



TI-*nspire*[™]

Getting Started with the TI-Nspire[™] Docking Station

This guidebook applies to TI-Nspire[™] software version 2.1. To obtain the latest version of the documentation, go to education.ti.com/guides.

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- Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
- Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
- Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

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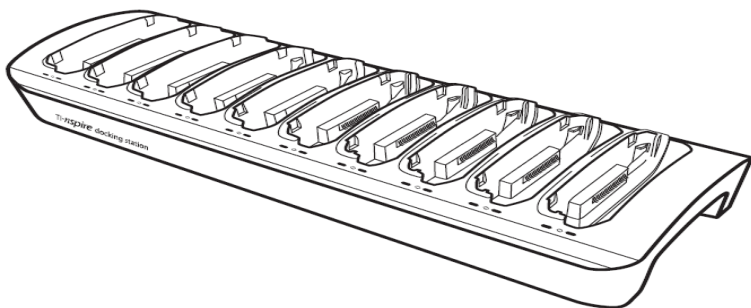
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Using the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station

The TI-Nspire™ Docking Station provides solutions for recharging batteries and transferring files to multiple handhelds at the same time. In the classroom, you can use docking stations to:

- Charge the lithium-ion TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Batteries in rechargeable-ready TI-Nspire™ handhelds.
- Transfer files to multiple handhelds at the same time using the Transfer Tool option in TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software or TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software.
- Upgrade the operating system (OS) on multiple TI-Nspire™ handhelds at the same time.



When using TI-Nspire™ Docking Stations, keep the following points in mind:

- Handhelds must have Handheld Operating System 2.1 or higher already loaded. You cannot use docking stations to charge batteries or transfer files to a handheld without a current OS or to load an OS to handhelds that do not have an operating system.
- Each docking station can hold up to 10 handhelds.
- TI-Nspire™ handhelds can be seated in the docking station with the slide case on the front of the handheld or without the slide case.
- When using multiple docking stations to charge TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Batteries or transfer files, you must connect each docking station to a power outlet or to a power strip with multiple outlets.
- When transferring files, docking stations can be used individually or linked together (daisy-chained). Linking docking stations together

with standard USB cables enables you to transfer files to up to 40 handhelds at the same time.

At least one of the docking stations in the chain must be connected to the teacher computer and all of the docking stations must be connected to a power outlet or power strip.

- It is not necessary to fill all the slots in the docking station to charge batteries or transfer files to handhelds.
- You can charge batteries and transfer files at the same time.
- When the docking stations are connected to a teacher computer, TI-Nspire™ software enables you to view:
 - The status of the batteries in connected handhelds (both TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Batteries and AAA batteries).
 - The status of files and folders being transferred to connected handhelds.

Requirements

To use the transfer function or view status of the handhelds, teachers must have TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software or TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software. The teacher computer must meet the minimum requirements for installing and running the software. For more information about system requirements, go to education.ti.com/guides, where you can download the relevant guidebook.

Software requirements

To transfer files to handhelds in the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station, teachers must have one of the following:

- TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software (Version 2.1 or higher)
- TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software (Version 2.1 or higher)

Supported handhelds

TI-Nspire™ handhelds that can be used with the docking station are listed in the following table. The check mark indicates whether the handheld is rechargeable-ready, can accept transferred files, or both.

To use the docking station to charge batteries in a handheld or transfer files to a handheld, the operating system must be Handheld Operating System 2.1 or higher.

| Supported Handheld | Charge | Transfer |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| TI-Nspire™ CAS handheld with Touchpad (rechargeable-ready) | ✓ | ✓ |
| TI-Nspire™ handheld with Touchpad (rechargeable-ready) | ✓ | ✓ |
| TI-Nspire™ handheld with TI-84 Plus keypad (rechargeable-ready) | ✓ | |
| TI-Nspire™ handheld with Clickpad | | ✓ |
| TI-Nspire™ CAS handheld with Clickpad | | ✓ |

Batteries

- TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Battery
- Four alkaline AAA batteries
 - Alkaline batteries cannot be recharged.
 - Do not under any circumstances use rechargeable AAA batteries in your handheld.

Although AAA batteries cannot be recharged, it is not necessary to remove them from the handheld when using the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station to transfer files or charge the TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Battery.

