

Sights & Sounds of Multimedia

George Harding

Dry Case

Do you like to scuba dive with your iPhone? Do you swim with your iPad? Probably not, but you could with Dry Case.

This is a product engineered to keep any mobile device dry when underwater or when it needs protection from your surrounding environment. It can protect your iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, MP3 player and more.

It has a water-tight seal that keeps water out. You slide your device into the bag, then seal it with the fixture. There is a connection so that you can listen to your radio or music, even with the device inside the bag.

When ready, you exhaust the bag of air with a small bulb, or you can simply suck the air out with your mouth. Now, you're ready to take a swim or whatever you do underwater. The company says it has tested the enclosure to as much as 100 feet underwater without leakage. So you can scuba dive without worry that your mobile unit will be damaged by the water.

The case comes with the evacuation bulb, a wrist strap you can use to keep your iPhone from wandering off (and it's buoyant, too!), and a lanyard to attach the Dry Case to your belt.

The company offers a money back guarantee if there is any water leakage at all. They point out that the key to having a water-tight seal is to be sure to fully exhaust the air from the inside of the enclosure.

About: Dry Case

Vendor: Dry Case
www.drycase.com

Price: About \$40 for smaller devices, \$60 for iPad or similar larger devices



Optoma Projector

When you need to see your picture or presentation on a big screen, hook your computer into a projection system or furnish your home theater with a world-class projector, you need only turn to Optoma.

Many business people need to give a presentation to small and large groups. The Optoma line of projectors gives you just what you need to satisfy your audience with a bright, clear and brilliant picture.

I was sent an Optoma Model TX610ST projector for review. The unit is very compact. It has a small menu system on the top, a large lens on the front and an extensive array of inputs on the back. The base has four rubber feet that can be adjusted for centering the picture where you need it.

The menu system on top needs little explanation. Called Control Panel by the company, it allows you to turn the unit on and off, select the source input, adjust the projected image for non-parallel sides (keystoning) and to bring up a menu. There are two LEDs to show when the lamp is operating and at what temperature.

The menu button brings up a list of controls for all the features of the projector. The menu is displayed on-screen, eliminating the need to carry a manual with you. The on-screen menu has four sections: Image, Display, Setup and Options.

The image settings include brightness, contrast, sharpness, saturation and tint. Each of these may be adjusted to fit the type of image being presented. Display mode is the major control in this section. Settings for the various controls have been preset for the type of presentation,

such as movie, blackboard, classroom, presentation and so on.

Each of the settings may still be adjusted, if necessary.

The Display section deals with the type and placement of the display.



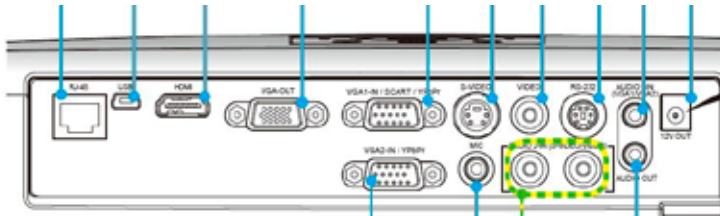
For example, you can move the image left or right, up or down and zoom. The shape of the display can be controlled from there, too.

Setup includes language (there are 22 different language choices both in the on-screen display and in the User Manual), type of projection (ceiling, floor, front, rear), menu location, signal and security.

The Options section includes high altitude (if on, the fans blow more air), keypad lock, background color (how the display should look when no source is input), power-off timer and various settings regarding the lamp.

Normal resolution is 1280 X 800 with 3100 lumens of brightness. The lamp life is 4,000 hours at normal brightness. Speakers are included in the projector. Input may be VGA, HDMI, RJ-45 network, S-video and more. There is a focusing control on the top of the projector.

The projector comes with power cord, VGA to VGA connector cable, remote with batteries, a CD-ROM containing the User Manual, and a Quick Start Card. Below is the unit's layout of ports and connections.



There is a 3 year warranty on the projector, 1 year for the lamp.

About: Optoma Projector

Vendor: Optoma
www.optomausa.com

Price: \$888 to \$950 onlin

Rebit 5 Backup

We all know that back-up is important to do regularly. The problem is forgetting to do it, or putting it off to another day because of the pressures of work or home. Rebit has a solution for you – continuous backup.

With this product, you get immediate and complete backup of all your documents, pictures, videos, music and more.

You need to supply a couple of things: a CD-ROM drive, used to install the Rebit software, and a USB external hard drive or network attached storage big enough to store the backup of your system.

Installation is easy. The install CD-ROM starts the process. You select which drive you want to back up to and which to back up from. Next comes the license agreement.

I read the license agreement and had only one paragraph which made me wonder. It's titled "Consent to use data." There is no opt-out option, since this paragraph is part of the entire agreement. It allows Rebit to "extract, compile, synthesize, and analyze non-personal information about the workstation being used."

7. Consent to Use Data.

In an effort to monitor and improve the performance of the Software Rebit will have the right to extract, compile, synthesize, and analyze anonymous, non-personal information about the configuration of the Workstation being backed up by the Software and the performance of the Software with the Workstation ("Data"). To the extent that any Data is collected by Rebit, such Data will be solely owned by Rebit and may be used by Rebit for any lawful business purpose in an aggregated form without specifically identifying the source of the Data.

The next step is to start the backup process, which may take some time. In my case, it's going very slowly. In fact, it took overnight and more to completely back up this laptop, which has about 60 GB of stuff on the hard drive. Although the initial backup took quite a long time, subsequent backups were much faster.

Once a complete backup is completed, you can browse the backup and choose to restore any given file, or to start the recovery process. As you change files or add new ones, they are continuously backed up. You don't have to do a thing!

When your backup drive begins to reach its limits, the Rebit software will begin to delete the oldest files that have been saved. Note that you always have a complete system back-up. If you run out of space on the back-up drive, you can add another.

Rebit 5 will periodically check for updates on its own. You can check yourself at any time, as well. Rebit 5 keeps itself updated automatically.



If you have concern about someone accessing your back-ups without authorization, you can set a password in the software.

Restoring your back-up requires that once Rebit 5 is installed, you make a recovery CD or you can download one from the web site. This CD has the necessary files to allow it to boot into Rebit 5, even if your computer won't boot. You can then install the backed-up files to the internal hard drive.

This software is very easy to use and doesn't require involvement from you after the install. The only disadvantage is the lengthy initial back-up. There's no ways around that, with this software or any other. Once done, though, you probably won't notice that continuous back-up is occurring. There is no noticeable slowdown.

There is a 30-day free trial available.

About: Rebit 5 Backup

Vendor: Rebit
www.rebit.com

Price: about \$20 for download for one PC,
\$40 for 3 PCs