

# Re: Returning drive to fat32 from NTFS

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-04/msg01327.html>

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- *From:* "Steve N." <Steve\_N@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Fri, 01 Apr 2005 09:50:09 -0800
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Al Dykes wrote:

In article <uHEQt1tNFHA.568@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Anna <myname@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

GTT wrote:

I bought a second hard drive for my machine and a friend He formated it on his machine first. I notice it is NTFS other drive and partiotions on it are Fat32. I would leav but I still have dual boot with win 98.

Nothing  
is on  
this  
drive  
yet.  
What do  
I do  
under XP  
to  
format  
it as  
Fat32.  
Detailed  
steps  
please  
or is it  
as  
simple  
as  
typing  
format

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E: How  
do I  
designate  
Fat32 or  
will it  
ask me.  
I have  
Partitionmagic  
but  
it  
doesn't  
have any  
instructions  
on going  
from  
NTFS to  
fat32  
just the  
other  
way.

"Gordon"  
<gordonbp1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message  
[news:uYsbiRrNFHA.3512@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uYsbiRrNFHA.3512@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Right-click on My  
Computer and choose  
Manage. In the  
right-hand pane,  
click on Storage,  
then Disk  
Management(local).  
Right-click on the  
drive and choose  
"Format".  
HTH  
Interim Systems and  
Management  
Accounting  
Gordon  
Burgess-Parker  
Director  
[www.gbpcomputing.co.uk](http://www.gbpcomputing.co.uk)

## Re: Returning drive to fat32 from NTFS

HTH...

Anna wrote:

Gordon's instructions are accurate (as is the similar response you rec'd from Yao Su); in that you can use XP's built-in Disk Management utility to format your drive in FAT32, but there is a limitation. Keep in mind that by using XP's DM utility you will *\*not\** have the option of formatting your drive in FAT32 if the drive is > 32 GB. And I assume that since you just purchased the drive, it's probably at least 40 GB. Assuming your drive is > 32 GB, you could, of course, multi-partition it in the DM utility so that at least one partition you create is < 32 GB. Then you could use DM to format one or more of those partitions in FAT32. If that's acceptable to you, then use DM. The DM Help file contains detailed information on how to partition and format your hard drive.

You mention you have Partition Magic. Assuming this is version 8, you can use PM to convert the present NTFS partition to FAT32. The instructions are >> contained in PM's Help files.  
Anna

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Steve wrote...

Good advice Anna, but if it was me I'd just boot a Win98 floppy or CD and use fdisk to delete the NTFS partition and create a DOS partition on the disk. Then XP will be able to format it.

Steve

Steve:

I most certainly agree with you. It's the way I would (and usually do) do it that way. I just thought in this instance this OP might have a problem with this approach. So I continued with the thread that recommended using XP's Disk Management utility. But using a Win9x/Me Startup Disk or DOS boot floppy, as you suggest, is the better way.

Incidentally, I've come across a way to format either a internal HD or USB/Firewire external hard drive in FAT32 in \*any\* capacity and from \*within\* the XP environment. If you, or anyone, is interested in this approach, please so indicate and I'll provide the details.  
Anna

From w/98 you will see the NTFS disk as "unknown" partition type. Use FDISK to delete the partition and then make a new one, then format it.

Yes with Win95 and perhaps with the first release Win98 (not sure), but Win98se fdisk does display it as NTFS.

Steve

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