

Basic Storage Card Info

To manipulate, print, or view your pictures on a larger screen, you'll want to transfer the images from your digital camera to a computer. If the pictures are in the camera's built-in memory (rather than on a storage card), you can only download them to the computer via serial cable--which can be pretty slow. If the images are on a storage card, however, there's a much faster method of downloading. Just remove the card from your camera, and place it in a PC Card reader attached to the computer (or in the PCMCIA slot on a laptop computer). Compared with the serial-cable method, the images will seem to fly into your computer. It's also easy to share images with friends, family, and colleagues who have computers that accept the same type of cards.



Storage Cards must be formatted for DOS/WINDOWS before they can be used in a KODAK Digital Camera. Most storage cards (including KODAK Picture Cards) are pre-formatted for DOS, so no formatting is required for use on a reader attached to a DOS or WINDOWS computer. MACINTOSH users must have the PC EXCHANGE Extension (or any other extension that allows MACINTOSH Computers to read WINDOWS Disks) installed to mount the storage card as a drive on their computer.

Should you need to format a storage card, you follow the same procedure as a standard disk. Before you attempt a format make sure to check the documentation that came with the card. Note that when you format the storage card on a MACINTOSH Computer you must choose to format it as a DOS disk. Note that the formatting issue does not arise if the storage card remains in the camera, and images are downloaded via serial cable to the computer.

Everyone in the family can store his or her own pictures on a separate card. You may also want to use particular cards to hold the pictures from a vacation, wedding, or other special event. You can even make exact digital copies of your important images, to store on a card in a safe-deposit box or other secure place.

Storage cards (also called PC Cards) are used in a variety of electronic devices, including computers and digital cameras. In the world of digital imaging, storage cards can be regarded as a kind of "digital film." Like film, the storage card is loaded into your camera, and used as a medium to hold images. Also like film cartridges, storage cards hold different numbers of pictures, and come in several sizes that fit particular cameras.



To date, three types of PC Cards have been defined by the PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association): Type I & II, Type III, and Compact Flash.

Type I & II, and Type III cards all look like credit cards from the top, with the same length and width, but with different thickness. All have a 3.3-mm thick guide rail around their edges and connector ends, but Type II and III cards are 5 mm and 10.5 mm thick, respectively. In a computer, the guide rails allow the thinner cards to be installed in thicker slots. For example, you can fit two Type I & II cards into a standard PCMCIA slot on a laptop (one card on top of the other); but the same slot will hold only one Type III card.



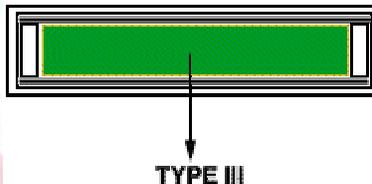
You can put two Type I & II cards in a PCMCIA slot



OR



You can put one Type III card in a PCMCIA slot



Type III cards tend to be more fragile than other removable media, because of the rotating heads of their built-in disk drives. However, they can store more data than Type I & II, or Compact Flash cards, which all use solid-state memory. Compact Flash cards are much smaller than the others, and even more durable. That's why they are becoming the standard for many newer digital cameras. You can also use a Compact Flash card on a camera with a Type I & II slot, by first placing the Compact Flash card into an adapter.

Each digital camera model is designed to work with a specific kind of storage card. It's important to determine whether your camera accepts a Type I & II, Type III, or Compact Flash card, before you go out and buy the card. To find out which type of card works with your camera, check the owner's manual. (Note that some older and/or less expensive digital cameras do not accept storage cards.) Some computers and cameras require appropriate drivers to be able to read the cards. Kodak cameras, however, do not require special drivers to read standard PCMCIA cards.