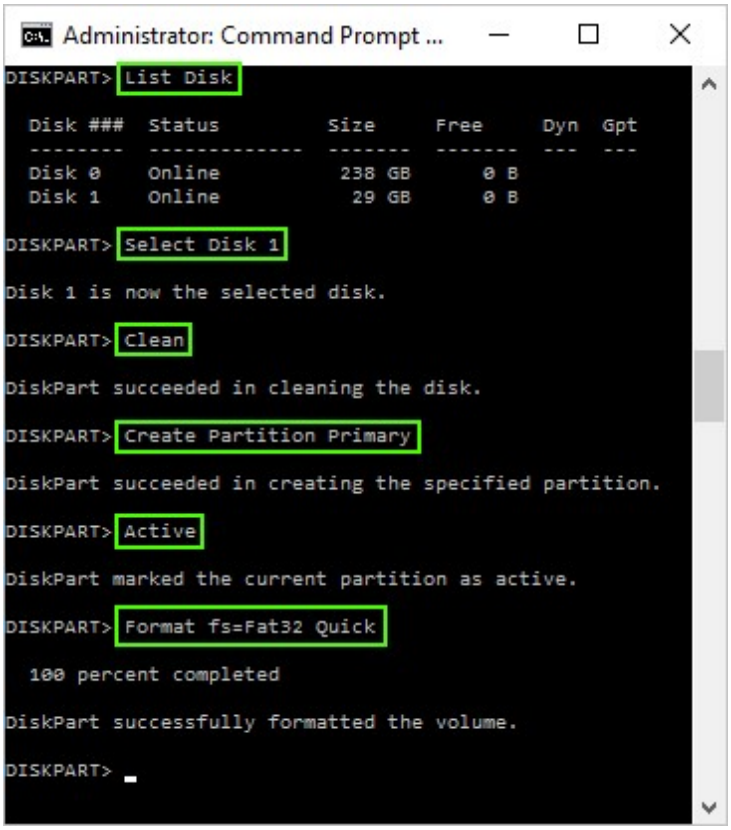
Restore Your USB Key to its original state

After having tooled around with a USB Linux version using your image overwritten or multi partitioned flash pen drive, you might find it necessary to revert it back to a single fat partition (restore the flash pen drive to its original state) that can again be read by all computers. Windows users can follow the Windows instructions below to Restore a Flash Drive using the *HP USB Format Tool*. For those working from Linux this task can easily be accomplished via the Linux Flash Drive Restoration tutorial that follows.

Restoring your USB key to its original state using Windows/Mac OS:

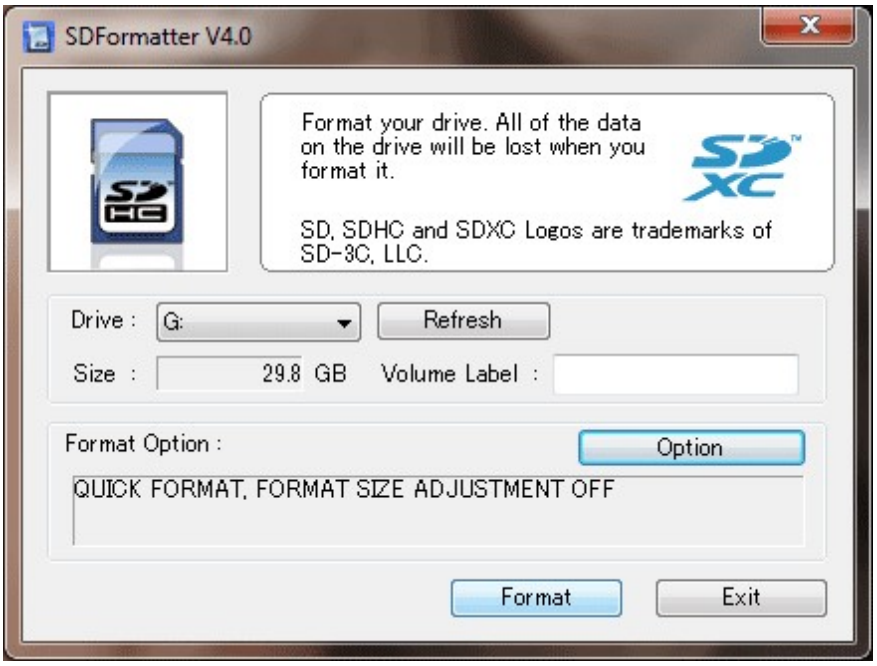
– Manual Method via Diskpart – Windows:

