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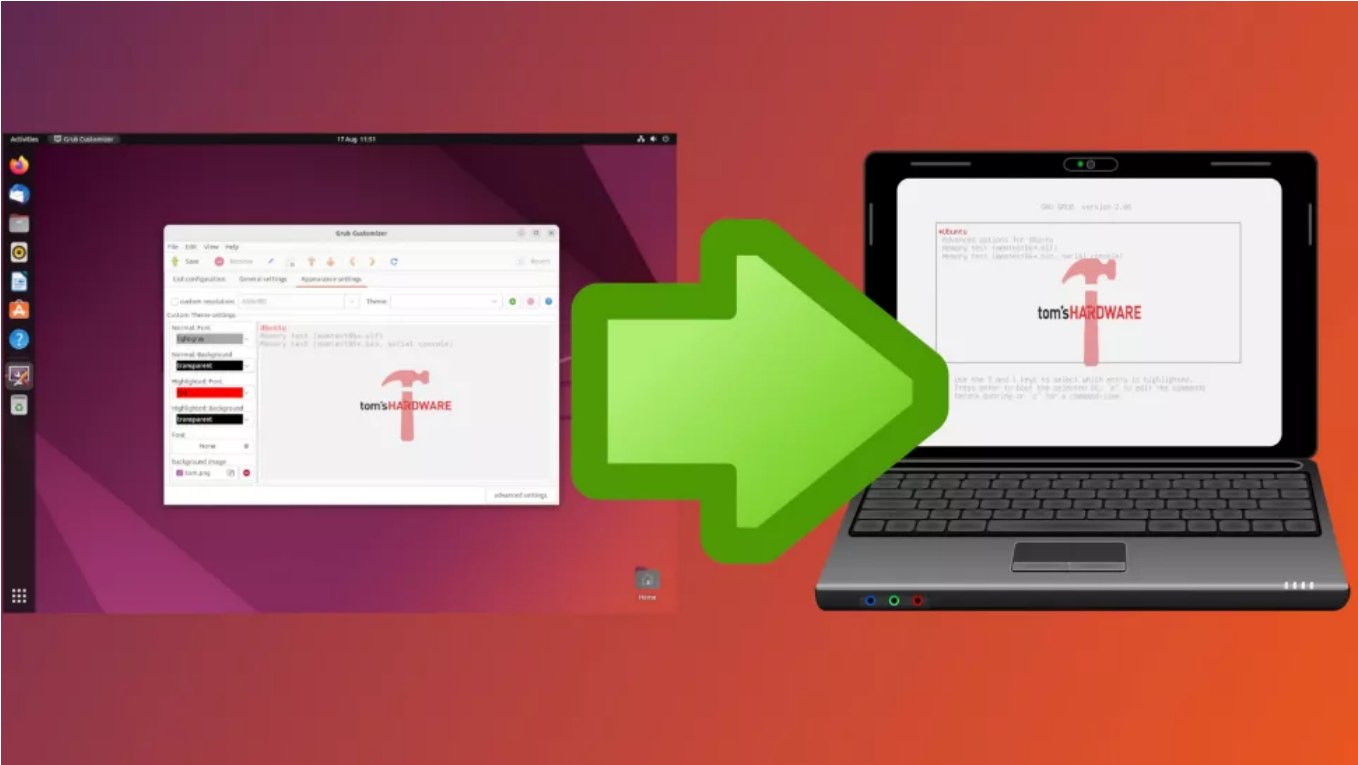
How to Create Custom Grub Menu Backgrounds for Linux Boots

By [Les Pounder](#) published August 24, 2022

Customize your Linux boot process



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(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

Grub is utilitarian, it does the job and doesn't care how it looks. But what if we could add a little flair to our boot process?

Grub Customizer, by Daniel Richter, is a GUI based application for easy configuration of Grub. Rather than manually editing text files we can easily edit and preview our changes before committing them to the system.

In this how to, we shall create a custom Grub background image using Grub Customizer and a PNG / JPEG image.

Making any changes to your Grub configuration is dangerous, and could result in a non-booting system. Before attempting these steps, ensure that your system is backed up.

For this project you will need

- A computer running Ubuntu

Installing Grub Customizer

1. **Open a terminal and add the Grub Customizer PPA to your list of repositories.** A Personal Package Archive (PPA) is a software repository created for Ubuntu users to share pre-release software. Most PPAs are trustworthy. If in any doubt do not install, and read the source code before moving forwards.

