Linux Mint Installation on the Framework Laptop 12

How to install Linux Mint on a Framework Laptop 12

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INTRODUCTION

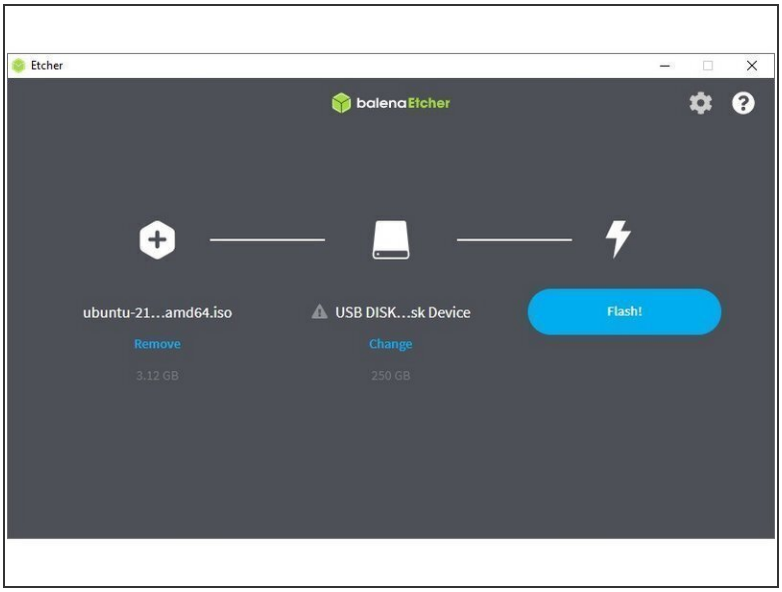
Once you have your Framework Laptop 12 set up following the Quick Start Guide, you're ready to install your preferred OS. With the latest release of Linux Mint, everything works pretty smoothly. You can check our Linux page for additional Linux compatibility notes.

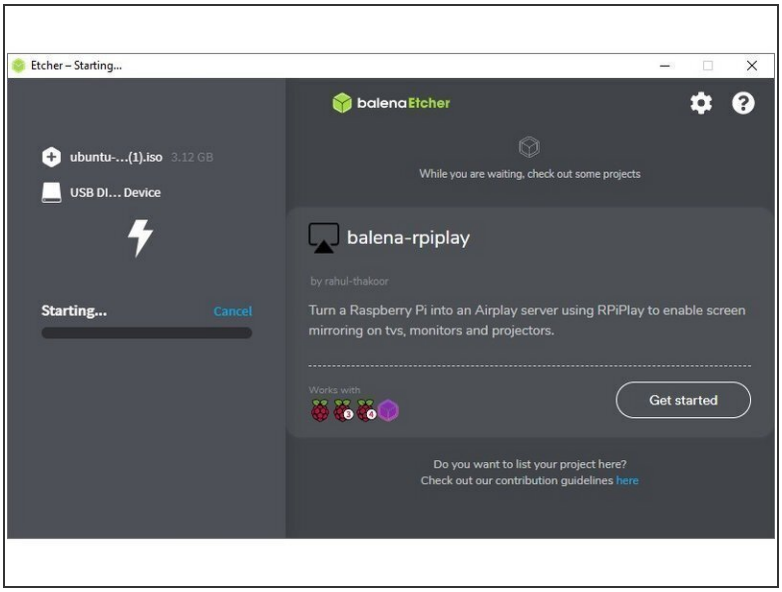
NOTE: This is a Compatible Community Supported Linux Distribution. Learn more here.

TOOLS:

- Storage Expansion Card (1)

Step 1 — (From OS X) Preparing USB Linux Mint Installation Media





- First, download Linux Mint from Linux Mint's website. Linux Mint has a detailed installation guide that you can follow. We'll go through the steps in this Guide assuming you have a simple installation scenario of a fresh install on a blank drive.

  ⚠ Looking to use tablet mode? You need to install Ubuntu 25.04 instead and run the steps provided at step 9 for the 25.04 guide.

