

Create a bootable USB drive using Etcher* [🔗](#)

Use Etcher* software from Balena* to flash the Clear Linux OS image to a USB drive. An Advanced: Linux CLI option is also available.

Prerequisites

- Download the Clear Linux OS Desktop or Server image from the [Downloads](#) page
- Recommended minimum **4GB** USB drive or larger
- Download and install the [Etcher](#) version per your operating system.

Burn the Clear Linux OS image onto a USB drive

⚠ Caution

Burning an image formats the USB drive and destroys all pre-existing content. Back up your data before proceeding.

1. Launch Etcher.

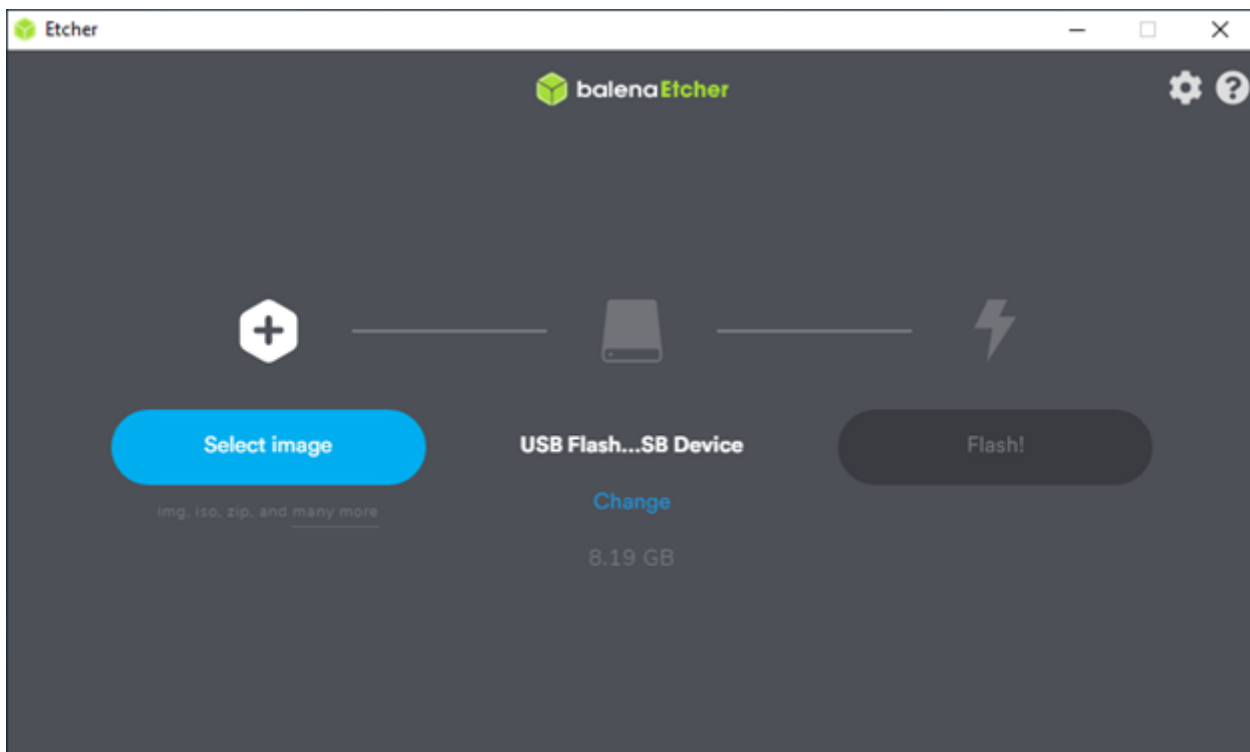


Figure 1: Start screen

2. Press **Select Image**.
3. Change directory to where the image resides.
4. Select the image and click **Open**.

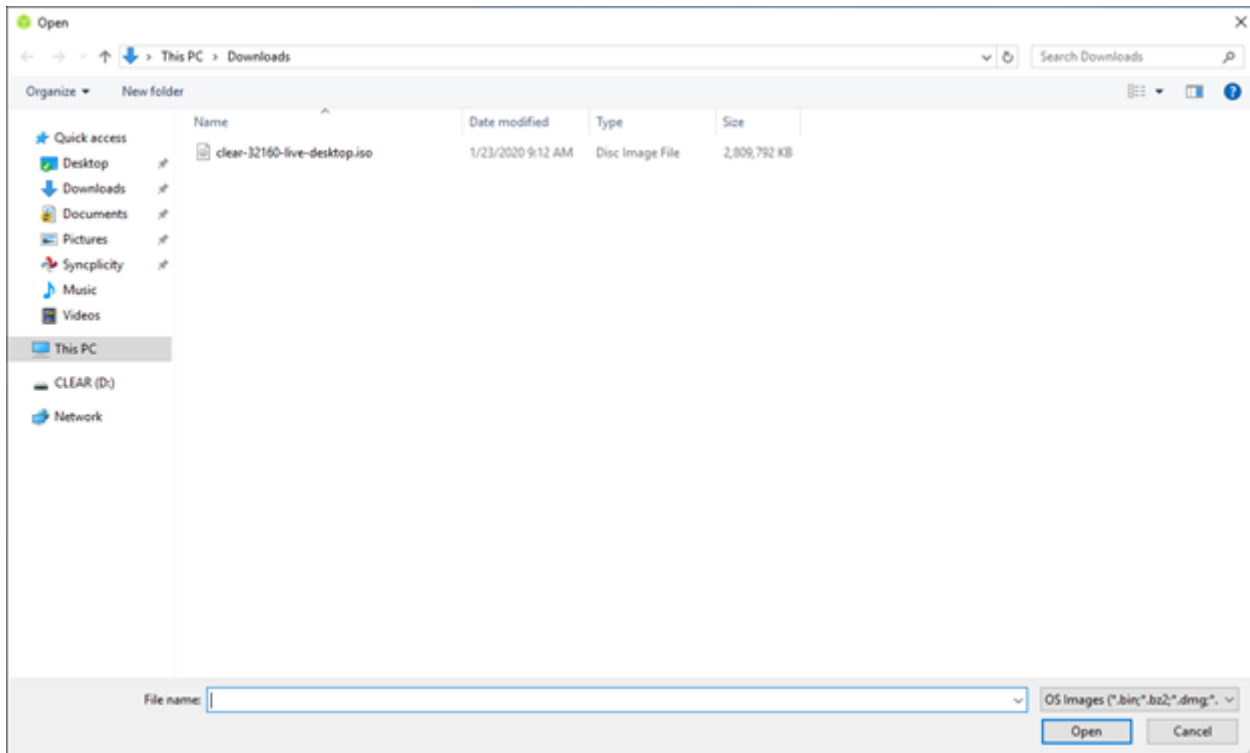


Figure 2: In Open, select the image

5. Plug in the USB drive.
6. Identify the USB drive or click **Change** to select a different USB.

Note

This shows all USB drives attached to the system.

