Tools for data recovery experts

A Guide for using the HddSurgery™ WD Slim Unlock Key:

HDDSURGERY
Milutina Milankovića 1E, 11070 Belgrade, Serbia
phone +381 11 268 35 26
www.hddsurgery.com
support@hddsurgery.com

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1. Introduction

This guide is intended to show the user a quick and proper way of assembling and using the HddSurgery™ WD Slim Unlock Key.

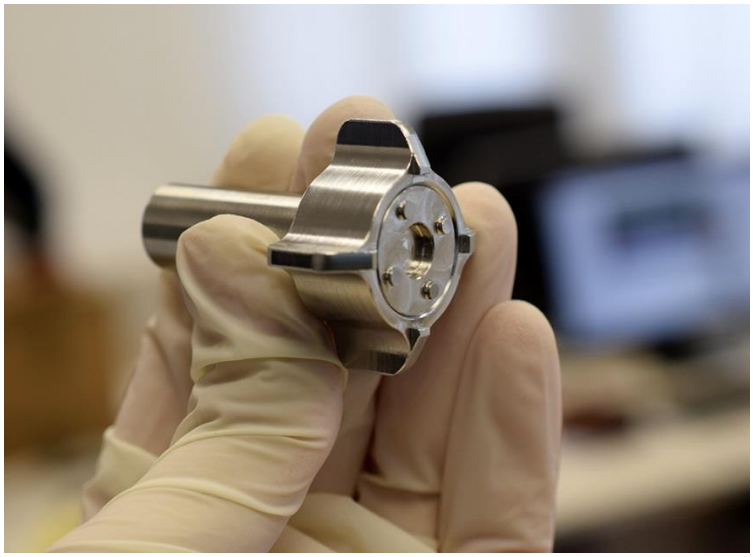
This tool is designed to enable the data recovery specialist to safely remove the securing ring from the platter holder of Western Digital Slim drives, making the platter extraction possible. Take additional precaution when trying to perform this procedure, because of the proximity of the platters and their delicate nature.

HddSurgery™ is not responsible for any eventual damage caused by usage of our tools. HddSurgery™ is not responsible for the data stored on the patient or donor hard drives.

2. HddSurgery™ WD Slim Unlock Key

2.1 Description

HddSurgery™ **WD Slim Unlock Key** represents our company's further effort to enhance every aspect of the job a data recovery expert performs on a daily basis. This is a two-part tool made of stainless steel, geometrically suited for the use on Western Digital Slim drives.



Picture 2.1. The WD Slim Unlock Key

The main part of the tool is a solid stainless steel base, specially designed to align with the surface of the platter carrier of the Western Digital Slim drives. The "unwinder" represents a rotary part which is used to apply force to the grooves in the securing ring of the platter holder, in order to remove it.

Supported models*:

WD10SPCX-xxKHSTx
WD10SPCX-xxHWSTx

* HddSurgery isn't responsible if the producer change the architecture of a drive from the list above.

2.2 Part list

The WD Slim Unlock Key contains the following parts:

