

SecureConnect™

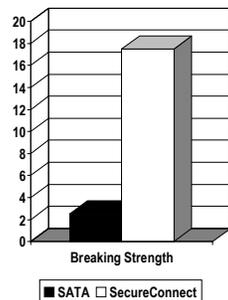
Western Digital's Secure Cable Connection Technology for Serial ATA Hard Drives

SecureConnect is a new Serial ATA (SATA) cable connection system designed by Western Digital. It provides a stable, secure attachment between the WD hard drive and cable. SecureConnect cables will be available through Western Digital distribution partners and the WD online store at store.westerndigital.com. The part number for Western Digital's SATA cable with SecureConnect is WDSC50RCW.

A Significant Improvement in SATA Connectivity

The standard SATA connector demonstrates acceptable performance when engaged with a backplane or a "captive" connector. However, this connector has severe limitations in cabled environments and is prone to breakage.

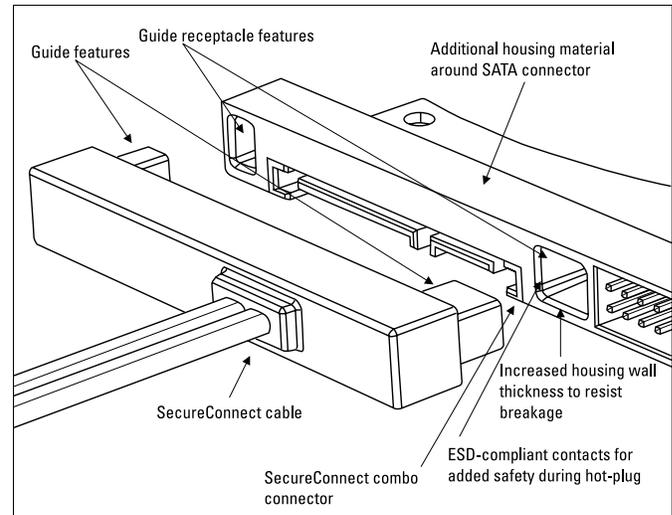
SecureConnect was designed to overcome problems with connector breakage, increasing breaking strength by more than 500 percent while remaining compatible with standard SATA cables and backplanes.



SecureConnect Robustness & Reliability

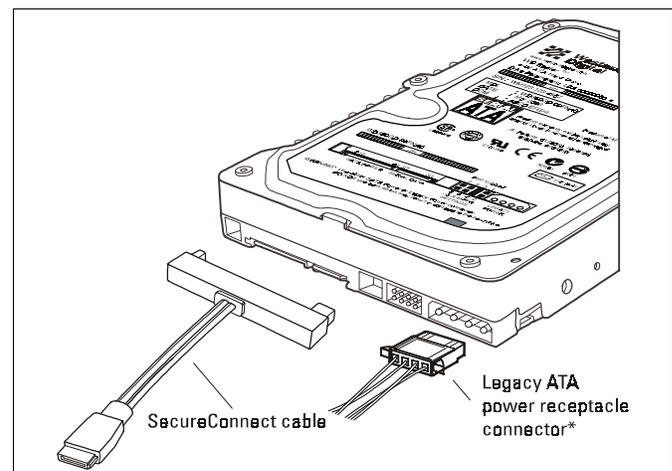
The SecureConnect feature is activated when a SATA cable with Western Digital's SecureConnect cable receptacle connector is used to connect the computer's data interface to the SecureConnect combo device plug connector in a WD SATA hard drive.

The SecureConnect connector has a reinforced housing wall which is compatible with 3.5-inch form factor drives. The SecureConnect connector's reinforced wall thickness reduces the likelihood of damage to the SATA blade portion of the connector in the event that a standard SATA data or power cable is deflected in such a way as to act as a lever arm concentrating forces on the blade. If more than four pounds of force is applied to the standard SATA data or power cable engaged with the SecureConnect device plug connector, breakage can still occur.



SecureConnect Interface

The SecureConnect design enhancement was accomplished by placing rectangular guide receptacles on either side of the SATA device plug connector that engage with the corresponding feature (guide pin) in SecureConnect-compliant cable receptacle connectors. With these enhanced engagement features, the connector withstands in excess of 22 pounds without damage. These features are tapered to guide the SecureConnect cable receptacle connector into final alignment with the drive's device plug connector, thus allowing for blind mating of the cables.



SecureConnect Hard Drive Connections