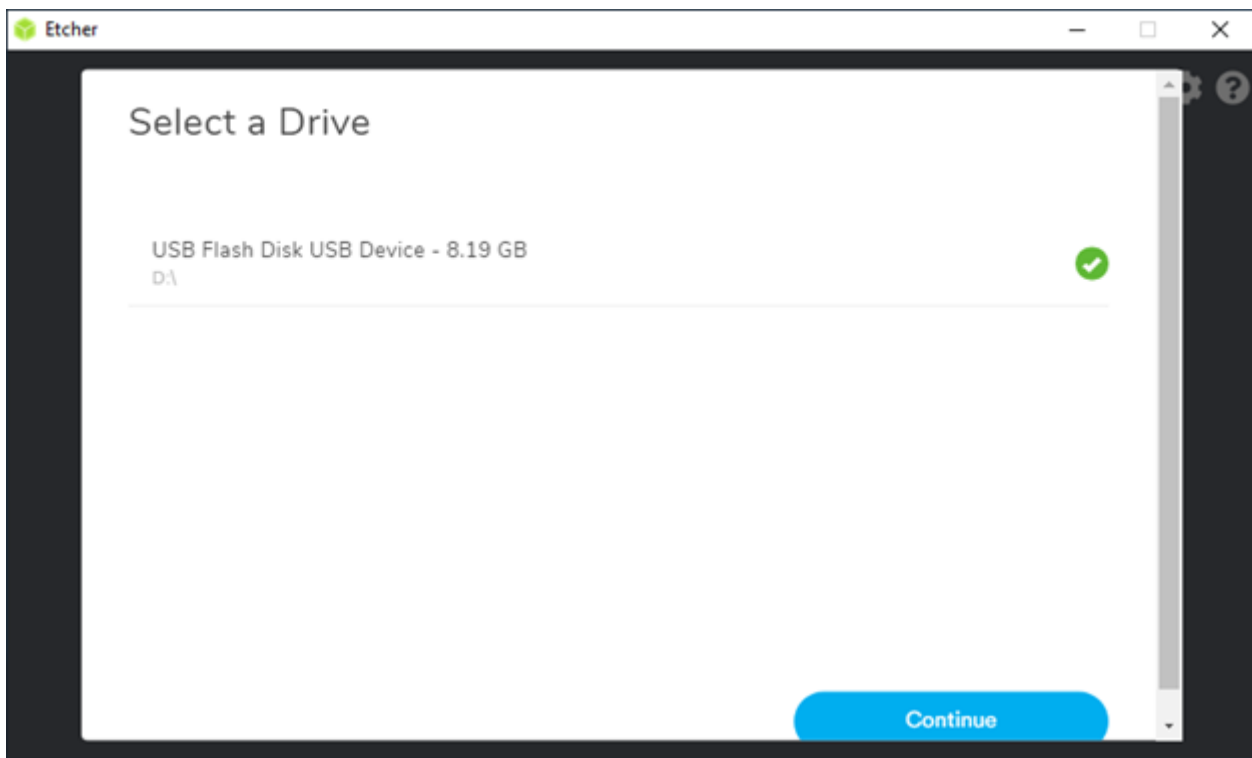


Figure 3: USB drives attached

7. Select the proper device and press **Continue** .

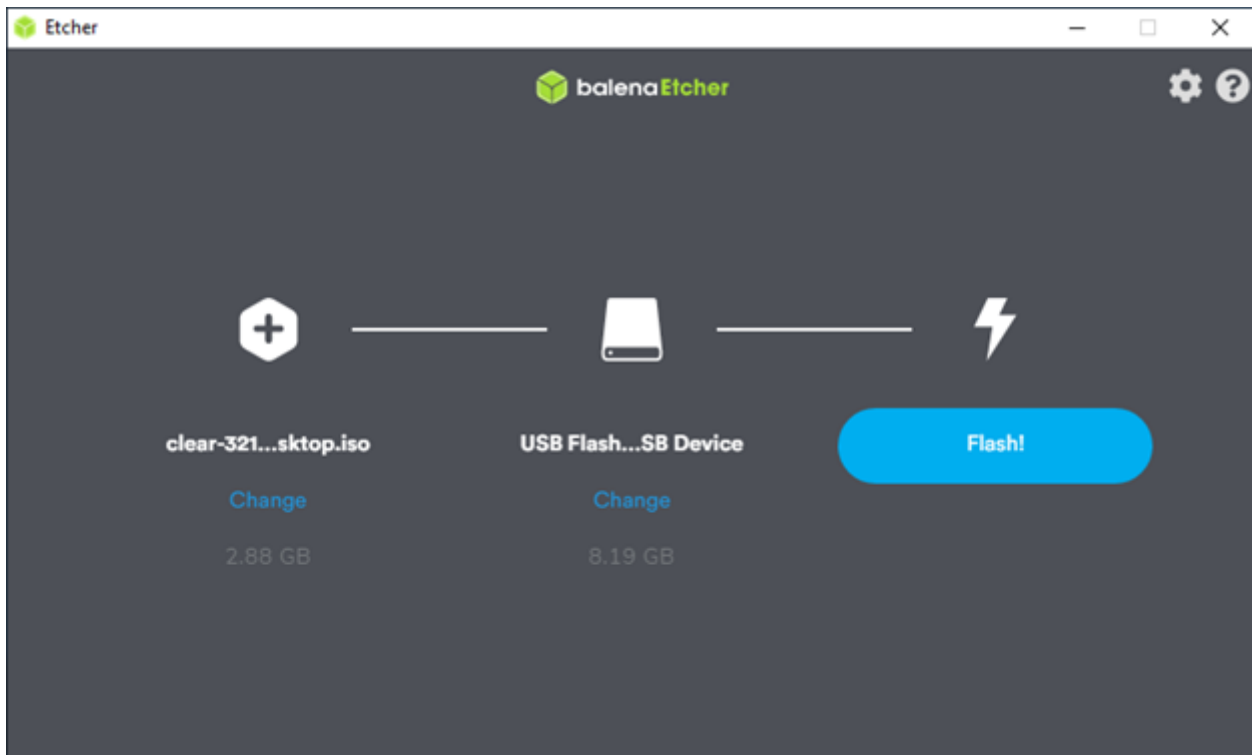


