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Guide: The Best USB 3.0 Docking Stations for Laptops

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by Matt Safford

How did modern high-end laptops and ultrabooks get so thin? Thank the exit of the optical drive, the entrance of new low-power CPUs, and a move away from hard drives to gum-stick-size SSDs. The result: Razor-slim, ultralight portables great for slipping in your bag on the go. But ports are often sacrificed in the quest for thinness, too—which becomes a problem when you arrive, sit down to get things done, and realize you have just one full-size USB port, and maybe a video connector.

A good USB 3.0 docking station delivers all the ports you need, including ones, on some models, for connecting an external screen or two. (Today, that can even mean a 4K monitor.) Dozens of docks are available; we've gathered 11 of our favorites to cure your connectivity blues.



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Accell UltraAV Mini DisplayPort Y-Cable Docking Station

Accell's UltraAV Mini DisplayPort Y-Cable Docking Station is designed for Microsoft's [Surface Pro 2](#) and [Surface Pro 3](#); it plugs into the tablets' USB 3.0 and mini-DisplayPort connections. Hook it up, and you'll be able to connect two DisplayPort screens with resolutions of up to 2,560x1,600 or one 4K screen running at 60Hz. The dock also turns the tablet's single USB 3.0 port into three, and brings a handy Gigabit Ethernet jack along for the ride. (There are no audio jacks here, however.) Check out the next slide for another view of the UltraAV.

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