

Rastafabi's Catalina loader

README

REALLY, DO IT!

What is it?

Catalina loader is an EFI chain loader which spoofs your Mac to think it's a newer, macOS 10.15 Catalina supported model. This enables you to download (*AppStore, once available*) and install macOS Catalina.

!!! If your hardware does not meet the minimum requirements it may brick your Mac.

Who is it for?

The loader is made for Macs those hardware **DOES FULLY SUPPORT** macOS 10.15 Catalina, but are prevented from being installed due to available model configurations, which do not support macOS Catalina.

This includes, but may not be limited to the following Macs:

- **Mac Pro 4,1 & 5,1** with updated *GPU* (Metal compatible) and compatible* *WiFi/Bluetooth* chipset (if you want wireless connectivity)
- **iMacs from 2010 & 2011** with updated *GPU* (Metal compatible) and compatible* *WiFi/Bluetooth* chipset (if you want wireless connectivity)

*compatible WiFi/bluetooth chipsets feature *BT4.0/4.1* and *WLAN ac* connectivity - but may not be limited to those as some *WLAN n* chips might work, too.

That said, it could work with older upgraded iMacs and the Mac Pro 3,1. However either require additional manual edits to install (?) and boot macOS 10.15 Catalina. It may work to perform those edits from single user mode, but I cannot test this, and do not provide any support whatsoever. (Well, neither any other system.)

How does it work?

The loader provides the bare minimum of files to enable being recognised as a macOS operating system. Instead of booting macOS it however loads the incredible boot-manager rEFInd, which is configured to automatically load OpenCore, which does the magic of spoofing a compatible Mac.

!!! However **be warned**, as this is potential dangerous, as macOS might try to apply unsupported Firmware updates, which destroy your hardware. Proceed at YOUR OWN RISK.

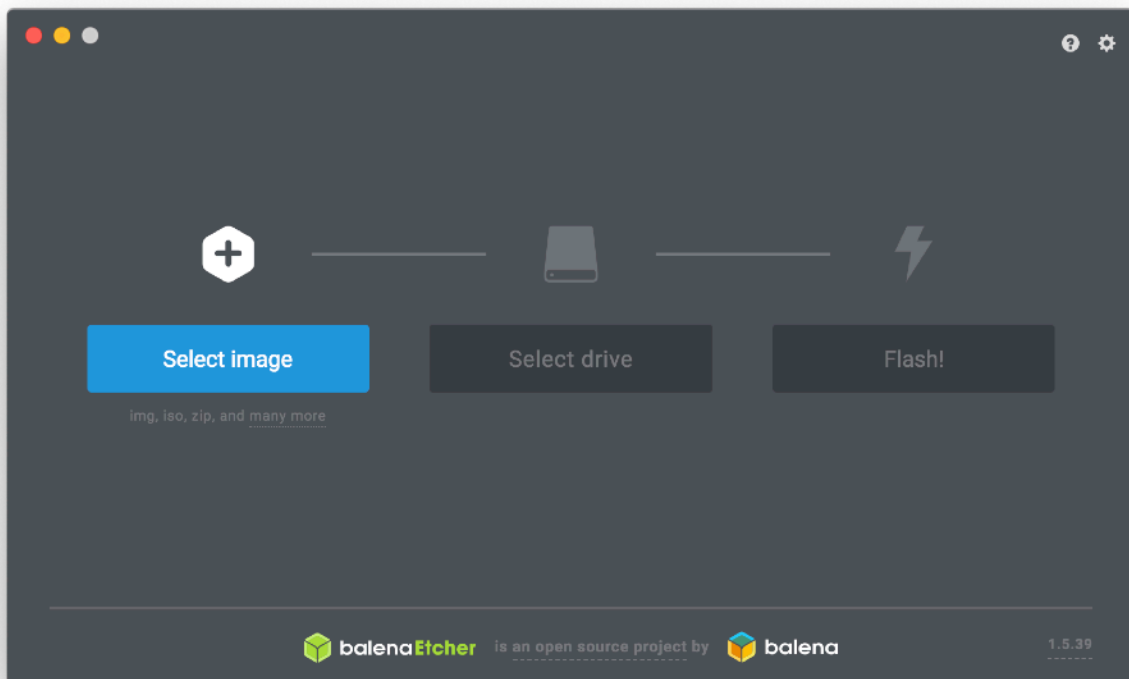
It should be save, as OpenCore should prevent this from happing by all means.