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:danielrichter2007/grub-customizer
```

2. **Update your list of repositories.** This is always best practice before installing new software.

```
sudo apt update
```

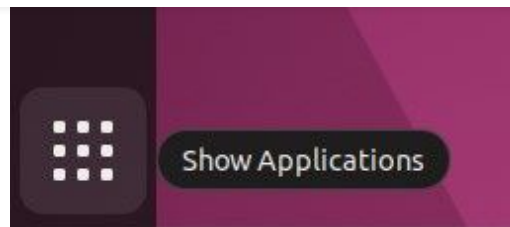
3. **Install Grub Customizer using the apt packaging tool.**

```
sudo apt install grub-customizer
```

Using Grub Customizer

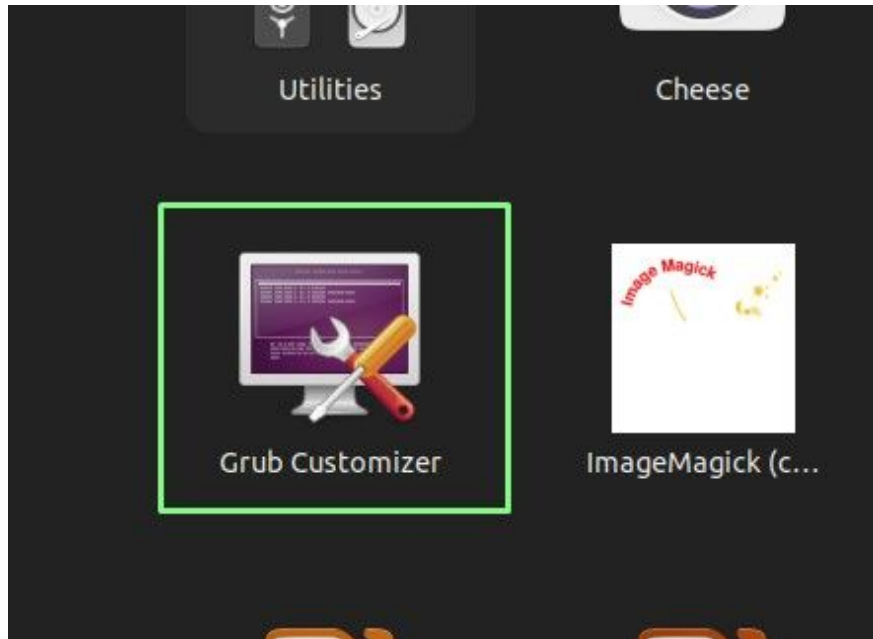
1. **Click on Show Applications (3 x 3 grid of squares) to open the main menu.**





