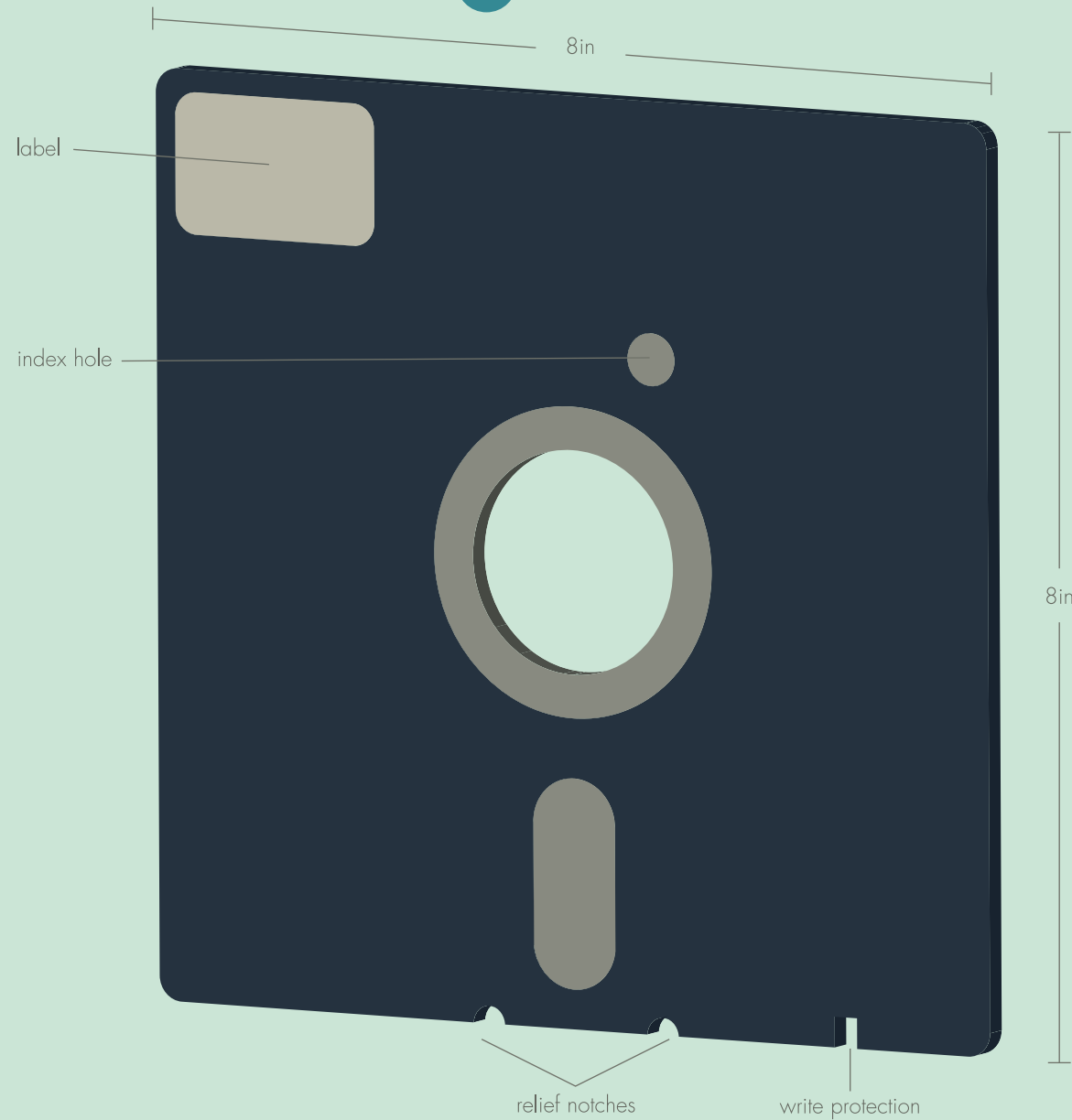


KNOW YOUR DIGITAL STORAGE MEDIA

A guide to the most common types of digital storage media found in archives*

8" FLOPPY DISK

AKA Maxi diskette



Container Flexible plastic jacket

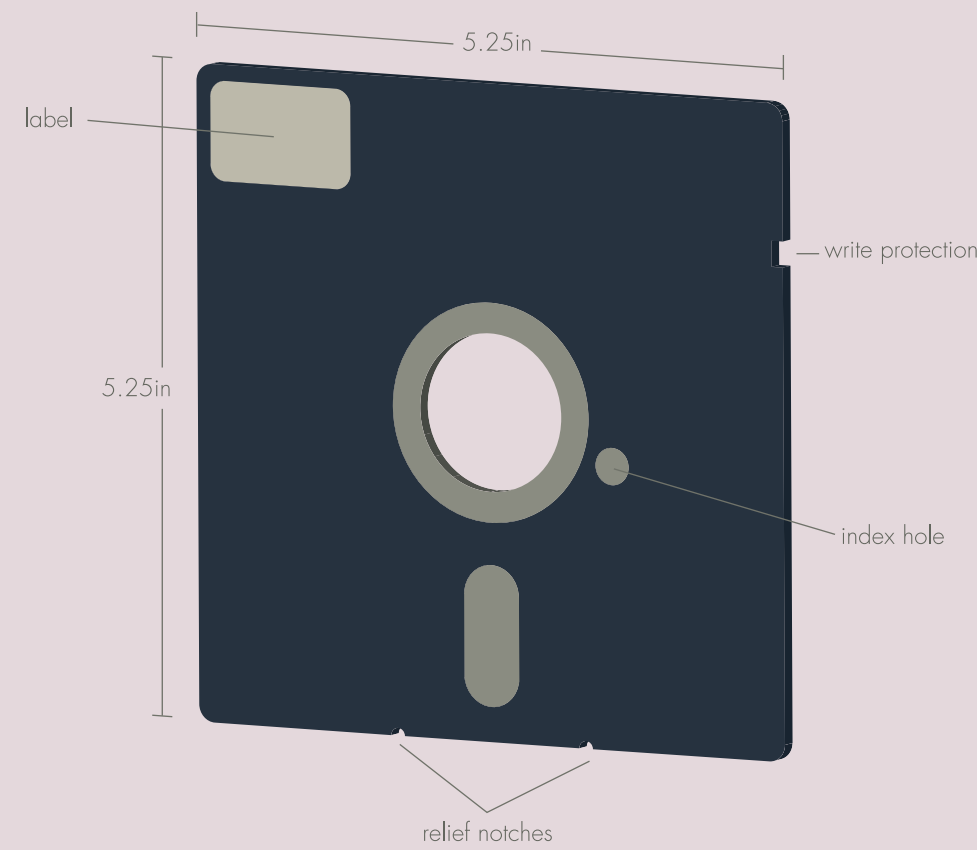
