



Supported Mac Models — Lightweight Linux for Macs

All **Intel-based Macs from 2008 to 2019** are supported. Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3/M4) Macs are **not supported**.

Support Tiers

Tier	Meaning
✓ Full	All hardware works out of the box with this kit
● Good	Most hardware works; minor issues with one or two components
● Partial	Core functionality works; some hardware requires manual configuration

MacBook Pro

Model Identifier	Year	Display	Tier	Notes
MacBookPro5,1	2008	15"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro5,2	2009	17"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro5,3	2009	15"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro5,4	2009	15"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro5,5	2009	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro6,1	2010	17"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro6,2	2010	15"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro7,1	2010	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro8,1	2011	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro8,2	2011	15"	● Good	AMD GPU may need radeon.dpm=0 kernel param
MacBookPro8,3	2011	17"	● Good	AMD GPU may need radeon.dpm=0 kernel param
MacBookPro9,1	2012	15"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro9,2	2012	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro10,1	2012	15" Retina	✓ Full	HiDPI auto-configured
MacBookPro10,2	2013	13" Retina	✓ Full	HiDPI auto-configured
MacBookPro11,1	2013	13" Retina	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro11,2	2013	15" Retina	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro11,3	2013	15" Retina	● Good	NVIDIA GPU — use nouveau or proprietary
MacBookPro11,4	2015	15" Retina	✓ Full	—

Model Identifier	Year	Display	Tier	Notes
MacBookPro11,5	2015	15" Retina	● Good	AMD GPU — generally works well
MacBookPro12,1	2015	13" Retina	✓ Full	—
MacBookPro13,1	2016	13"	● Good	SPI keyboard/trackpad driver needed
MacBookPro13,2	2016	13" Touch Bar	● Partial	Touch Bar basic support; SPI drivers needed
MacBookPro13,3	2016	15" Touch Bar	● Partial	Touch Bar basic support; SPI drivers needed
MacBookPro14,1	2017	13"	● Good	SPI keyboard/trackpad driver needed
MacBookPro14,2	2017	13" Touch Bar	● Partial	Touch Bar basic support
MacBookPro14,3	2017	15" Touch Bar	● Partial	Touch Bar basic support
MacBookPro15,1	2018	15" Touch Bar	● Partial	T2 chip requires workarounds; Touch Bar basic
MacBookPro15,2	2018	13" Touch Bar	● Partial	T2 chip requires workarounds
MacBookPro15,3	2019	15" Touch Bar	● Partial	T2 chip; use t2linux.org patches
MacBookPro15,4	2019	13"	● Partial	T2 chip
MacBookPro16,1	2019	16"	● Partial	T2 chip; AMD GPU
MacBookPro16,2	2019	13"	● Partial	T2 chip

MacBook Air

Model Identifier	Year	Display	Tier	Notes
MacBookAir2,1	2008	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir3,1	2010	11"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir3,2	2010	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir4,1	2011	11"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir4,2	2011	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir5,1	2012	11"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir5,2	2012	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir6,1	2013	11"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir6,2	2013	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir7,1	2015	11"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir7,2	2015	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBookAir8,1	2018	13" Retina	● Good	T2 chip (limited); Retina auto-configured
MacBookAir8,2	2019	13" Retina	● Good	T2 chip

MacBook

Model Identifier	Year	Display	Tier	Notes
MacBook5,1	2008	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBook5,2	2009	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBook6,1	2009	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBook7,1	2010	13"	✓ Full	—
MacBook8,1	2015	12" Retina	● Good	SPI drivers needed
MacBook9,1	2016	12" Retina	● Good	SPI drivers needed
MacBook10,1	2017	12" Retina	● Good	SPI drivers needed

iMac

Model Identifier	Year	Display	Tier	Notes
iMac9,1	2009	20"/24"	✓ Full	—
iMac10,1	2009	21.5"/27"	✓ Full	—
iMac11,1	2009	27"	✓ Full	—
iMac11,2	2010	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac11,3	2010	27"	✓ Full	—
iMac12,1	2011	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac12,2	2011	27"	● Good	AMD GPU
iMac13,1	2012	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac13,2	2012	27"	✓ Full	—
iMac14,1	2013	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac14,2	2013	27"	✓ Full	—
iMac14,3	2013	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac14,4	2014	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac15,1	2014	27" 5K	● Good	5K display may default to lower res
iMac16,1	2015	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac16,2	2015	21.5" 4K	✓ Full	—
iMac17,1	2015	27" 5K	● Good	AMD GPU; 5K via MST
iMac18,1	2017	21.5"	✓ Full	—
iMac18,2	2017	21.5" 4K	✓ Full	—
iMac18,3	2017	27" 5K	● Good	AMD GPU
iMac19,1	2019	27" 5K	● Good	T2 chip (limited)
iMac19,2	2019	21.5" 4K	● Good	T2 chip (limited)

Mac Mini

Model Identifier	Year	Tier	Notes
Macmini3,1	2009	✓ Full	—
Macmini4,1	2010	✓ Full	—
Macmini5,1	2011	✓ Full	—
Macmini5,2	2011	✓ Full	—
Macmini5,3	2011	✓ Full	—
Macmini6,1	2012	✓ Full	—
Macmini6,2	2012	✓ Full	—
Macmini7,1	2014	✓ Full	—
Macmini8,1	2018	● Good	T2 chip (limited)

Mac Pro

Model Identifier	Year	Tier	Notes
MacPro3,1	2008	✓ Full	Great Linux workstation
MacPro4,1	2009	✓ Full	Great Linux workstation
MacPro5,1	2010–2012	✓ Full	The “cheese grater” — excellent Linux support
MacPro6,1	2013	● Good	“Trash can” — dual AMD GPUs
MacPro7,1	2019	● Good	T2 chip; AMD GPU

Notes on T2 Chip Macs (2018-2019)

Macs with the **Apple T2 Security Chip** require additional steps:

1. **Disable Secure Boot:** Boot into macOS Recovery → Startup Security Utility → Set to “No Security”
2. **Allow external boot:** Set to “Allow booting from external media”
3. **Install T2 Linux patches:** Visit [t2linux.org](https://wiki.t2linux.org/) (<https://wiki.t2linux.org/>) for kernel patches and instructions
4. **Internal SSD:** The T2 chip manages the internal SSD; Linux support varies. An external USB SSD may be more reliable.

Not Supported

Device	Reason
Apple Silicon Macs (M1/M2/M3/M4)	Different CPU architecture (ARM); use Asahi Linux (https://asahilinux.org/) instead
PowerPC Macs (pre-2006)	Different architecture; use Debian PPC or Ubuntu PPC
MacBook 2006–2007 (32-bit)	Limited 32-bit EFI boot; may work with work-arounds