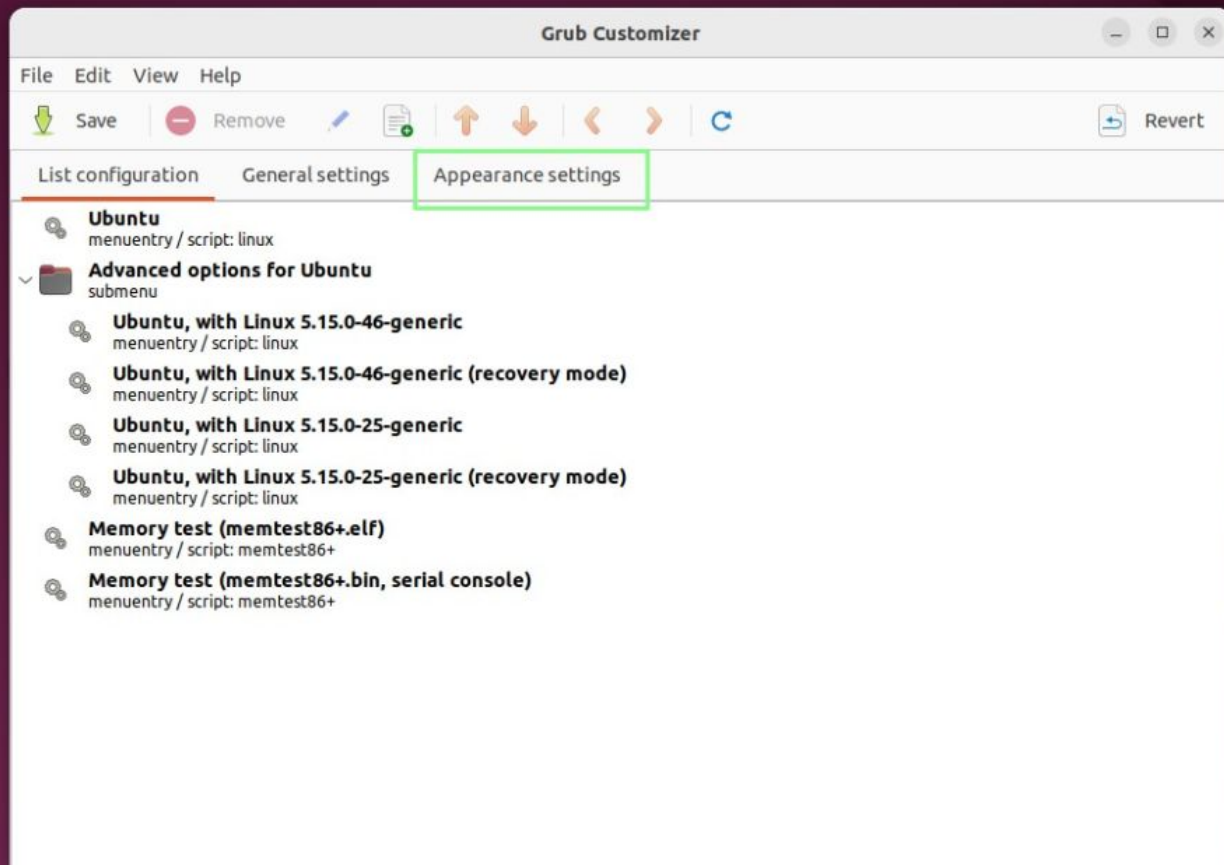
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

2. **Click on Grub Optimizer.** You will be prompted to enter your sudo password, this is required as we are making changes that will be applied system-wide.



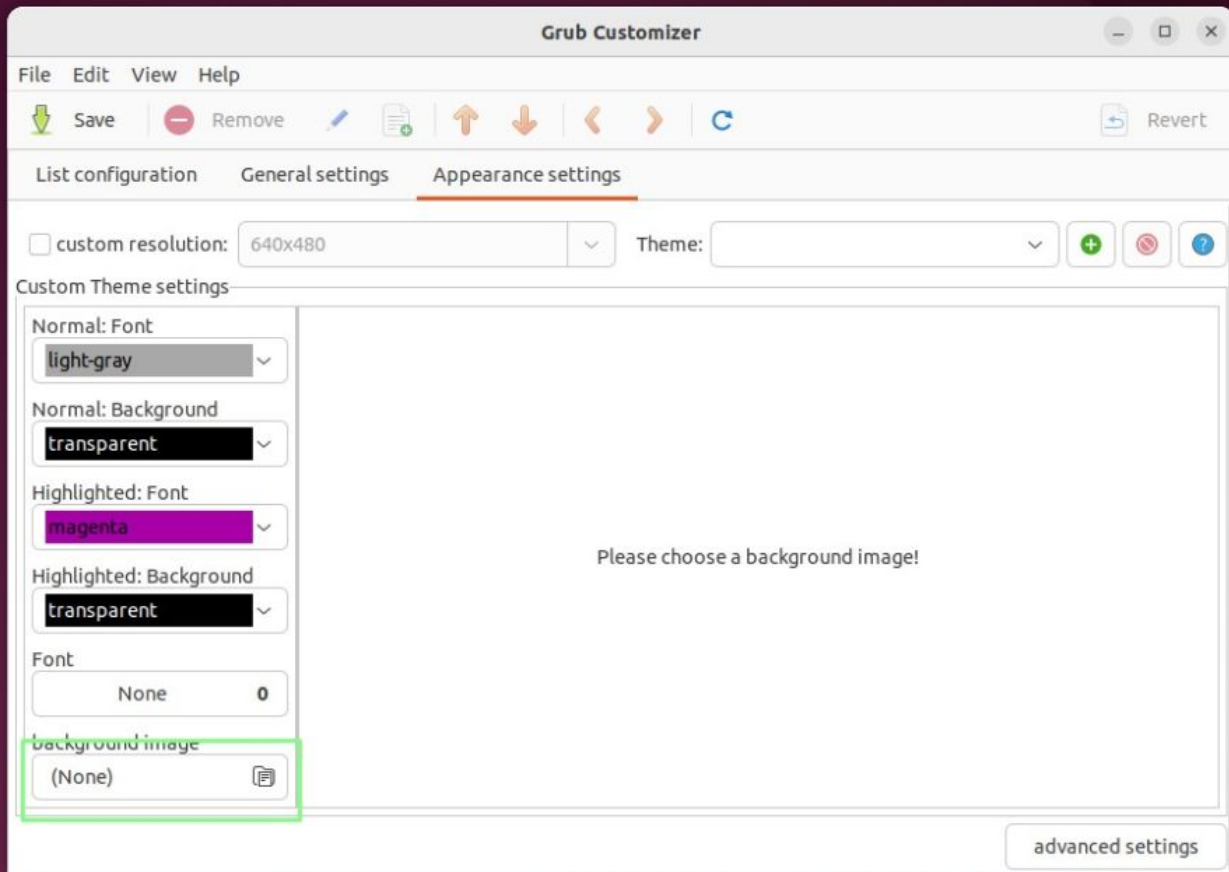
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

3. **Click on Appearance settings.** Under List configuration, we can alter the list of available OS choices presented on boot. Change their names, create sub-menus