Installing an SSD in the Alesis Fusion

It is best to read this document through – as there are a few items you will require to complete this project, apart from the SSD as received . . . .

1) A 2.5" to 3.5" cradle adaptor to mount the 2.5" SSD in a 3.5" space.
2) A 2.5" to 3.5" adaptor for the DATA and POWER so the Fusion's ribbon cable will fit the SSD's 2.5" arrangement. Power is by standard MOLEX with 2 -wires only.
3) A small drill suitable to drill out the blanking plug on the Fusion's IDE ribbon plug, I used a 1/16" drill in a "Dremel" type mini drill.

As with ALL such user mods. Inside the Fusion, the responsibility is with you, if you decide to proceed.

The mod was done on my Fusion 8HD, but, given that the 6HD is identical to the 8HD with the exception of the keyboard, I have do doubt that the mod. Will be successful on a 6HD.

It may be a LITTLE more difficult because things are closer together, however.

When you have opened your Fusion you will see something like this:
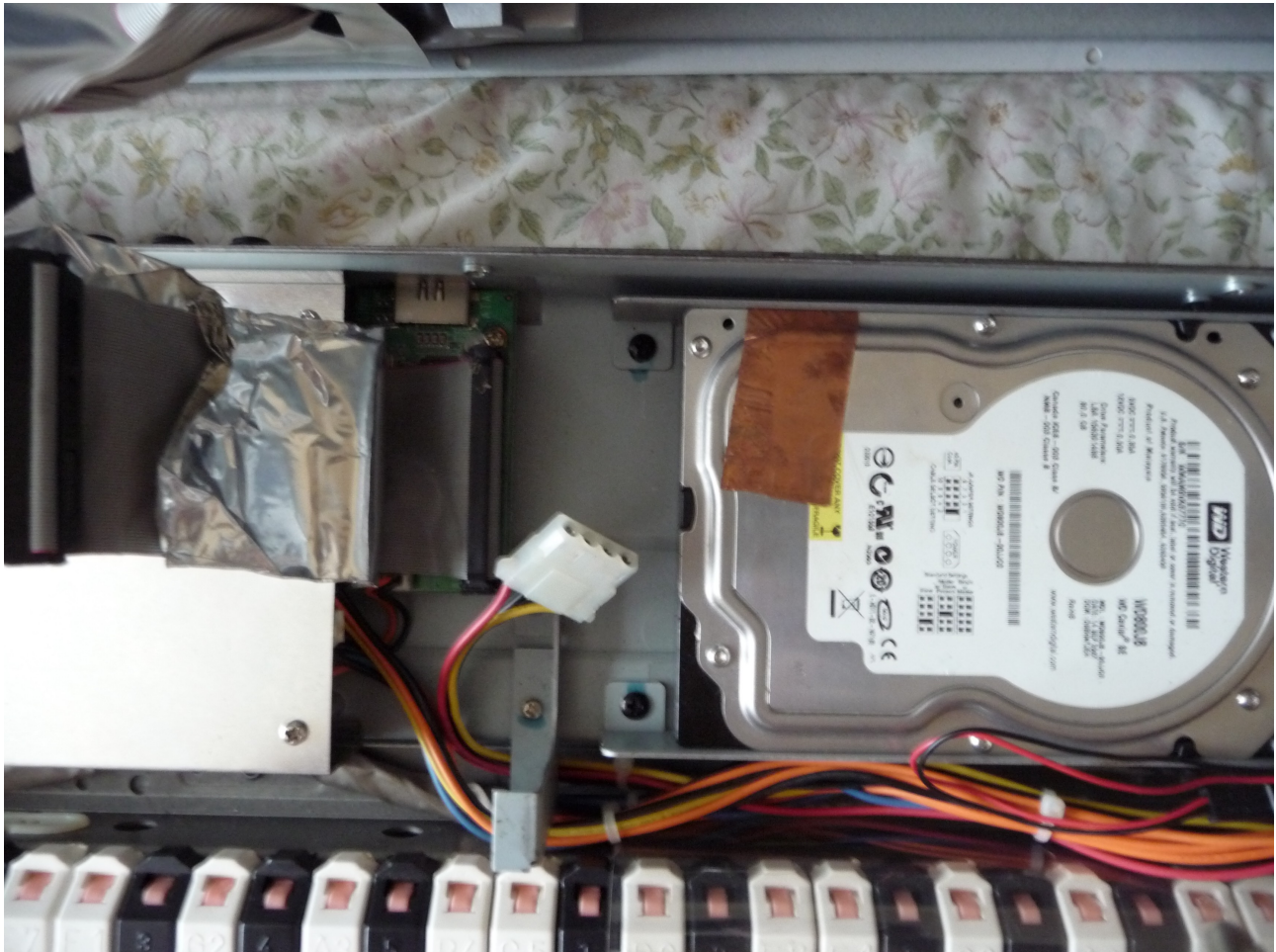
I have unplugged the data ribbon and the molex power to show the BLACK screws that hold the HDD's cradle to the base of the Fusion.