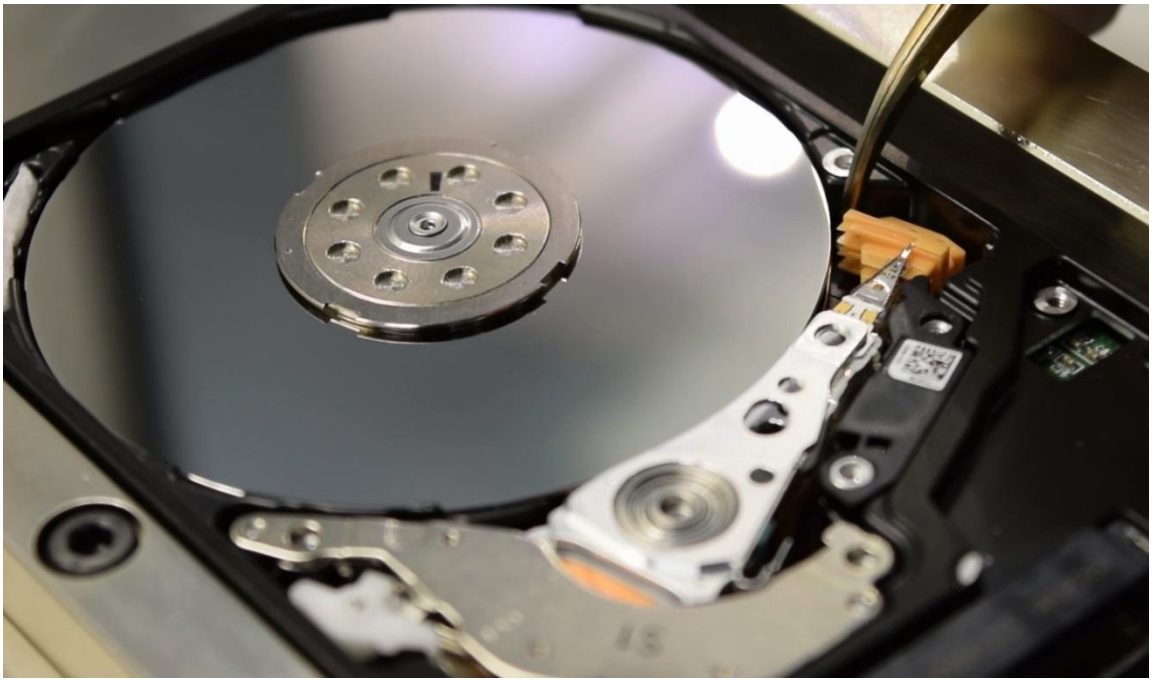
1. Base
2. The Unwinder

Picture 2.2. WD Slim Unlock Key parts

3. Using the tool

The tool is designed to remove the securing ring from the platter holder of the WD Slim hard drives, making the platter removal possible.

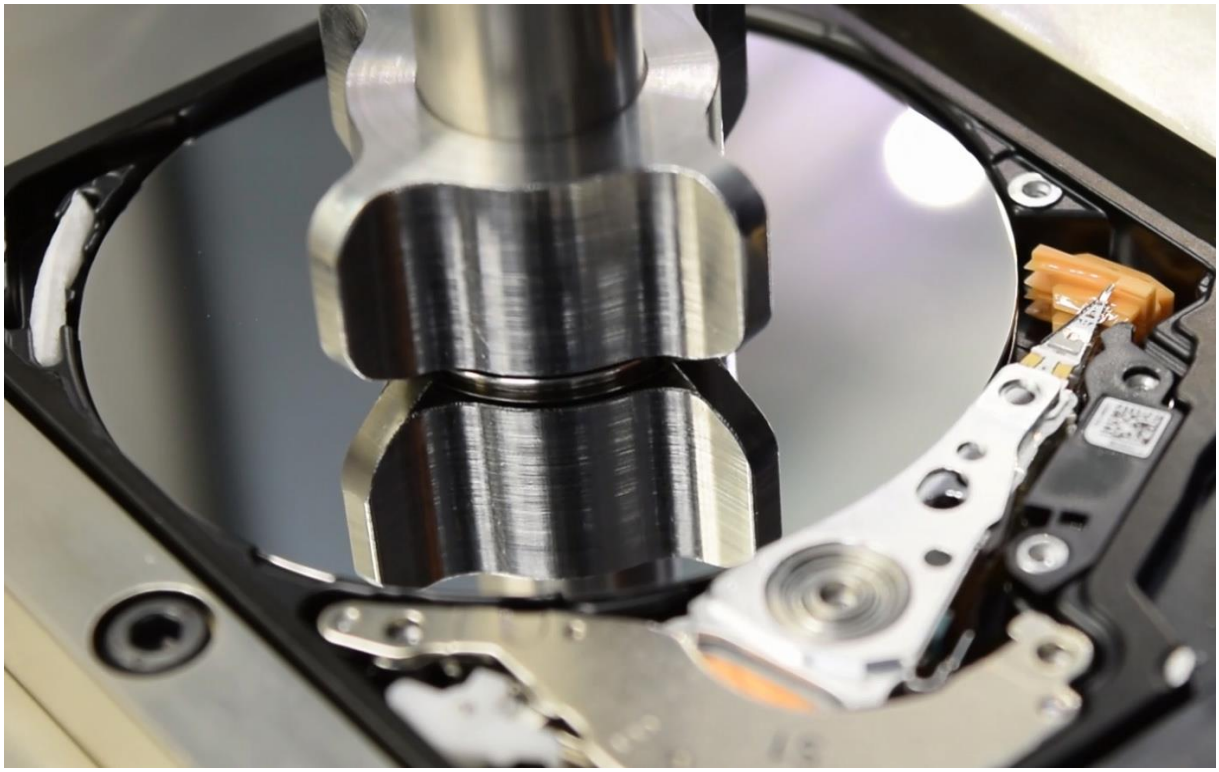
Open the drive, take the ramp off the platters and position the base of the tool on the surface of the platter holder, while making sure that the pins on the bottom plane of the tool are aligned with the holes in the platter holder.