etc. General settings provides options to automatically select an OS, pass kernel parameters and delays to the boot. Only alter these settings if you know what you are doing.



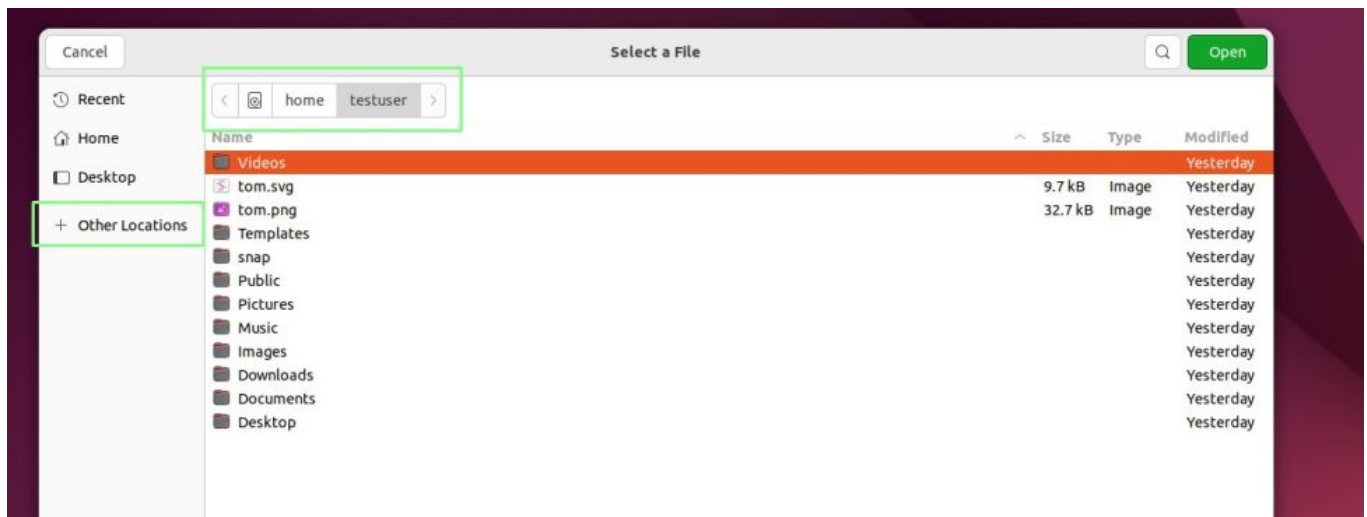
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

4. Click on Background image.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

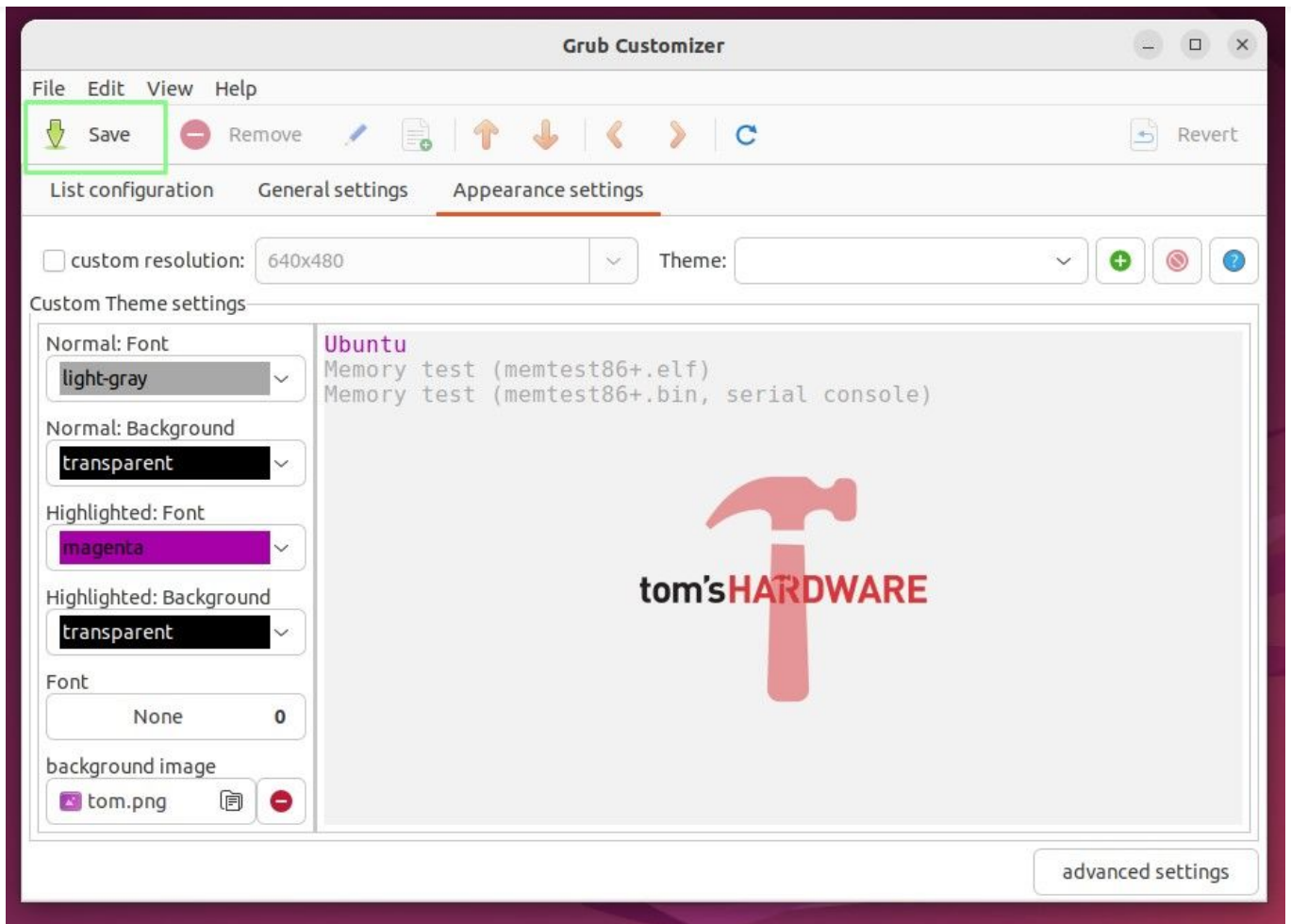
5. Click on **+ Other Locations** and navigate to the directory with your images. Because we opened Grub Customizer using `sudo / root` powers, our "home" folder is that of the root user. A PNG or JPEG image at your monitor's default resolution is preferred.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

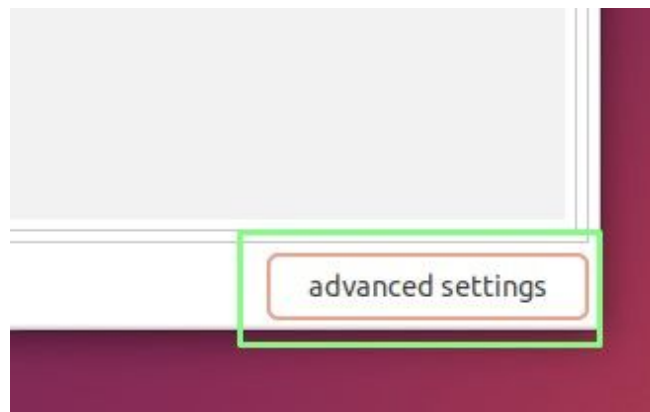
6. With the background image now set, click on **Save** to write the changes.





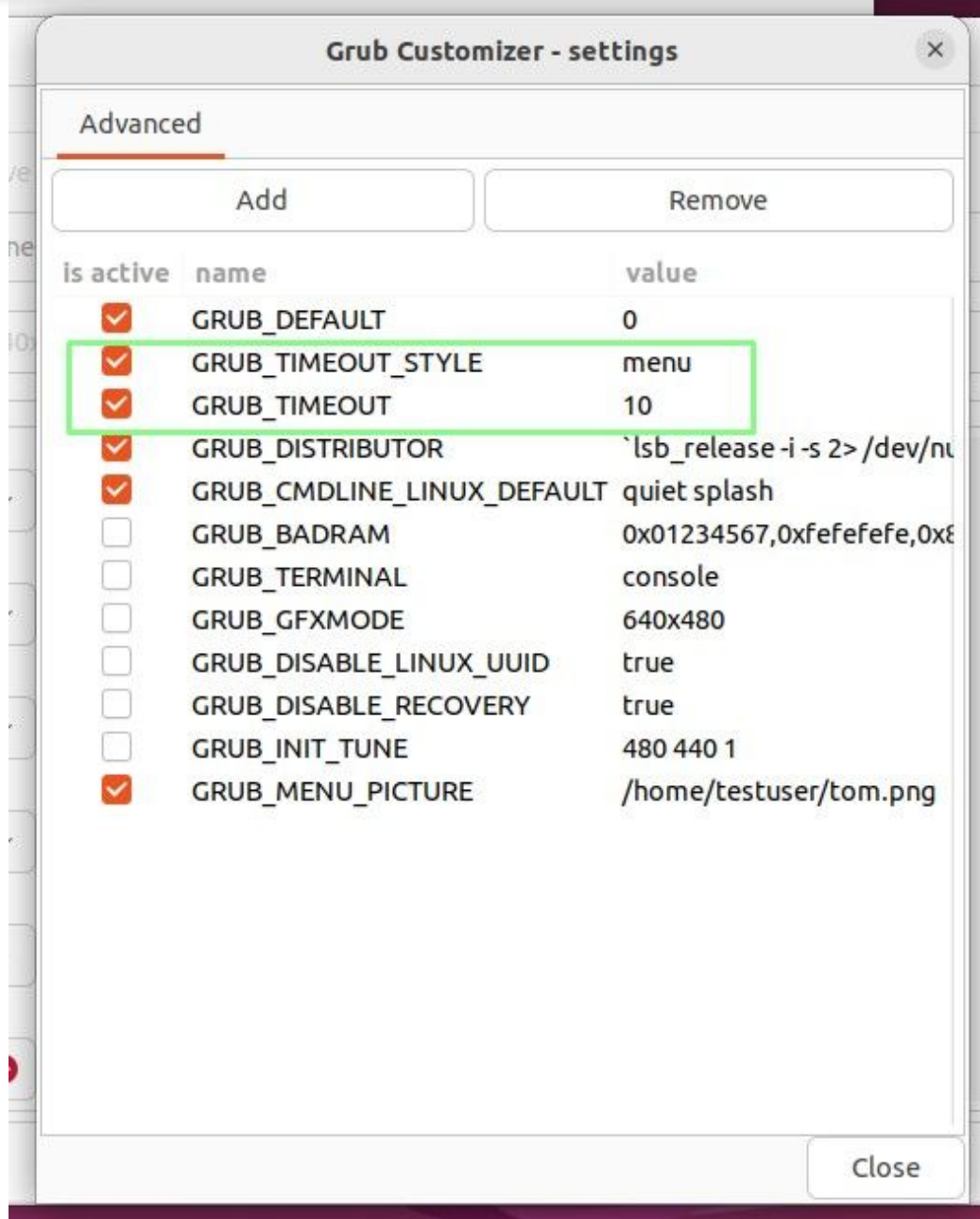
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

7. Click on **Advanced Settings**. This will open a menu containing extra Grub configuration steps.