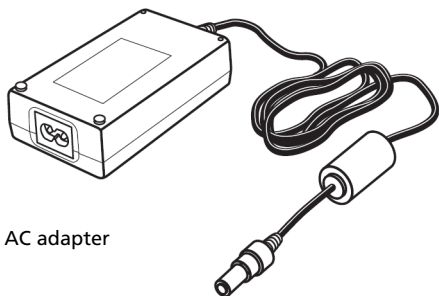
Preparing the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station for use

Unpacking the parts

The TI-Nspire™ Docking Station is shipped with the following components in each package:

- A TI-Nspire™ Docking Station
- An AC adapter
- A regional power cord adapter

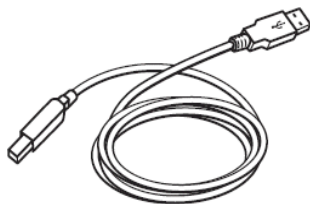
USB cables are provided with the TI-Nspire™ handhelds.



AC adapter

If you plan to link multiple docking stations together to transfer files, you will also need USB cables (standard A to mini-B USB cables). For example, if you need to transfer data to handhelds in four docking stations linked to the teacher computer, you will need four USB cables.

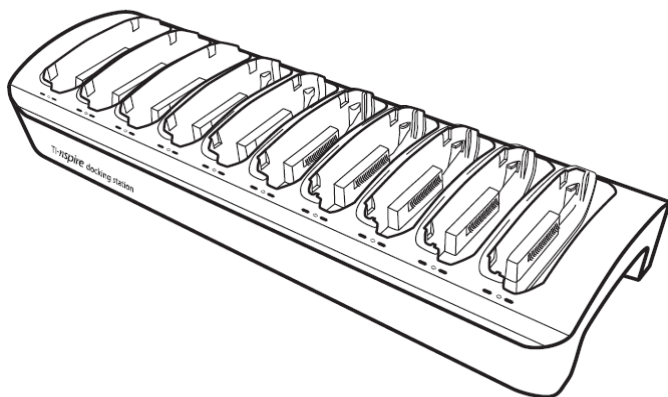
standard A to
mini-B USB
cable



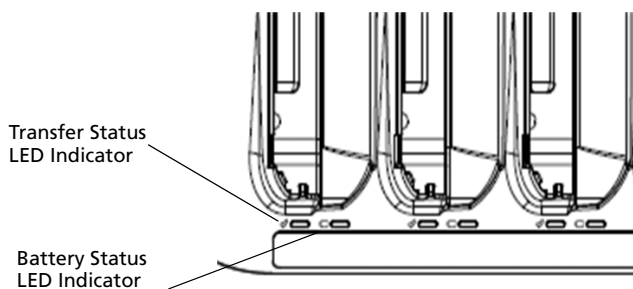
TI-Nspire™ Docking Station features

The TI-Nspire™ Docking Stations are designed to be easy to use and easy to move when needed in a different classroom. Once all components are unpacked, the docking station can be set up for use in minutes.

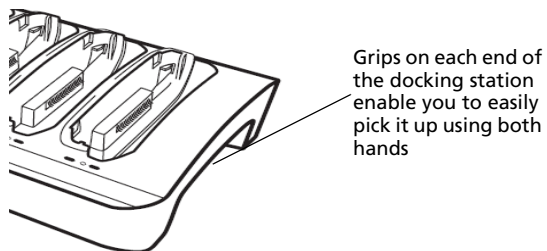
A docking station has 10 slots and each slot can accommodate a handheld with a slide case on the front of the unit or without the slide case.



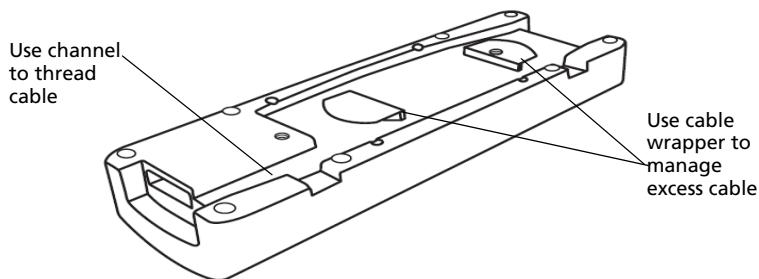
The LED indicators on the front of the docking station provide information about the battery status, transfer status, and indicate whether the handheld is properly seated.



Indentations on each side of the docking station enable you to lift the docking station using both hands.



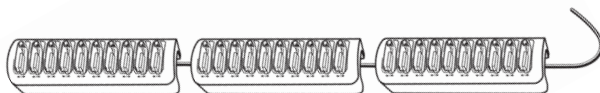
Turn the docking station over and you will notice an indentation or “channel” across the bottom. To ensure the docking stations sit flat on a surface, thread the cable through this space when you are configuring multiple docking stations end-to-end. You can use the cable wrapper to manage excess USB cable when you don’t need to use the entire length.



