



Using Grass Valley ADVC Products with FireWire 800

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APPLICATION NOTE



FireWire 800 is a newer version of the popular FireWire (IEEE 1394) standard which offers better performance and other features. If you have a Mac or PC with a FireWire 800 port, you can use this port with ADVC products from Grass Valley, a Belden Brand, which only have FireWire 400 ports. Here's how.

ADVC Products and FireWire 400

Grass Valley ADVC products have a FireWire (IEEE 1394) connector compatible with the FireWire 400 standard. Some ADVC products have a 4-pin port while others have a 6-pin port. The difference between these two ports is that the 4-pin port has only data and control connections while the 6-pin port carries power to the ADVC unit as well as data and control information. For current ADVC products, only the ADVC55, ADVC110, and ADVC-HD50 may derive their power from the FireWire port and have a 6-pin FireWire port. **All other ADVC products draw more power than a FireWire port provides.**

An optional power supply may be purchased for users of the ADVC55, ADVC110, or ADVC-HD50 who have a 4-pin FireWire port on their connected device (typically a Mac, PC, or camera). This optional power supply comes with an appropriate FireWire cable so that data and control signals pass between the two connected devices while power is supplied to the ADVC unit from the power supply.

ADVC products are typically supplied with a FireWire cable of the appropriate type. If a different cable is required, they are typically available from a reputable supplier.

ADVC Products and FireWire 800

FireWire 800 is a newer version of the popular FireWire standard which offers better performance and other features. If you have a Mac or PC with a FireWire 800 port, can you use this with ADVC products which only have FireWire 400 ports? The answer is yes! Here's how.

FireWire 800 uses a 9-pin port which requires a different cable than the one supplied with your ADVC unit. However, a number of companies supply cables that connect a 9-pin FireWire 800 port to either a 4- or 6-pin FireWire port.

Grass Valley has tested a number of these cables with successful results. One particular vendor of these cables is Belkin. In particular, a Belkin 6-foot/1.8m FireWire 400 4-pin to FireWire 800 9-pin cable and Belkin 6-foot/1.8m FireWire 400 6-pin to FireWire 800 9-pin cable were connected to a Mac equipped with a Mac S800 port. The test was conducted with both MacOS versions 10.5 and 10.6. The following ADVC products worked properly with this configuration:

- ADVC55
- ADVC110
- ADVC300
- ADVC700
- ADVC1000
- ADVC3000
- ADVC-HD50
- ADVC-HDM1
- TwinPact 100

These cables are offered in a variety of in-store and online purchase locations including many Apple stores. Ask the Grass Valley dealer where you purchased your ADVC product for these cables if you have a Mac or PC with a FireWire 800 port.



6-pin FireWire 400 Port



9-pin FireWire 800 Port

Please note other legacy ADVC products (no longer sold by Grass Valley) were tested with this configuration, also with successful results. Specifically, the ADVC100 and ADVC500 were tested.

Generally, you will not need to use the optional power supply (for the ADVC55, ADVC110, or ADVC-HD50) when connecting to a FireWire 800 port. However, if the FireWire 800 port does not supply power for the ADVC unit, you may use the optional power supply with an appropriate FireWire 400 to FireWire 800 cable.

Although the Belkin model numbers are the only ones specifically mentioned in this document, other cables were tested with successful results. However, that does not mean that all cables will work. If you choose a cable other than the ones recommended here, make sure to select a similar high-quality cable from a reputable manufacturer to ensure the best results.

Grass Valley cannot test all configurations of Mac or PC, cable, and ADVC products. If you have problems with your particular configuration, please try the cables recommended in this document. If the problem persists, contact Grass Valley customer service, but understand that the problem may be with the cable or with the connected device.

NOTE: Grass Valley does **NOT** recommend the use of a FireWire 800 to FireWire 400 conversion adapter with the FireWire 400 cable supplied with your product (whether or not this configuration is used with the optional power supply for the ADVC55, ADVC110, or ADVC-HD50).

Grass Valley hopes this document has been helpful in connecting your Mac or PC equipped with a FireWire 800 port to your Grass Valley ADVC family product. We wish you a positive experience with the ADVC product family and other Grass Valley products you use.



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