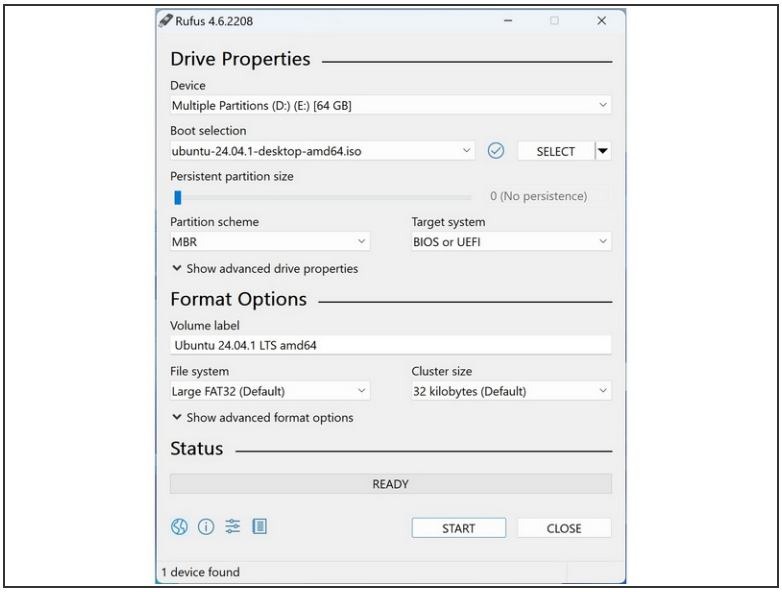
- Download balenaEtcher as a tool to create the USB installer from the ISO. balenaEtcher is available for MacOS. Install it.

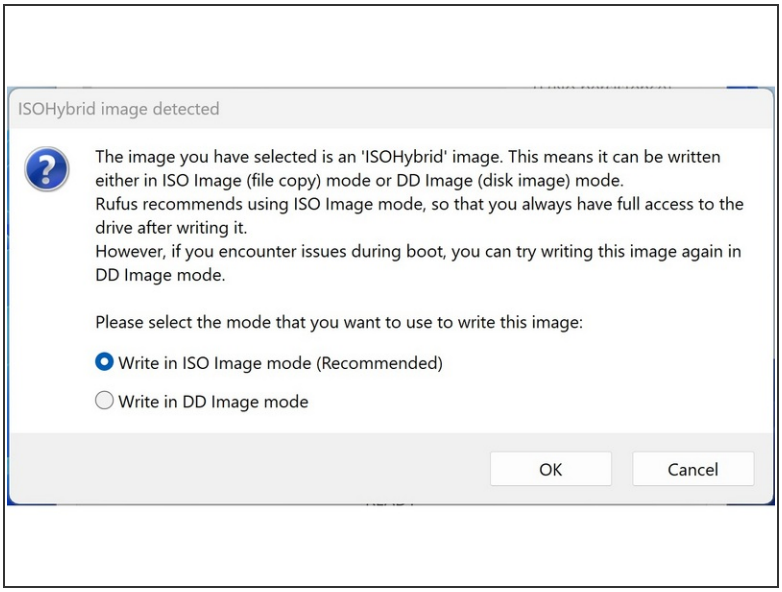
  ⓘ Before booting to the Live USB drive, a note about secure boot.

- Launch balenaEtcher. Insert your USB drive (8GB or larger). Click on "Flash from file" and select the Linux-Mint iso that you downloaded. Click on "Select target" and choose your USB drive. Click "Flash" and wait a minute or two for it to complete.

- Once the USB drive creation is complete, you can close balenaEtcher and eject the USB drive from your OS.

Step 2 — (From Windows) Preparing USB Linux Mint Installation Media





- First, download Linux Mint from Linux Mint's website. Linux Mint has a detailed installation guide that you can follow. We'll go through the steps in this Guide assuming you have a simple installation scenario of a fresh install on a blank drive.

  ⚠ Looking to use tablet mode? You need to install Ubuntu 25.04 instead and run the steps provided at step 9 for the 25.04 guide.

- New line.Download Rufus as a tool to create the USB installer from the ISO - select the top download option from the link provided. Rufus is available for Windows. Install it.

  ⓘ Before booting to the Live USB drive, a note about secure boot.

  ⚠ If you are removing Windows to install Linux, you may run into the "Device is Active" error. This will provide you with guidance to overcome this error.

