GParted is a graphically managed editor for disk partitions. It allows you to format drives, grow and shrink partitions and possibly even recover lost data. You can use GParted to reformat the SD card that came with your RPi Kit to ensure that you have a clean starting point. In many cases, the original SD card you received will have a Linux image on it which you will need to remove in order to run the class toolchain.

1   Formatting a Drive with GParted

In VMWare, connect the USB reader device to the linux VM. Open GParted:
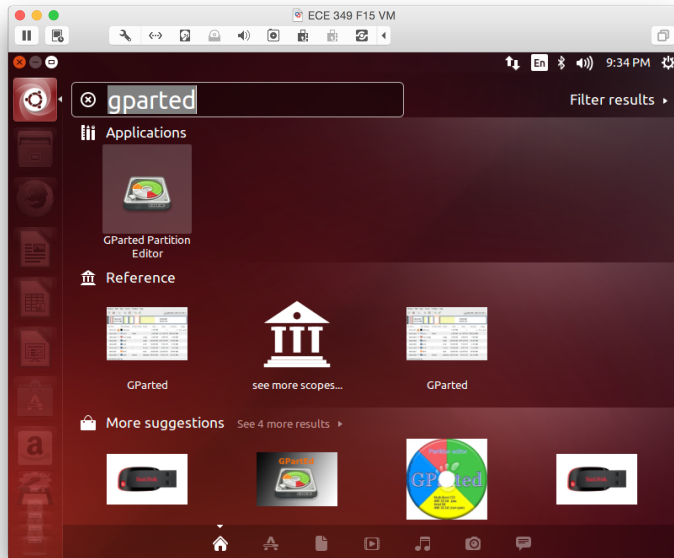
In GParted, select the SD card from the device menu in the upper right. It will likely be /dev/sdb, an 8GB device. /dev/sda is the boot disk that holds the Linux installation running inside your VM.
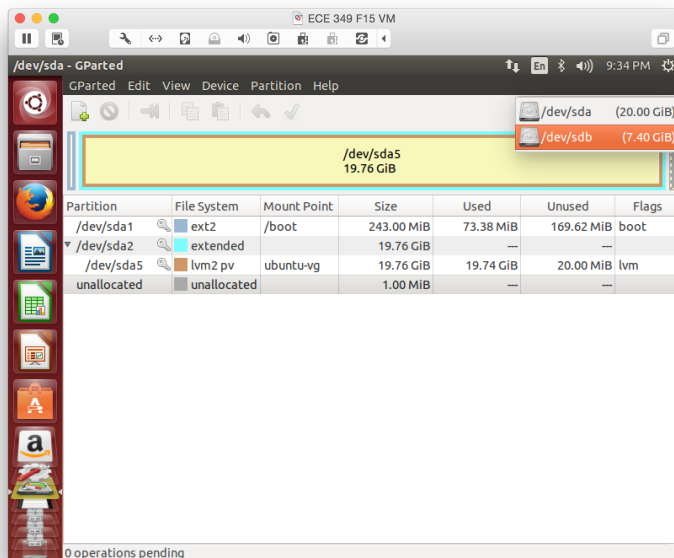
Since Ubuntu auto-mounts USB drives, we need to unmount the SD card partitions before we can delete them. For each partition with a key icon on the left (but not the exteded partition since it is fake), select the partition and use the Partition>Unmount menu option.
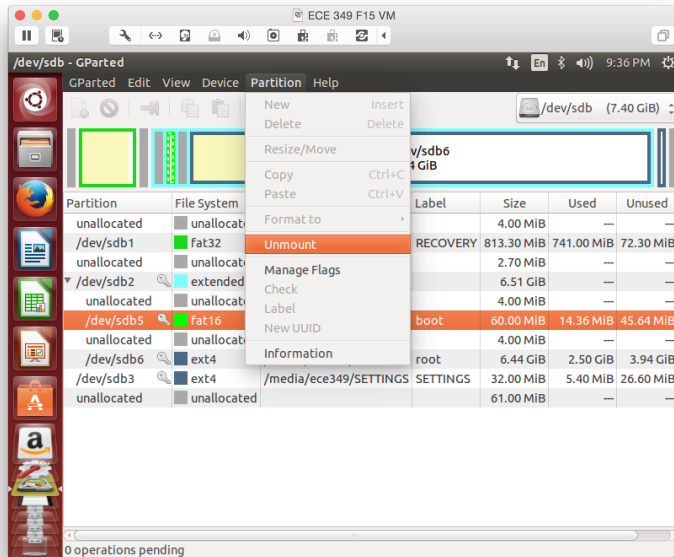