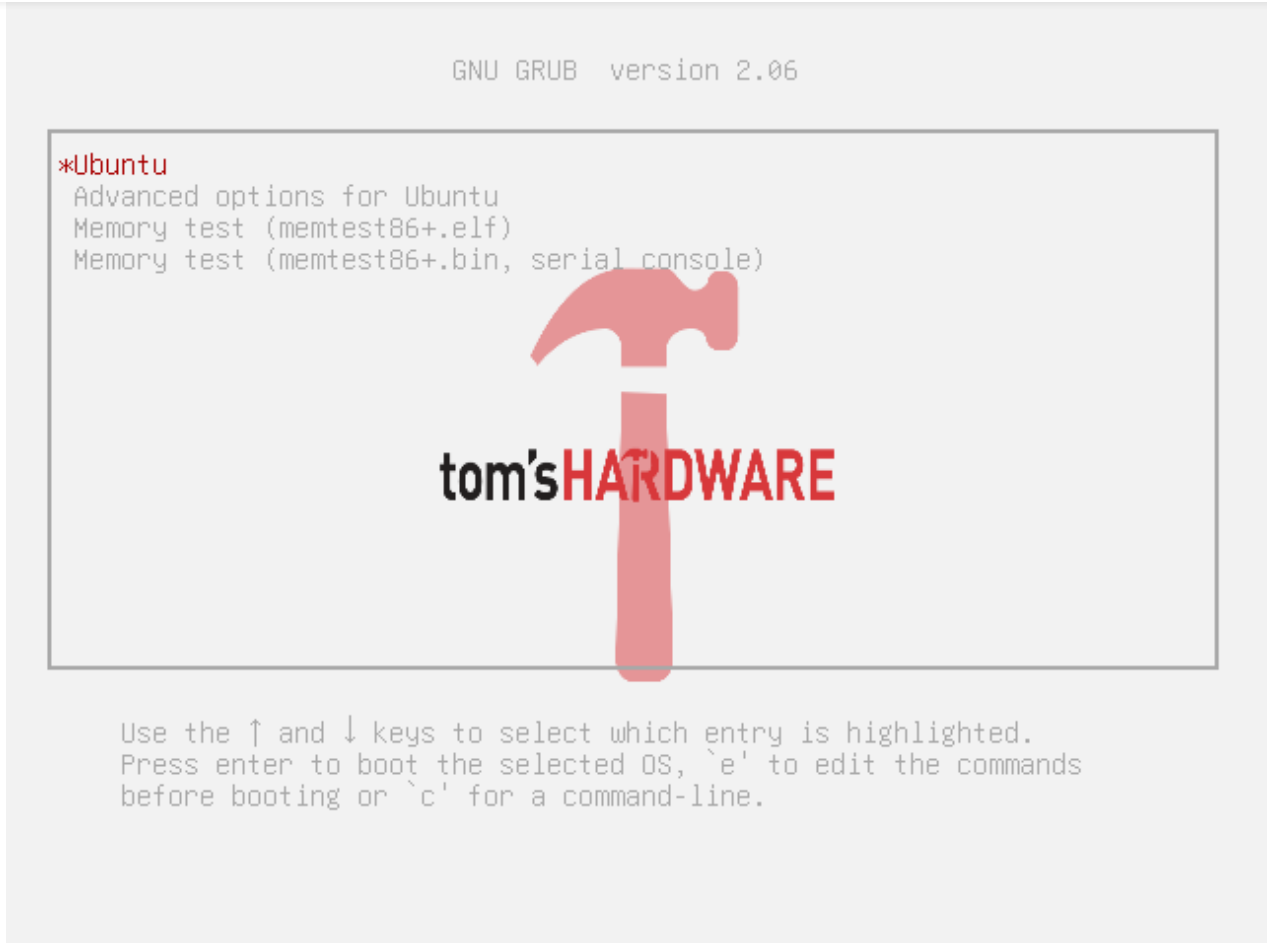
(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

8. Set **GRUB_TIMEOUT_STYLE** to "menu", and set **GRUB_TIMEOUT** to "10", click Close and then **Save the changes**. This ensures that the Grub menu is displayed, and if we do not touch the keyboard, the system will default boot in 10 seconds.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

9. Reboot your computer, wait for the Grub menu to appear and then check that your **background image loads correctly**. If the image fails to load, repeat the previous steps and check the image file format.



(Image credit: Tom's Hardware)

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**Les Pounder**

Les Pounder is an associate editor at Tom's Hardware. He is a creative technologist and for seven years has created projects to educate and inspire minds both young and old. He has worked with the Raspberry Pi Foundation to write and deliver their teacher training program "Picademy".

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