- Launch Rufus. Insert your USB drive (8GB or larger). Click on "Flash from file" and select the Linux-Mint iso that you downloaded. Click on "SELECT" and choose your USB drive. Click "START" and wait a minute or two for it to complete.

Step 3 — Running Linux Mint



⚠ Secure Boot is optional: Enabling secure boot is completely optional and not necessary for normal operation, it's a personal choice. Follow this link if you wish to enable it before installing Linux Mint. More about secure boot here.

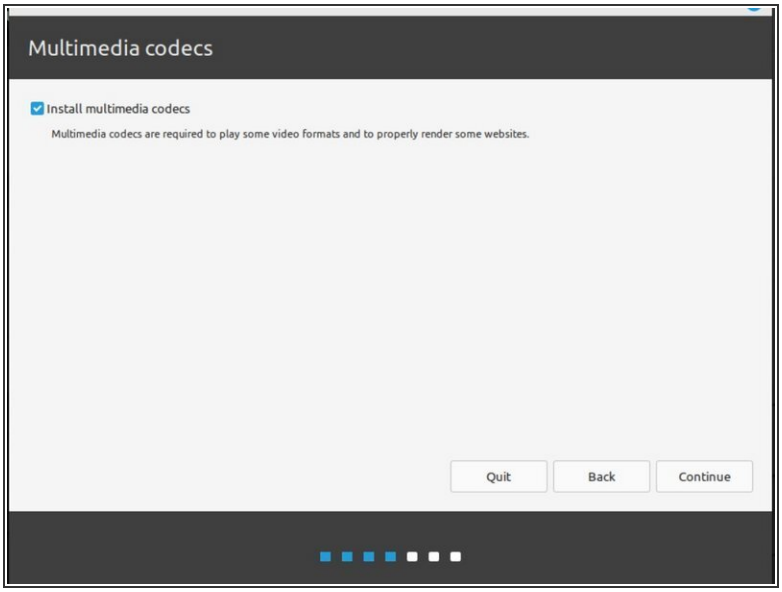
- Insert the USB drive into your powered off Framework Laptop 12, and then power on. If you have an existing OS installed on the Storage drive in your laptop, immediately after the power light comes on begin rapidly tapping (continuously) the F12 key - you must begin tapping well before you see the Framework logo.

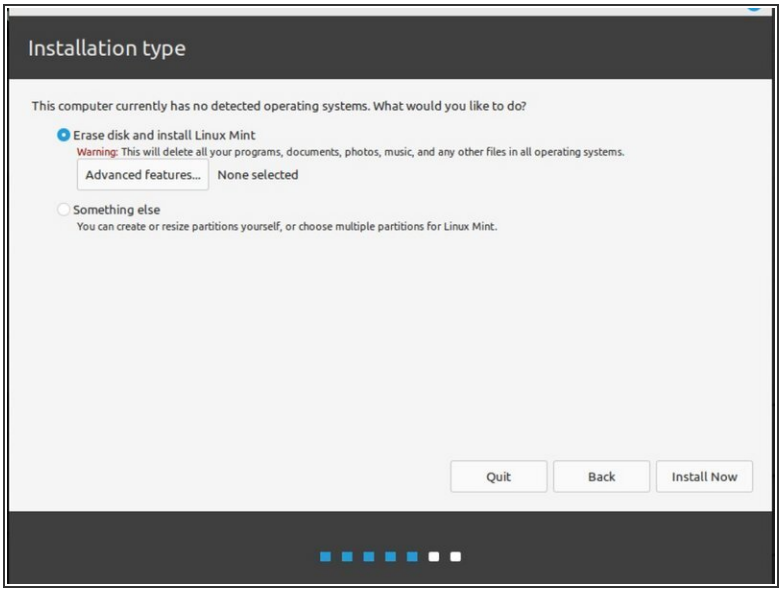
  ⓘ If you don't have an internal storage drive installed or it is blank, the laptop will boot to the USB drive directly.

- Hit Enter again to boot into Linux Mint.

- After a few seconds, you're in! If you just want to try Linux Mint out, you can use the live USB version of it without touching the internal storage drive. If you do want to install Linux Mint to the internal storage drive, go on to the next step.