There are two (out of shot) the other end. These four must be removed, to take the

HDD out.

Remember that the tabs are pointing INWARDS (for when you re-assemble later).

I had to do it wrong- first time ;-) (doh)

Drive and cradle look like this when removed:

Next, remove the screws holding the drive to the cradle parts and set the HDD to one side.

BE CAREFUL OF THE CRADLE PARTS – THEY ARE STAMPED-OUT, AND SOME OF THE EDGES HAVE NOT BEEN "FINISHED" AND ARE RAZOR-SHARP.

The cradle you need to mount the SSD in the fusion looks like this:

This one is plastic, and will actually hold TWO drives.

It might be interesting to see if the Fusion can understand TWO drives, if connected with a suitable ribbon cable, and correctly jumpered to Master and Slave?

I mounted the SSD in the UPPER "storey" as it leaves about 1/2" space below the drive for better ventillation.

(In the 8HD, the small fan next to the PSU will certainly move the air above and below the drive – which is good.

The Data/Power adaptor you need looks like this:

The 3.5" "side" has ALL pins present, unlike the outgoing HDD which has one pin MISSING.

This difference creates the one piece of real "work" to be done to complete this project.

The Fusion Data ribbon plug WON'T fit the above adaptor as-is.

There are two choices: either

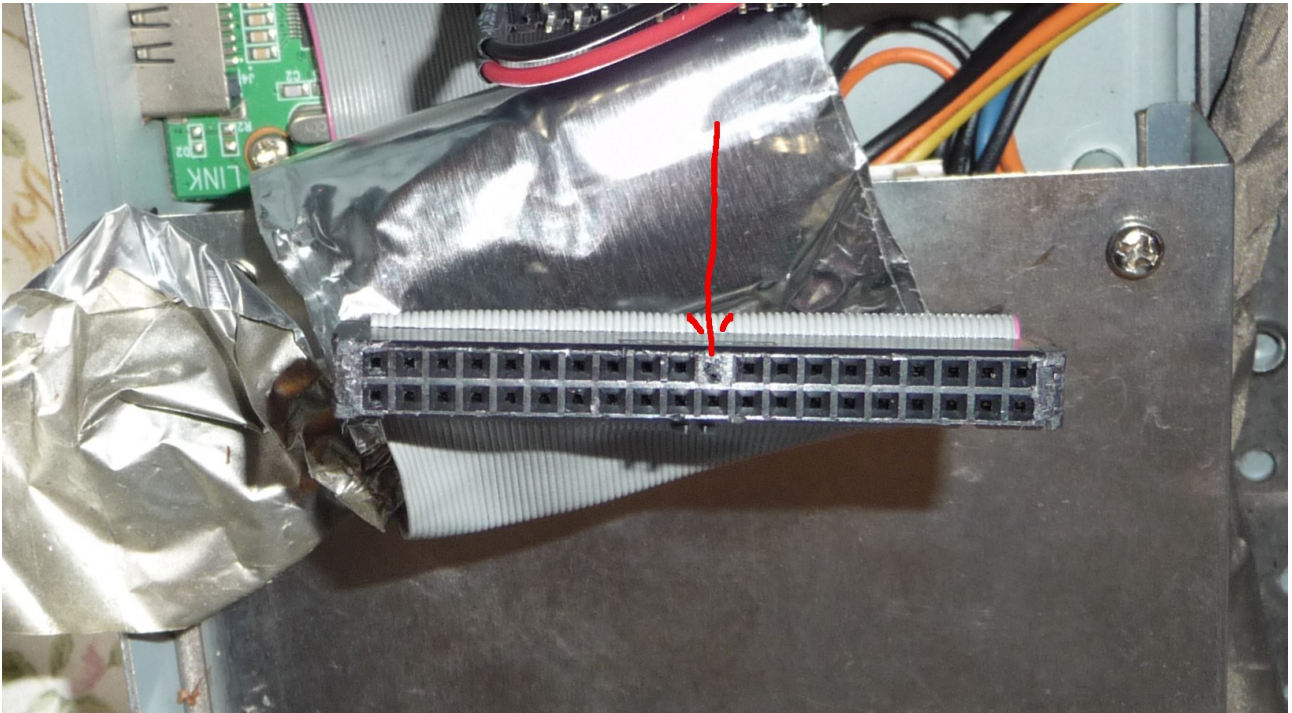drill out the blanked-off hole in the Fusion's Data ribbon, OR

Snip the offending pin OFF the adaptor.

I chose the former, as its easier.

Also, you can re-fit the original drive if needed - for whatever reason . . . .

The offending blanked-off "hole on the Fusion's IDE plug is shown here:

I used a 1/16" drill to "clear the hole to the depth of a pin.