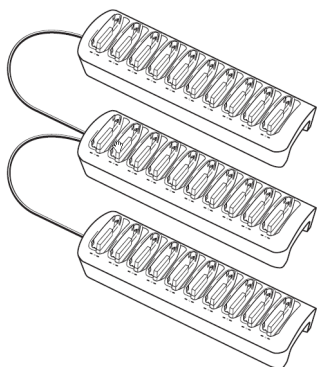
Configuring the docking stations

When setting up multiple TI-Nspire™ Docking Stations, you must use a flat, stable surface such as a table. You can also use a standard school cart if you need to move the docking stations from classroom to classroom. When deciding on a location, it is important to consider proximity to both the teacher computer and access to a power source such as a power strip or wall outlet.

You can choose how you want to configure multiple docking stations depending on how much space you have on the table or cart. If your surface is long and narrow, you can configure docking stations end-to-end.



If using a surface that is square or smaller in area, you can configure docking stations side-by-side.

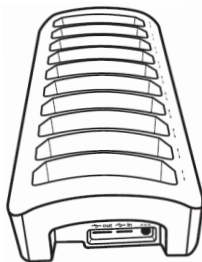


Your configuration will depend on the number of handhelds you normally have in your classroom. It is not necessary to set up three or four docking stations if you only need one or two.

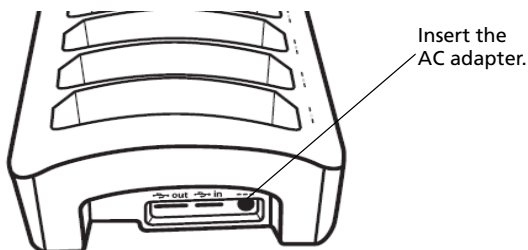
Setting up multiple docking stations

Complete the following steps to configure multiple docking stations.

1. Place the docking stations on the surface.

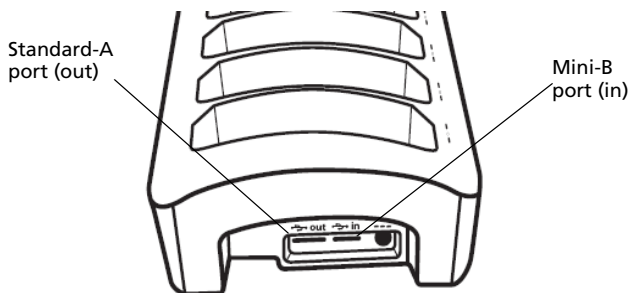


2. Insert the AC adapters into each docking station, then connect adapters to a power strip or wall outlet.



When using multiple docking stations to charge batteries or transfer files, you must connect each docking station to a power outlet or power strip.

3. Link the docking stations together with USB cable. The standard-A port is used to transfer data out. The mini-B port is used to transfer data in.



4. Connect the teacher computer to the closest docking station (for data transfer).

Inserting handhelds into the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station

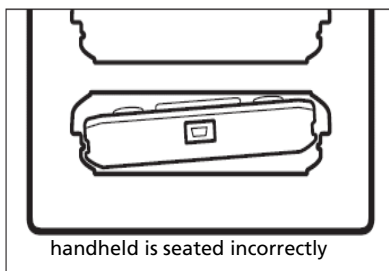
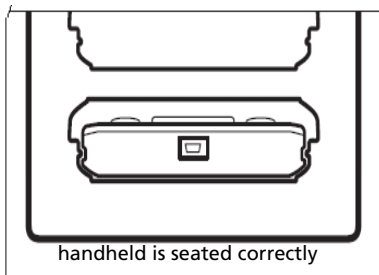
1. Align the connector on the bottom of the handheld with the connector on the docking station. When facing the front of the docking station (looking at the TI-Nspire™ logo), handhelds are inserted into the slot with the keypad facing right.
2. Push the handheld into the slot. You will feel a slight resistance and hear a small "pop" as the handheld is seated.

