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How to Initialize an SD Card

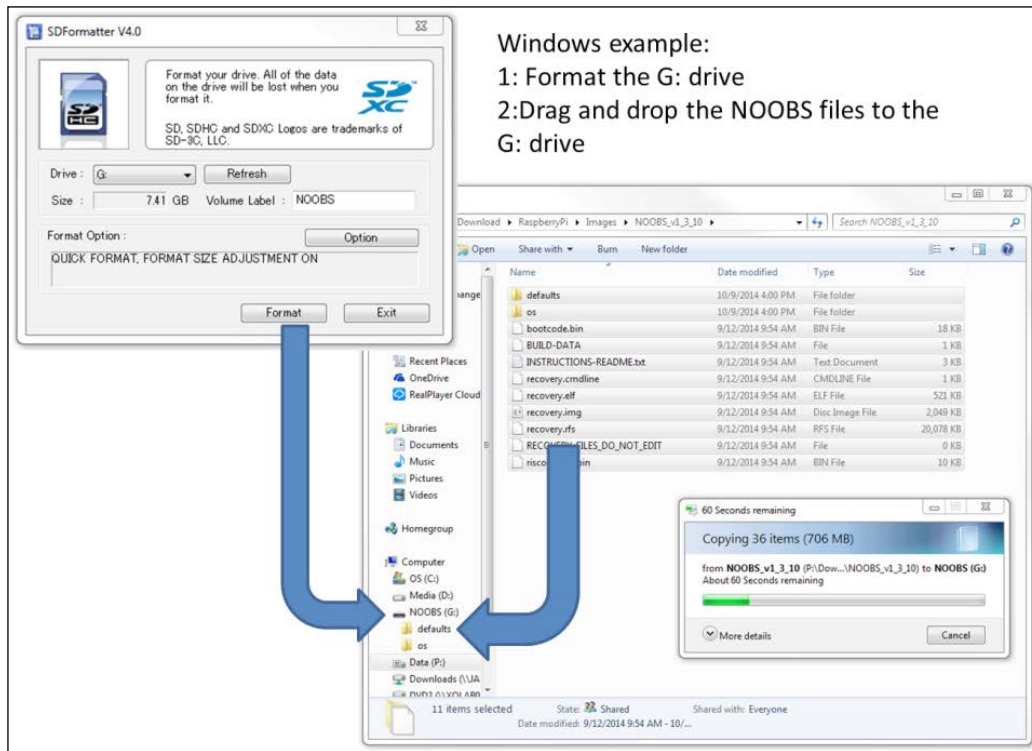
Formatting an SD card

Follow the given steps to format an SD card:


1. Using your browser, open http://www.sdcard.org/downloads/formatter_4/.
2. Select the required **SD Formatter** for your desktop or laptop type and accept the EULA check, the SD Formatter installation file will then be downloaded to your computer.
3. Install and run the SD Formatter 4.0 utility on your PC/Mac
4. Run the SD Formatter 4.0 utility.
5. Insert the **Micro SD card** into an SD card reader and insert the reader into a USB port on your desktop or laptop.
6. Verify in the SD Formatter (you might have to click on refresh) that the SD card is detected and note the drive letter or designation.
7. In Windows, click on **Options** and set **Format Size Adjustment** to **On**.
8. On a MAC, select **Overwrite Format**.

9. Format the SD card.

The following screenshot shows the SD Formatter on Microsoft Windows:



10. Next, download either **NOOBS Lite** or **NOOBS** from <http://www.raspberrypi.org/downloads/>.
11. Extract the ZIP file contents to a suitable location (typically, you can right-click on the ZIP file and select the **Extract to here** option). This will give you a folder with NOOBS Lite or NOOBS files in it.
12. Copy the contents of the folder (not the folder itself) for NOOBS Lite or NOOBS to the USB drive you just formatted.
13. Remove your Micro SD card from the USB reader and you are ready to go.
14. Plug your Micro SD card into the Raspberry Pi.

 It is not recommended to format SD cards with native Windows, Apple, and Linux OS utilities as the format alignments are not specifically set based on SD card architecture.