**Installing Linux on an External SSD running off of macOS Mojave.**

You’ll need at least a 4GB flash drive and the program [Etcher](https://www.balena.io/etcher/).

This guide will ensure that you’ll be able to successfully boot to macOS using refind without the annoyance of installing Grub2.

As a precaution, please make a backup of your system. I suggest [Carbon Copy Cloner](https://uploaded.net/file/55glxgrq). Simply clone your internal drive to a spare and voila.

A well-known issue with most Linux installers is a bug that arises when installing to an external HDD / SDD. This bug plants the bootloader onto the internal drive rather the external drive; even if you specify the EXT for boot loader installation.

To begin, let’s download [Refind](https://sourceforge.net/projects/refind/files/0.11.4/refind-bin-0.11.4.zip/download), as this will be our primary bootloader and works miraculously with macOS. Once it’s downloaded, extract the files and of those files drag and drop the “refind-install” script into Terminal and let it do it’s thing. Once completed restart your macOS and you should come face to face with the ReFind Bootloader Screen:



Now that we have established that, let’s get down to Linux! Burn or Write the Desired Linux Distro, in this case Linux Mint using Etcher and restart your macOS. When the ReFind screen appears again, choose the option showing Boot “EFI” “x64.efi”.

Once it begins to load, plug in your EXT HDD / SSD, and proceed to launch Gparted.

While selecting the entire disk (EXTERNAL NOT INTERNAL),

click Device

Create Partition Table

Choose “gpt”

Apply.

Click on the same drive and Create a new partition by doing:

Partition > New > New Size (200MiB) > Primary Partition > Partition Name: EFI

Filesystem: FAT32 > Label: EFI; then clock Apply All Operations. Select that same partition with a right-click and choose Manage Flags > Check “esp” and “boot”.

Create another Partition: 20GB Size, EXT4 Filesystem, Label: Root

Repeat: 1-2x amount of RAM (8000MiB), linux-swap Filesystem, Label: Swap

Repeat Leave Size, EXT4 Filesystem, Label: Home.

\*\*Remember the Root & Home partitions\*\*

Open a terminal window and type sudo ubiquity -b and initiate the install.

When you get to installing on what HDD / SSD:A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Click on Something Else.

Right click on the Root partition and ensure the mountpoint is /

Click on the Home partition and ensure the mountpoint is /home

Now press Install Now, if done correctly the install will finish and ask if you wish to restart.