However **I cannot be held responsible**.

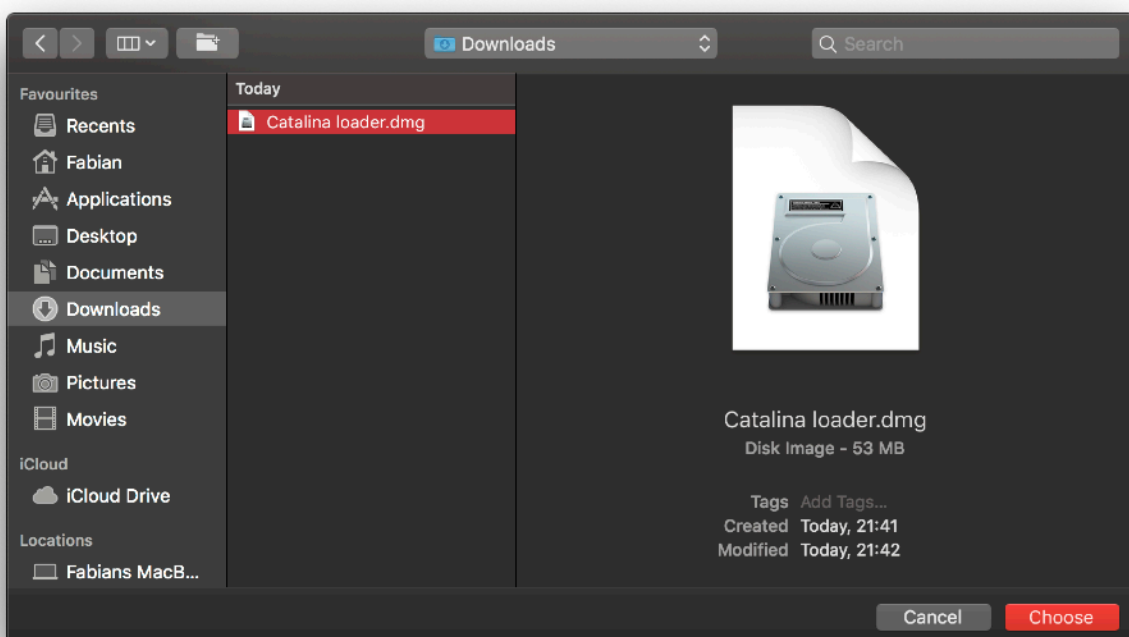
I understand this, but do not mind the danger. So what do I need to do?

Alright. Now this guide walks you through the installation of "Catalina loader". **Do not leave out any step!**

