

## Hard drive repair (longish)

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Well, I really blew it this time. About a month ago I replaced my 120 gig hard drive with a new 200 Gig Maxtor, model # 6B200P. In violation of my common sense, I did NOT keep the old drive as a backup. Well, the new drive went belly up last week – it wouldn't even spin up. Some of the stuff on the drive is easily replaceable, but many of the pictures of my Granddaughter cannot be replaced.

I requested an advance replacement from Maxtor, and when it arrived I tried to repair the bad drive by swapping the electronics boards. I verified these had identical part numbers. This had a limited success: The new hda does not spin up with the old electronics board; the old hda DOES spin up with the new board. However, the drive does not properly report it's size. The new drive reports it is 203.9 Gig; the new electronics board with the old hda reports it's size as 250 Gig, then generates POST errors.

At this point I can restore the electronics boards to the proper hdas and return the old drive to satisfy the terms of the advance replacement, since I have not altered anything. The last option I am considering is a part which appears to be a SST Serial flash chip. It should be possible to swap these between boards if I unsolder with chip-quick, but I'm not looking forward to it.

Does anyone have any experience with these drives, or any advice to give?

PlainBill