Formats Single or double-densities, writable sides (e.g. SS/DD)

Capacity 100 KB – 1.2 MB

Common Brands 3M, Xidex, Verbatim, IBM

5.25" FLOPPY DISK

AKA Diskette



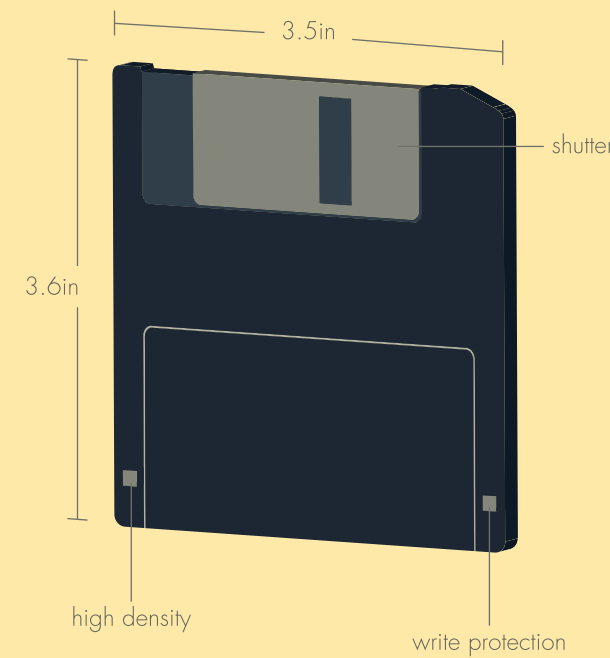
Container Flexible plastic jacket

Formats Single or double sided (a.k.a. "floppy disks"), high density (HD)

