Pirate Stick Quickstart Guide

This document will help you get started creating your own Pirate Stick, a bootable USB device that runs a Live version of the popular MX-Linux operating system bundled with Pirate Box software.

This version of the document is very basic and not very pretty. It is only temporary until more time can be devoted to improve the quality and provide additional details.

Step 1 – Download the Pirate Stick ISO Image File (4.2GB)

The image is currently only hosted on the IPFS network. It is accessible to download via one of the many public IPFS gateways provided around the world. Use one of those gateways as a prefix to the Pirate Stick image file CID (Content Identifier address) to download the ISO file. Here are several examples with the gateway prefixed to the CID. Take note the performance of these public gateways var widely and are vulnerable to aggression by ICANN and other powers that shouldn't be.

https://dweb.link/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://astyanax.io/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://infura-ipfs.io/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://ipfs.io/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://gateway.ipfs.io/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://cf-ipfs.com/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz
https://cloudflare-ipfs.com/ipfs/QmTBPD1zsMLP6d23iYB3fsiRQH9MvgMKUzDYsNUUX3PZYz

The more people that pin this on their IPFS nodes the faster downloads will be for everyone. If the file downloaded is not named ***pStickRC1-3-3-2022.iso*** you should rename it to avoid confusion later.

Step 2 – Verify the Integrity of the File

Calculate the sha256 hash of the downloaded file. It should match this string of characters exactly:

2704a55ac67e759b5340fe0a91664bae333e2343df80a00ff8b24a96de5be1ca

On the linux operating systems derived from Debian (Ubuntu, Mint, MX Linux, Raspian/Raspberry Pi OS – the list is very long) use this command:

sha256sum pStickRC1-3-3-2022.iso

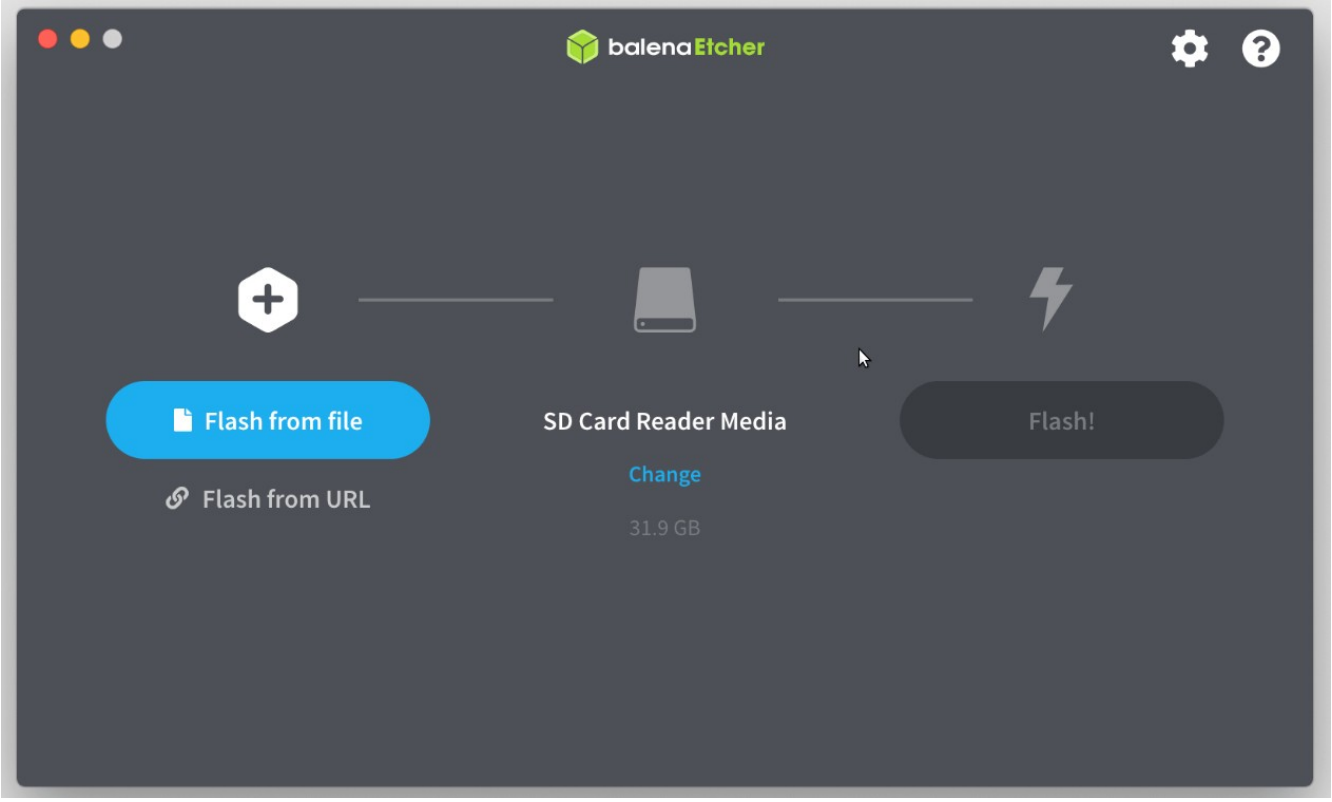
On Windows – good luck. Microsoft just makes it difficult to discover the tools needed to perform this routine task. On Windows 10 try these commands:

in a command prompt window: certutil -hashfile pStickRC1-3-3-2022.iso SHA256
or in PowerShell: Get-FileHash -Path pStickRC1-3-3-2022.iso -Algorithm SHA256

On Apple computers use: shasum -a 256 pStickRC1-3-3-2022.iso

Step 3 – Flash the ISO Image to a USB Device

You will need an empty (the flashing process will erase all data on the USB device) USB device of at least 8GB. More space is better and USB3 is preferred, especially for using the Pirate Stick as a Live operating system. The device can be a USB “thumb” drive or memory stick, also known as a flash drive. Also possible but not recommended is an SD or a micro SD card in a USB adapter. USB hard drives or USB SSD drives are alternatives.



There are many tools and a great deal of information online on how to install an ISO file to a USB device to boot an operating system. I prefer using Balena Etcher because it’s available on multiple platforms and is easy to use. It will work on USB devices as well as SD cards.

Rufus is another popular application for Windows or Linux. If you’re on Linux, Mac or other *nix operating system you can use the dd command. I caution you that the dd command has the potential to corrupt your system disk if you get the parameters wrong, so if you use that be very careful.

The ISO was created using the MX Linux snapshot tool and installed onto a 250GB USB3 SSD drive for testing using the mx-live-usb-maker tool. If you install your ISO on a computer or virtual machine those tools will be available to you as well, and you could use the mx-live-usb-maker to flash a USB device.