Figure 4: USB Flash Device selected

8. When ready press the **Flash!** Button. The dialog shows **Flashing** while in progress.

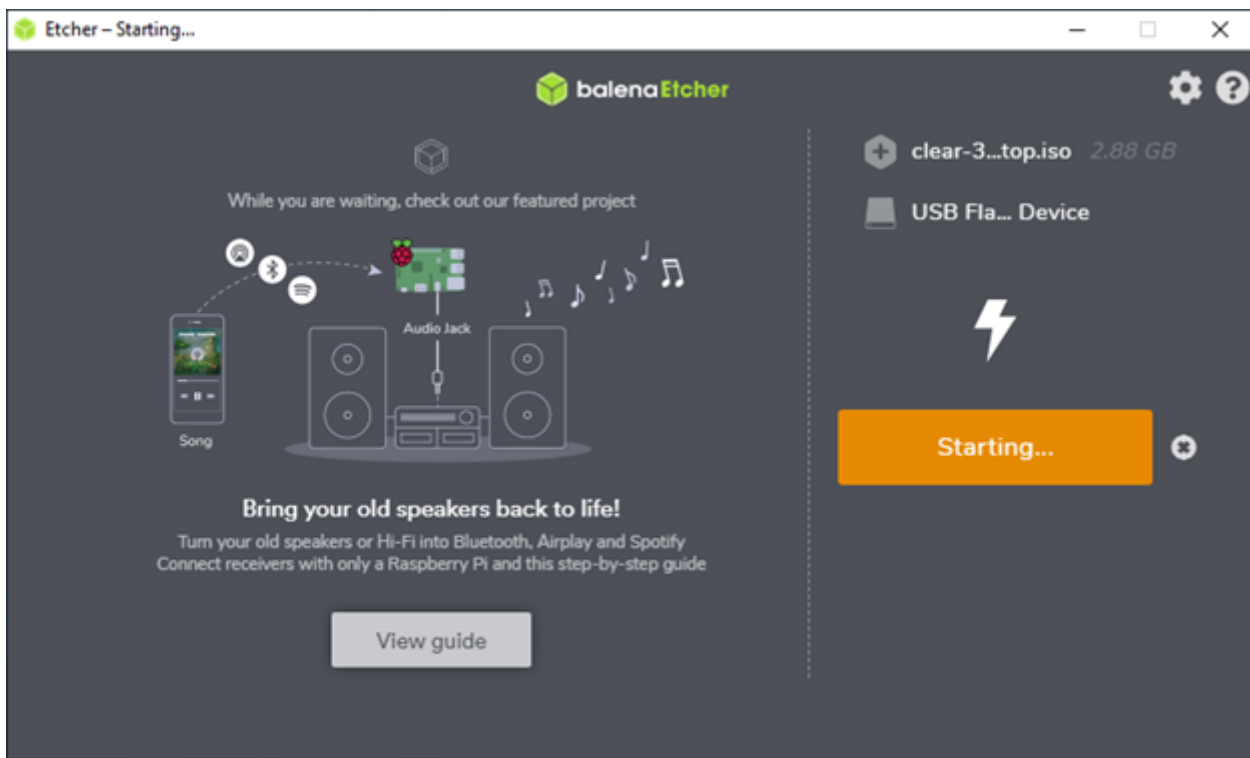