1. Open a command Prompt as administrator (**cmd.exe**)
2. Type **Diskpart** and press Enter
3. Type **List Disk** and press Enter
4. Type **Select Disk** X (where X is the disk number of your USB drive) and press Enter
5. Type **Clean** and press Enter
6. Type **Create Partition Primary** and press Enter
7. Type **Active** and press Enter
8. Type **Format fs=Fat32 Quick** and press Enter
9. Type **Exit** and press Enter



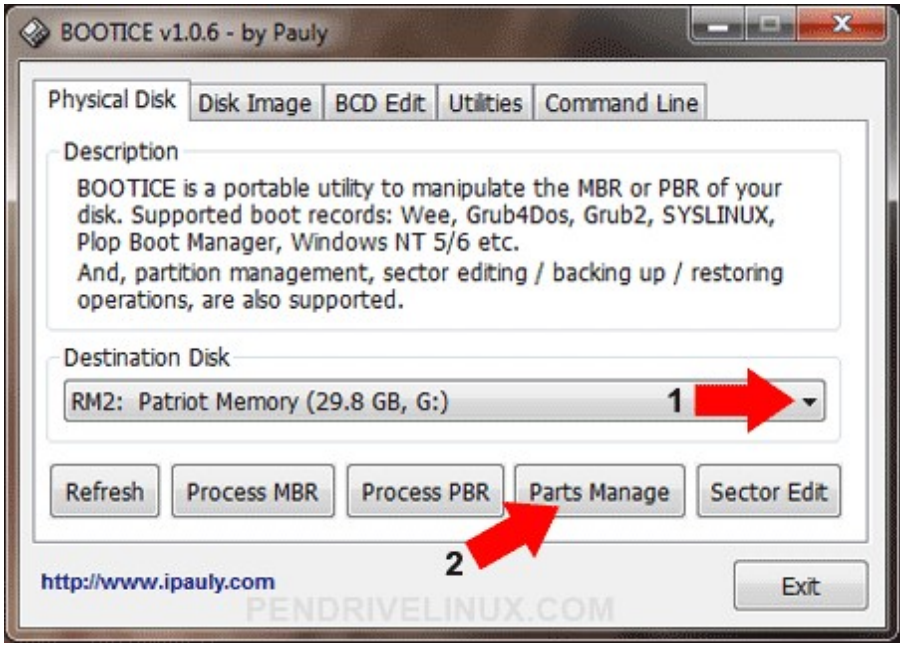
– Multiple GUI Methods – Windows:

Windows and or Mac OS users could use the SD Formatter Tool to reformat and restore a USB Drive.

