

SanDisk Cruzer Titanium 2GB Review

The "Uncrushable" SanDisk U3 Cruzer Titanium with Video Proof

Speed. Reliability. Portability. Security. These are all things that should be present in a flash drive worthy of being called a mobile office. As the crème de la crème of SanDisk's offerings, the new Cruzer Titanium has a lot to live up to. Now that it's been armed with **U3** and a casing developed by Liquid

Metal, we see how this flash drive handles the pressure. Literally. Read on for the full review.

Showing the Stats

- Cruzer Titanium
- Lanyard
- Belt clip
- Voucher for 1 month of Skype voicemail

The Good & Bad



- › Didn't crack under pressure
- › Comes with U3
- › Has secure browsing
- › File synchronization
- › Password management
- › Skype out of the box



- › Bundled anti-virus requires subscription
- › Belt clip is of poor quality

Titanium Design

Maintaining the standards set by the original, the new Cruzer Titanium makes it impossible to lose the cap, because there isn't one. Instead, the USB connector is protected by a retractable white slider that only moves when a small amount pressure is applied. The slider is recessed into the casing of the flash drive, so that while it's easily accessible to the thumb, it cannot move accidentally when thrown into a bag. The also doubles as an activity LED, that shines a bright blue when connected to the computer and flashes when data is being transferred.



The smooth casing, developed by Liquid Metal is very elegant, casting a nice speckled reflection reminiscent of a fine set of mechanics tools. Towards the back is a small loop for attaching a lanyard, and two grooves for attaching the included belt clip. (The belt clip, while an interesting

7
diggs

digg it

Review Verdict

Well worth the price, SanDisk's Cruzer Titanium is fast, capable, and especially durable, yet easy on the eyes.

Buy 2GB Cruzer Titanium U3

\$94.55 HP Small Business

\$109.99 RadioShack

\$79.95 Adorama

\$81.99 Super Warehouse

Essential Specs & Stats

- ▶ Interface(s): **Hi-Speed USB**
- ▶ Dimensions: **2.28" x 0.75" x 0.28"**
- ▶ Capacity: **2GB**
- ▶ Read transfer speed: **15MB/s ***
- ▶ Write transfer speed: **9MB/s ****
- ▶ Bundled software: **Skype 2.0, CruzerSync, SignUp Shields, Avast! Anti-virus**
- ▶ Special function(s): **U3 Smart Platform**
- ▶ Supported platform(s): **Windows 2000 / XP**
- ▶ Released date: **June 2006**

* SanDisk claims 15MB/s read speed, we got 16MB/s, a tad faster.

** SanDisk claims 9MB/s read speed, we got 12MB/s, 33% faster.

addition for a flash drive didn't have smooth edges and proved hard to clip onto even a pair of jeans, let alone a belt, so I never use it.) Back to the casing however, despite its being smooth and shiny, it's actually quite rugged. SanDisk goes so far to claim the drive can withstand over 2000 pounds of crush force. I don't happen to have that kind of machinery readily accessible, but I do have a car, so on to the juicy bit of the testing!

The Uncrushable

I drive a 92' Honda Accord sedan, with a curb weight of 2750 lbs. Loaded and spread out over 4 tires, that's a little over 700 pounds of crushing force the Cruzer Titanium was about to receive. To ensure that the test actually was worth anything, I first ran over a cheap freebie flash drive that was given out at a convention. After running it over several times with my car, I was amazed to see that it survived and the only damage done was a few scrapes and a bent USB connector, but the drive still functioned when plugging it into my laptop. Not about to give up, I performed the test again, only this time wedging the drive on its side against my tire. This time, the drive wasn't so fortunate, emitting a loud POP as my tire backed over it, and then proceeded to run over the drive again and again. The remains were a bent PCB with the flash chip broken off, a USB connector snapped down the center, and several bits of plastic.



Now that the baseline has been set, it was time to do the same for the Cruiser Titanium. Propped under my tire in the same manner, it too made a loud POP after running it over. But I couldn't stop now, not after knowing that the thing was being dealt less than half of what it's rated for. Over and over I backed my car over it, before parking it directly on top of the drive and jumping on the suspension just for good measure. The result? The lanyard broke, but the Cruiser Titanium still worked, and you can see both tests in the video below. In fact, it worked so well that a sizable chunk of the pavement was actually broken free by the drive, which is what I rubbed off after pulling it out from under my car. Simply put, there's no denying that the new the Cruiser Titanium is incredibly well designed and meets every one of my expectations.