Figure 5: Starting to flash

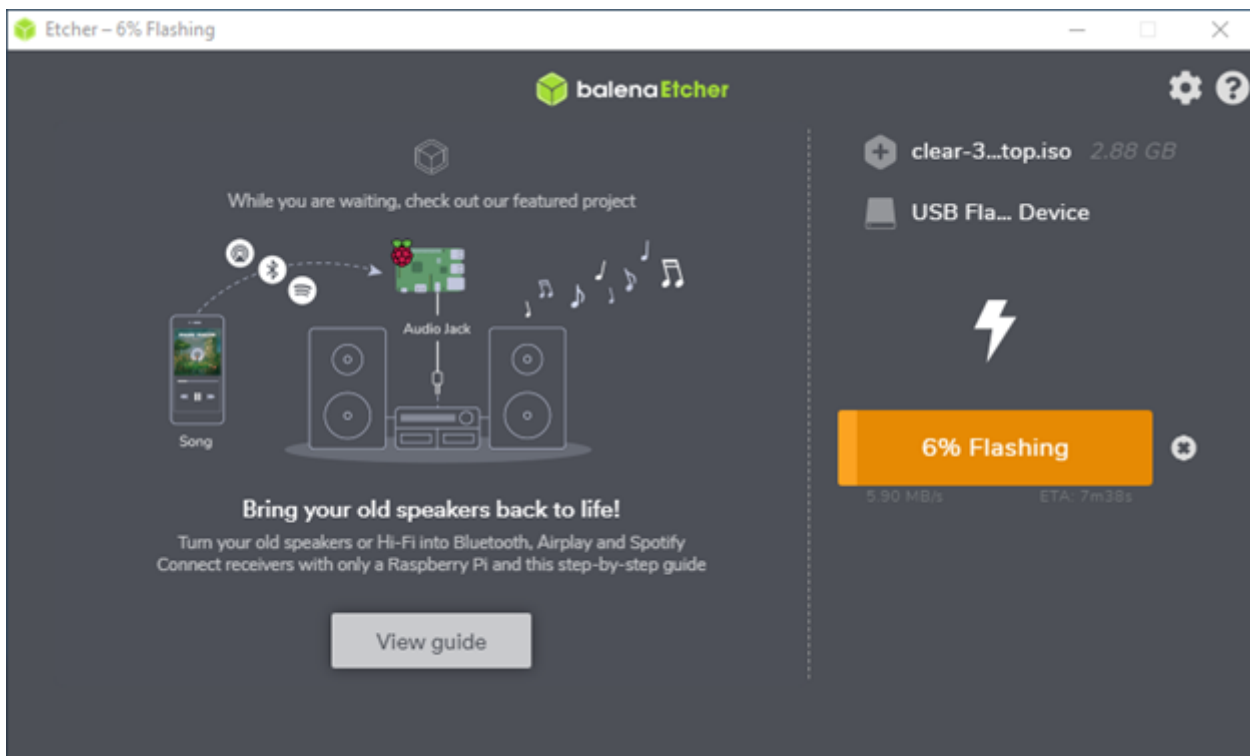


Figure 6: Flashing, percentage complete

9. **Flash complete!** shows when the process is finished.

