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› [Synology](#) /

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Synology DS224+8tVN

Synology DS224+ 2-Bay Diskstation NAS User Manual

Model: DS224+8tVN | Brand: Synology

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Synology DiskStation DS224+ is a compact Network Attached Storage (NAS) solution designed for centralized data management for small organizations and teams. This 2-bay system supports both 3.5" and 2.5" SATA hard drives and SSDs, offering ample storage capacity for various needs. It operates on the intuitive Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM) operating system, providing a user-friendly interface for managing your data.

Equipped with an Intel Celeron J4125 quad-core processor and 2GB of DDR4 RAM (expandable to 6GB), the DS224+ ensures responsive performance even when multitasking or accessing files from multiple devices. It supports up to 2048 user accounts and 1500 maximum concurrent connections, making it suitable for collaborative environments. Key functionalities include file sharing, media streaming, cloud syncing, and support for Docker-based applications.



Figure 1: Front view of the Synology DS224+ NAS, showing the power button, USB port, and status indicator lights for system, LAN, and disks.

2. SETUP

Setting up your Synology DS224+ is a straightforward process. The system is designed for easy drive installation, and the Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM) provides helpful wizards to guide you through the initial configuration. Ensure you have compatible 3.5-inch or 2.5-inch SATA drives for installation.

2.1 Drive Installation

1. Power off the NAS and disconnect all cables.
2. Locate the drive bays on the front of the unit.
3. Slide out the drive trays.
4. Install your 3.5-inch or 2.5-inch SATA drives into the trays, securing them with the provided screws if necessary (tool-less design for 3.5-inch drives).

5. Slide the populated drive trays back into the NAS until they click into place.

2.2 Initializing DSM

After installing the drives, connect the NAS to your network via the RJ-45 LAN ports and power it on. You can then access the DiskStation Manager (DSM) through a web browser on a computer connected to the same network. Follow the on-screen instructions to install DSM and configure your storage volumes.



Figure 2: Rear view of the Synology DS224+ NAS, highlighting the two RJ-45 1GbE LAN ports and USB 3.2 Gen 1 ports for network and peripheral connections.

3. OPERATING

The Synology DS224+ runs on DiskStation Manager (DSM), a comprehensive and user-friendly operating system that provides a wide range of features for data management and multimedia. DSM's intuitive interface allows for easy navigation and control over your NAS functionalities.

3.1 File Management and Sharing

DSM offers robust tools for organizing, accessing, and sharing your files. You can create shared folders, manage user permissions, and access your data from various devices, including computers, smartphones, and tablets. File Station, a web-based file manager, simplifies file operations.

3.2 Multimedia Streaming

Utilize applications like Video Station, Audio Station, and Photo Station to stream your multimedia content to compatible devices. The DS224+ acts as a central media server, allowing you to enjoy your movies, music, and photos across your home network.

3.3 Cloud Syncing and Backup

Integrate your NAS with various public cloud services for seamless file synchronization. Synology's backup solutions, such as Hyper Backup, allow you to create comprehensive backup tasks to protect your data against loss, ensuring data integrity and availability.

3.4 Docker Support

For advanced users, the DS224+ supports Docker, enabling you to deploy and run a wide array of containerized applications. This expands the functionality of your NAS beyond standard file storage, allowing for custom server setups and development environments.

4. MAINTENANCE

Regular maintenance is crucial for ensuring the longevity and optimal performance of your Synology DS224+ NAS. Adhering to these practices will help protect your data and maintain system stability.

- **Regular Backups:** Implement a consistent backup strategy for critical data stored on the NAS. Utilize DSM's Hyper Backup to external drives or cloud services.
- **Firmware Updates:** Keep your DiskStation Manager (DSM) firmware updated to the latest version. Updates often include security patches, bug fixes, and new features.
- **Drive Health Monitoring:** Periodically check the S.M.A.R.T. status of your hard drives within DSM to anticipate potential drive failures. Replace drives proactively if warnings appear.
- **System Logs Review:** Regularly review system logs in DSM for any unusual activity or error messages that might indicate underlying issues.
- **Physical Cleaning:** Ensure proper airflow by keeping the NAS unit and its vents free from dust. Use compressed air to gently clean fan vents.
- **UPS Connection:** For enhanced data protection during power outages, connect your NAS to an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS).

5. TROUBLESHOOTING

If you encounter issues with your Synology DS224+ NAS, consider the following troubleshooting steps before seeking further assistance.

- **No Power:**
 - Verify the power cable is securely connected to both the NAS and a working power outlet.
 - Check if the power adapter is functioning correctly.
- **Cannot Access NAS:**
 - Ensure the network cables are properly connected to the NAS and your router/switch.
 - Check the LAN indicator lights on the front of the NAS; they should be active.
 - Verify your computer is on the same network as the NAS.
 - Try restarting your router, then the NAS.
 - Use Synology Assistant (desktop utility) to locate the NAS on your network.
- **Disk Errors/Warnings:**
 - Check the Disk indicator lights on the front of the NAS. A blinking or orange light may indicate an issue.
 - Access DSM and navigate to Storage Manager to check the health status of your drives.
 - If a drive is failing, follow DSM's instructions for replacement and data recovery (if applicable, e.g., with RAID).
- **Slow Performance:**

- Check network congestion or cable quality.
- Monitor CPU and RAM usage in DSM's Resource Monitor. High usage might indicate too many active tasks or applications.
- Ensure your drives are not excessively fragmented (though DSM handles this largely automatically).

- **Forgotten Password:**

- Use the reset button on the back of the NAS (refer to Figure 2) to reset the admin password without affecting data. Hold for 4 seconds until a beep is heard.

For more detailed troubleshooting, consult the comprehensive help documentation within Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM) or visit the official Synology support website.

6. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	Synology
Model Number	DS224+8tVN
CPU Model	Intel Celeron J4125 4-core 2.0 (base) / 2.7 (burst) GHz
RAM	2GB DDR4 (expandable to 6GB)
Drive Bays	2
Compatible Drive Types	3.5" SATA HDD, 2.5" SATA HDD, 2.5" SATA SSD
Maximum Raw Capacity	Up to 36 TB (with compatible drives)
LAN Ports	2x RJ-45 1GbE LAN-Port
USB Ports	2x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Port
Dimensions (LxWxH)	9.17 x 4.25 x 6.5 inches
Item Weight	6.78 pounds
Operating System	Synology DiskStation Manager (DSM)

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding the product warranty, please refer to the warranty card included with your Synology DS224+ or visit the official Synology website. Synology provides comprehensive online resources, including knowledge base articles, tutorials, and a support forum, to assist users with their products.

Should you require technical assistance, you can contact Synology support directly through their website. Please have your product model and serial number ready when contacting support to facilitate a quicker resolution.

Official Synology Support: <https://www.synology.com/support>