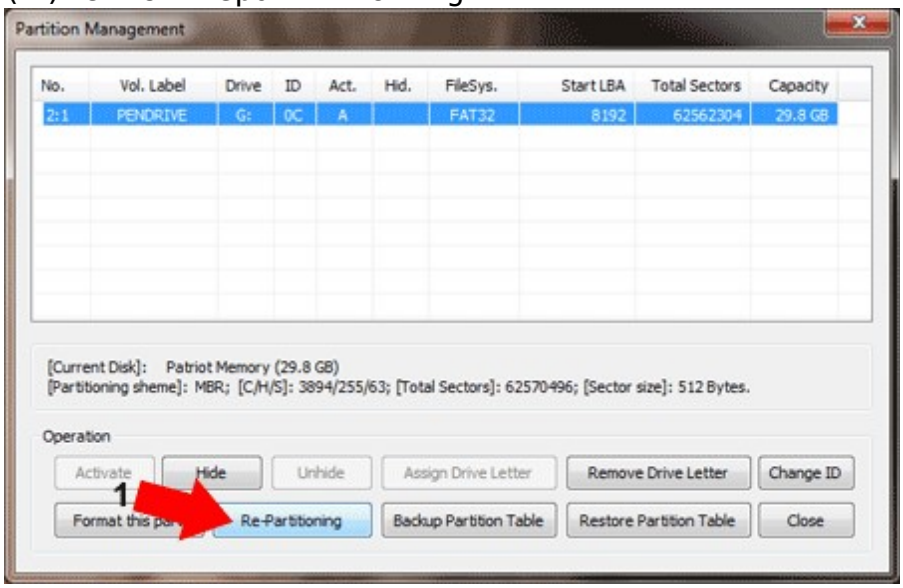


Or alternately, Windows users could use **BOOTICE**

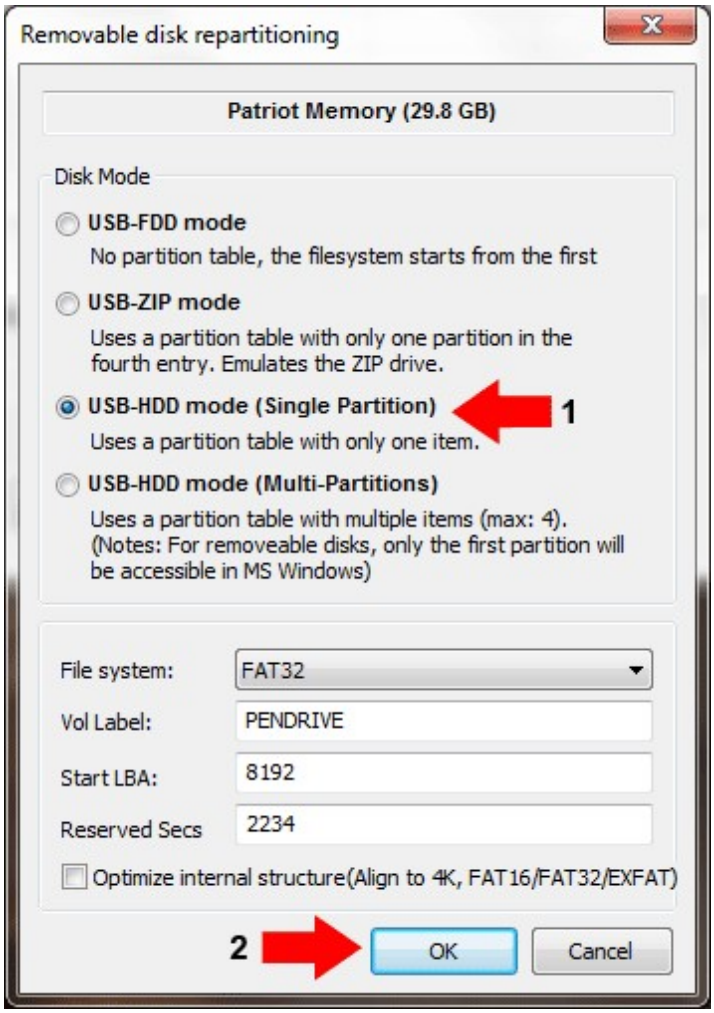
1. Download, extract, and run Pauly's BOOTICE Tool
2. (1) Select your USB Flash Drive from the list, (2) Click Parts Manage



3. (1) Click Repartitioning



4. (1) Under Disk Mode, Choose **USB-FDD**, **USB-HDD**, or **USB-ZIP mode** I use **USB-HDD** as it works with every BIOS I use. (2) Click OK



Restoring your USB key to its original state using Linux:

A. First we need to delete the old partitions that remain on the USB key.

1. Open a terminal and type **sudo su**
2. Type **fdisk -l** and note your USB drive letter.
3. Type **fdisk /dev/sd**x (replacing x with your drive letter)
4. Type **d** to proceed to delete a partition
5. Type **1** to select the 1st partition and press **enter**
6. Type **d** to proceed to delete another partition (fdisk should automatically select the second partition)

B. Next we need to create the new partition.

1. Type **n** to make a new partition
2. Type **p** to make this partition primary and press **enter**
3. Type **1** to make this the first partition and then press **enter**
4. Press **enter** to accept the default first cylinder
5. Press **enter** again to accept the default last cylinder
6. Type **w** to write the new partition information to the USB key
7. Type **umount /dev/sd**x**1** (replacing x with your drive letter)

C. The last step is to create the fat filesystem.

1. Type **mkfs.vfat -F 32 /dev/sdx1** (replacing x with your USB key drive letter)

That's it, you should now have a restored USB key with a single fat 32 partition that can be read from any computer.

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