Capacity 160 KB – 1.2 MB

Common Brands 3M, Xidex, Verbatim, IBM

3.5" FLOPPY DISK



Container Rigid plastic shell

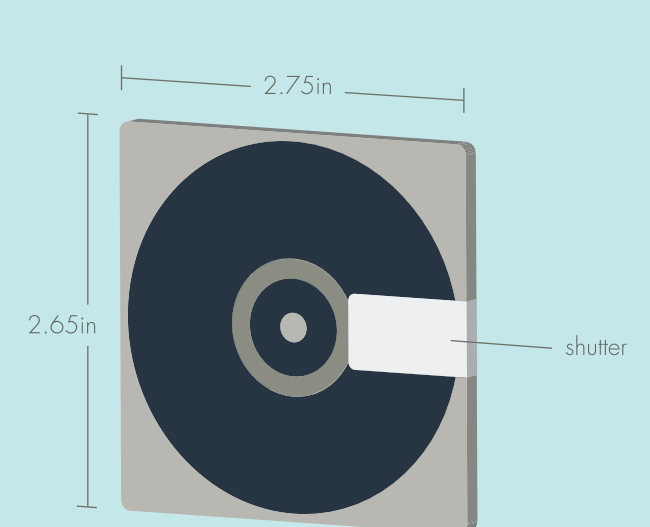
Formats Single or Double-densities, writable sides (e.g. 2HD)

Capacity 400 KB – 1.44 MB

Common Brands Imation-3M, Maxell, Verbatim, Sony

MINIDISC

AKA MD



Container Square plastic cartridge

Formats Read-only audio, recordable

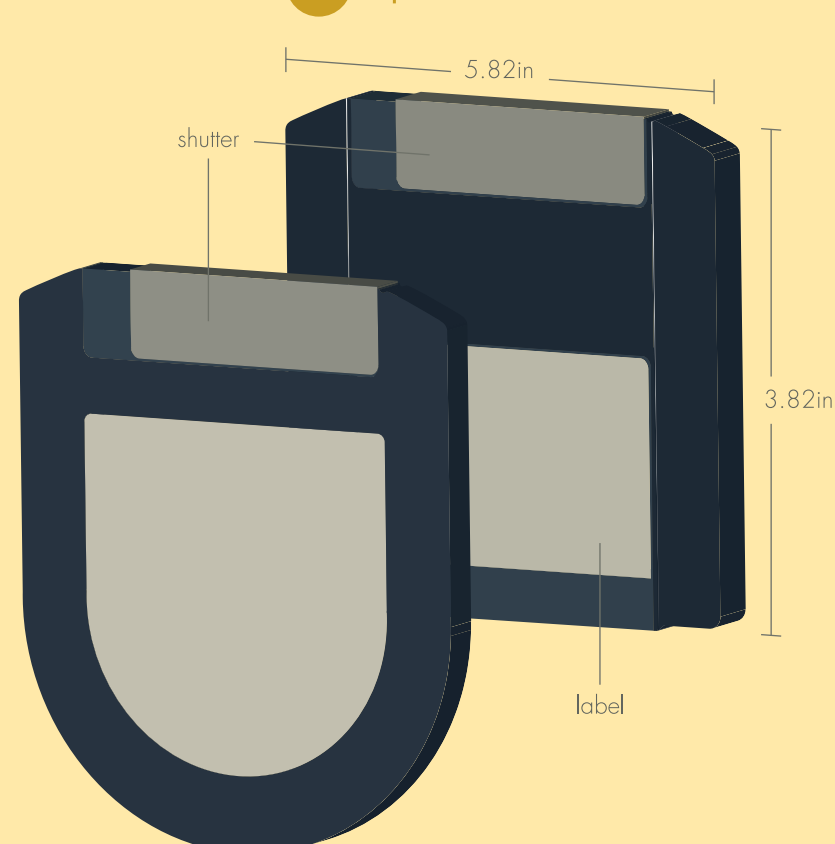
Variations Standard MD, Hi-MD

Capacity 177 MB – 1 GB (Hi-MD)

