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Synology DS218play

Synology DS218play NAS Disk Station User Manual

Model: DS218play

Introduction

The Synology DiskStation DS218play is a two-bay Network Attached Storage (NAS) device designed for home users. It features a 64-bit quad-core processor and is capable of real-time 4K Ultra HD source content transcoding, making it suitable for multimedia streaming and file sharing. This manual provides comprehensive instructions for setting up, operating, and maintaining your DS218play.

What's in the Box

Upon unboxing your Synology DS218play, please verify that all the following components are included:

- DS218play main unit x 1
- Quick Installation Guide x 1
- Accessory pack x 1
- AC power adapter x 1
- RJ-45 LAN cable x 1



Figure 1: Synology DS218play NAS Disk Station. This image shows the main unit of the Synology DS218play, a black, rectangular device with two drive bays visible on the front, along with status indicator lights and a power button.

Hardware Installation

Before connecting your NAS to power, hard drives must be installed. The DS218play supports two 3.5-inch or 2.5-inch SATA HDDs/SSDs.

Installing Hard Drives

1. Gently pull out the drive trays from the front of the NAS.
2. Remove the fastening panels from the sides of each drive tray.
3. For 3.5-inch HDDs: Place the drive into the tray and re-insert the fastening panels to secure it.

4. For 2.5-inch HDDs/SSDs: Place the drive into the tray and secure it using the provided 2.5-inch hard drive screws.
5. Slide the filled drive trays back into the drive bays until they click into place.
6. Optionally, use the provided keys to lock the drive trays, preventing accidental removal during operation.



Figure 2: Synology DS218play with drive bays open. This image shows the Synology DS218play from a slight angle, with one of its two drive bays pulled open, revealing the internal mechanism for hard drive installation.



Figure 3: Synology DS218play rear view. This image displays the rear of the Synology DS218play, highlighting the fan, USB ports, LAN port, and power input.



Figure 4: Synology DS218play rear ports close-up. A detailed view of the rear ports on the Synology DS218play, showing the USB 3.0 ports, LAN port, DC IN 12V power input, and a reset button.

Connecting Cables

1. Connect the AC power adapter to the power port on the rear of the NAS.
2. Use the RJ-45 LAN cable to connect the NAS to your network switch, router, or hub. Ensure your computer is on the same network domain as the NAS for initial setup.
3. Press the power button on the front of the NAS to power it on.

Initial Setup (Software Installation)

After hardware installation, you need to install the DiskStation Manager (DSM) operating system.

Installing DiskStation Manager (DSM)

1. Open a web browser on a computer connected to the same network as your NAS.
2. Navigate to http://find.synology.com. The Web Assistant will search for your Synology NAS.

3. Once your DS218play is found, click "Set up" to begin the DSM installation.
4. Follow the on-screen prompts. You will be asked to confirm that all data on the hard drives will be erased. Proceed only after backing up any important data.
5. The installation process will take approximately 10 minutes. Do not power off the NAS during this time. The NAS will restart automatically upon completion, indicated by a short beep.
6. Create your administrator account by entering a server name, username, and password. Remember these credentials for future access.
7. Configure DSM update and maintenance settings. It is recommended to enable automatic updates for optimal security and features.
8. You may skip the QuickConnect setup for now; it can be configured later.
9. Once the setup is complete, click "Go" to access the DSM interface.

Creating a Volume

For initial use, you need to create a volume to store all packages and files.

1. Open "Storage Manager" from the DSM desktop.
2. Select "Volume" from the menu on the left.
3. Click "Create" and follow the Volume Creation Wizard.
4. Choose a mode: "Quick" is recommended for beginners to optimize storage capacity with Synology Hybrid RAID (SHR). For advanced users, "Custom" allows manual RAID type selection.
5. Select the hard drives you wish to include in the volume. Confirm that you understand all data on selected drives will be erased.
6. Select a file system. Btrfs is recommended for advanced features like shared folder snapshots and data integrity protection.
7. Review the settings and click "Apply" to finalize. The system will perform a parity check in the background, allowing you to use the NAS without interruptions.

