

[Rio Karma 40gb Hard Drive Mod](#)

This my guide to modding a Rio Karma with a larger hard drive. When the standard 20gb drive in my Karma appeared with the infamous “Bad Karma” message it was time for a replacement and a upgrade. Initially I planned to use a 30gb drive, however I came across a 40gb drive 2nd hand for the 1/2 the price.

For this mod I consulted two guides I found one the internet. [Guide1](#) [Guide2](#)



Rio Karma before disassembly.

For this mod I used a 1.8" CK40 (HTC424040F9AT00) drive. Note that the 9 in the model number refers to height in mm. 7mm (CK60) drives will fit the player perfectly without any modification needed.

The first thing to do is unscrew the two small screws at the base of the player (near the base of the player). Once this is done very carefully bend the top cover so it comes off. There might be another screw near the RioStick which has to be removed.



Once the front is off, carefully bend the back cover slightly so it peels off.



Flip the player around and you can see that the battery is not held in place by anything other than the back cover, so be very careful.



Now unclip the battery and the power circuit from the main board and set it aside.



Now remove the black screws that hold the screen in place. These also hold the hard disk in place from the underside. Once these are out very carefully lift the hard drive up and over the rear connectors. It should slide out, if not check all the screws holding it in place have been removed.



This is the new drive I picked up 2nd hand off a forum.



Next put the player back together again. In this case as a temporary solution I just used good old fashioned tape.



Once it's all back together, it's a good idea to let the player fully charge, there have been occasions where it might not switch on due to the battery being discharged after removal. Or if you're impatient like me just power it up and then plug into the USB dock and flash with the latest firmware (I used Rio's own flash tool).



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