

Since you need to get two grounds from one, you can't quite do this with just male-female jumper wires, hence the breadboard. Also you need access to a pin on the ESP-01 that the Adatper doesn't expose, hence showing both.

Booting with GPIO\_0 low triggers flashing mode. Carefully but firmly touch the flying ground wire to GPIO\_0 on the ESP-01 directly, holding it there while plugging the USB end of your FTDI cable in (or otherwise powering up the ESP-01). I can only just barely do this without a second pair of hands. Once it has power, you can carefully remove the flying ground wire if you wish. There's no indication of flashing mode besides trying the flashing tool and seeing whether it worked.