Real People Reviews by Daniel M. East
Bonzai USB Upgradeable "keychain" Flash Drive by SimpleTech
MSRP: $84.50

MIN. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: OS 8.6 or later, OS X or later/USB support

Review date: August 19, 2004

PULL QUOTE: "the keychain drive to have when you're having more than one"

If moving files from home to office (or vise versa) is a challenge based on file size or networking issues, keychain-type drives are now available in a wide range of capacities and styles. For me, the issue was simply running out of space on each keychain drive and needing more of these handy little devices, only to end up with a fairly large collection of them. After all, I could have more key-drives than I have key tags from the local supermarkets, vitamin shops and pet superstores combined. SimpleTech has, well, made it simple with an upgradeable keychain drive that uses flash card media in both SD and MMC types which the user can replace as needed depending on the storage needs. In other words, you can have multiple cards for a single drive.

While the "footprint" of the Bonzai drive is slightly wider than conventional keychain drives, it is also slimmer than many I've tested and is nicely designed. A green LED indicator lets you know when you are properly connected and the lanyard provided has a quick-release clip so you can grab the drive anytime. For digital photographers, the Bonzai allows quick transfers from media of this type. Basically, any files, documents, music/video or whatever...the transfer rate is swift (USB 2.0 at 480Mbps), cards are "hot-swappable" and available in up to 512Mb.

When compared to traditional keychain drives, the Bonzai is slightly larger, but well worth the difference and still not much larger than a U.S. quarter. Dollar for dollar, SimpleTech provides the speed, ease, reliability, upgradeability and design to make it the keychain drive to have when you're having more than one...only now one is all you need. Cross-platform ease, great performance and priced competitively. If you have the need to move files "on-the-fly," get yourself one of these.

RATING: 5 out of 5 EXCELLENT
http://www.simpletech.com/

Daniel East is the founder and president of The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs); co-host of "PC Talk Radio;" a live speaker/presenter and a freelance columnist for several Mac publications.

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