

Edimax nMax BR-6574N Wireless Broadband Router

RRP: R1,495

Supplier: Miro (012) 657-0960

Internet: www.edimax.com

With router manufacturers throughout the world trying desperately to 'separate' their products from the others with innovative new features like wireless hotspot technology, built-in media data servers and customisable firmware, it's important for those manufacturers not to lose sight of the core elements required for a router to perform well: good speeds, ease-of-use and solid routing. Edimax rises to this challenge with the all-rounder nMax Wireless Broadband Router: an excellent performer where needed, with a clean design, multiple antennas for maximum wireless performance and, for a pleasant change, Gigabit Ethernet capability.

Setup comes in two flavours: an incredibly easy-to-follow setup wizard via the installation CD, or the manual

configuration that most advanced users would be used to. While the wizard is great for novice users and configures everything from the router password (a nice touch) to wireless security, the manual approach takes place in such a poorly designed interface that navigation becomes a massive chore with way too many mouse clicks required to get anywhere.

As is to be expected with any Multi-

In, Multi-Out (MIMO) wireless antenna configuration, the nMax has excellent wireless range in all directions. It also manages to find a balance in its external design, combining sleek modern lines with a classic 'this is serious networking' front display. A WAN port completes the back panel, meaning the nMax won't be able to connect to the Net without an additional modem to do the dialup. **SACM**



in detail

DESIGNED FOR

Novice users (or patient experienced users) looking for a powerful all-rounder with fast Ethernet capabilities.

PLUS

- Gigabit Ethernet
- Three wireless antennas
- Great setup wizard

MINUS

- Just a router, no modem
- Cumbersome Web-based interface

Geoff Burrows

★★★★☆

specs

SECURITY

Supports all Wi-Fi security protocols and WPS

ANTENNAS

MIMO triple-antenna configuration

PORTS

Gigabit Ethernet with Gigabit WAN port

G-Technology G-DRIVE mini

RRP: R2,699

Supplier: Syntech SA 021 593 0304

Internet: www.g-technology.com

While simplicity is usually the name of the game when it comes to portable storage, for a PC user, the G-DRIVE mini means a little bit of patience in getting started. Since the device (and likely all devices across the impressive G range of storage and RAID solutions) comes preformatted for Mac OS X, getting it to do anything in Windows requires that you follow the process of reformatting and initialising the drive. Thankfully, the multi-format disc included in the package does come with pretty clear instructions for getting the job done, but it's not exactly something you can give to your gran and expect plug-and-play simplicity.

While the G-DRIVE mini certainly

looks like a charmer, with its built-in heat sink and stylish carry case, its performance was a little underwhelming when tested with a PC. Write speeds via FireWire 400 hovered between 10 and 20MB/s, but tended towards the lower side more often than not. Read speeds, at least, made up for that with spikes up to 60MB/s and a sustained 30-40MB/s when things had settled down.

Worth a mention for PC users is the lack of full USB support out of the box. The device refused to completely power up with a single USB cable attached, and the package doesn't include the optional USB or AC power cable, forcing PC users to stick to FireWire if they can't get hold of the necessary cable. For Mac users, this wouldn't pose any problems whatsoever. **SACM**



in detail

DESIGNED FOR

Any Mac or PC user looking for portable storage.

PLUS

- Good read speeds
- Elegant, Mac-styled looks
- Built-in heat sink to help prolong HDD life

MINUS

- Preformatted for Mac OS X
- Lacks USB support out of the box

Geoff Burrows

★★★★☆

specs

CAPACITY

250GB

CONNECTIVITY

USB 2.0, FireWire

EXTRAS

Included leather carry case and cabling