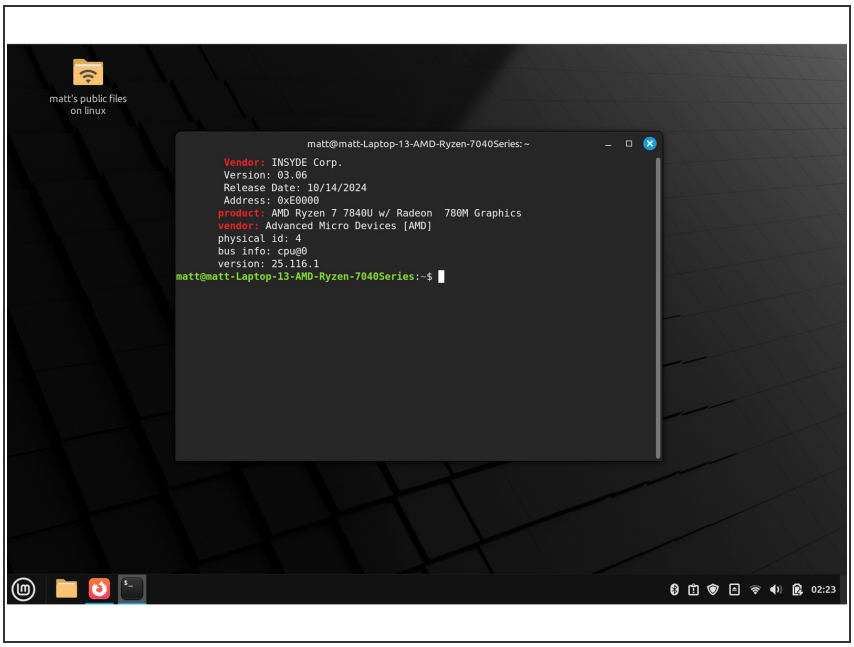
Step 4 — Installing Linux Mint to a drive





- Click on the Install Linux Mint icon on the desktop.
- Select the language and keyboard language you'd like to use. On the Multimedia codecs screen, optionally check the "Install multimedia codecs" box and set a Secure Boot password, and click Continue.
  - ⓘ If you do select Secure Boot, on the first boot after installation, a blue screen will come up, and you can select Continue.
- On the "Installation type" screen, you may have a range of options available if there is already on OS on your internal drive. For the purposes of this guide, we're assuming a clean install with the "Erase disk and install Linux Mint" option. For the other advanced options around dual booting, check Linux Mint's documentation. Click "Install Now".
- Follow the on-screen instructions to select your time zone and set up your user account. After installation completes, click Restart Now.

Step 5 — Recommended: Updating to the latest firmware

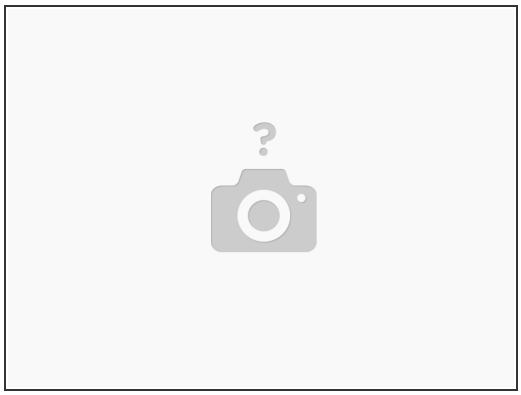


- How to check the BIOS version. Go to and click upper left corner where you see the horizontal line, search terminal and launch it. Please follow this link to copy and paste the code into your terminal, then press enter.
- The output will tell you which Framework Laptop 12 you have and also which BIOS version you're using.

⚠ Framework Laptop 12 BIOS and Driver Releases (13th Gen Intel Core), click here for the latest firmware.

⚠ **IMPORTANT**: Per the instructions above, we do NOT recommend updating BIOS and firmware using various GUIs. We recommend using fwupdmgr as provided in the step above. Using GUIs can potentially create issues that would not be present using fwupdmgr directly.

Step 6 — Troubleshooting Linux Mint



- If you need additional help, feel free to visit our active support community.

Enjoy using Mint on your Framework Laptop 12! If you have any questions or run into any issues, we recommend bringing them to the Community in the Linux Mint topic. Members of the Framework team participate in discussions there.