Picture 3.1. Removing the ramp

Picture 3.2. Positioning the base on the surface of the platter holder

Place the "unwinder" coinciding the base ring with the inner ring of the unwinder. Make sure you are aligning the studs of the unwinder with the grooves in the securing ring.



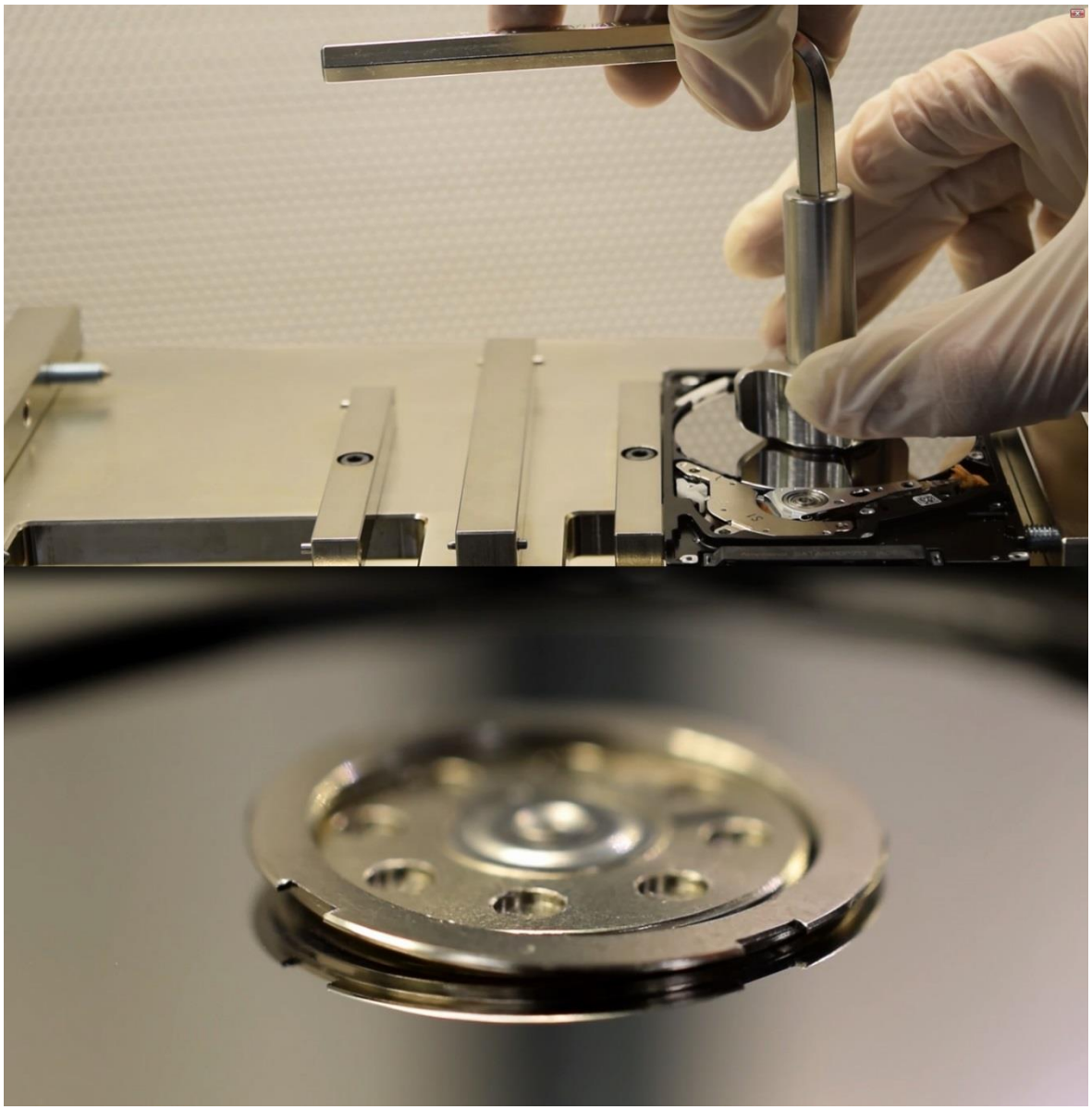
Picture 3.3. HDDS WD Slim Unlock Key ready for the unscrewing.