Common Brands Sony, TDK, JVC

IOMEGA STORAGE DISK

AKA Zip or Jaz



Container Rigid plastic shell

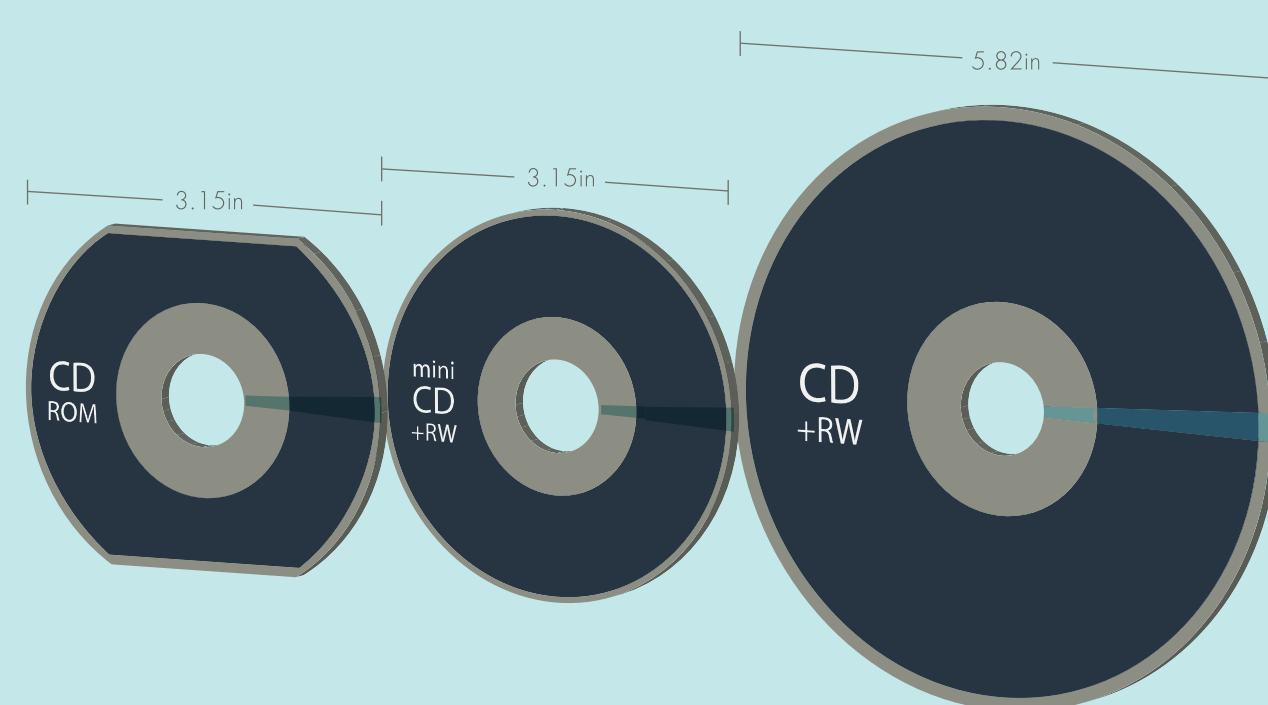
Formats Zip disk, Jaz disk

Capacity 100 MB, 250 MB, 750 MB (Zip), 1GB (Jaz)

Common Brands Iomega

COMPACT DISC

AKA CD-ROM, Compact Disc



Container Rigid polycarbonate disc

Formats CD-DA, CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, VCD, SVCD, Photo CD, PictureCD, CD-i, E-CD/CD-Extra/CD-Plus

