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r/Thunderbolt • 1 yr. ago

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Best option for a thunderbolt PCIe card for my desktop?

Ok, so I have a Corsair tbt200 thunderbolt 4 dock that I absolutely love. All my peripherals are connected to it, and with a single cable I can switch it between my two laptops (one work, one personal, both MacBooks).

I also have a desktop, a home server that I rarely need to connect to my peripherals. I just ssh into it and I'm good. However, I recently had a problem that forced me to be more hands on with it, which got me thinking about the core question here.

If I add a PCIe card with thunderbolt 4 ports (I don't have thunderbolt in the build currently), I assume I could use my docking station to do all the same things I currently do. The only potential downside is not using the GPU for the display, however I'm not gaming on it and it just needs to support 2 1440p monitors for normal productivity tasks (and only rarely at that). I think integrated graphics on my ryzen 5950x would be able to handle that, need to test it though. Beyond that, all other peripherals should connect nicely I assume.

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karatekid430 • 1y ago

If your motherboard supports an add-in card, then buy the supported model. Otherwise, you can only try them and likely the hotplug will not work, or it might not work at all. Unfortunately USB4 add-in cards still are not universal.



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**Tauheedul** • 1y ago

Thunderbolt Add-in cards are not always compatible with different brands. They are often designed to be compatible with models from the same Manufacturer, for example ASUS Thunderbolt cards have extra pins that other motherboards do not have. Similarly, even within the same brand it is not always guaranteed that the card will work with newer models.

I bought an ASRock Thunderbolt 3 card and fitted it to my ASRock Z790 motherboard which is Thunderbolt 4 capable. Although the pins fitted and it fired up, Windows would not detect the card.

I tried the latest drivers and that was unsuccessful. Sure enough, using the latest version of the Thunderbolt 4 card which listed my motherboard as compatible worked.

If you have an MSI board, find an MSI Add-in card for the same generation of motherboard and the same can be said for other brands if you don't want to deal with the testing different motherboard BIOS options only to get it to partially work.

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**OodlesPoodlesDoodles** • 10mo ago

You managed to get an ASRock thunderbolt 4 card? Would you mind sharing the retailer you went through?

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**rayddit519** • 1y ago

A Ryzen 5950X has no iGPU. Biggest problem with AM4 CPUs: only iGPUs on really old CPUs or the originally mobile CPUs that are otherwise limited.

If you have official support for a TB4 card (doubt it on AM4, that would probably be TB3 Titan Ridge if any), than that would work pretty much as from a notebook, as long as both DP-inputs of the TB AIC are connected to a GPU with the full DP features. If the GPU supports less features, than the system will fall short of TB4 guaranteed capabilities (although sounds like you do not need those anyway).

Many desktops seem to be much more finicky with TB and docks. Like booting from USB devices, using USB peripherals during boot, wake from sleep may not work, especially with TB3. If everything is TB4 the chances of it working are much higher. But still not well tested for docking support.

If you only need this for temporary access to the machine, a USB-C port with DP Alt mode would already allow you to use the dock. Just for 1 monitor at half DP bandwidth of whatever is the max. USB3 peripherals would work the same.

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karatekid430 • 1y ago

Worth noting that Thunderbolt 4 docks support backwards-compatibility with USB3/DP, the caveat being limited to one display. Something like this https://www.sunix.com/en/product_detail.php?cid=1&kid=2&gid=11&pid=2146

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No_Rise3486 • 2mo ago

I use GIGABYTE GC-Titan Ridge 2.0 works well

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r/PS4Pro • 7 mo. ago

Bought a pro today to go along with my current setup. I've hooked up an external ssd to it do you have any other suggestions?

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