Delete everything on the drive by creating a new partition table using the Device>Create Partition Table... menu option.
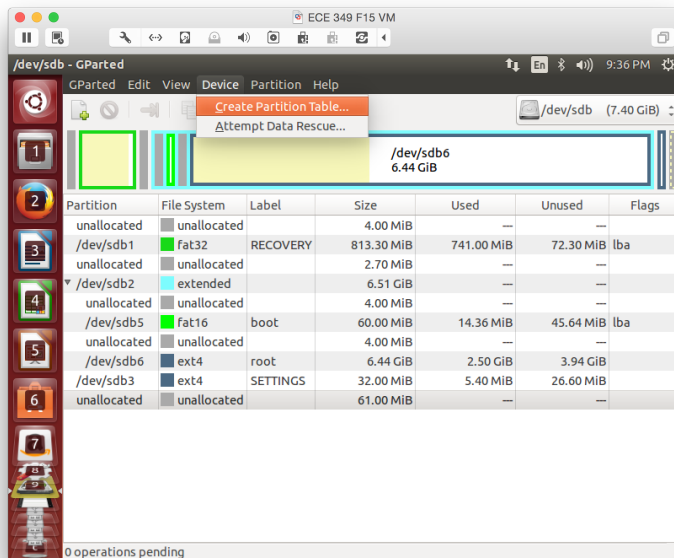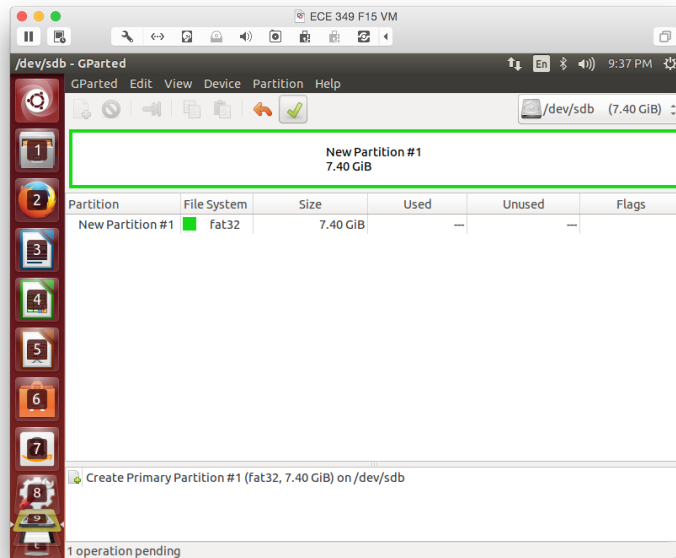
We want to use an msdos (master boot record) type partition table. The RPi bootloader understands this type of filesystem format.
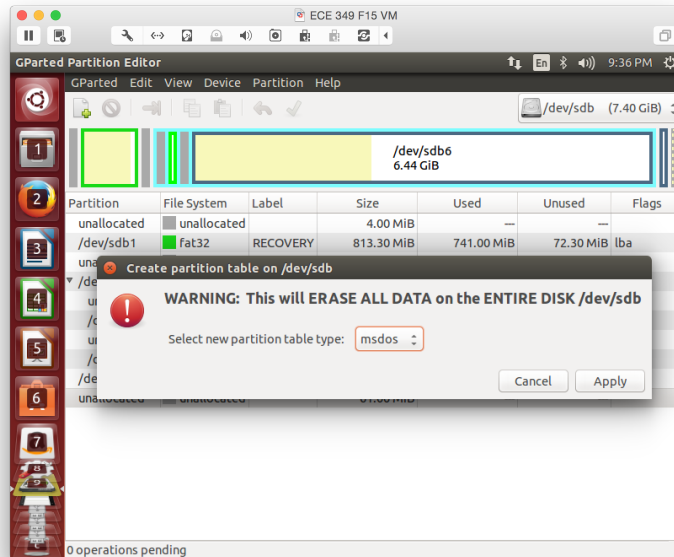
Fill the drive with a new partition of type fat32. Use the Partition >New menu option to do this. Change the partition type in the pop up.
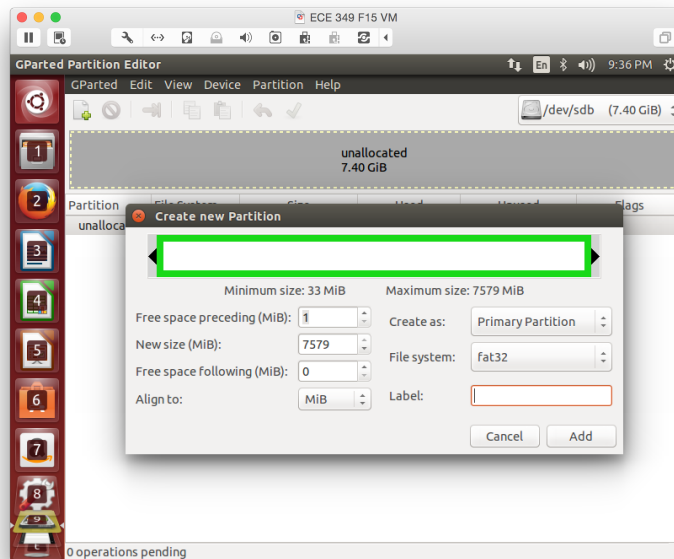
Write the changes to disk by clicking the green checkbox in the toolbar.

You can close GParted after it tells you that all operations have been completed.