
OpenCore Legacy Patcher Guide

Step-by-Step Instructions for Unsupported Macs

<https://dortania.github.io/OpenCore-Legacy-Patcher/START.html>

What is OpenCore Legacy Patcher?

A free tool that lets older Macs run newer versions of macOS with security updates, even when Apple says your Mac is too old.

Is Your Mac Supported?

Before starting, check if your Mac is on the supported list:

<https://dortania.github.io/OpenCore-Legacy-Patcher/MODELS.html>

IMPORTANT: This process will ERASE your Mac. Back up everything first.

What You'll Need

- **USB drive** — 32GB or larger (16GB works for older macOS versions)
- **Time** — Downloading and installing takes 2-4 hours
- **Internet connection** — For downloading macOS

Step 1: Download OpenCore Legacy Patcher

1. Go to: github.com/dortania/OpenCore-Legacy-Patcher/releases
2. Download the latest version (look for the green "Latest" tag)
3. Open the downloaded file — it will extract automatically

Step 2: Create the macOS Installer

1. Open the OpenCore-Patcher app
2. Click "**Create macOS Installer**"
3. Click "**Download macOS installer**" — choose your version (Sonoma, Sequoia, etc.)
4. Wait for download to finish (1-2 hours depending on your internet)
5. Insert your USB drive (32GB+ recommended)
6. Select your USB drive from the list
7. Click "**Format and Create**"

WARNING: This erases everything on the USB drive!

Step 3: Build and Install OpenCore

1. With USB still inserted, click "**Build and Install OpenCore**"
2. **Important:** If installing on a DIFFERENT Mac than you're currently using, go to Settings first and select your target Mac model
3. Click "**Build**" and wait (5-10 minutes)
4. Click "**Install OpenCore**" and select your USB drive
5. Wait for installation to complete

Step 4: Boot from USB

1. **Restart your Mac**
2. Immediately hold the **Option** key
3. Select "**EFI Boot**" (the OpenCore icon)
4. If you want this to be the default, hold **Control** while selecting

For Mac Pro, Xserve, or iMac users: If you see a black screen after selecting EFI Boot, you may need to run a Terminal command first. See the [official boot guide](#).

Step 5: Install macOS

1. From the OpenCore menu, select "**Install macOS**"
2. The normal macOS installation screens will appear
3. **If installing to a NEW drive:** Open Disk Utility, select "Show All Devices", then erase the entire disk
4. Follow the on-screen steps to install
5. First boot takes longer — be patient

If your Mac reboots back to the setup screen, hold Option on the next boot and select the hard drive icon instead of "EFI Boot".

Step 6: Post-Installation

After macOS is installed, open OpenCore Patcher again and select "**Build and Install OpenCore**" to install patches to the internal drive. This enables full functionality like graphics acceleration.

Troubleshooting

- **Stuck at boot?** — Hold Option and try selecting a different boot option
- **Black screen?** — For Mac Pro/Xserve/iMac users with non-flashed GPUs, see the [official boot guide](#)

More Information

For complete details, visit: dortania.github.io/OpenCore-Legacy-Patcher

Questions? [Contact us](#) for help with your Mac migration.

Would you like to talk to a human being?
We offer a free 30 minute consultation.
Call Gianni – 250.444.8404
www.privacell.ca

