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OWC Aura N2

OWC Aura N2 NVMe Solid State Drive Instruction Manual

Model: Aura N2 (OWCS4DAB4MB10)

Brand: OWC

1. INTRODUCTION

This manual provides instructions for the installation, operation, and maintenance of your OWC Aura N2 NVMe Solid State Drive.

Product Overview

The OWC Aura N2 is a high-performance NVMe PCIe 3.1 x4 solid state drive designed to upgrade the storage capacity and speed of compatible Mac computers.

Compatibility

This drive is compatible with the following Mac models:

- MacBook Pro Retina, 13-inch and 15-inch, Late 2013-2015 (MacBookPro11,1, MacBookPro11,2, MacBookPro11,3, MacBookPro12,1, MacBookPro11,4, MacBookPro11,5)
- MacBook Air 11-inch and 13-inch, Mid 2013-Mid 2017 (MacBookAir6,1, MacBookAir6,2, MacBookAir7,1, MacBookAir7,2)
- Mac mini Late 2014 (Macmini7,1)

Ensure your Mac's macOS version is 10.12 or later for optimal compatibility.

2. PACKAGE CONTENTS

What's Included

- 1 x OWC Aura N2 NVMe Solid State Drive (1TB capacity)

(Note: Additional tools or enclosures may be sold separately depending on the specific kit purchased.)

3. SETUP

Before Installation

- **Backup Your Data:** Before beginning any hardware upgrade, it is crucial to back up all important data from your existing drive. Use Time Machine or another reliable backup solution.
- **Gather Tools:** You will need appropriate tools for opening your Mac and handling small components. These typically include pentalobe and Torx screwdrivers.
- **Static Discharge:** Work in a static-free environment. Use an anti-static wrist strap to prevent damage to sensitive electronic components.
- **Firmware Update:** Ensure your Mac's firmware is up to date. Some older Mac models require a specific firmware update to support NVMe SSDs. Refer to OWC's official support resources for detailed instructions on firmware updates for your specific Mac model.

Installation Steps

1. **Power Off and Disconnect:** Completely shut down your Mac and disconnect all power cables and peripherals.
2. **Open Your Mac:** Carefully open the bottom case of your Mac using the appropriate screwdrivers. Refer to a specific guide for your Mac model for precise instructions.
3. **Locate and Remove Old SSD:** Identify the existing SSD. It is typically secured by a single screw. Unscrew it and gently pull the old SSD out of its slot.
4. **Insert OWC Aura N2 SSD:** Align the OWC Aura N2 SSD with the slot. Gently push it in until it is fully seated. Secure it with the screw removed in the previous step.
5. **Close Your Mac:** Carefully reattach the bottom case of your Mac, ensuring all screws are tightened properly.

Post-Installation

1. **Boot into Recovery Mode:** Connect your Mac to power. Turn it on and immediately press and hold **Command (⌘) + R** to boot into macOS Recovery.
2. **Format the New SSD:** In macOS Recovery, open Disk Utility. Select the new OWC Aura N2 SSD (it may appear as an uninitialized drive). Erase and format it using the APFS file system (or Mac OS Extended (Journaled) if installing an older macOS version).
3. **Install macOS:** After formatting, select "Reinstall macOS" from the macOS Utilities window and follow the on-screen instructions to install macOS onto your new OWC Aura N2 SSD.
4. **Restore Data:** Once macOS is installed, you can restore your backed-up data using Migration Assistant or by manually copying files.



Image: The OWC Aura N2 NVMe Solid State Drive, a blue circuit board with black memory chips and a gold connector.