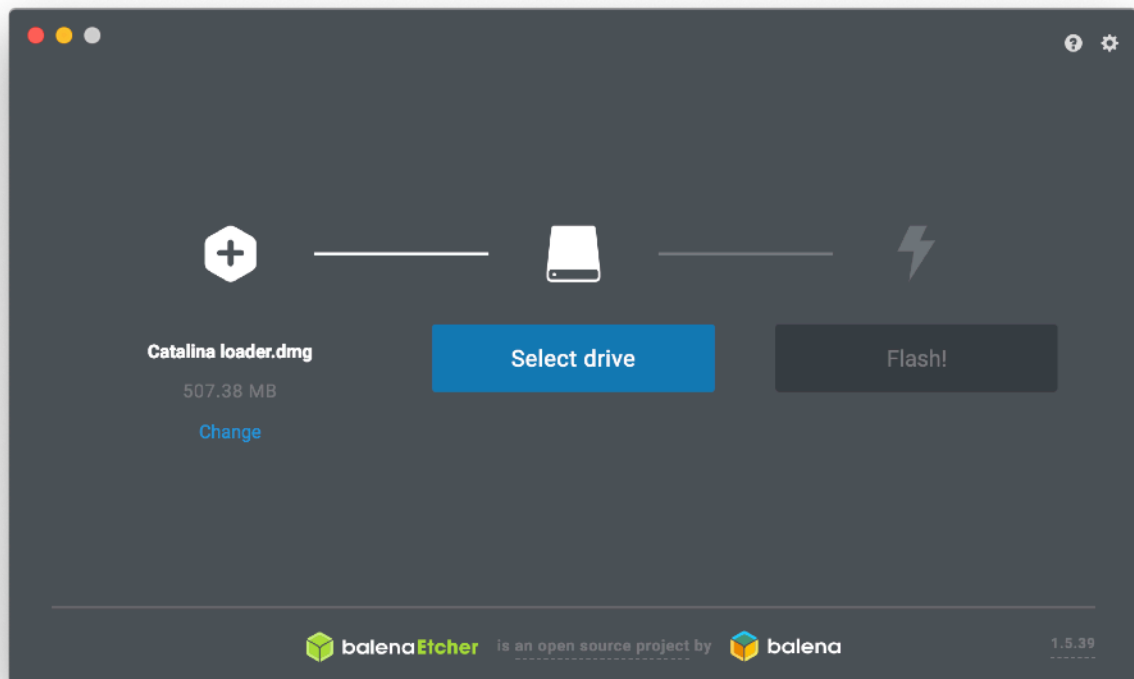
1. Download the free [*balenaEtcher.app*](#)
2. Open *balenaEtcher.app* and choose **Select image**



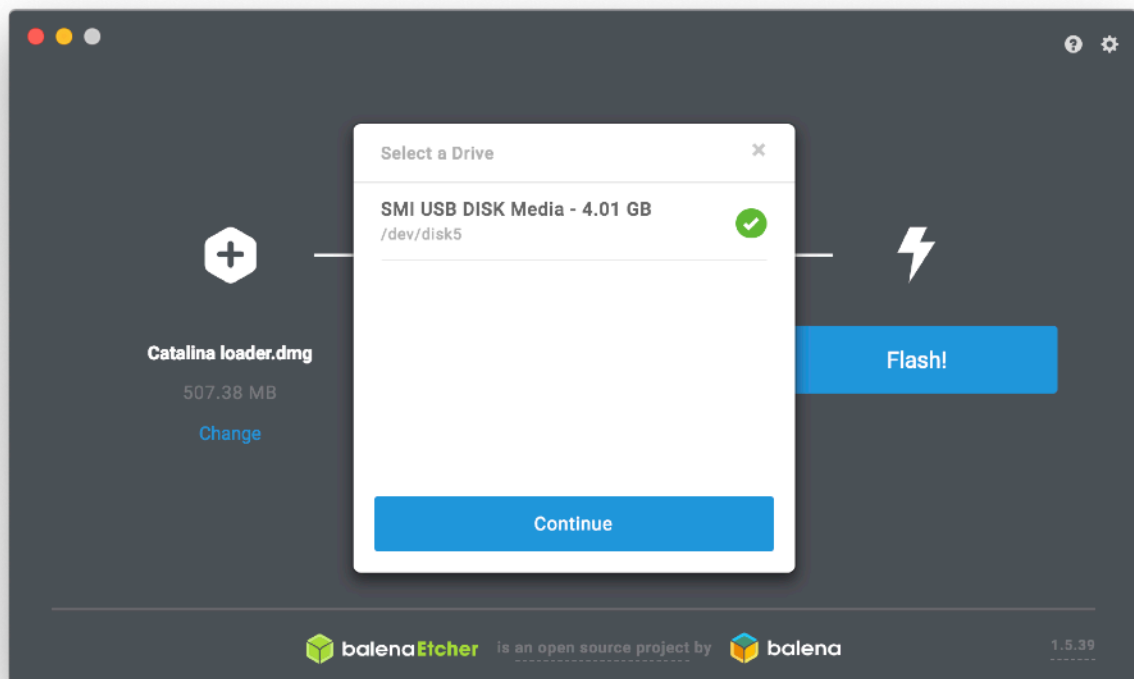
3. Navigate to the downloaded *Catalina loader*.



