



## Adata Ultimate SU800

A fast SSD that competes on capacity and value – but check its prices before you make a final decision

SCORE ★★★★★

SUPPLIER [pcpro.link/293adata](http://pcpro.link/293adata)

### PRICE MATRIX

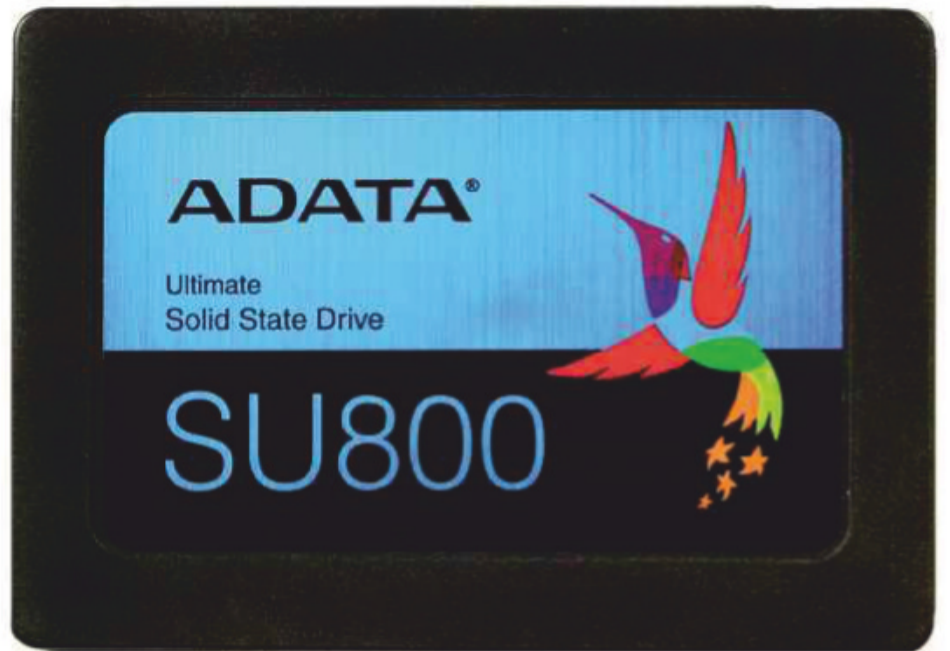
£30 128GB (£25 ex VAT)	£44 256GB (£37 ex VAT)	£76 512GB (£63 ex VAT)	£127 1TB (£106 ex VAT)
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A data is pushing the definition of “ultimate” by describing the SU800 as the “Ultimate Solid State Drive”, but its 3D NAND technology and dynamic SLC Cache make it a serious contender if you’re looking for a 2.5in SATA unit. The aggressive pricing helps as well, with the SU800 going neck-and-neck with the Seagate Barracuda and WD Blue at both the 512GB and 1TB levels, although the Barracuda’s 256GB model is a little bit cheaper.

Adata claims read speeds of up to 560MB/sec and write speeds only 540MB/sec slower, and in some tests it actually exceeds these. CrystalDiskMark recorded sequential read and write speeds of 565MB/sec and 529MB/sec respectively, but this dropped to 521MB/sec and 485MB/sec in AS SSD. The drive is even more impressive when it comes to random read/writes, with the SU800 often going toe-to-toe with the WD Blue and slightly ahead of the Crucial MX500, which has the same SMI controller, and the Barracuda. Judged purely by synthetic benchmarks, it’s one of the fastest 2.5in SSDs.

Performance in our real-world tests was more mixed. The SU800 came second only to the Samsung 860 Pro in our file-transfer test but was nearer the bottom of the table in the *PC Pro* benchmark application tests; that said, there were only a few seconds in it on even the most brutal multitasking test.

While Adata only provides a three-year warranty, the reliability specs are fine: the drive’s rated for 400TB total bytes written, which



**ABOVE** It might not be the “ultimate” SSD, but the SU800 is a serious contender

Adata notes means you could rewrite 20TB daily and still have the drive last ten years. Adata also claims a two million hours MTBF reliability, which is more than any other drive on test. And the company again wins points for throwing in an SSD Toolbox and Migration Utility. While the Samsung 860 Pro leads on performance and the Crucial pulls ahead on value, the SU800 is well worth considering. With SSD prices so volatile, much comes down to the price when you buy your drive. The SU800 is good value as it is, but if the price drops, you could bag yourself a bargain.

## Crucial MX500

Solid performance and great prices across all capacities mean this SSD is the winner for value

SCORE ★★★★★

SUPPLIER [pcpro.link/293cruc](http://pcpro.link/293cruc)

### PRICE MATRIX

£37 256GB (£31 ex VAT)	£62 512GB (£52 ex VAT)	£132 1TB (£110 ex VAT)	£210 2TB (£175 ex VAT)
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As the commercial brand for Micron’s memory products, you’d expect Crucial to have some of the strongest tech, and the MX500 combines Micron’s 3D NAND with a Dynamic Write Accelerator cache using a pool of high-speed SLC flash. Crucial claims read speeds of up to 560MB/sec and write speeds of up to 10MB/sec, putting the MX500 up against the Adata SU800, with the same speeds, a similar architecture and the same SMI controller.

We tested the larger 1TB version, while Adata provided a 500GB drive, which helps to explain why the two drives perform high-identically in some aspects but not in others. In both the AS SSD and CrystalDiskMark tests, the MX500 delivered similar or better sequential read speeds but dropped below the SU800 in write speeds, though with read speeds of up to 564MB/sec and write speeds of up to 517MB/sec, the MX500 still delivers an excellent SATA 3 performance that’s beyond the stated spec.

Things aren’t quite so clear when it comes to random read/write speeds. The MX500 is neck-and-neck with the SU800 on 4KB random speeds and superb in AS SSD’s 4K 65-thread tests, which promises great things for general application performance, but it slips behind in CrystalDiskMark’s single-threaded, long queue test.

We’re slightly disappointed by the MX500’s performance in our standard benchmark tests; it’s a few seconds off the pace in our most challenging multitasking tests. However, file-transfer performance is above



**ABOVE** This is a high-performing drive with a price that puts it up against the SU800



average, and this feels every bit a high-performance drive. Price-wise, the MX500 is extremely competitive, undercutting rivals at both the 250 to 256GB and 500 to 512GB levels. It also comes with a five-year warranty, a lengthy 360TB total bytes written lifespan and a rock-solid 1.8 million hours MTBF rating – and Micron has a great reputation in this area. Much depends on the price, which can change day by day, and the difference between this, the SU800 and WD Blue is almost too close to call. All the same, right now this is the value 2.5in SSD to beat.