

How to Fix the MacBook Pro (A1708, 820-00875) Not Recognizing the Hard Drive

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Quick answer

To fix a MacBook Pro A1708 that isn't recognizing its hard drive, start by inspecting and cleaning the SSD connection, then use Disk Utility in Recovery Mode to run First Aid on the drive. If that doesn't work, reset the SMC and NVRAM, update macOS, test with a different SSD, or try an NVMe adapter.

Experiencing issues with your MacBook Pro (model A1708, logic board 820-00875) where the hard drive isn't being recognized can be frustrating. This problem often stems from hardware malfunctions, software glitches, or poor connections. In this article, we'll guide you through a detailed step-by-step process to diagnose and resolve this issue. Whether you're a beginner or tech-savvy, this guide is simple, clear, and effective.

1. Verify Physical Connections

Sometimes, the problem is as simple as a loose or faulty connection. Let's start here:

- Inspect the SSD Connection Open your MacBook Pro and check the connection between the SSD and the logic board. Ensure the SSD is firmly seated in its slot. A loose connection can prevent the drive from being recognized.
- Check for Oxidation Over time, oxidation or dirt can accumulate on the connector pins, leading to poor contact. To clean them:
 - Use a cotton swab dipped in isopropyl alcohol to clean the pins gently.
 - A soft eraser can also help remove dirt or oxidation without damaging the pins. Be careful not to apply too much force.
 - Allow everything to dry completely before reassembling the device.

2. Utilize Disk Utility for Troubleshooting

macOS includes built-in tools to identify and resolve disk-related issues. Here's how to use them:

- Access Disk Utility
 1. Restart your Mac and hold Command (?) + R as it boots to enter Recovery Mode .
 2. From the menu, select Disk Utility .
- Check for the SSD
 - In Disk Utility, look at the left-hand sidebar for your SSD.
 - If the SSD appears but is unmounted, select it and click Mount .
- Run First Aid
 1. Select the SSD from the sidebar.
 2. Click First Aid to perform a diagnostic check and repair any errors detected. This process is straightforward and often resolves minor disk errors.

3. Reset the SMC and NVRAM/PRAM

Resetting system controllers can fix recognition issues related to firmware settings.

- Reset the System Management Controller (SMC)

1. Shut down your Mac.
2. Press and hold Shift + Control + Option (on the left side of the keyboard) and the Power button simultaneously for 10 seconds.
3. Release the keys and turn on your Mac.

- Reset the NVRAM/PRAM

1. Restart your Mac and immediately hold down Option + Command + P + R .
2. Keep holding the keys for 20 seconds. You may hear a restart chime during this process.

4. Update macOS

Operating system updates often include fixes for hardware compatibility issues. Here's how to check:

1. Click the Apple Menu and select System Preferences .
2. Go to Software Update and install any available updates. Running the latest version of macOS can resolve driver conflicts or bugs affecting SSD recognition.

5. Consider Hardware Replacement

If the issue persists, the SSD itself or its connection may be faulty. Try these steps:

- Test with a Different SSD Replace your current SSD with a known working one. If the replacement SSD works, your original drive is likely the problem.
- Use an NVMe Adapter If you're considering upgrading your SSD, you can use an NVMe adapter with a compatible SSD. This method has worked for many users, but be cautious:
 - Ensure the adapter and SSD are compatible with your MacBook Pro.
 - Follow installation guides carefully to avoid overheating or damage.

6. Seek Professional Assistance

If none of the above steps resolve the issue, it's time to involve a professional. An authorized Apple service provider or a certified technician can perform advanced diagnostics and repairs. These experts can address underlying issues like a failing logic board or damaged SSD interface.

Additional Tips to Keep Your MacBook Running Smoothly

- Regularly back up your data using Time Machine or another backup tool to prevent data loss.
- Keep your Mac clean, both physically and digitally, to ensure smooth performance.
- When handling hardware repairs, always ground yourself to avoid static damage.

Conclusion

The MacBook Pro A1708 (820-00875) hard drive not being recognized is a solvable issue with the right approach. By following the steps outlined in this guide, you can systematically diagnose and address the root cause. If you find the problem persists, professional help is just a step away.

We hope this guide helps you get your MacBook Pro back to full functionality. If you have additional tips or experiences to share, feel free to leave a comment below!