

SOLO10G PCIe Card Quick Start Guide

You Should Have

The following items should be included in your product package:

- One Solo10G PCIe Card
- One additional mounting bracket
- QSG

The following items may be required for installation:

- Medium Phillips screwdriver

Computer Compatibility

- Mac Pro 14,8 (2023) and 7,1 (2019)
- PC desktop or server with full-height or low-profile PCIe slots

OS Compatibility

- macOS 13+
- Windows 11; Server 2025, 2022
- Linux Kernel 6.1, 6.12
- VMware ESXi 8,7

Thunderbolt Compatibility

- Mac computer (M series and Intel) with Thunderbolt 5, 4, or 3 ports via a Thunderbolt to PCIe card expansion system
- Windows computer with Thunderbolt 5 or 4 ports via a Thunderbolt-to-PCIe card expansion system
- Linux computer with Thunderbolt 5 or 4 ports via a Thunderbolt-to-PCIe card expansion system



Support Note: This document was up to date at the time of printing. However, changes to the hardware or software may have occurred since then. Please check the Sonnet website for the latest documentation.

1. Go to www.sonnettech.com/support/kb/kb.php
2. Navigate to and click the Solo10G PCIe Card link, and then click the Documentation link.
3. Click the Solo10G PCIe Card Quick Start Guide [English] link, and then check the Document Version information. If the version listed is later than this document (**revision L**), click the Download Now button for the latest version.



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Support Note: When handling computer products, you must take care to prevent components from being damaged by static electricity. Before opening your computer or removing parts from their packages, always ground yourself first by touching a metal part of the computer, such as a port access cover, and work in an area free of static electricity; avoid carpeted areas. Handle all electronic components by their edges, and avoid touching connector traces and component pins.

Installation Preparation

Sonnet strongly recommends that you read the section in your computer's user manual that addresses PCIe card installation, prior to installing the Sonnet card into your system.

Card Installation Steps

1. Shut down your computer or Thunderbolt to PCIe card expansion system and disconnect it from its power source, and then open it to access the expansion card area (PCIe slots); refer to the user's manual for specific information.
2. Locate an available x4 or larger PCIe slot and then remove its access cover.



Support Note: When installing the Solo10G card into your computer, it may be necessary to change the PCIe card bracket attached to the card with the spare bracket included in the package.

3. Remove the card from its packaging, and then install it into the PCIe slot; **make sure the card is firmly seated and secured.**

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4. Close your computer or expansion system, and then reconnect it to its power source. If the card is installed in an expansion system, also connect the Thunderbolt cable between Thunderbolt ports on the system and computer.
5. Connect a Cat 6A, Cat 6, or Cat 5e cable (depending on the network connection*) between the port on the Solo10G card and a port on the switch or device.

Driver Information

For Mac and Linux users, the drivers required to support this product are installed as part of supported operating systems; the Sonnet card is ready for use when you power on your computer.

For Windows users, please go to www.sonnettech.com/support/kb/kb.php. Navigate to and click the Solo10G PCIe Card link, and then click the Driver link. Locate, download, and install the Windows drivers.

* 10 Gb/s speed supported on Cat 6A and Cat 6 cabling at 100 and 55 meters, respectively. Lower speeds supported on Cat 5e (and better) cabling at up to 100 meters. 5 Gb/s and 2.5 Gb/s link speed support requires an NBASE-T (multi-Gigabit) compatible switch.

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Basic Card Configuration Information—macOS

Configure the card's settings in the System Preferences Network preferences panel; the card is identified as a PCI Ethernet card.

Performance Tuning Steps—macOS

Listed below are steps required to configure the Solo10G card for maximum performance. Please note that to take advantage of these settings, the switch or router to which the card is connected must also support these features.

1. Open System Preferences, and then click Network. In the Network System Preferences panel, click the Sonnet card's port in the left panel, and then click Advanced; a new panel appears.
2. In the Advanced panel, click Hardware. From the Configure drop-down menu, select "Manually". In the Speed drop-down menu, leave the setting at, or select 10GbaseT (or 5000baseT or 2500baseT if either is the top speed your network connection supports). In the Duplex drop-down menu, select "full-duplex" (not "full duplex, flow-control"). In the MTU drop-down menu, select "Custom," and then select "Jumbo" or enter "9000" in the box below.
3. When you've finished changing the settings, click OK. Back in the main Network window, click Apply after you've completed changing the settings; your installation is complete.



Support Note: For additional info on improving throughput under macOS, visit the Solo10G PCIe Card support page.

1. Go to www.sonnettech.com/support/kb/kb.php
2. Navigate to and click the Solo10G PCIe Card link, and then click the FAQ link.
3. Click the link for article ID 814.

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Basic Card Configuration Information—Windows

Configure the Sonnet card's settings using Windows Device Manager. You may locate the card in the Network adapters Category, listed as Solo10G PCIe Card or Presto Solo 10GBASE-T.

Basic Card Configuration Information—Linux

The steps necessary to configure the Sonnet card with your computer may vary based on the version of Linux running. Sonnet recommends using whatever method or tools you would normally use for configuring any onboard ports.

TIPS, GENERAL INFORMATION

5 Gb/s and 2.5 Gb/s Link Speed Support

Solo10G PCIe Card also supports 5 Gb/s and 2.5 Gb/s link speeds when used with NBASE-T compatible (multi-Gigabit) switches, and connected via Cat 5e (or better) cabling.

Audio Video Bridging (AVB) Support

The Solo10G PCIe Card supports AVB under macOS when used with AVB-compatible (802.1Qav) switches. For AVB applications, use the macOS Audio MIDI Setup app to configure your setup.

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Port and Indicator Information

1 - RJ45 (10GBASE-T) Port

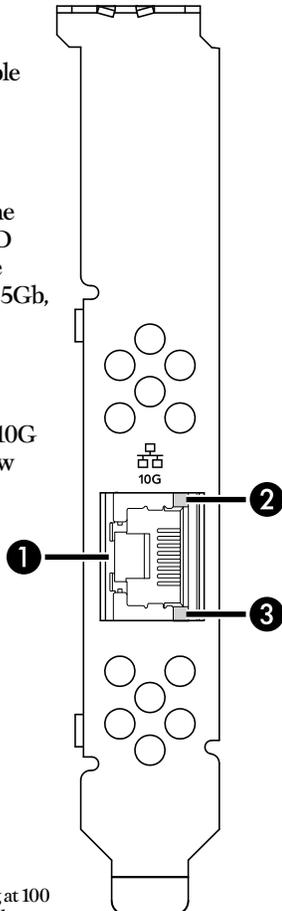
Connect a Cat 6A, Cat 6 or Cat 5e* cable between this port and the switch's or device's RJ45 port.

2 - Link Speed Indicator

When a link is established between the Solo10G card and the switch, this LED lights to indicate the link speed to the switch: green = 10Gb, yellow = 5Gb, 2.5Gb, 1Gb, and 100Mb.

3 - Link/Activity Indicator

This LED lights up green to indicate a link is established between the Solo10G card and the switch, and flashes yellow when the link is training.



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*10 Gb/s speed supported on Cat 6A and Cat 6 cabling at 100 and 55 meters, respectively. Lower speeds supported on Cat 5e (and better) cabling at distances up to 100 meters.

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