FREEWELL FW-PGHB-R

Freewell PRO SSD Hub with M.2 Interface Instruction Manual

Comprehensive guide for setting up, operating, and maintaining your Freewell PRO SSD Hub, designed for iPhone 15 Pro and above, supporting 4K 60fps ProRes recording.

Introduction

The Freewell PRO SSD Hub with M.2 Interface is an accessory designed to expand storage and connectivity for compatible smartphones, including the iPhone 15 Pro and newer models. It facilitates external recording of high-resolution video, offers multiple USB-C ports for accessories and charging, and provides versatile mounting options for content creators.

Package Contents

- Freewell PRO SSD Hub for Smartphones
- Bluetooth Remote (with included C batteries)
- USB-C to USB-C Cable
- Additional accessories may vary by package.

Note: An M.2 SSD is not included and must be purchased separately.

Setup Guide

1. Installing an M.2 SSD

The Freewell PRO SSD Hub supports M.2 SSDs with 2280, 2260, 2242, and 2230 interfaces, up to 8TB capacity. For optimal performance and compatibility with iPhones, it is recommended to use an M.2 SSD with a power consumption of 5W or less. SSDs requiring more than 5W may need an external power source.

1. Locate the SSD bay on the Freewell PRO SSD Hub.
2. Gently open the SSD bay cover.
3. Insert your M.2 SSD into the slot, ensuring it is properly seated.
4. Secure the SSD and close the bay cover.



Figure 1: M.2 SSD installation bay.

2. Formatting the SSD for iPhone Compatibility

For proper functionality with iPhones, the M.2 SSD must be formatted to exFAT. Refer to the following general steps for formatting:

- **On iPhone:** Connect the SSD Hub to your iPhone. Navigate to the Files app, then browse to the SSD. You may be prompted to format. Select exFAT.
- **On Mac:** Connect the SSD Hub to your Mac. Open Disk Utility, select the SSD, and choose "Erase." Select exFAT as the format.
- **On Windows:** Connect the SSD Hub to your Windows PC. Open Disk Management, right-click the SSD, and choose "Format." Select exFAT as the file system.

Important: Always back up any important data before formatting an SSD.

3. Connecting to your Smartphone

1. Place your iPhone (15 Pro or above) into the adjustable clamp of the Freewell PRO SSD Hub. Ensure a secure fit.
2. Connect the provided USB-C to USB-C cable from your iPhone's USB-C port to the designated SSD data port on the Freewell PRO SSD Hub.



Figure 2: Freewell PRO SSD Hub connected to an iPhone.



Figure 3: Detailed view of the USB-C connection.

4. Bluetooth Remote Pairing

The included Bluetooth remote allows for hands-free photo and video capture.

1. Ensure the Bluetooth remote has power (C batteries are included).
2. Activate Bluetooth on your smartphone.
3. Put the Bluetooth remote into pairing mode (refer to the remote's specific instructions, usually a long press on a button).
4. Select the remote from your smartphone's Bluetooth device list to pair.



Figure 4: Bluetooth remote shutter button on the grip.

Operating Instructions

External Recording

Once the SSD Hub is connected and the SSD is formatted, your iPhone 15 Pro (or above) can record 4K 60fps ProRes video directly to the external M.2 SSD. This significantly expands your recording capacity.

- Open your camera application on the iPhone.
- Ensure the recording settings are configured for ProRes video (if desired) and that the external SSD is recognized as the storage destination.
- Begin recording.

For Android devices, third-party applications such as MotionCam, Blackmagic, or Filmic Pro may be required to enable external recording functionality.

Multi-Connectivity USB-C Ports

The hub features three dedicated USB-C ports:

- **SSD Data Port:** For connecting to your smartphone and accessing the M.2 SSD.
- **Accessory Port:** For connecting external accessories such as wireless audio receivers or other USB-C compatible devices.
- **60W Fast Charging Port:** For providing power to the hub and fast charging your connected smartphone.

Data Transfer

The high-speed Type-C port supports 10Gbps data transfer, enabling quick transfer of large video files and extensive photo libraries between the SSD and a computer.

Mounting Options

The Freewell PRO SSD Hub includes integrated cold shoe and ARCA mounts for attaching additional equipment.

- **Cold Shoe Mounts:** Use for attaching lights, microphones, or other cold shoe compatible accessories.
- **ARCA Mount:** Provides compatibility with ARCA-Swiss style tripod heads for stable mounting.



Figure 5: Freewell PRO SSD Hub in use with an external lens.

Maintenance

- Keep the device clean by wiping it with a soft, dry cloth.
- Avoid exposing the device to extreme temperatures, moisture, or direct sunlight.
- Ensure all ports are free from dust and debris to maintain optimal connectivity.
- Store the device in a protective case when not in use to prevent scratches or damage.

Troubleshooting

SSD Not Registering

- Ensure the M.2 SSD is correctly installed in the bay.
- Verify that the SSD is formatted to exFAT, which is required for iPhone compatibility.
- Check the USB-C connection between the hub and your smartphone. Ensure it is secure.
- If using an SSD with power consumption greater than 5W, ensure an external power source is connected to the hub's 60W charging port.
- Restart your smartphone and reconnect the hub.

Phone/Case Fit Issues

- The clamp is designed to securely hold compatible iPhones (15 Pro and above). Some larger phone models or thick phone cases/cages may not fit optimally.
- Ensure the phone is positioned correctly within the clamp.
- Be aware that certain phone models (e.g., Samsung S25 Ultra) may experience camera obstruction if the SSD hub is attached directly to the phone via magnet without the grip.

Recording Issues (e.g., 4K 60fps ProRes)

- Confirm that your smartphone's camera settings are correctly configured for the desired recording format (e.g., ProRes).
- Ensure the external SSD is selected as the recording destination within your camera app.
- If experiencing intermittent issues, try disconnecting and reconnecting the hub, or restarting the camera application.
- For Android devices, ensure you are using a compatible third-party camera application that supports external recording.

Bluetooth Remote Not Connecting

- Check the battery level of the Bluetooth remote. Replace batteries if necessary.
- Ensure Bluetooth is enabled on your smartphone.
- Re-initiate pairing mode on the remote and re-pair with your smartphone.
- Ensure no other Bluetooth devices are interfering with the connection.

Specifications

Brand	FREEWELL
Model Number	FW-PGHB-R
Compatible Devices	iPhone 15 Pro, iPhone 15 Pro Max, iPhone 16 Pro, iPhone 16 Pro Max
Hardware Interface	Bluetooth, USB 3.2 Gen 2 (10Gbps)
M.2 SSD Compatibility	2280, 2260, 2242, 2230 interfaces (up to 8TB)
USB Ports	3 (1x SSD Data, 1x Accessory, 1x 60W Charging)
Fast Charging	60W Power Delivery
Bluetooth Remote Range	Up to 15 meters
Mounting Options	Cold Shoe, ARCA-Swiss
Item Weight	14.1 ounces (approx. 400 grams)
Color	Black
Batteries	1 C battery required (included for remote)

Warranty Information

Specific warranty details for the Freewell PRO SSD Hub are typically provided at the point of purchase or on the manufacturer's official website. Please retain your proof of purchase for warranty claims.

For information regarding extended protection plans, please refer to the options available from your retailer.

Customer Support

For further assistance, technical support, or inquiries, please visit the official Freewell website or contact their customer service department. Contact information can usually be found on the product packaging or the Freewell brand store page.
Online Resources:

- Freewell Amazon Store Page
- Refer to the manufacturer's website for the most up-to-date support information.

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