When a handheld is properly seated in a slot:

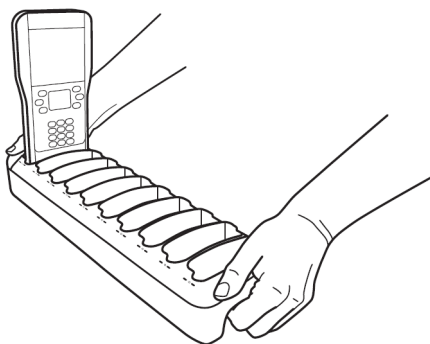
- The Transfer Status LED blinks five times to indicate the handheld is connected.
- The Battery Status LED illuminates to indicate the handheld is properly seated.

If the docking station is connected to power, handhelds are automatically turned on when placed in the slot.

The slots in the docking station are wide enough to accommodate a handheld with a slide case attached. When you place a handheld into a slot without a slide case, you will notice some "wobble room." Because the slot is big enough to accommodate a slide case, it is possible to seat a handheld incorrectly. If the handheld is seated incorrectly in the docking station, the battery will not charge and the transfer will fail.



When a TI-Nspire™ Docking Station is fully loaded with 10 handhelds, it weighs approximately 10 to 12 pounds. When moving a docking station to another location, always use two hands to lift the docking station. If tilted too far in any direction, handhelds can fall out of the docking station.



Charging TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Batteries

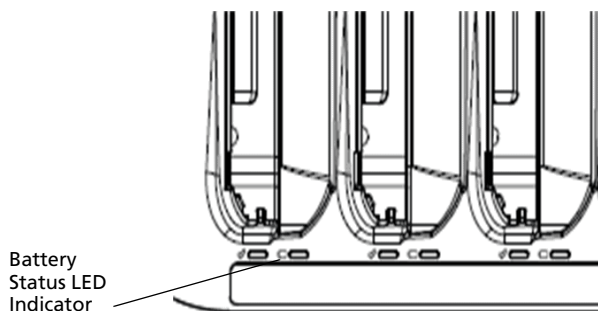
The charging process starts automatically when a handheld is placed into a slot if the docking station is connected to a power source. Otherwise, the charging process starts when the docking station is connected to a power source.

It is not necessary for the docking station to be connected to the teacher computer to charge the rechargeable batteries in the handhelds.

Determining status of batteries in a handheld

The LED lights under each slot on the docking station provide basic information about the status of the TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Battery or AAA batteries in the handheld. Status of batteries in the handheld is reported in the following priority:

- If a handheld has a rechargeable battery, status for the rechargeable battery is always reported even if the handheld also has AAA batteries.
- If the handheld only has AAA batteries, the status of the AAA batteries is reported.



To determine the status of the handheld's batteries, look at the Battery Status LED indicator for the slot under the handheld. The Battery Status LED Indicator is located to the right of the battery symbol:

- Red indicates battery is low with less than 25 percent power
- Yellow indicates battery power is between 25 and 75 percent
- Green indicates battery power is greater than 75 percent
- The light is off when:
 - The slot is empty.
 - The handheld is not seated correctly.
 - The docking station is not connected to a power source.

Learning more about battery status

For more information about battery status, teachers can access the **Content Workspace** using TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software or TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software version 2.1 or higher. You can view the status of both the TI-Nspire™ Rechargeable Batteries and the AAA batteries in connected handhelds.

For both rechargeable batteries and AAA batteries, status levels are reported as they are on the handheld:

- Critical, 25, 50, 75, or 100 percent charged.
- Percentages are presented in black text unless the level is critical. Red text indicates the battery power is critically low.

- Two dashes (--) indicate the handheld does not have a rechargeable battery installed.

Troubleshooting

If the recharge fails:

- Make sure the handheld is seated properly in the slot. Batteries are not charged if the connector on the handheld and the connector in the slot are not aligned.
- Check the connector on the handheld to ensure that it is clean. If there is build-up on the handheld's connector, you can remove it with a clean, dry cloth or a pencil eraser. Never use wet cloths or solutions of any kind.

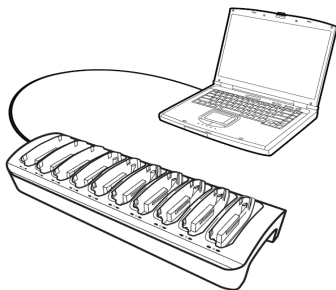
Transferring files and folders

Teachers can use the **Transfer Tool** function available in the TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software or TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software to reload connected handhelds in multiple docking stations with a common set of folders and files or upgrade the OS on handhelds with an existing operating system.

To transfer content to or from handhelds, you must also have handheld OS version 2.1 or higher installed on all of the connected handhelds.

