

Apricorn AFL3-2TB

Apricorn Aegis Fortress L3 (AFL3-2TB) 2TB Hardware Encrypted Portable Drive User Manual

Model: AFL3-2TB

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Apricorn Aegis Fortress L3 is a FIPS 140-2 Level 3 validated, hardware-encrypted portable drive designed for robust data security. It features AES-XTS 256-bit hardware encryption, protecting data on the fly as it is written to the drive. The device is built with an aircraft-grade 6061 aluminum alloy enclosure and a membrane-style keypad for PIN entry.

Key features include:

- **FIPS 140-2 Level 3 Validation:** Ensures the entire device meets stringent security requirements.
- **AES-XTS 256-bit Hardware Encryption:** All data is encrypted in real-time, independent of the host system.
- **Forced Enrollment:** Requires an Admin PIN to be set before first use, eliminating default PIN vulnerabilities.
- **Separate Admin and User Modes:** Allows for flexible access control and management.
- **Two Read-Only Modes:** Protects against malware and ensures data integrity in public or sensitive environments.
- **Brute-Force Defense:** Automatically performs a crypto-erase after a predetermined number of incorrect PIN entries, rendering data useless.
- **Cross-Platform Compatibility:** Operates with any PC, Mac, Linux, or mass storage compliant system with a powered USB port, without requiring software or drivers.



Figure 1: Apricorn Aegis Fortress L3 Portable Drive

2. WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Verify that all components are present in the packaging:

- Apricorn Aegis Fortress L3 External Hard Drive
- USB Type-A to Type-A Cable
- USB Type-C to Type-A Cable
- Travel Pouch
- Quick Start Guide

3. SETUP

3.1 Initial Connection

Connect the Aegis Fortress L3 to your computer using one of the provided USB cables. The drive is powered via the

USB connection. No external power adapter is required.



Figure 2: Connecting the drive to a laptop

3.2 Admin PIN Creation (Forced Enrollment)

Upon first connection, the drive will require you to set an Admin PIN. This is a mandatory security measure. Follow the on-screen or Quick Start Guide instructions to establish your Admin PIN. The PIN must be between 7 and 16 digits long.

1. Press the **SHIFT** button (key with padlock icon).
2. Enter your desired Admin PIN (7-16 digits).
3. Press the **SHIFT** button again.
4. Re-enter the Admin PIN to confirm.
5. Press the **SHIFT** button one last time.

The drive's LEDs will indicate successful PIN creation. Refer to the Quick Start Guide for specific LED patterns.



Figure 3: Entering PIN on the keypad

3.3 User PIN Creation (Optional)

As an Admin, you can create up to four User PINs. This allows other individuals to access the drive without knowing the Admin PIN. User PINs can be configured with different access rights (e.g., Read-Only). Consult the full user manual for detailed instructions on creating and managing User PINs.

4. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

4.1 Unlocking the Drive

To access the drive, it must be unlocked using a valid PIN (Admin or User).

1. Connect the Aegis Fortress L3 to a powered USB port.
2. Enter your Admin or User PIN on the keypad.
3. Press the **UNLOCK** button (key with open padlock icon).

The drive's LED indicators will confirm successful unlocking, and the drive will become accessible on your computer.

4.2 Data Transfer

Once unlocked, the Aegis Fortress L3 functions like any standard external hard drive. You can drag and drop files, copy, paste, and manage data using your operating system's file explorer.

4.3 Read-Only Modes

The Aegis Fortress L3 offers two Read-Only modes to protect data integrity:

- **Standard Read-Only:** Prevents any modification or deletion of data on the drive. Ideal for accessing data in potentially insecure environments (e.g., public computers) to prevent malware infection.
- **Unalterable Read-Only:** Designed for applications requiring data to be preserved in its original, unaltered state. Once enabled, data cannot be overwritten or modified until the mode is disabled by the Admin.

Refer to the full user manual for instructions on how to activate and deactivate these modes.

4.4 Locking the Drive

To secure your data, always lock the drive when not in use or before disconnecting it.

- **Manual Lock:** Press the **LOCK** button (key with closed padlock icon) on the keypad.
- **Automatic Lock:** The drive will automatically lock after a period of inactivity (configurable by Admin) or when safely ejected/disconnected from the computer.

5. MAINTENANCE

To ensure the longevity and optimal performance of your Aegis Fortress L3 drive:

- **Physical Care:** Handle the drive with care. While rugged, it contains a mechanical hard disk drive which can be sensitive to drops or impacts.
- **Cleaning:** Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the enclosure and keypad. Avoid abrasive cleaners or liquids that could damage the electronics.
- **Temperature:** Operate and store the drive within recommended temperature ranges (refer to specifications). Avoid extreme heat or cold.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure adequate airflow around the drive, especially during prolonged use, as it may generate some heat.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

6.1 Drive Not Recognized

- Ensure the drive is properly connected to a powered USB port. Try a different USB port or cable.
- Verify the drive is unlocked. The appropriate LED indicator should be lit.
- Check your computer's Disk Management (Windows) or Disk Utility (macOS) to see if the drive is detected but not assigned a drive letter or mounted.
- Restart your computer.

6.2 Incorrect PIN Entry / Brute-Force Defense

If you enter an incorrect PIN multiple times, the drive's brute-force defense mechanism will activate. After a predetermined number of consecutive incorrect entries, the drive will perform a crypto-erase, deleting the encryption key and rendering all data inaccessible. This is a security feature and cannot be reversed. Ensure you remember your PINs.

6.3 Slow Data Transfer Speeds

The Aegis Fortress L3 utilizes a mechanical hard disk drive (HDD). While USB 3.0 provides fast connectivity, the inherent speed of an HDD is lower than Solid State Drives (SSDs). Transfer speeds may also vary depending on the file size, type, and the performance of your computer's USB port.

6.4 Drive Runs Warm

It is normal for the drive to become warm during extended periods of heavy use, especially during large data transfers. Ensure it has adequate ventilation and is not covered.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Number	AFL3-2TB
Digital Storage Capacity	2000 GB (2TB)
Hard Disk Interface	USB 3.0
Connectivity Technology	USB
Encryption	AES-XTS 256-bit Hardware Encryption
Validation	FIPS 140-2 Level 3 Validated
Hard Disk Form Factor	2.5 Inches
Hard Disk Description	Mechanical Hard Disk
Hard Disk Rotational Speed	5400 RPM
Data Transfer Rate	Up to 600 Megabytes Per Second (USB 3.0 theoretical max)
Compatible Devices	Desktop, Laptop (PC, Mac, Linux)
Installation Type	External Hard Drive
Color	Black
Item Weight	Approximately 1.1 Pounds
Form Factor	Portable
Manufacturer	Apricorn Direct

8. WARRANTY INFORMATION

The Apricorn Aegis Fortress L3 (AFL3-2TB) comes with a **3-year limited warranty** from the date of purchase. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. It does not cover damage caused by accident, misuse, abuse, unauthorized modification, or natural disaster.

For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please refer to the official Apricorn website or the documentation included with your product.

9. SUPPORT

For technical assistance, product inquiries, or warranty claims, please contact Apricorn customer support. You can typically find support contact information on the official Apricorn website (www.apricorn.com) or in the Quick Start Guide provided with your device.

When contacting support, please have your model number (AFL3-2TB) and purchase information readily available.



© 2024 Apricorn. All rights reserved. Information subject to change without notice.