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› NETGEAR Nighthawk RS180 WiFi 7 Router User Manual

NETGEAR RS180

NETGEAR Nighthawk RS180 WiFi 7 Router User Manual

Your comprehensive guide to setting up, operating, and maintaining your NETGEAR Nighthawk RS180 WiFi 7 Router.

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The NETGEAR Nighthawk RS180 WiFi 7 Dual-band Router is engineered to deliver blazing-fast WiFi 7 speeds up to 5.5 Gbps, providing 1.2 times faster performance than WiFi 6. It offers extensive WiFi coverage up to 2,500 sq. ft. and supports connectivity for up to 80 devices simultaneously. This router is ideal for demanding applications such as stunning 4K streaming, seamless video conferencing, and reliably connecting numerous smart home devices. Integrated NETGEAR Armor security features provide an automatic shield for all connected devices, ensuring your family's online safety.



Figure 1: NETGEAR Nighthawk RS180 WiFi 7 Router, a sleek black hexagonal tower with indicator lights on the front.

Key Features:

- **Blazing-fast WiFi 7 speeds:** Up to 5.5 Gbps for gaming, smooth streaming, video conferencing, and entertainment.
- **Enhanced Speed:** WiFi 7 delivers 1.2x faster speeds than WiFi 6 to maximize performance across all devices. (Note: This is a Router, not a Modem.)
- **Advanced Security:** NETGEAR routers include built-in security measures like automatic firmware updates and Advanced Router Protection for enhanced safety.

- **Wide Coverage:** Sleek new design with high-performance antennas provides up to 2,500 sq. ft. of WiFi coverage.
- **Multi-Gig Internet Port:** A 2.5 Gig internet port supports multi-gig speeds with the latest cable or fiber internet service plans. (A separate modem may be required.)
- **Wired Connectivity:** Features 1 x 2.5 Gig and 3 x 1 Gig Ethernet LAN ports for fast wired connections.
- **NETGEAR Armor:** A powerful suite of tools for online safety, including protection against hackers, malware, and identity theft. (Includes a 30-day trial.)
- **Easy Management:** Set up and manage your WiFi effortlessly with the Nighthawk app.



The graphic features a dark grey background with white text. At the top left, 'NIGHTHAWK' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a vertical line and 'WiFi 7' in a larger, stylized font. Below this, the model number 'RS180' is enclosed in a rounded rectangular box. On the right side, a partial view of the black Nighthawk router is shown, with the brand name 'NIGHTHAWK' on its top surface and a vertical strip of ports at the bottom, including a power button, a refresh icon, and a '1 2.5G' port label. The main text on the left lists key capabilities: 'Up to 5.5 Gbps streaming speed', 'Up to 2,500 sq. ft. WiFi coverage', 'Up to 80 concurrent devices', and '2.5 Gig internet & LAN ports'.

NIGHTHAWK | WiFi 7

RS180

Up to 5.5 Gbps
streaming speed

Up to 2,500 sq. ft.
WiFi coverage

Up to 80
concurrent devices

2.5 Gig
internet & LAN ports

Figure 2: Visual summary of Nighthawk WiFi 7 RS180 capabilities, highlighting speeds, coverage, device capacity, and port types.

2. SETUP GUIDE

What's in the Box:

- One (1) WiFi 7 Dual-Band Router (RS180)
- One (1) 2m Ethernet cable
- One (1) 12V/2.5A power adapter
- Quick start guide

Initial Setup Steps:

1. **Power On:** Connect the provided 12V/2.5A power adapter to the router and plug it into a power outlet. Wait for the power LED on the router to stabilize.
2. **Connect to Modem:** Use the included Ethernet cable to connect the 2.5 Gig Internet port (yellow) on your RS180 router to your existing modem's Ethernet port. Ensure your modem is powered on and connected to your internet service.
3. **Connect Devices (Wired):** For wired connections, use standard Ethernet cables to connect your devices (e.g., computers, gaming consoles) to the 1 Gig or 2.5 Gig Ethernet LAN ports on the back of the router.
4. **Connect Devices (Wireless):** Locate the default WiFi network name (SSID) and password on the label of your router. On your wireless devices (smartphones, tablets, laptops), select this network and enter the password to connect.
5. **Install Nighthawk App:** Download the NETGEAR Nighthawk app from your mobile device's app store (Apple App Store or Google Play Store). Follow the in-app instructions to complete the router setup, personalize your WiFi settings (SSID, password), and activate security features.