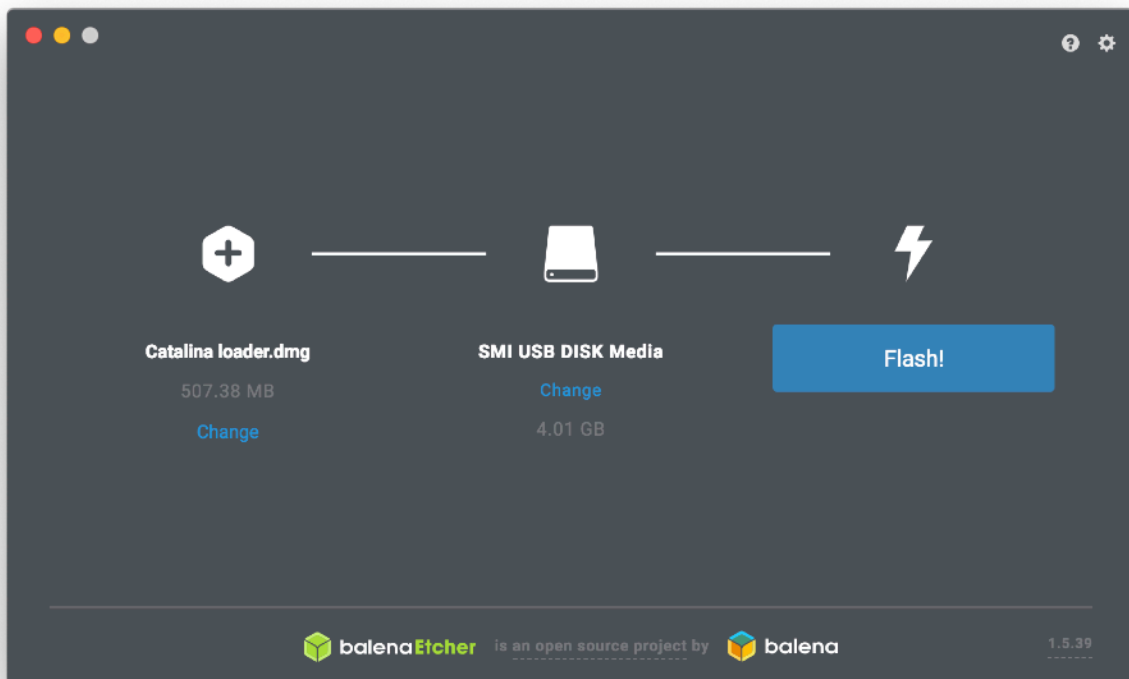
- Click **Select drive**.



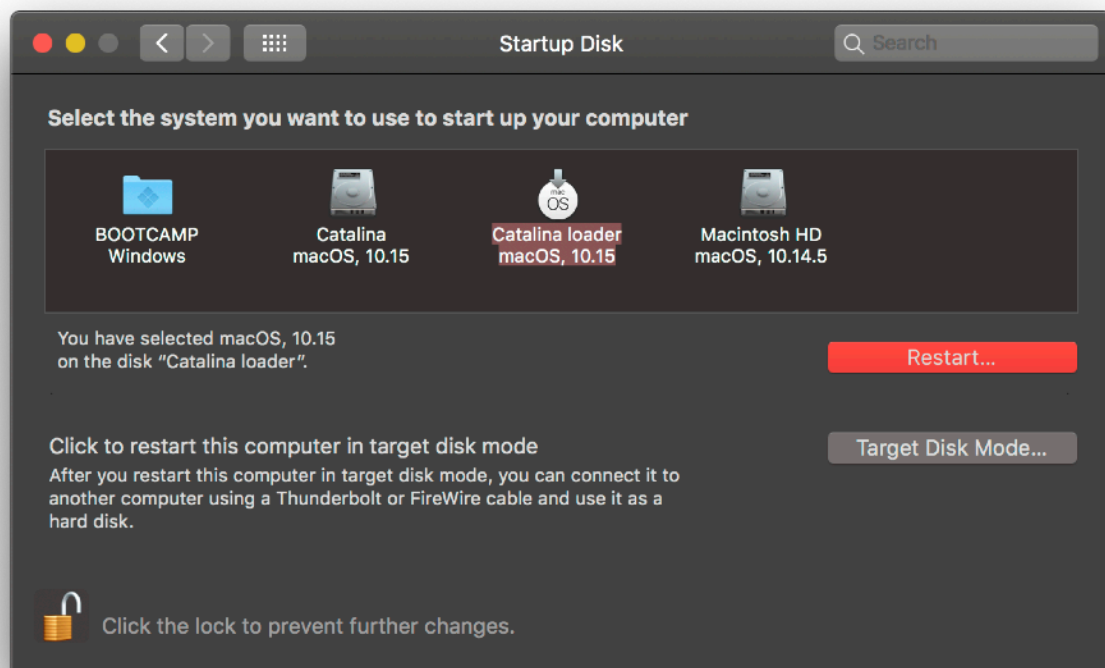
- Choose an USB flash drive, you do not care to erase. Else save its' content first. Then select it in the menu.