▶ **Watch video online**
NAS setup guide

Video 1: Synology NAS Setup Guide. This video provides a step-by-step walkthrough of the physical installation of hard drives, connecting the NAS to the network, powering it on, and the initial software setup of DiskStation Manager (DSM), including creating an administrator account and setting up a storage volume. It also briefly touches on QuickConnect setup and general features like file sharing and multimedia.

Operating Instructions

Your Synology DS218play offers a wide range of functionalities through its DiskStation Manager (DSM) operating system and various packages.

File Sharing and Access

DSM provides robust tools for file management, sharing, and access from various devices. You can create shared folders, manage user permissions, and access your files via web browser, network drives, or mobile apps.

Multimedia Management

The DS218play is optimized for multimedia. You can install packages like Video Station, Audio Station, and Photo Station from the Package Center to organize, stream, and share your media files. The device supports real-time 4K Ultra HD video transcoding for seamless streaming to various devices.

Cloud Synchronization

Utilize Synology Drive or Cloud Sync to synchronize files across multiple devices and cloud services, ensuring your data is always up-to-date and accessible.

QuickConnect Setup

QuickConnect allows you to access your Synology NAS from anywhere without complex network configurations like port forwarding.

1. Go to **Control Panel** > **QuickConnect** in DSM.
2. Check "Enable QuickConnect".
3. Log in with your Synology Account. If you don't have one, you can register at http://account.synology.com.
4. Enter your preferred QuickConnect ID.
5. Click "Apply" to save the settings.
6. Once enabled, you can access your NAS by visiting http://quickconnect.to/YourQuickConnectID (replace "YourQuickConnectID" with your chosen ID) in a web browser or by entering the QuickConnect ID in Synology mobile apps.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance ensures the longevity and optimal performance of your Synology DS218play.

DSM Updates

Keep your DSM software updated to benefit from the latest features, security enhancements, and bug fixes. You can configure automatic updates via **Control Panel** > **Update & Restore**.

Hard Drive Health Check

Periodically check the health of your hard drives using S.M.A.R.T. tests available in **Storage Manager** > **HDD/SSD**. This helps in identifying potential drive failures early.

Data Backup

While SHR provides data redundancy, it is crucial to implement a comprehensive backup strategy. Utilize Synology's backup solutions like Hyper Backup to back up your NAS data to external drives, another Synology NAS, or cloud services.

Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your Synology DS218play, consider the following common troubleshooting steps:

- **Cannot find NAS via Web Assistant:** Ensure the NAS and your computer are on the same network. Try using Synology Assistant desktop utility.
- **Power LED blinking:** This usually indicates the NAS is booting up or shutting down. If it persists, check power connections.
- **Disk LED blinking:** Indicates disk activity. If it's blinking unusually or solid orange, check the drive status in DSM's Storage Manager.
- **Network connectivity issues:** Verify LAN cable connections and router status. Ensure correct IP settings if not using DHCP.
- **Forgotten password:** Use the reset button on the NAS (refer to the Quick Installation Guide for specific steps) to reset the administrator password without affecting data.

For more detailed troubleshooting or persistent issues, refer to the official Synology Knowledge Base or contact Synology Support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Synology DS218play Key Specifications

Feature	Detail
Brand	Synology
Series	DS218PLAY
Item Model Number	DS218play
RAM	1024 MB DDR4
Hard Drive Capacity (Max)	24 TB (per drive bay, actual capacity may vary)
Number of Processors	4 (Quad-core 1.4 GHz)
Item Weight	1.92 pounds
Product Dimensions (LxWxH)	8.88 x 6.5 x 3.94 inches
Color	Black
Material	Metal
Operating Temperature	5°C to 40°C (40°F to 104°F)
Storage Temperature	-20°C to 60°C (-5°F to 140°F)