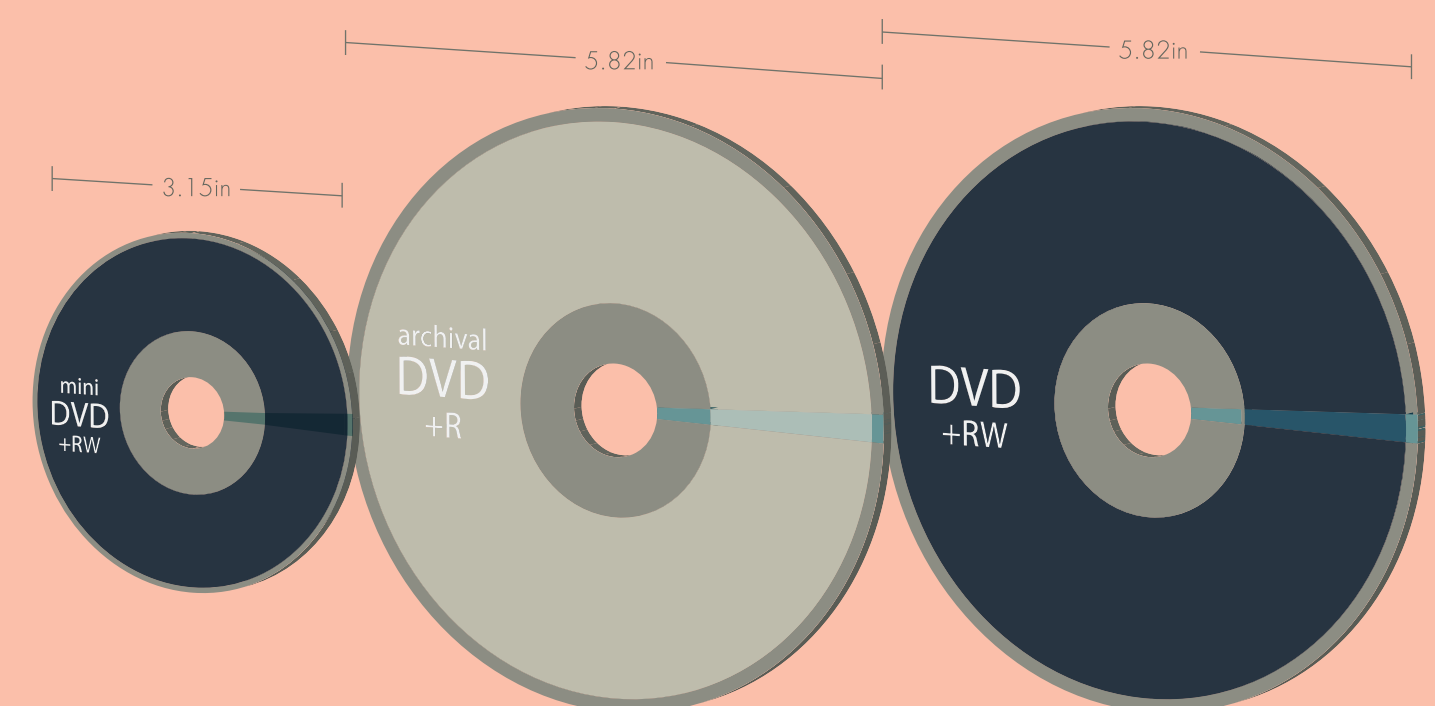
Variations Mini CD (a.k.a. pocket CDs), Business card CD, Gold Archival CD

Capacity 10 MB – 737 MB

Common Brands Matsui, Kodak, Maxell, Verbatim, Memorex

DVD

AKA Digital Video Disc or Digital Versatile Disc



Container Rigid polycarbonate disc

Formats DVD-ROM, DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-RW, DVD+RW, DVD-RAM, single/double-sided, single-layer/double-layer