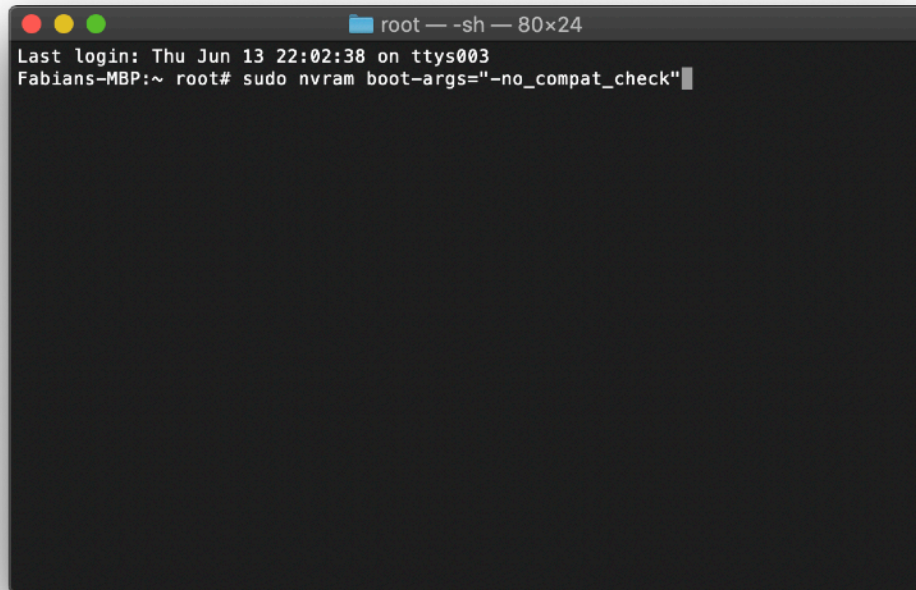
6. Now hit **Flash!**



7. After it finished, pull the flash drive and unmount the *Catalina Loader.dmg*. (right-click eject on the Desktop)
8. Now plug-in the drive again. Launch *System Preferences.app* and open the *Startup Disk* preference pane. After unlocking you can select the *Catalina Loader* and hit **Restart...**



9. After your Mac restarted a list of bootable systems should be available. Select the OS you want to install *macOS 10.15 Catalina* from. – **Trouble?**
 - a) If you see no list but „some code“ try to remove all drives, but the one you want to boot from (and the flash drive) and reboot.
 - b) If you have no boot screen (some upgraded GPUs) wait for the 10s timeout to complete, which shall boot your system. If it boot's another one or does not boot at all remove all drives but the one you want to boot from (and the flash drive) and reboot.
10. After you logged back into you system open *Terminal.app* (*/Applications/Utilities*) and run the following command: `sudo nvram boot-args="-no_compat_check"` (hit enter)



11. Now install *macOS 10.15 Catalina*. **Install it to an empty disk or partition** as it is a beta. *If the install does not proceed, boot again from the flash drive, and select the installer.* Afterwards you will only need the flash drive if you reset the nvram or a system upgrade refuses to install, stating your Mac is not supported.

