect EX (AK-HC-07BK) is designed to enhance your PC's front panel connectivity. It integrates a multi-format card reader, a 4-port USB 3.0 hub, and a smart card reader, along with two high-power charging ports, all within a standard 5.25-inch drive bay.



Figure 1: Front view of the Akasa InterConnect EX unit, showcasing its multiple card reader slots (CF/MD, SD/SDHC/SDXC/MMC/RS MMC, MS/MS Pro/MS Duo/MS Pro Duo, M2, MicroSD) and USB ports (four USB 3.0 data ports and two fast-charging USB ports), along with a Smart Card slot.

Features

- **Multi-functional Connectivity:** Includes a 5-slot USB 3.0 card reader, a 4-port USB 3.0 HUB, and a USB 2.0 electronic ID and smart card reader.
- **Fast Charging Ports:** Two dedicated USB charging ports provide up to 2.4A for rapid charging of smartphones or tablets.
- **Premium Design:** Features a durable brushed aluminum fascia panel for a sleek aesthetic.
- **Intelligent Charging:** High-performance USB fast charging controller with auto-detect and charging capabilities, meeting USB battery charging specifications.
- **Broad Compatibility:** Compatible with Microsoft USB-CCID driver for smart card functionality.



Figure 2: Detail of the fast charging ports, highlighted by their orange internal color, indicating their high-power output capability.

Package Contents

The Akasa InterConnect EX package typically includes:

- Akasa InterConnect EX Unit (AK-HC-07BK)
- Necessary internal cables (e.g., USB 3.0 header cable, SATA power cable)
- Mounting screws



Figure 3: The retail packaging of the Akasa InterConnect EX, illustrating the product and its main features such as USB 3.0, fast charging, and multi-card reader capabilities.

Setup and Installation

1. **Preparation:** Power off your computer and disconnect all power cables. Open the computer case to access the internal drive bays.
2. **Locate a 5.25" Bay:** Identify an available 5.25-inch drive bay at the front of your PC case. Remove any cover plates

from the front of the bay.

3. **Insert the Unit:** Gently slide the Akasa InterConnect EX unit into the chosen 5.25-inch bay from the front until its mounting holes align with the case's screw holes.
4. **Secure the Unit:** Use the provided mounting screws to secure the unit firmly to the PC case on both sides.
5. **Connect USB 3.0 Header:** Locate an available 20-pin USB 3.0 header on your motherboard. Connect the unit's USB 3.0 cable to this header. Ensure correct orientation to avoid damage.
6. **Connect USB 2.0 Header (for Smart Card Reader):** Locate an available 9-pin USB 2.0 header on your motherboard. Connect the unit's USB 2.0 cable (if separate) to this header for the smart card reader functionality.
7. **Connect SATA Power:** Connect a SATA power connector from your power supply unit (PSU) to the SATA power input on the Akasa InterConnect EX unit. This is crucial for the fast charging ports and stable operation.
8. **Close Case and Power On:** Once all connections are secure, close your computer case, reconnect power cables, and power on your computer.



Figure 4: The Akasa InterConnect EX unit professionally installed within a desktop computer case, demonstrating its fit in a 5.25-inch bay.

Operating Instructions

Using the Card Reader

- Insert your memory card (SD, microSD, CF, MS, etc.) into the corresponding slot on the front panel. Ensure the card is inserted correctly, usually with the label facing up.
- Your operating system should automatically detect the card and assign a drive letter.
- Access the card's contents via "This PC" or "My Computer".

- To safely remove the card, right-click on its drive icon in "This PC" and select "Eject", then physically remove the card.

Using the USB 3.0 Hub

- Connect any USB device (e.g., flash drive, external hard drive, keyboard, mouse) to the blue USB 3.0 ports.
- The ports support USB 3.0 SuperSpeed data transfer rates, as well as backward compatibility with USB 2.0 and USB 1.1 devices.

Using the Fast Charging Ports

- Connect your smartphone, tablet, or other USB-chargeable device to the orange fast charging ports.
- These ports provide up to 2.4A output, enabling faster charging compared to standard USB ports.
- The intelligent charging controller automatically detects the connected device and delivers optimal charging current.

Using the Smart Card Reader (CAC/ID Card Reader)

- Insert your smart card (e.g., CAC, PIV, ID card) into the dedicated Smart Card slot.
- Ensure you have the necessary drivers and software installed for your specific smart card application (e.g., middleware for government IDs, banking software). The device is compatible with Microsoft USB-CCID drivers.
- Follow the instructions provided by your smart card application for authentication or data access.

Maintenance

- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the exterior of the unit. Do not use liquid cleaners or abrasive materials.
- **Dust:** Periodically check the card slots and USB ports for dust accumulation. Use compressed air to gently clear any debris.
- **Firmware/Drivers:** While the unit is generally plug-and-play, check the Akasa website periodically for any updated drivers or firmware, especially for smart card reader functionality or new operating system compatibility.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Device not detected / Not functioning	Incorrect or loose internal cable connections. Insufficient power supply. Motherboard USB header issues.	Ensure USB 3.0 and SATA power cables are securely connected to the motherboard and PSU respectively. Verify your PSU has enough wattage. Try connecting to a different USB header on the motherboard.
Card reader not reading cards	Card inserted incorrectly. Damaged card or slot. Driver issue.	Re-insert the card, ensuring correct orientation. Test with a different, known-good card. Check Device Manager for any yellow exclamation marks and update/reinstall drivers if necessary.
Fast charging ports not charging or slow charging	SATA power cable not connected or loose. Device not compatible with fast charging.	Ensure the SATA power cable is firmly connected to the unit and PSU. Verify your device supports high-current USB charging.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Smart card reader not working	Missing or incorrect smart card software/drivers. USB 2.0 header not connected (if separate).	Install the necessary middleware or drivers for your specific smart card. Ensure the USB 2.0 header cable is properly connected to the motherboard.

Specifications

Model Number	AK-HC-07BK / ZUCR-058
Form Factor	5.25" PC Front Bay
Connectivity	Internal USB 3.0 Header, Internal USB 2.0 Header (for Smart Card), SATA Power
USB Ports	4 x USB 3.0 Data Ports, 2 x USB Fast Charging Ports (up to 2.4A)
Card Reader Slots	5-slot (CompactFlash, MMC, Memory Stick, Memory Stick Micro, Memory Stick PRO Duo, Memory Stick Pro, SD Card, SDHC, SDXC, microSD, microSDHC, microSDXC)
Smart Card Reader	USB 2.0 Electronic ID and Smart Card Reader (CCID compatible)
Material	Brushed Aluminum Fascia Panel
Dimensions (LxWxH)	8.46 x 6.69 x 2.17 inches (21.49 x 17.00 x 5.51 cm)
Weight	1.06 pounds (0.48 kg)
Operating System Compatibility	Microsoft Windows (Plug & Play for most functions)

Warranty and Support

Akasa products are designed for reliability and performance. For warranty information and technical support, please refer to the official Akasa website or contact their customer service department. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase for warranty claims.
Akasa Official Website: www.akasa.com.tw
For further assistance, please contact Akasa support directly.

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