Viewing status and settings

Teachers can also view the status and settings of connected handhelds. When using the **Transfer Tool**, one of the docking stations must be connected to the teacher's computer via a USB cable plugged into an available USB port. Multiple docking stations are linked together with USB cables.



Supported files types

You can transfer the following types of files to connected handhelds:

- .tns
- .tnc
- .edc
- .tno
- .fig
- .tlib

Using the **Transfer Tool**, you can select to transfer files to *all* connected handhelds or transfer files to *selected* handhelds in the docking station.

Transferring files and folders to TI-Nspire™ handhelds

Use the **Transfer Tool**, to select folders or files stored on your computer and transfer them to handhelds in the TI-Nspire™ Docking Station. Once a transfer starts, it continues until you stop it. You cannot select additional files until the transfer is complete or until you stop the transfer.

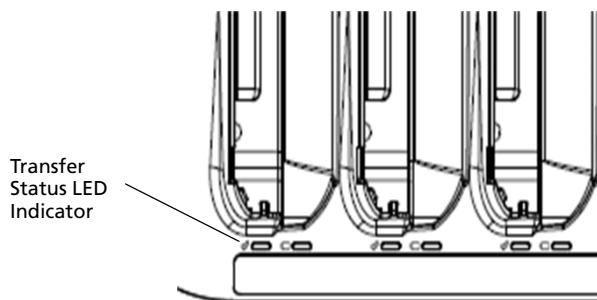
You can remove a handheld from the docking station when the associated Transfer Status LED indicator shows that the transfer is complete. You can place another handheld in the empty slot and files will also be transferred to that handheld unless you stop the transfer.

For detailed information about how to use the **Transfer Tool**, refer to the *TI-Nspire™ and TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software Guidebooks*.

Viewing transfer status on the docking station

The Transfer Status LED indicators under each slot on the front of the docking station provide basic information about the status of the transfer for the handheld in that slot.

The Transfer Status LED Indicator is to the right of the transfer (✓) symbol.



- The LED indicator is off if handhelds are simply charging and no transfer activity is happening.
- A solid green light indicates transfer is complete and successful.
- A blinking green light indicates that the transfer is active (files are being sent).

Viewing transfer status on the teacher computer

Teachers can use the **Transfer Tool** to view the status of transferred files to individual handhelds in the docking station. To view the status of transferred files:

1. Click the **Status** tab.
2. Click the **+** before the file name to open the display.

When you select a handheld in the tool, the following information is available:

- Handheld ID
- Name of the file being transferred
- Progress bar for that file on the selected handheld

For detailed information about how to use the **Transfer Tool**, refer to the *TI-Nspire™ and TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software Guidebooks*.

Troubleshooting

If the file transfer fails, check the handheld for the following error conditions:

- Low battery
- Wrong handheld type
- Memory full
- Lost connectivity
- Wrong OS version or no OS

Locating handhelds in the docking station

Using the **Identify Selected** option available in TI-Nspire™ Teacher Software or TI-Nspire™ CAS Teacher Software, you can quickly locate the slot for any handheld in the docking station. When you select the **Identify Selected** option, both of the LED lights under the slot where the handheld is located will blink for 30 seconds.

You can find the **Identify Selected** option on the **Tools** menu.

Storing TI-Nspire™ Docking Stations

You can store the TI-Nspire™ Docking Stations on a flat surface such as a table or standard school cart, which provides portability. If docking stations are set up on a surface that cannot be moved, you should consider proximity to both the teacher computer and a power source.

You can charge a classroom set of handhelds over night without issues. However, you should be aware of any security issues in the building if the classroom cannot be locked.

Appendix: Service and Support

Texas Instruments Support and Service

For general information

For more information about TI products and services, contact TI by e-mail or visit the TI Internet address.

E-mail inquiries: ti-cares@ti.com

Home Page: education.ti.com

Service and warranty information

For information about the length and terms of the warranty or about product service, refer to the warranty statement enclosed with this product or contact your local Texas Instruments retailer/distributor.

Battery Precautions

Take these precautions when replacing batteries.

- Do not leave batteries within the reach of children.
- Do not mix new and used batteries. Do not mix brands (or types within brands) of batteries.
- Do not under any circumstances use rechargeable AAA batteries in your handheld.
- Install batteries according to polarity (+ and -) diagrams.
- Properly dispose of used batteries immediately.
- Do not incinerate or dismantle batteries.

Disposing of Batteries

- Do not mutilate, puncture, or dispose of batteries in fire. The batteries can burst or explode, releasing hazardous chemicals. Discard used batteries according to local regulations.

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