

PREPARING YOUR MICROSD CARD FOR THE RASPBERRY PI

In order to use your Raspberry Pi, you will need to install an Operating System (OS) onto a microSD card. An Operating System is the set of basic programs and utilities that allow your computer to run; examples include Windows on a PC or OSX on a Mac.

These instructions will guide you through installing a recovery program on your microSD card that will allow you to easily install different OS's and to recover your card if you break it.

1. Insert a microSD card that is 4GB or greater in size into your computer. (You may need to use an SD card adapter.)
2. Format the microSD card so that the Pi can read it.
 - a. **Windows**
 - i. Download the SD Association's Formatting Tool from;
https://www.sdcard.org/downloads/formatter_4/eula_windows/
 - ii. Install and run the Formatting Tool on your machine.
 - iii. Set "FORMAT SIZE ADJUSTMENT" option to "ON" in the "Options" menu matches.
 - iv. Check that the microSD card you inserted matches the one selected by the Tool.
 - v. Click the "Format" button.
 - b. **Mac**
 - i. Download the SD Association's Formatting Tool from;
https://www.sdcard.org/downloads/formatter_4/eula_mac/
 - ii. Install and run the Formatting Tool on your machine.
 - iii. Select "Overwrite Format".
 - iv. Check that the SD card you inserted matches the one selected by the Tool.
 - v. Click the "Format" button.
 - c. **Linux**
 - i. We recommend using gparted (or the command line version parted).
3. Format the entire disk as FAT 32. Download the New Out Of Box Software (NOOBS) from;
downloads.raspberrypi.org/noobs
4. Unzip the downloaded file.
 - a. **Windows**
 - i. Right-click on the file and select "Extract All".
 - b. **mac**
 - i. Double-click the file.
 - c. **Linux**
 - i. Run unzip [downloaded filename].
5. Copy the extracted files onto the microSD card that you just formatted.
6. Insert the microSD card into your Pi and connect the power supply.

Holding the 'Shift' key down while booting the Raspberry Pi will display a list of operating systems that you can choose to install. If your display remains blank, you should select the correct output mode for your display by pressing one of the following number keys on your keyboard;

1. **HDMI mode** - this is the default display mode.
2. **HDMI Safe Mode** - select this mode if you are using the HDMI connector and cannot see anything on screen when the Pi has booted.
3. **Composite PAL Mode** - select either this mode or composite NTSC mode if you are using the composite RCA video connector.
4. **Composite NTSC mode**

Note: The built-in Windows formatting tool will only format the first partition that Windows can read not the entire disk. For this reason we advise using the official SD Card Association Formatting Tool.