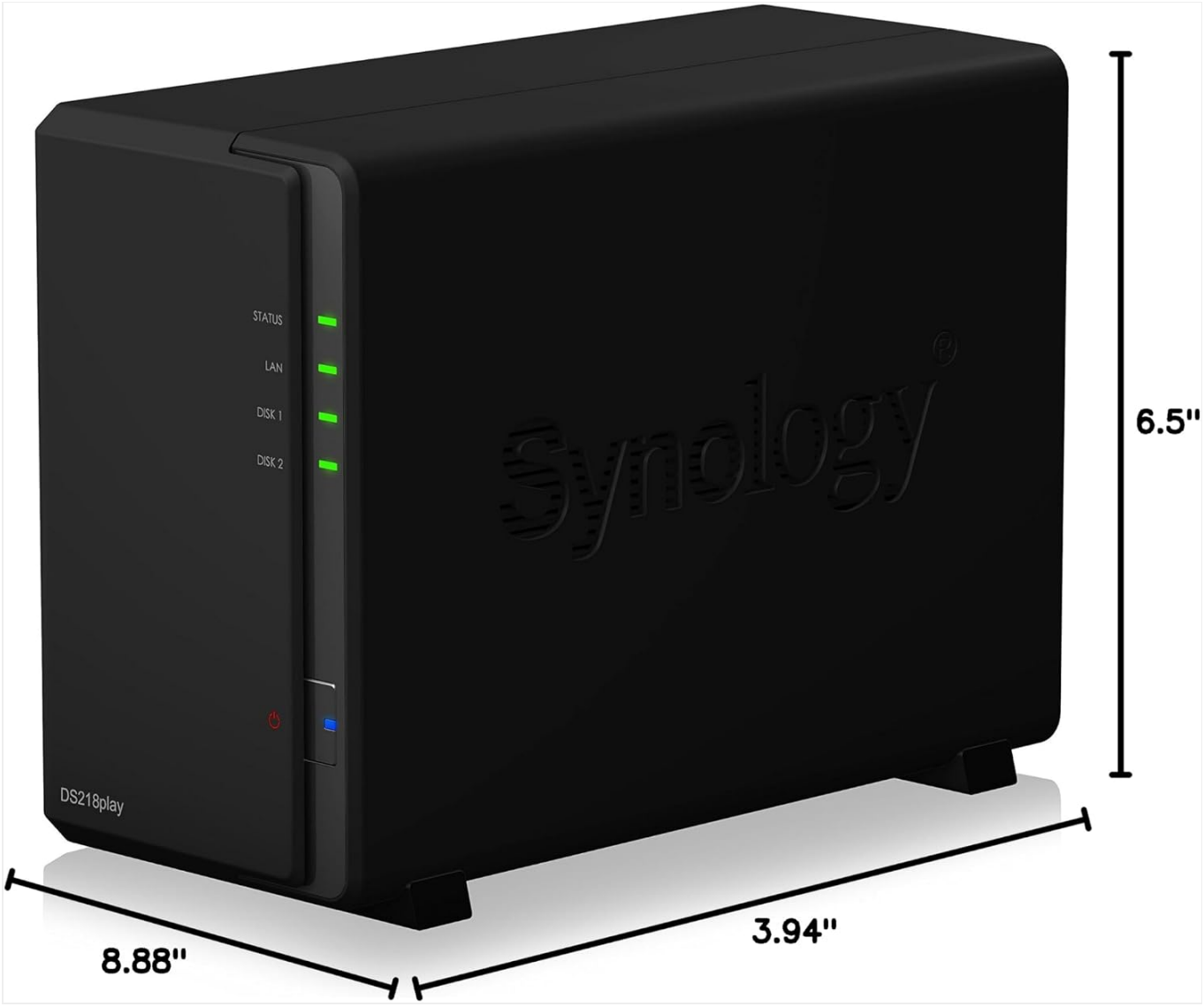


Figure 5: Synology DS218play with dimensions. This image shows the Synology DS218play with its approximate dimensions: 8.88 inches in depth, 3.94 inches in width, and 6.5 inches in height.

Warranty and Support

The Synology DS218play is backed by Synology's 2-year limited warranty. For warranty claims, technical support, or additional resources, please visit the official Synology support website.
Official Synology Support: https://www.synology.com/support

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