

STOW AND SHOW

PORTABLE STORAGE MEDIA SOLUTIONS



Digital Foci's Picture Porter lets you view your digital photos as well as store them. It also comes with a convenient wireless remote control.

BY TOM BENFORD

With today's multi-megapixel cameras, it's easy to amass hundreds of megabytes (even gigabytes) worth of photos in a very short time, but where do you store all those photos?

Luckily, there are a number of products that can help you ease the squeeze imposed by your digital photos and let you keep snapping away. These products provide ways to transfer and store your photos, and some even let you view your shots so you can decide which ones are keepers and which ones should go to the recycle bin.

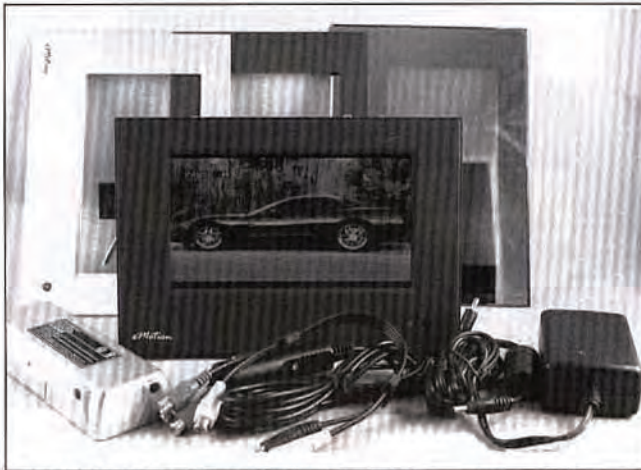
MEMORY CARDS

When I go on vacation I always shoot a copious amount of photos and, in the past, I've run out of storage space before I ran out of photo ops. So I've started carrying additional storage media. My wife Liz and I usually take along two cameras: a high-end digital SLR and a 7-megapixel (7MP) pocket-sized point-and-shoot camera for snapshots. Our digital SLR has a 1GB Microdrive for

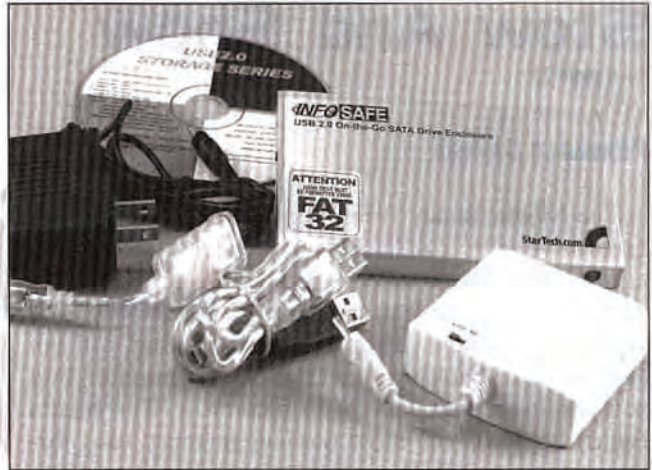
storage, but it can also take CompactFlash memory cards, so I always make sure I have a couple of extra CF cards in my camera bag when we go on holiday. Our digicam accepts Secure Digital or multimedia storage media, so I bring a couple of these puppies along with us, too. And to keep this media safe and secure, I keep it in a sturdy aluminum shell memory card travel case with a hard rubber lining that accommodates several different types of digital storage media from **Digital Foci**.

FLASH DRIVES

USB flash drives have become increasingly popular as portable storage solutions, and rightly so as their capacities have also increased. These are excellent for transferring your digital images to a computer or a portable hard drive to free up camera space. **Kingston's DataTraveler Accessory Kit** is a USB extension unit that gives you additional room to insert your USB flash drive or other USB peripheral, since the USB slot(s) on your laptop can sometimes be a bit cramped. The kit also includes a



The eMotion Digital Picture Frame & DVD Player from MediaStreet lets you preview your digital photos on a 7-in. high-resolution screen. With the optional accessories, it can be mounted on the headrest of your car to keep backseat passengers entertained.



The InfoSafe drive enclosure from StarTech lets you take your 2.5-in. hard drive and make it a portable SATA/USB2.0 storage solution. The unit can be powered via the PC's SATA or USB2.0 ports, or with the included battery pack that uses 4 AA batteries.



SanDisk's Photo Album displays your digital still pictures (or video clips) on a television set, and the device accepts any of eight flash memory card formats, as well as USB flash drives. It comes with a wireless remote for controlling your show.



Digital Foci's Memory Card Gateway is available in three colors, and provides a convenient way of transferring data directly from card to card by obtaining power from your PC or notebook's USB port.

neck strap to hold your flash drive with a detachable clip. Kingston also makes an assortment of digital memory cards and USB flash drives, too.

Digital Foci also has a memory card gateway that features direct card-to-card transfer and supports virtually every memory card format. It's also available in three colors (violet, silver and blue) so you can match the color of your notebook if you are so inclined.

PLAYBACK ON THE GO

Say you and the family have spent a full day of sight-seeing and now you're back in your hotel room. Everybody wants to see how the pictures came out, but the small LCD on the digital camera just won't cut it. That's where a digital photo TV player can come in handy.