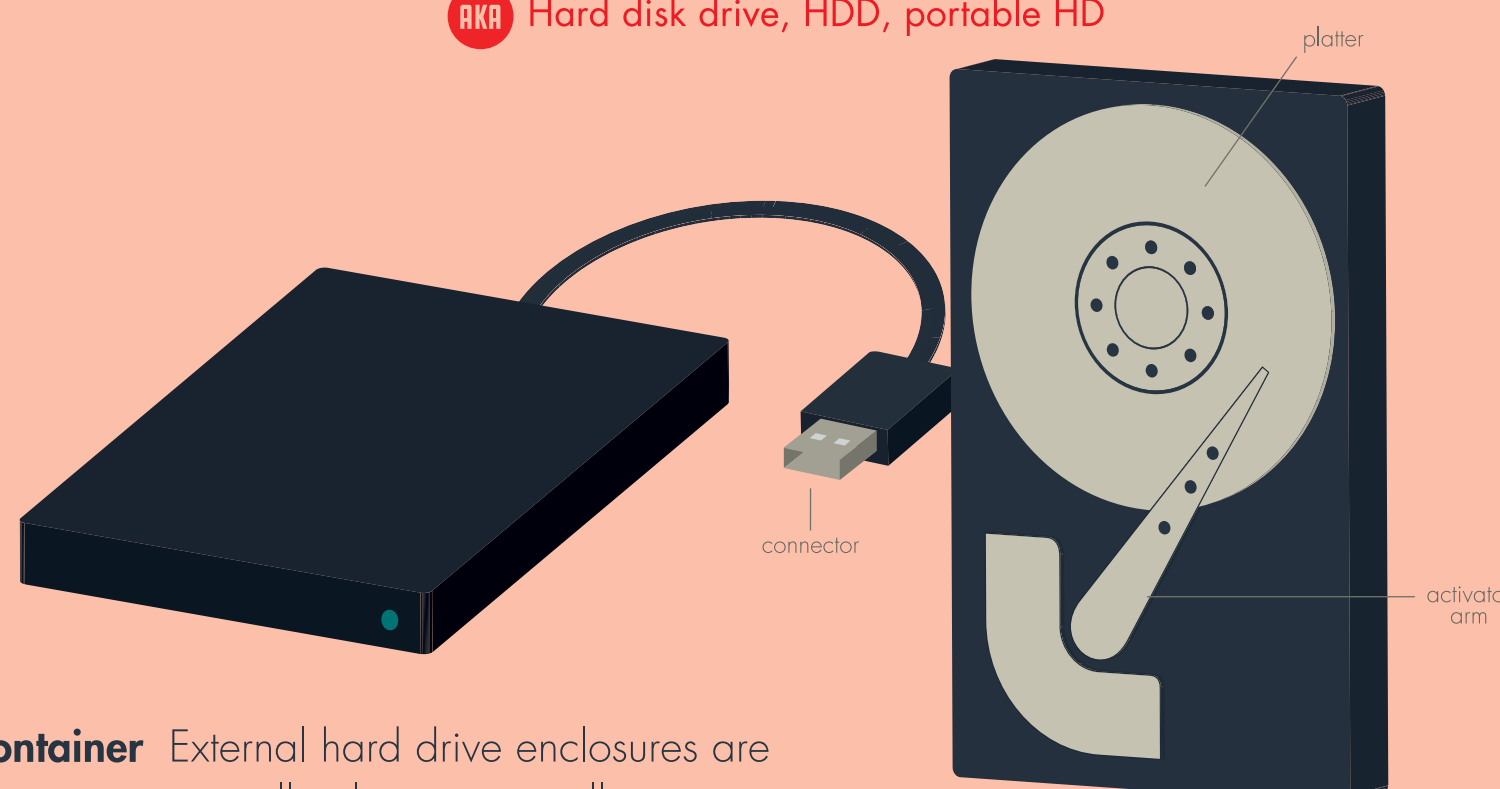
Variations MiniDVD, Gold Archival DVD

Capacity 1.4 GB – 17.08 GB

Common Brands Verbatim, Panasonic, Imation, Memorex

HARD DRIVES

AKA Hard disk drive, HDD, portable HD



Container External hard drive enclosures are typically plastic or metallic.

Formats Internal hard drive, External hard drive

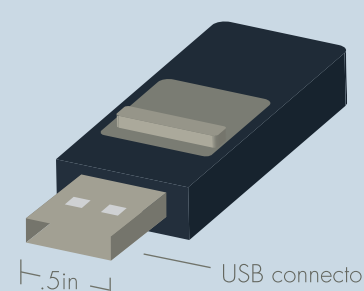
Variations Modern internal hard drives are typically mounted via SATA; external hard drives are typically mounted via USB or other data connector.

