Tutorial – How to Initialize, Partition and Format a Brand New SSD

Version 1.0

This tutorial will walk you through how to initialize, partition and format a brand new SSD.

Any new drive you purchase unless clearly stated should come completely clean, meaning not formatted, not partitioned, and not even initialized.

*This tutorial is specific to Windows operating systems, it is similar with Mac and Linux.

QUICK GUIDE: >Right Click Computer > Manage > Disk Manager > Initialize MBR > Right Click choose New Simple Volume > Follow the wizard.

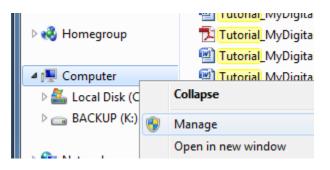
Step 1. Plug in your Drive.

Step 2. Accessing the 'Disk Manager': There are several ways to do this, but for the purpose of this tutorial, we will use the most visual method.

I. Open a folder:



II. Right click on 'Computer' or 'This PC' and choose 'Manage' :



III. This will bring up the computer management console, click on 'Disk Management' in the left pane. If you installed the drive correctly, you will get a popup stating that you must initialize a disk before you can access it:

Initialize Disk	23
You must initialize a disk before Logical Disk Manager can access it.	
<u>S</u> elect disks:	
Disk 2	
Use the following partition style for the selected disks:	
MBR (Master Boot Record)	
© <u>G</u> PT (GUID Partition Table)	
Note: The GPT partition style is not recognized by all previous versions of Windows. It is recommended for disks larger than 2TB, or disks used on Itanium-based computers.	
OK Cano	:el

Example A

For the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to click 'Cancel.'

Now we can see the full disk management console:

File Action View Help	< 🖆 🚅 🔍 🔣				
Computer Management (Local We System Tools Dark Scheduler	(C:) BACKUP (K:)	Layout Type File Syste Simple Basic NTFS Simple Basic NTFS	Healthy (Boot, Page File, Cra Healthy (Primary Partition)	ish Dump, Primary Partition)	Actions Disk Management
 I Event Viewer Shared Folders Performance Device Manager 	System Reserved Simple Basic NTFS Healthy (System, Active, Primary Partition) :			More Actions	
A 🔄 Storage	•			•	
Services and Applications	Basic 447.13 GB Online) 03 GB NTFS Ithy (Boot, Page File, Crash Dumj	o, Primary Partition)	
	Disk 1 Basic 894.25 GB Online	BACKUP (K:) 894.25 GB NTFS Healthy (Primary Partition)		
	Disk 2 Unknown 223.57 GB Not Initialized	223.57 GB Unallocated			
	CD-ROM 0 DVD (D:) No Media				
4	Unallocated	Primary partition			

IV. As you can see from the photo above, Disk 2 has a red arrow pointing down and the area that would normally contain the drive letter and information about the drive states unallocated.

Step 3. Initialize the drive

I. Right click on the area where the red down arrow is located and select 'Initialize Disk' :

Disk 2 Unknown 223.57 GB	222 57 GP
Not Init	Initialize Disk
	Offline
BVD (D:	Properties
No Mec	Help

II. This will bring up the same dialog box we cancelled out of a moment ago, choose whether you want MBR or GPT and click okay. For the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to create a Master Boot Record. See Example A above.

Step 4. Partition the drive

- I. Now that the drive is initialized, you can right click on the unallocated area and create 1 or many partitions.
- II. Right click on the area and choose 'New Simple Volume' :

Basic 223.57 GB Online	223.57 GB Unallocated	New Simple Volume New Spanned Volume	
A			

III. This will bring up a short Wizard that will walk you through the next steps, for the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to leave everything as default which will create 1 full size partition formatted in NTFS and a drive letter will be automatically assigned.

New Simple Volume Wizard	x
	Welcome to the New Simple Volume Wizard
	This wizard helps you create a simple volume on a disk.
	A simple volume can only be on a single disk.
	To continue, click Next.
	< Back Next > Cancel
	< Back Next > Cancel

22
maximum and minimum sizes.
228934
8
228934
< Back Next > Cancel

Ne	w Simple Volume Wizard
	Assign Drive Letter or Path For easier access, you can assign a drive letter or drive path to your partition.
	 Assign the following drive letter: Mount in the following empty NTFS folder: Browse Do not assign a drive letter or drive path
	< Back Next > Cancel

New Simple Volume Wizard	22	
Format Partition To store data on this partition, you m	ust format it first.	
Choose whether you want to format this volume, and if so, what settings you want to use.		
Do not format this volume		
Format this volume with the format	llowing settings:	
File system:	NTFS -	
Allocation unit size:	Default 👻	
Volume label:	New Volume	
Perform a quick format		
Enable file and folder co	ompression	
	< Back Next > Cancel	

New Simple Volume Wizard		
	Completing the New Simple Volume Wizard	
	You have successfully completed the New Simple Volume Wizard.	
	You selected the following settings: Volume type: Simple Volume Disk selected: Disk 2 Volume size: 228934 MB Drive letter or path: E: File system: NTFS Allocation unit size: Default Volume label: New Volume Quick format: Yes	
	To close this wizard, click Finish.	
	< Back Finish Cancel	

After clicking finish, depending on the size and speed of the drive, it should only take a few seconds to complete, and now, you can see your drive in the computer area and you can use it just like a thumb drive, wherever you plug it in.



Enjoy!