Choosing the Wi-Fi Adapter for Wireless Penetration Testing

To do wireless penetration testing a card must be able to support monitor mode, packet injection and master mode, most cards can't do this.

Monitor mode enables a wireless network card to passively capture packets without associating with an access point.

Think of it like listening to people's conversations while you walk down the street.

Packet injection allows you to craft and inject or send data to wireless devices and networks nearby.

Master mode (also called AP or infrastructure mode) is used to create a service that looks like a traditional access point.

The wireless card creates a network with a specified name (called the SSID) and channel, and offers network services on it.

Wireless Chipset

The chipset is important as it will determine if the wireless adapter can support monitor mode, packet injection and master mode.

The best one which is used by most of Wi-Fi pentesters is **Atheros AR9271**

This chipset supports packet injection monitor mode and master mode which allows this to be used as an access point to create fake hotspot for Evil twin attacks.

So I strongly recommend to buy an wireless adapter with the Atheros chipset AR9271.

Also to be effective at Wi-Fi Hacking, you can use multiple adapters, one specifically for the Access Point and another for attacking.