SanDisk's Photo Album displays your digital stills on a TV set and lets you attach soundtracks to your slide shows, too. It also displays video clips and doubles as an MP3 music jukebox. The device will accept any one of eight flash memory card formats as well as USB flash drives, and

it comes with a wireless remote for controlling the show.

The eMotion Digital Picture Frame and DVD Player from MediaStreet is a cool portable viewer. In addition to viewing your digital photos, you can also play movies and videos in MPEG4/DivX, DVD, VCD and SVCD formats, plus it can play your CD, MP3 and WMA music. It features a 7-in. high-resolution TFT LCD screen, and it gives you the option of connecting it your PC or notebook via a USB port. When traveling, you can also get the optional car bag/seat mount for strapping the player to the headrest of your car seat to keep the kids entertained in the back seat. The LCD panel has controls with on-screen menus and it also comes with a credit card-sized remote control. The front frame plates can be interchanged with silver, black or blue frames and the smart Li-Ion rechargeable battery lasts for over 2.5 hours on a charge. Images can be rotated 180-degrees with the touch of a button. The unit has digital S/PDIF signal output, a headphone/speaker output jack and it comes with both AC power adapters and a DC car adapter.

continued on page 76

Stow And Show

from page 75

PORTABLE DRIVES

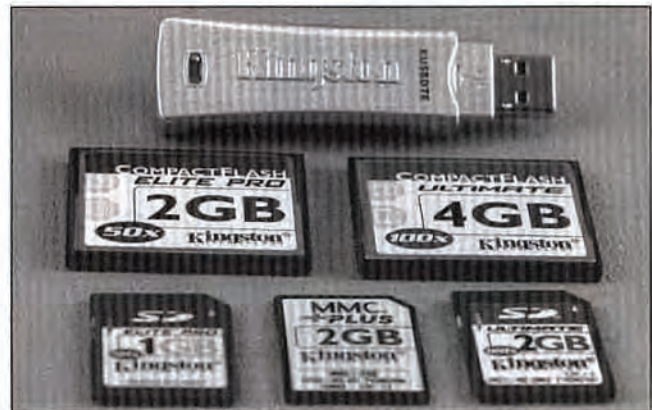
The **Media Buddy** from Digital Foci is a portable hard drive with a memory card reader that will certainly alleviate your storage problems on the road. In addition to being able to save your photos directly from your digital camera so you can keep shooting, you can also use it to back up files from your computer, and you can even play your MP3 files on it. The Media Buddy supports the most popular memory card formats today, and it comes in various capacities up to 80GB.

Also from Digital Foci, the **Picture Porter** is a portable hard drive, a video player, an MP3 player, a memory card reader, a data manager and a digital photo album. The unit can accept all of the same media formats as the Media Buddy and it can also output its audio and video to a TV—it even comes with a handy wireless remote control and it's available in either frosted white or graphite colors in 20GB or 40GB capacities.

The **Kanguru Media X-Change Pro** is a portable storage solution that permits you to download and store your digital photos from most media cards without the need of a computer. The device is available in 40GB to 100GB versions and it works with most memory card formats. It has a built-in FM tuner and recorder with 20 presets and it can also play MP3 and WMA audio files.

The **InfoSafe 2.5" SATA to USB 2.0** drive enclosure from **StarTech.com** turns virtually any 2.5" SATA hard drive into a portable storage solution. Once you install a drive into this enclosure, you can copy files directly from a digital camera, MP3 player, card reader or other USB device without the need to connect to a computer. Plus, with its unique back-up feature, you can copy files to the portable hard drive at the touch of a button. The portable, lightweight case is constructed of durable brushed aluminum. The unit can also be bus-powered through USB, powered through the included battery pack (four AA batteries required), or a 5V DC power adapter. You can also use it as a backup device for your notebook.

The high-speed **QuickSilver SATA/USB2.0** hard drives from **Kanguru** feature the latest in external hard drive technology with cutting-edge SATA connectivity for the fastest throughput. While the drives come with a nice custom case, you do need to connect them to a PC to use them. The high-speed SATA interface is a fast way to transfer file data, but if your PC or notebook doesn't have a SATA port you can still use the USB 2.0 connection for your transfer tasks. ■



Compact Flash, Secure Digital and MultiMedia Card memory storage devices are all available from Kingston, as well as USB flash drives. All of these are viable storage solutions for storing your digital photos on-the-go.



Kingston's DataTraveler Accessory Kit gives you easy access to a USB port on your notebook or PC. In addition to the extension cable and cradle, the kit includes a neck strap for securely holding your flash drive with a detachable clip.



Made from sturdy aluminum-shell, the memory card travel case from Digital Foci will protect your digital storage media. The interior is made of hard rubber and various media cards can be "stacked" for storage.



Kanguru's QuickSilver external drive is a streamlined and fast device for storing your digital files, or for backing up your PC or notebook's hard drive.

LINKS

- **Kanguru Solutions** — 888-526-4878; www.kanguru.com
- **MediaStreet** — 888-633-4295; www.mediastreet.com
- **StarTech.com** — 800-265-1844; www.startech.com
- **SanDisk** — www.sandisk.com
- **Kingston Technology** — 877-546-4786; www.kingston.com
- **Digital Foci** — 310-763-9100; www.digitalfoci.com