

Re: HOWTO: Multiple Boot?

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There are various ways to "remove" a HD from a system. Some BIOSes allow you to "disable" some HDs, but I've never had a machine with such a BIOS. There are also 3rd-party boot managers which allow you to "hide" partitions. That can get tricky if the utility happens to reside in a partition that you've just "hid". :-(Another way is to use a "drive caddy" or "mobile rack" that contains the HD with the OS you desire. Kingwin makes such "mobile racks" that take a 5 1/2" expansion bay, and the set of rack and tray runs about \$22-\$25, depending on retailer. Extra trays run about \$15-\$20. Here is Kingwin's line of mobile racks:

<http://kingwin.com/mobileracks.asp> .

I have the KF-101-1PF with the cooling fan in the bottom of the tray. The setup works well, and the HD is kept at what feels like room temp. You can search Nextag.com and PriceGrabber.com for the latest prices using the model no. as the search term.

Another way to "disappear" a HD is to deny it power. I have micro toggle switches mounted in ventilation holes in the front of my PC, under the plastic fascia, and before startup, I reach in with a paper clip and switch on the power for the HD that I want. The barrels of the DPST switches are 1/4" OD, and they fit perfectly in the ventilation holes, so no grinding or cutting was necessary. The only caveat is that the IDE controllers don't like empty end connectors on the IDE cable, so either put another device at the end connector or put each HD at the end connector of a dedicated cable. (Expansion PCI IDE controller cards give you more freedom of configuration for doing this.)

But I suspect that all you really need is for each OS to boot up with its own partition named "C:". You probably installed the 2nd WinXP with the 1st WinXP visible to the installer, and the installer named the 2nd WinXP's partition "D:". There is a way to re-name a partition by going into the Registry, but I'm too timid to do that. The most straight-forward way to accomplish what you want is to install the 2nd WinXP on the

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2nd HD while the 1st HD is disconnected. (The connected HD will have boot priority, so no adjustment of jumpers or BIOS is necessary.) The 2nd OS, when running, will call its own partition "C:".

Then re-connect the 1st HD, and boot the system. The 1st HD (assuming that it