

# Create bootable USB drive

## UNetBootin

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:gezakovacs/ppa
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install unetbootin
```

1. Select disk image and choose ISO.
2. Now, Browse to the particular ISO that you want to make as an installation media.
3. Again, choose the type as USB and select your USB drive. Once you click ok, UNetbootin will install the boot media to your USB.

## ddrescue

```
sudo apt install gddrescue
```

Find block device of USB stick:

```
sudo fdisk -l
```

```
ddrescue path/to/.iso /dev/sdx --force -D
```

Replace the x and path/to/.iso with your specific device block name and the path for the iso file.

## dd

```
sudo umount /dev/sd??
```

where ?? is a letter followed by a number, look it up by running lsblk.

```
sudo dd bs=4M if=path/to/input.iso of=/dev/sd? conv=fdatasync
status=progress
sync
<?code>
```

- where input.iso is the input file, and /dev/sd? is the USB device you're writing to (run lsblk to see all drives to find out what <?> is for your USB).

- conv=fdatasync avoids kernel disk caching and ensures write buffers are flushed before dd returns as finished.

- The sync bit is important as dd can return before the write operation finishes (in case conv=fdatasync wasn't used).

```
===== dd/syslinux =====
```

Sometimes (usually older iso files) dd is not sufficient and the pendrive will not boot. In this case, you may need to install syslinux:

```
<code>sudo apt-get install syslinux
```

and then run the following commands:

```
sudo mkfs -t vfat -I /dev/sdX
```

You want to run that last command to /dev/sdX and not /dev/sdX1.

Then, proceed with the following commands:

```
isohybrid /path/to/file.iso --entry 4 --type 0x1c  
dd if='/path/to/file.iso' of=/dev/sdX bs=8M conv=fdatasync
```

or, to see progress of image write:

```
pv -tpreb /path/to/file.iso | dd of=/dev/sdX bs=8M
```

or instead of dd, you can use cat instead:

```
sudo -s  
cat /path/to/file.iso > /dev/sdX
```

Remember to issue sync command to flush write cache

```
sync
```

## Balena etcher

GUI from <http://etcher.io>

To install:

```
echo "deb https://deb.etcher.io stable etcher" | sudo tee  
/etc/apt/sources.list.d/balena-etcher.list  
sudo apt-key adv --keyserver hkps://keyserver.ubuntu.com:443 --recv-keys  
379CE192D401AB61  
sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt-get install balena-etcher-electron
```

To Uninstall:

```
sudo apt-get remove balena-etcher-electron  
sudo rm /etc/apt/sources.list.d/balena-etcher.list
```

```
sudo apt-get update
```

or:

```
wget  
"https://dl.bintray.com/etcher/debian/pool/stable/e/etcher/:balena-etcher-el  
ectron_1.5.99_amd64.deb"  
sudo dpkg -i balena-etcher-electron_1.5.99_amd64.deb
```

## Testing using Qemu

To test if everything has gone right, boot your system from the USB drive. To do so you will have to reboot your system. QEMU can help you in this. QEMU is a machine emulator and virtualizer.

```
Make sure qemu is installed  
<code>apt-get install qemu</code>  
run the below command and you will see a virtual machine booting from your  
USB Drive
```

```
qemu -hda /dev/sdb
```

From:

<http://wuff.dyndns.org/> - **Wulf's Various Things**

Permanent link:

<http://wuff.dyndns.org/doku.php?id=howto:bootable-usb&rev=1685357733>

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