

## Re: How to get Floppy drive working

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.basics/2004-11/0730.html>

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**From:** Rick \ (rick\_at\_mvps.org)

**Date:** 11/07/04

Date: Sun, 7 Nov 2004 07:05:26 -0500

Hi David,

WinXP is really finicky with floppy drives. It can format only in the 1.44MB mode, but can read 1.20MB, 720K, and 360K formatted disks.

But that's not the real problem. That's the finicky part that is. It is not fault tolerant like previous versions of Windows, particularly the Win9x line. Even any one thing is even marginally wrong, the whole thing goes kablooeey. The biggest problem is usually in reading the media descriptor byte, as described here:

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=140060>

Frankly, I just avoid using floppies on XP systems where I can, and rely on USB thumb drives.

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Best of Luck,

Rick Rogers, aka "Nutcass" - Microsoft MVP

<http://mvp.support.microsoft.com/>

Associate Expert - WindowsXP Expert Zone

[www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/expertzone)

Windows help - [www.rickrogers.org](http://www.rickrogers.org)

"David" <david1133@REMOVE-TO-REPLYoptusnet.com.au> wrote in message

news:418DB780.88138E69@REMOVE-TO-REPLYoptusnet.com.au...

> Hi Bridgette

>

> There is something about this problem on the M/Soft site, but it didn't  
> offer

> any help in fixing it. Apparently it is something to do with XP only  
> working

> with floppy drives that only handle 1.4 meg disks, whereas the drives I  
> have

> also work with 720k etc. Or so I gather, but then I am not cluey about  
> Windows

> boxes.

>

> But if yours just stopped working, then perhaps that is something  
> different -

> ie a faulty drive or such. Since I built (or more accurately just  
> assembled)

> my computer it didn't come with a floppy originally, and I didn't think I

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> would  
> ever need one. But a friend has some photos on floppy that she wants put  
> on  
> CD, so I picked up some floppy drives and....  
>  
> Sorry I cant help  
>  
> cheers  
>  
> David  
>  
> Bridgette wrote:  
>  
>> So did you figure it out yet because I have been having the same problem  
>> but  
>> I am not installing one mine just stopped working. any suggestions yet?  
>> by  
>> the way I did know hp had a help but it hasn't helped me.  
>>  
>> "David" wrote:  
>>  
>> > I have decided to install a floppy drive in my computer - am running XP  
>> > Home, and when I put known good floppy in the drive I get the "cant  
>> > read this" etc. message, and XP wants me to format the disk.  
>> >  
>> > When I do try to format a floppy, it wont.  
>> >  
>> > I gather this is a bug in XP, but haven't found a solution as yet.  
>> >  
>> > Any ideas welcome  
>> >  
>> > David  
>> >  
>> > PS Of course I tried a new drive just in case the 1st one was faulty,  
>> > and have tried a number of blank and known good floppies  
>> >  
>> >  
>