

Using Win32 Disk Imager, what are the steps involved in copying a microSD card?

Sure thing—this is a pretty straightforward process with Win32 Disk Imager. The idea is **two phases**:



create an image file from the original microSD card, and



write that image to another microSD card.

Here's the clean step-by-step:

1. Insert the Original microSD Card

- Put the **source microSD card** (the one you want to copy) into your card reader.
 - Insert it into your computer.
 - Note the **drive letter** that Windows assigns (for example **E:** or **F:**).
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2. Open Win32 Disk Imager

- Launch **Win32 Disk Imager**.
 - Run it as **Administrator** if possible.
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3. Create the Image File (Backup the Card)

1. In the **Image File** field, click the **folder icon**.
2. Choose where to save the image.
3. Give it a name like:

pistar_backup.img

4. In the **Device** dropdown, select the **drive letter of the microSD card**.
5. Click **Read**.

What happens now:

- The program **copies the entire microSD card** into one **.img** file on your computer.



This usually takes **3–10 minutes** depending on card size.

4. Remove the Original Card

- When finished, safely eject the original card.
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5. Insert the New microSD Card

- Put the **blank microSD card** into the card reader.
 - Note its **new drive letter**.
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6. Write the Image to the New Card

1. In **Image File**, select the **.img** file you created.
2. In **Device**, choose the **new microSD card drive letter**.
3. Click **Write**.

Confirm the warning.

The software will now **clone the image onto the new microSD card**.

7. Wait for Completion

When the progress bar finishes:

- Safely eject the card.
 - Insert it into your device (for example a **Raspberry Pi running Pi-Star**).
 - It should boot **exactly like the original card**.
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Simple rule:

- **READ = make image from card**
- **WRITE = copy image to card**



Pro tip (especially for Pi-Star users):

Name your backup files with dates like:

pistar_03-08-2026.img

That way you always know which backup works.