Capacity Range varies greatly, from MB to TB

Common Brands Seagate, Toshiba, Western Digital

USB THUMB DRIVE

AKA Thumbdrives, pen drives, jump drive, key chain drives, key drives, memory keys



Container Rigid plastic shell encasing a USB connector

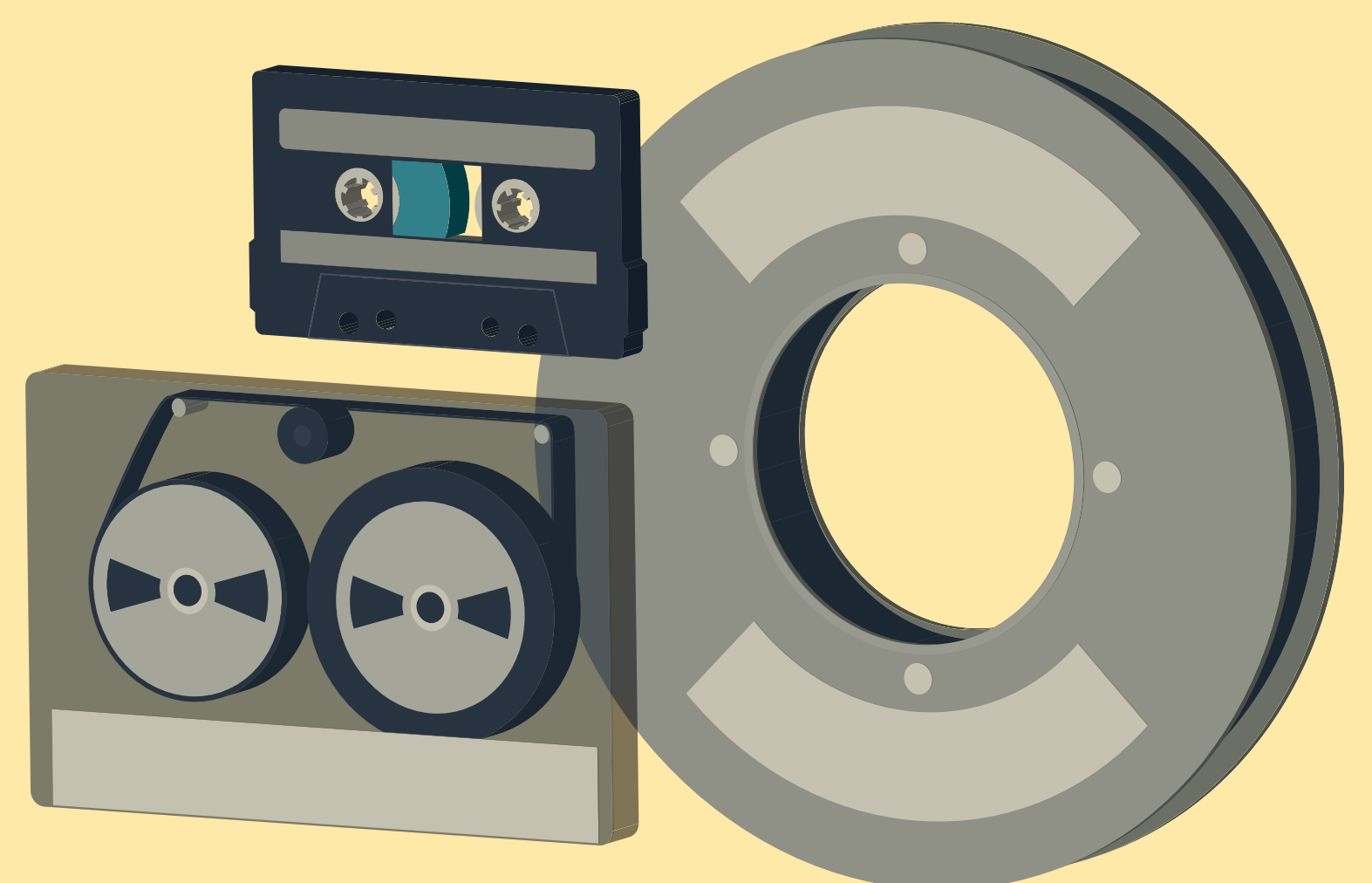
Variations Available in a variety of designs such as sushi, cats, pop culture icons, light bulbs, etc.

Capacity 8 MB – 1 TB

Common Brands SanDisk, Kingston, HP

MAGNETIC DATA STORAGE

AKA Data Tape, Magnetic Recording



Container Rigid plastic shells or metal reels

Variations Cassette, Cartridge, Open reel

Capacity Range varies greatly, from MB to TB

Common Brands Sony, Imation, Maxell, TDK