Microsoft says Windows XP does not support raid. Adaptec says their AAA-131U2 raid controller will not work with Windows XP. Well here is what I found and what you will need.

To use Adaptec AAA-131U2 (and probably AAA-133U2) raid adapter with Windows XP download these files from Adaptec if you do not already have the last drivers and updates. Copy and paste the links in Internet Explorer to get the files from Adaptec.

This link is for the installation guide for the AAA-131U2 and AAA-133U2 Cards:
http://download.adaptec.com/pdfs/installation_guides/aaa130u2_ig.pdf

This link is to the files to make a bootable floppy for setting up the raid array before XP installation:
http://download.adaptec.com/raid/aaa/aaau2arconfigv42.exe
Expect several hours to initially set up the array.

This file contains drivers for the Adaptec raid cards AAA-131U2 for Windows 2000:
http://download.adaptec.com/raid/aaa/131u2_v42032_drv_w2k.exe
They should be copied to a floppy for use with 2000/XP.

This file is for the latest raid management software used with the AAA raid controllers, it works great in Windows XP as well as Windows 2000:
http://download.adaptec.com/raid/udma/cio-udma_v403_srv-clnt.exe

You will need to hit <F6> and load the drivers when called for in Windows XP. After the first reboot when starting the Windows XP installation, you will get a warning that the drivers will not work with XP, choose **do not load the drivers** or Windows XP will hang during driver installation with a blue error screen. After Windows XP has installed without the drivers and you have updated to service pack 2, open control panel, system, hardware, device manager, locate the two devices that need drivers, SCSI and memory controller, and choose update drivers. Put the disk with the drivers in the computer and Windows should find the drivers and install them without a problem (at least it works with the intel 865 chipset motherboards and a Pentium 4, have not tried it on other systems).

I have been using this controller with Windows XP service pack 2 using a three drive setup for Raid 5 with excellent results! Rebuilt a failed drive in the array in the background while using XP, without a problem!

Jan 05, just finished building a system with a AAA-131U2 controller, Pentium 4- 3 GHz processor, intel 865 chipset motherboard, an intel 5 drive hot swap SCSI back plane and a 5 drive 36.7 gig raid 5 array. Pulled a drive and replaced it, rebuilt the drive in the background using the CI/O software while continuing to work in Windows!

You can build a second or third array in the background using the CI/O software after completing the Windows installation.

Microsoft says that Windows XP does not support raid and Adaptec says that the AAA-131U2 controller will not work with Windows XP.   I say Hah!

Screen shot on next page.