The tool is now in the correct position, but before you try unscrewing the securing ring, there are several factors you need to be aware of. If the drive you are working on has its main bearing jammed (disks can't rotate), you do not need to apply counterforce, but if the drive is a fully functional one, applying counterforce in the opposite direction of the rotation of the unwinder is mandatory.

Normally, it can be done by just holding the upper part of the base with your other hand, but in some cases, if the thread was damaged, using an adequate **hex key** is needed. There is a slot on the top side of the base which should be used for this purpose.

Also, applying a slight axial force to the platter holder (vertically pressuring the surface of the platter holder) is helpful, as it helps securing the position of the pins.

The unscrewing of the securing ring itself is a simple operation, if you pay attention to the above mentioned factors. Simply apply force to the unwinder (**counterclockwise**) and the torque will unscrew the securing ring.



Picture 3.4. Removing the security ring

Use the tweezers to **carefully** remove the securing ring, while paying extra attention not to damage the platters. After all the above steps have been done, the platters are finally free for further manipulation.

Putting the securing ring back and securing the platters is slightly more complicated. Start off with placing the securing ring concentrically with the platter holder using the tweezers, using **additional precaution**.

Place the base of the tool coinciding the pins with the holes in the platter holder. Slide the unwinder down the base, and align its studs with the grooves of the platter securing ring.

IMPORTANT!

In order to properly form the threaded connection between the platter securing ring and the platter holder, you will first need to **find the thread's starting point**. This is done by rotating the unwinder **counterclockwise slowly** until you feel a slight "click" which is actually the wanted starting position.

After the starting position is found, simply start rotating the unwinder clockwise, and after a few rotations, the securing ring will be firmly securing the platters. The last step is to return the ramp to its original position – over the platters.

4. Conclusion

This guide was written by HDDSurgery™ team and it is based on our experience acquired during the process of development, design and testing.

HddSurgery™ is not responsible for any possible consequential damage, including the loss or recovery of data or any other damage made by using or working with HddSurgery™ tools.

You can find more information about these tools and many other tools used for data recovery on our website:

http://www.hddsurgery.com/

Also you can watch the videos that show how these tool work on our YouTube channel:

http://www.youtube.com/user/HddSurgery

If you have any doubts or questions regarding use of our tools, you can contact our support team any time:

support@hddsurgery.com