2.5 Gig internet & LAN ports support fast wired connections

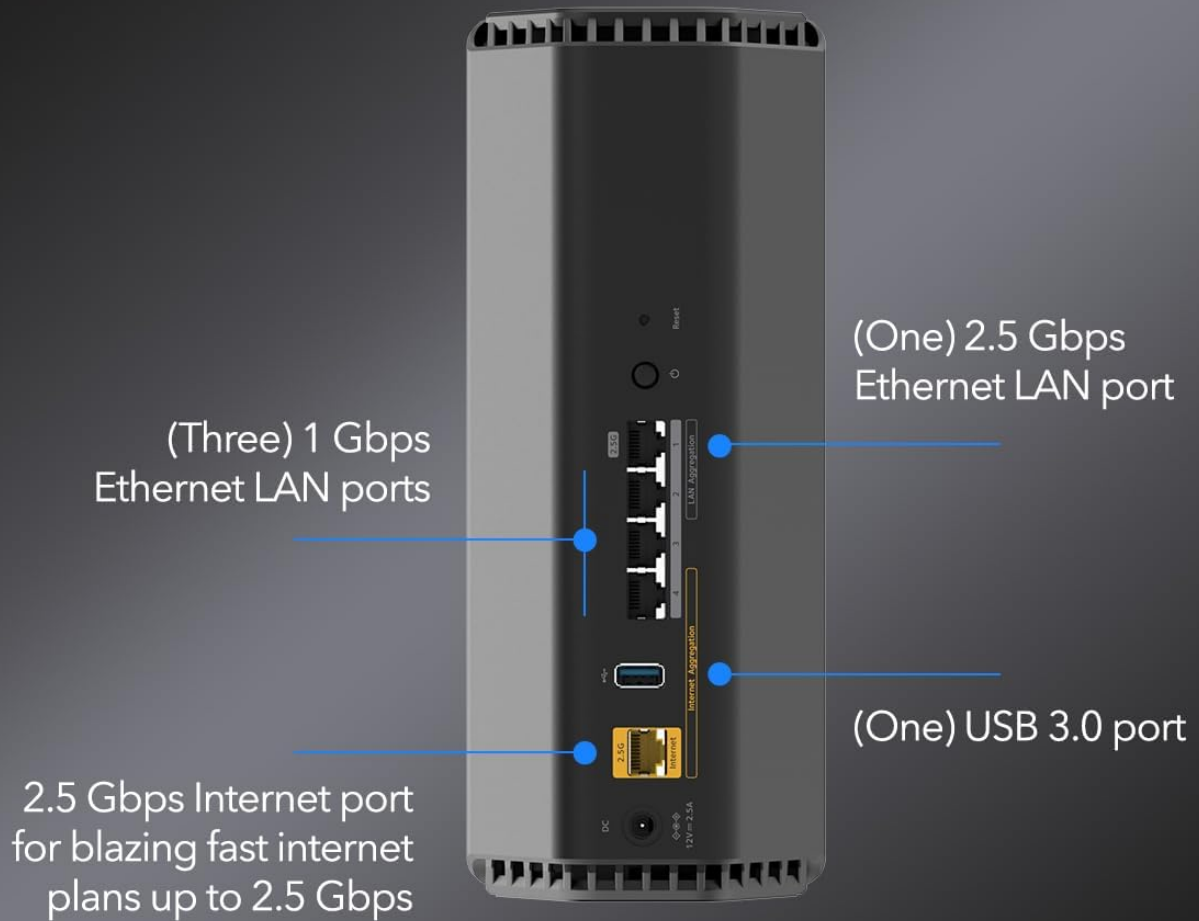


Figure 3: Rear view of the Nighthawk RS180 router, showing the 2.5 Gig Internet port, 2.5 Gig LAN port, 1 Gig LAN ports, and USB 3.0 port.

All-new, patented antenna design provides enhanced WiFi performance and coverage



Figure 4: Screenshot of the Nighthawk app interface, demonstrating device management and network mapping features.

