

Use of microSD and microSDHC Media in Olympus Digital Cameras

Overview

This article answers frequently asked questions about the MASD-1 memory card adapter. Many Olympus digital cameras are packaged with the adapter. The MASD-1 allows an accompanying camera to record to microSD[®] or microSDHC[®] media as an alternative to xD-Picture Card[®] media, which is Olympus' preferred memory card format.

Note: Memory cards are optional accessories and are not packaged with digital cameras that include the MASD-1.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Features

What is the orange "card" bundled with my camera?

The small, orange, plastic apparatus included with the camera is the MASD-1 memory card adapter. It is not a memory card, but it allows microSD or microSDHC memory cards to be inserted into the camera's card slot, which is designed for xD-Picture Card media.

To use microSD or microSDHC media in the camera, insert [a supported card](#) into the slot in the MASD-1 adapter and then insert the adapter into the camera's memory card slot.

Will the MASD-1 adapter let me use any microSD or microSDHC card in my camera?

Click [here](#) to view a list of microSD and microSDHC cards that can be used with the MASD-1 card adapter. This page will be updated as additional cards are evaluated.

Notes: The Stylus 840, Stylus 1010, Stylus 1020, Stylus 850 SW and Stylus 1030 SW require firmware version 1.1 or later to record movies to 4GB or larger microSDHC cards. Recording movies to these cards while using firmware version 1.0 may damage the cards.

Will the MASD-1 allow me to use microSD and microSDHC media in other Olympus cameras?

MicroSD and microSDHC cards can be used only with cameras that are compatible with the MASD-1. For a list of compatible cameras, click [here](#).

The adapter is different from xD-Picture Card media in form. It will not fit in the card slots of other cameras that are compatible with xD-Picture Card media. Forcing the MASD-1 into an incompatible camera or other device may damage it or cause the equipment to malfunction. The data on the memory card may be destroyed.

Does the MASD-1 adapter enable the use of miniSD™ memory media?

No.

Are any camera or software functions restricted when using the MASD-1 with microSD or microSDHC media?

A few restrictions do apply when using microSD or microSDHC media in certain Olympus digital cameras. For a detailed explanation of the affected models and functions, please [download this file](#).

Specifications

How many images can I record on a microSD or microSDHC card?

Capacity figures for recent models can be found [here](#). Simply select a model from the drop-down menu, and then press the [Go] button.

In general, the amount will be slightly less than the number that can be recorded on xD-Picture Card media of the same capacity. [This page](#) shows the approximate number of still images at various resolutions that can be recorded to xD-Picture Card media. (You may need to click on the "Expand sizing chart" button to view the full table.)

To calculate the approximate capacity of 4 GB or larger microSDHC media, multiply the number of gigabytes times the value listed for 1 GB xD-Picture Card media. The actual capacity will be slightly less than the calculated value.

How much movie recording time will I have if I use a microSD or microSDHC card?

When recording movies to microSD or microSDHC memory cards, the choice of movie mode affects the amount of available recording time.

Movie modes with higher resolutions and faster frame rates generate larger files than modes with lower resolutions or slower frame rates. The maximum size of a movie file recorded to a microSD or microSDHC card inserted into the MASD-1 adapter is 2 GB. Once a file has grown to 2 GB, the camera will end the current recording. (If there is still room available on the memory card, additional movie clips may then be recorded.)

Assuming use of the movie mode with VGA (640 x 480) resolution and a frame rate of 30 frames per second, a 2 GB file would equate to approximately 18 minutes of recording time. Using a movie mode with a smaller resolution and/or a slower frame rate, a 2 GB file would represent a considerably longer movie clip.

Some Olympus digital cameras place an additional restriction on the maximum recording length of a single movie clip. Click [here](#) to view tables showing the movie recording capacity – including maximum continuous recording time, per clip -- for recent Olympus digital cameras. Simply select a camera from the drop-down menu, and then click the [Go] button.

Troubleshooting

Where can I obtain a replacement MASD-1 microSD/SDHC adapter?

The MASD-1 memory card adapter is a consumer-replaceable part and can be purchased from The Olympus Store. To order a replacement part, please click [here](#).

Olympus has posted a firmware update for my camera that mentions microSDHC media. Do I need this update?

Olympus recommends applying camera firmware updates whenever they are available.

Owners of the Stylus 1030 SW, Stylus 1020, Stylus 1010, Stylus 850 SW and Stylus 840 are strongly encouraged to update their firmware to version 1.1 or later. Doing so will provide the following benefits:

- Add support for recording movies on 4 GB and larger microSDHC cards. Firmware 1.0 supports recording movies only to microSD cards of 2 GB or smaller capacity.
- Extend the maximum continuous recording time for movies shot with VGA (640 x 480) resolution and the 30 frames per second frame rate when using Type M+ and Type H xD-Picture Card media. With the newer firmware, it is possible to record a single clip up to the card capacity, which is approximately 9 minutes for a 1 GB card and 18 minutes for a 2 GB card.

Owners of the affected models who have already recorded movies onto a 4 GB or larger microSDHC card using the camera's original (version 1.0) firmware must back up the files and format the card before using the card with newer camera firmware. This is required even if you have not experienced any problems recording or playing back the videos you captured. If the card is not formatted prior to updating the firmware, some of the content on the card may become unreadable.

Olympus cannot guarantee microSDHC cards of 4 GB or larger capacity for recording movies when using camera firmware 1.0, as this is an unsupported functionality. However, recording movies to microSD cards up to 2 GB is supported using firmware version 1.0.

Before formatting any memory card, back up its contents to a computer or other external storage device. Then, format the card in the camera using the **FORMAT** function. Formatting a card deletes all data stored on the cards, including images and data that were recorded using other devices and then uploaded to the camera on subsequent connection to a computer.