

IMPORTANT NOTE for machines with OS X 10.8.2 preinstalled.* If your set up will result in one SSD and one hard drive, you cannot use Disk Utility in the Recovery Partition. If you do, it will try to make a Fusion volume and will cause a **LOSS OF ALL DATA** currently on the drive.

If you are adding an SSD as a second drive to an existing hard drive or adding a hard drive to an existing SSD, and your machine *shipped* with Mac OS X 10.8.2 (not upgraded via Software Update), you will need to perform a special installation sequence.

For more information on this topic, please see our blog post about it at www.macsales.com/143.

“Internet Restore” method (preferred)

Perform the following steps in order to format your SSD and transfer your OS and data from your original drive.

1. Make sure your data is backed up.
2. Install your SSD in your Mac.
3. Restart your computer and boot to the internal hard drive like normal.
4. You will likely get a dialog box stating that a drive is “unreadable.” Click the “Initialize” button to open Disk Utility. If you don’t get this warning, you can find Disk Utility in your Utilities folder.
5. Use Disk Utility to partition and format the SSD as Mac OS X Extended (Journaled).
6. Once the drive is formatted and shows in the Finder, you can then shut down.
7. Make sure you have an internet connection. While it’s preferable that you connect via Ethernet, you *can* connect via AirPort; it will just be slower.
8. Restart to the OS X Recovery Partition by holding down Command-R until you get to the Recovery Partition’s main window.
Note: *It is very important that you do not use the version of Disk Utility in the Recovery Partition; it will see the two separate drives as a “damaged” Fusion drive and try to repair it; allowing it to do so will cause the loss of all data.*
9. Select the option to “Reinstall OS X” choosing the SSD to install the OS on. This will take a while.
10. Follow the prompts to install. Once it is complete, choose the option to import your data from another drive. Select your original drive as the source.
11. Once the migration is complete, boot to your SSD.
12. You can use the Disk Utility to format your original hard drive as desired.
13. You will now be able to use your Mac normally.

“External” method

Use this method if you do not have an Internet connection.

1. Install your SSD in external enclosure (USB or FireWire) and connect it to your Mac.
2. Boot to your internal hard drive.
3. You will likely get a dialog box stating that a drive is “unreadable.” Click the “Initialize” button to open Disk Utility. If you don’t get this warning, you can find Disk Utility in your Utilities folder.
4. Use Disk Utility to format the SSD as Mac OS X Extended (Journaled)
5. Once the drive is formatted and shows in the Finder, you can shut down.
6. Restart to the OS X Recovery Partition by holding down Command-R until you get the Recovery Partition’s main window.
7. Enter Disk Utility - since the SSD is in an external enclosure, you don’t need to worry about Disk Utility trying to create a Fusion drive.
8. Use Disk Utility to restore your original drive to your new SSD.
9. Restart holding down the Option key. Select the SSD as your boot drive and continue.
10. Use the Disk Utility to format your hard drive as desired.
11. Shutdown, remove your SSD from the external enclosure and install it in your mini.
12. Once the SSD is installed, you should restart the mini and log in. Go to the Startup Disk preference pane and select your SSD as your boot drive.
13. You can now use your Mac normally.

***IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL USERS:** this information is accurate as of 11/19/12 and is subject to change without notice. Even if your machine came with 10.8.1 preinstalled and is not affected at this time, updates and revisions to the OS may change how the recovery partition works in the future. Should you need to use Disk Utility for any reason and are unsure if your OS has changed since the day you installed the SSD, use one of the methods outlined above. For more information, please visit our blog article about this issue at www.macsales.com/143.