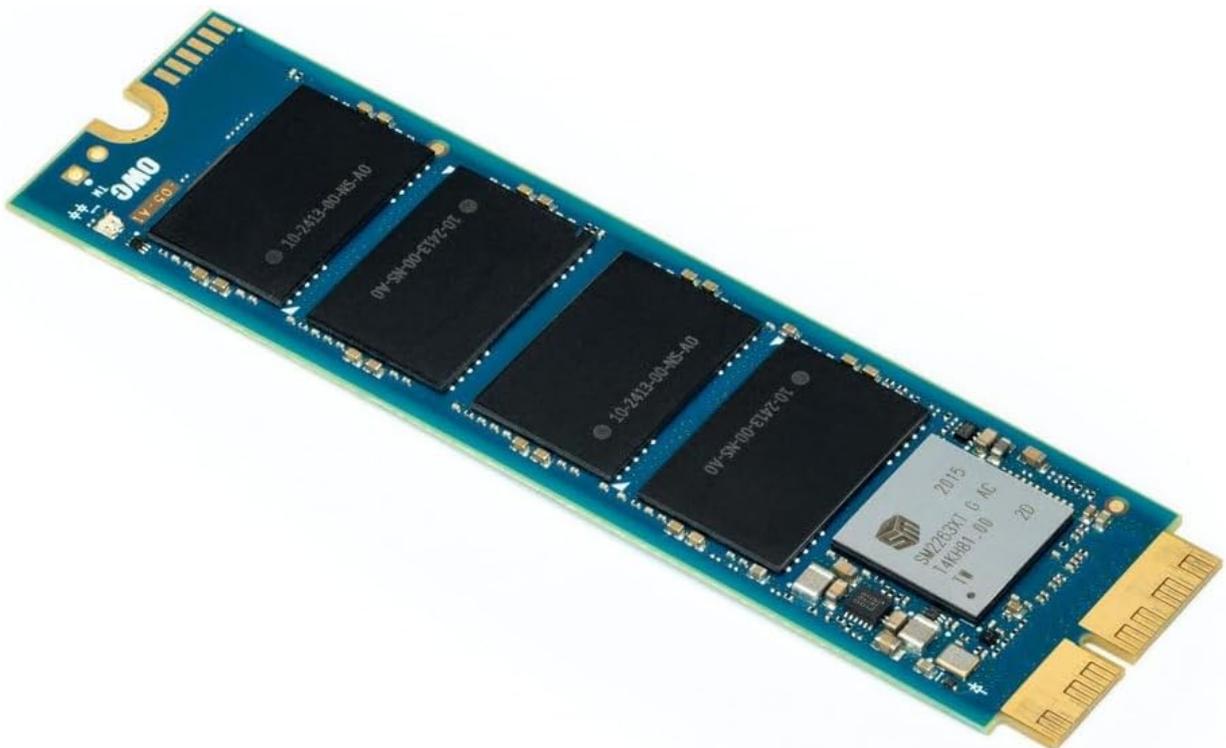


Image: Top view of the OWC Aura N2 NVMe SSD, showing the layout of the components and the OWC branding.



Image: Bottom view of the OWC Aura N2 NVMe SSD, displaying the circuit board traces and a QR code label.

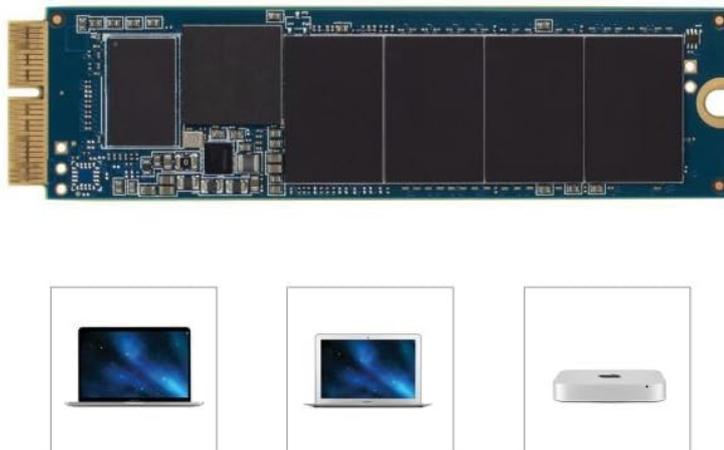


Image: The OWC Aura N2 SSD shown alongside compatible Mac devices: a MacBook Pro, a MacBook Air, and a Mac mini.



Image: A graphic depicting the OWC Aura N2 SSD being installed into a MacBook, with data migration icons shown on the screen.

4. OPERATING

General Usage

Once installed and macOS is set up, your OWC Aura N2 SSD will function as your primary storage drive. It offers significantly faster read and write speeds compared to traditional hard drives and older SSDs.

Performance Notes

- **Speed:** Expect read speeds up to 2382MB/s and write speeds up to 1732MB/s, enhancing system responsiveness, application loading, and file transfers.
- **NVMe Technology:** The NVMe (Non-Volatile Memory Express) interface provides a direct communication pathway between the SSD and the CPU, reducing latency and maximizing throughput.
- **Power Efficiency:** SSDs consume less power than traditional hard drives, potentially extending battery life in portable Macs.

5. MAINTENANCE

Data Management

- **Regular Backups:** Continue to perform regular data backups to an external drive or cloud service. While SSDs are reliable, data loss can still occur due to various factors.
- **Trim Support:** macOS automatically manages TRIM for SSDs, which helps maintain performance over time by efficiently managing data blocks. Ensure your macOS is up to date for optimal TRIM functionality.
- **Avoid Filling to Capacity:** For best performance and longevity, avoid filling your SSD to its absolute maximum capacity. Leaving some free space allows the drive to perform wear-leveling and garbage collection more effectively.

6. TROUBLESHOOTING

Common Issues and Solutions

- **SSD Not Recognized:**
 - Ensure the SSD is fully seated in its slot.
 - Verify that your Mac's firmware is updated to support NVMe SSDs.
 - Try booting into macOS Recovery and checking Disk Utility to see if the drive appears there.
- **Slow Performance:**
 - Confirm that TRIM is enabled (usually automatic with macOS).
 - Check if the drive is nearly full. Free up some space if necessary.
 - Ensure your macOS is updated.
- **Installation Failure:**
 - Double-check all physical connections.
 - Re-attempt the macOS installation process from recovery mode.
 - Verify the drive was correctly formatted in Disk Utility.

For further assistance, refer to the OWC support website or contact customer service.

7. SPECIFICATIONS

Technical Specifications

Feature	Detail
Model Name	Aura N2
Model Number	OWCS4DAB4MB10
Digital Storage Capacity	1 TB
Hard Disk Interface	NVMe
Connectivity Technology	PCIe 3.1 x4, NVMe 1.3
Read Speed	Up to 2382 MB/s
Write Speed	Up to 1732 MB/s
Form Factor	NVMe SSD (M.2-like, specific for Mac)
Compatible Devices	MacBook Pro Retina (Late 2013-2015), MacBook Air (Mid 2013-Mid 2017), Mac mini (Late 2014)
Item Dimensions (L x W x Th)	3.5" x 0.9" x 0.1"
Item Weight	7 Grams
Material	NAND flash

8. WARRANTY

Product Warranty

The OWC Aura N2 NVMe Solid State Drive comes with a **3-Year OWC Limited Warranty**. This warranty covers defects in materials and workmanship under normal use. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For detailed warranty terms and conditions, please visit the official OWC website.

9. SUPPORT

Customer Support

If you encounter any issues or have questions regarding your OWC Aura N2 SSD, please refer to the following resources:

- **OWC Support Website:** www.owcdigital.com/support
- **Contact OWC:** For direct assistance, you can contact OWC customer service through their website or by phone (contact details typically found on their support page).