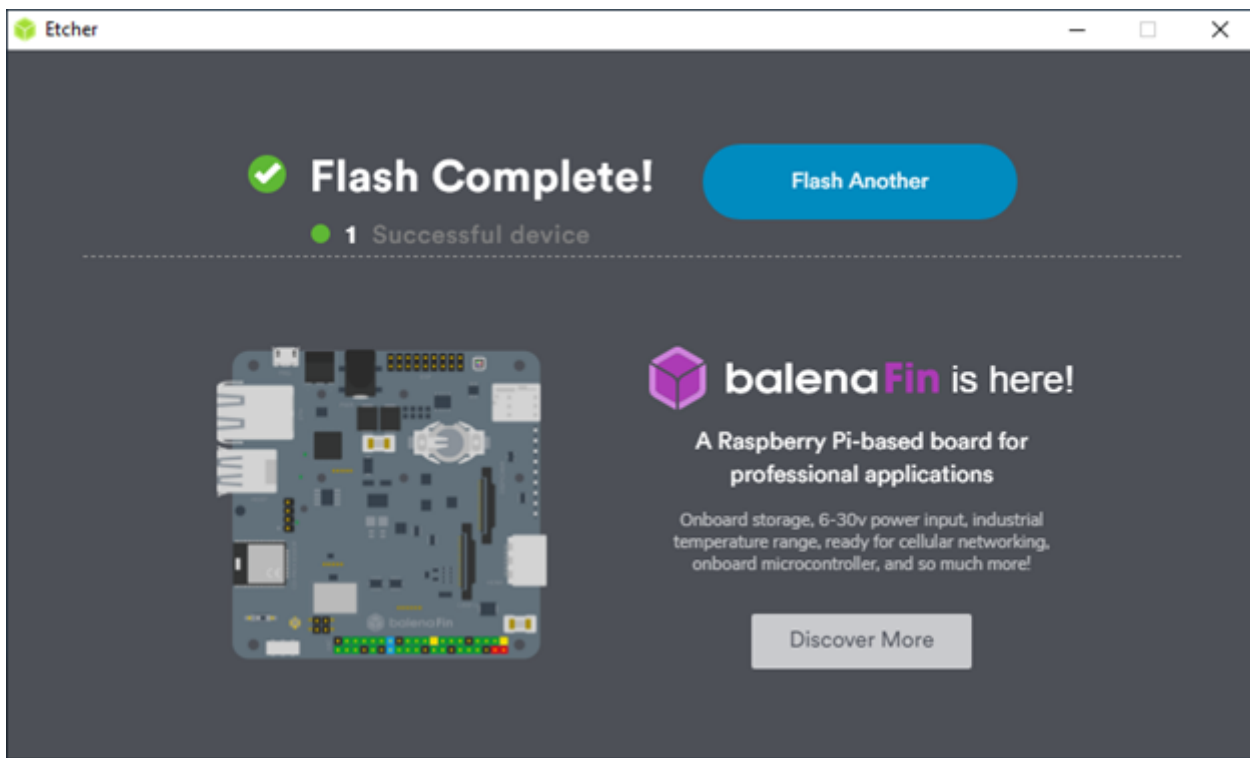


Figure 7: Flash Complete!

! Note

The process may take more than a few minutes. When the process completes, close BalenaEtcher.

Advanced: Linux CLI

1. Open a Terminal window.
2. Change directory to where the image resides.
3. Plug in the USB drive.
4. Identify all drives attached to the system. In the example output below, there are 3 drives (`/dev/sda`, `/dev/sdb`, and `/dev/sdc`) attached, where `/dev/sda` is the primary drive and the remaining are USB drives.

```
bash
lsblk -po NAME,SIZE,VENDOR,MODEL,TRAN,TYPE,PARTLABEL,MOUNTPOINT
```

Example output:

```
Console
```

NAME	SIZE	VENDOR	MODEL	TRAN	TYPE	PARTLABEL	MOUNTPOINT
/dev/sda	119.2G	ATA	SAMSUNG_MZ7PC128HAFU-000	sata	disk		
└─/dev/sda1	450M				part	Basic data partition	
└─/dev/sda2	100M				part	EFI system partition	
└─/dev/sda3	16M				part	Microsoft reserved partition	
└─/dev/sda4	97.2G				part	Basic data partition	
└─/dev/sda5	142M				part	EFI	
└─/dev/sda6	245M				part	linux-swap	[SWAP]
└─/dev/sda7	21.1G				part	/	/
/dev/sdb	7.5G	General	UDisk	usb	disk		
└─/dev/sdb1	7.5G				part	Microsoft Basic Data	
/run/media/clear/CENA_X64FRE							
/dev/sdc	15G		Patriot_Memory	usb	disk		
└─/dev/sdc1	15G				part		
/run/media/clear/U							

! Note

Some Linux distros may automatically mount a USB drive when it is plugged in.

5. Unmount the USB drive you want to use before burning an image onto it. Use the **umount** command followed by the device identifier/partition. For example, to unmount all `/dev/sdc` partitions:

```
bash
sudo umount /dev/sdc*
```

6. Burn the image onto the USB drive. This example burns an image onto `/dev/sdc`. The device name of the USB may vary.

```
bash
sudo dd if=./clear-[version number]-live-[desktop | server].iso of=/dev/sdc oflag=sync bs=4M
status=progress
```

Eject the Clear Linux OS image USB drive

! Caution

If you do not properly unmount the USB drive before removing it, it may cause file system checksum errors in it. If this happens, burn the image again, ensuring all the USB drive partitions are unmounted first before removing drive.

1. Unmount the USB per your OS instructions.
2. Then eject the USB.

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