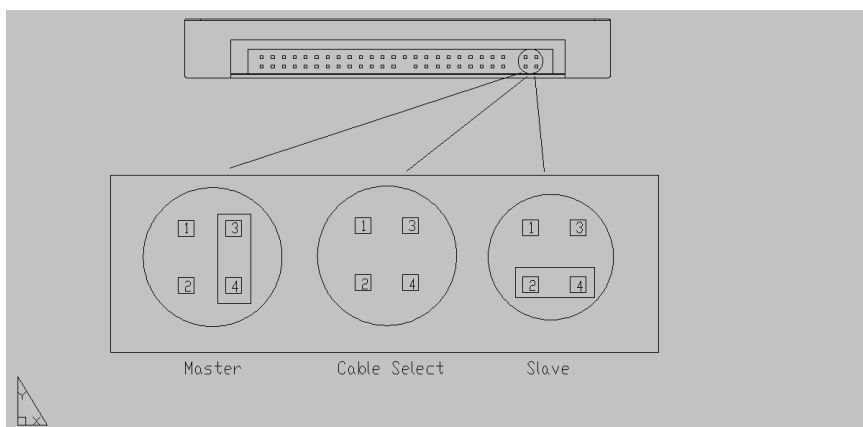The SSD in it's cradle – with the adaptor installed looks like this:

All that needs to be done now is to mount the cradle with its SSD back in the Fusion.
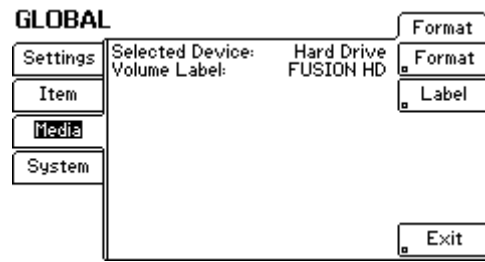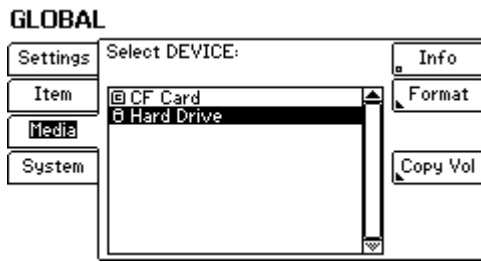
When installed, it looks like this: (Note the small fan next to the PSU - useful)

The SSD arrives set to "Master" as shown below, and I installed it "as received".

Now, go to the global/item menu and FORMAT the SSD

The SSD formatted incredibly quickly. I took the opportunity to reload the 1.24 OS at this point, but it's not essential.

I closed the Fusion case at this point.

I find it helps to locate the back edge of the TOP panel inside the rear of the bottom section, before you start to close it.

The plastic end cheeks will then more easily slide against the bottom section before finally "snapping" in position. Replace the 19 screws.

Computer operations following are for PC. Mac is slightly different.

Finally, USB the Fusion to your PC and copy back the <Volume > folder to the ROOT of the Fusion's SSD.

Unmount the Fusion Drive from your PC. Restart the Fusion, go to the Global menu and verify all . . . .
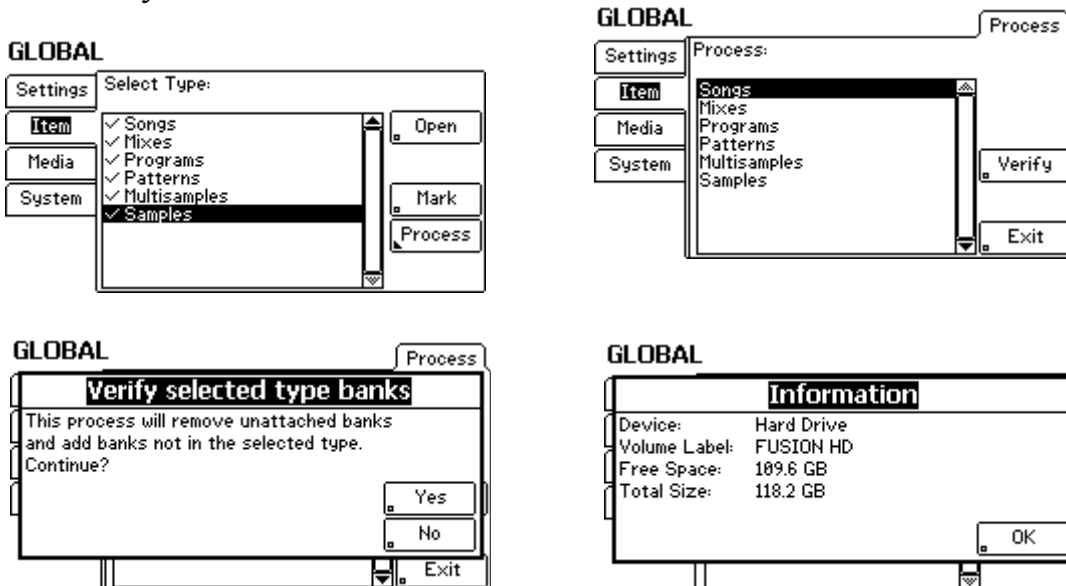
Info on the SSD should look something like this (I have about 8Gb including various songs + the Fusion <Demos>)

Enjoy your Quieter, cooler-running and "bounce-proof" Fusion. :-)

Document by Chris N Miller AKA <parametric> 19th May 2014 v1.0