3. OPERATING YOUR ROUTER

Connecting Devices:

The Nighthawk RS180 supports both wired and wireless connections. For wireless devices, simply select your personalized WiFi network (SSID) from the available networks list on your device and enter your password. For wired connections, plug an Ethernet cable from your device into any of the available LAN ports on the router.

Managing Your Network:

The Nighthawk app provides comprehensive tools to manage your home network. You can:

- Test WiFi speeds.
- Monitor data usage.
- View connected devices.

- Pause WiFi on specific devices.
- Set up guest networks.
- Configure parental controls.

Security Features:

Your Nighthawk RS180 router comes with built-in security features to protect your network and connected devices. NETGEAR Armor, powered by Bitdefender, offers a powerful suite of tools for cybersecurity, VPN, and parental controls. Ensure automatic firmware updates are enabled to receive the latest security patches and performance enhancements.



Figure 5: NETGEAR Armor security features, emphasizing protection for all connected devices.

4. MAINTENANCE AND BEST PRACTICES

- **Keep Firmware Updated:** Regularly check for and install firmware updates through the Nighthawk app or

router's web interface. This ensures optimal performance, security, and access to new features.

- **Optimal Placement:** Place your router in a central location in your home, away from obstructions and interference sources (like microwaves or cordless phones), to maximize WiFi coverage and signal strength.
- **Regular Reboot:** Periodically reboot your router (unplug from power for 10 seconds, then plug back in) to refresh its connection and clear any temporary issues.
- **Secure Your Network:** Use a strong, unique password for your WiFi network and router administration. Enable WPA3 encryption if supported by your devices.
- **Guest Network:** Utilize the guest network feature for visitors to keep your main network secure and private.

NETGEAR[®]
ARMOR[™] | POWERED BY
Bitdefender[®]

A powerful suite of tools to help keep you safe online. Includes 30-day trial.

- ✓ Cybersecurity
- ✓ VPN
- ✓ Extended Warranty
- ✓ Priority Support

Figure 6: Illustration of optimal router placement within a home to achieve enhanced WiFi power and coverage.

5. TROUBLESHOOTING COMMON ISSUES

Problem	Solution
No Internet Connection	<p>Check modem and router connections.</p> <p>Reboot both modem and router.</p> <p>Verify internet service status with your ISP.</p>
Slow WiFi Speeds	<p>Ensure router is centrally located and free from obstructions.</p> <p>Check for firmware updates.</p> <p>Reduce interference by changing WiFi channels (via Nighthawk app).</p> <p>Limit bandwidth-heavy activities or use QoS settings.</p>
Device Cannot Connect to WiFi	<p>Verify correct WiFi password.</p> <p>Ensure device is within WiFi range.</p> <p>Reboot the router and the device.</p> <p>Check if the device is blocked in parental controls or access lists.</p>

6. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Brand	NETGEAR
Model Name	RS180
Wireless Type	802.11.be (WiFi 7)
Frequency Band Class	Dual-Band (2.4 GHz, 5 GHz, 6 GHz)
Wireless Speed	Up to 5.5 Gbps
WiFi Coverage	Up to 2,500 sq. ft.
Device Capacity	Up to 80 devices
Ethernet Ports	1 x 2.5 Gig Internet Port, 1 x 2.5 Gig LAN Port, 3 x 1 Gig LAN Ports
USB Ports	1 x USB 3.0 Port
Operating System	Linux
Item Weight	3.38 pounds
Product Dimensions	9.8 x 5.9 x 4 inches
Power Adapter	12V/2.5A

7. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

NETGEAR products typically come with a limited hardware warranty. For specific warranty details and duration, please refer to the warranty information included with your product packaging or visit the official NETGEAR support website.

NETGEAR Armor: Your router includes a 30-day trial of NETGEAR Armor, providing comprehensive cybersecurity for all your connected devices. After the trial, a subscription is required to continue using these advanced protection features.

Customer Support: For technical assistance, troubleshooting, or product inquiries, you can utilize the NETGEAR Nighthawk app's built-in support features or visit the official NETGEAR support website. The Nighthawk app offers easy access to FAQs, guides, and direct support options.

For the most up-to-date support resources, please visit: www.netgear.com/support