

# Copying Your Bootsector to a Harddrive

First, you should read the [Copying Your Bootsector to a Floppy Disk](#) tutorial if you haven't yet.

The requirements for a bootsector that's installed on a harddrive are the same as those for a bootsector on a floppy:

1. Your bootsector is exactly 512 bytes long.
2. Your bootsector ends with 0xAA55.
3. Your bootsector is compiled as a flat binary.

Now, the BIOS(**B**asic **I**nput **O**utput **S**ystem) will look only on the first harddrive for a bootsector(most BIOSes do this, though apperently some allow you to chose which harddrive to look on) so we need to copy our bootsector to the first harddrive. In Linux, the first harddrive is */dev/hda* and in PartCopy, it is *h0*.

## Copying Under Windows With PartCopy

This is pretty much the same as copying a bootsector to a floppy disk with PartCopy(in this example the bootsector is called *bootsec.bin*):

```
partcopy bootsec.bin 0 200 -h0
```

We start at the very beginning of the first harddrive(the first harddrive is specified with the *-h0*) and continue to the 512 byte mark(512 bytes = 0x200).

Before you do that, you might want to back up the old bootsector so that you can restore it. The command below saves the old bootsector into a file called *oldboot.bin*:

```
partcopy -h0 0 200 oldboot.bin
```

## Copying Under Linux With dd

First, our bootsector is called *bootsec.bin*. Under Linux, the first harddrive is */dev/hda*. We want to write our bootsector as one block of 512 bytes. *bs=512* sets up the size of 1 block and *count=1* specifies that we want to only write 1 block:

```
dd if=bootsec.bin of=/dev/hda bs=512 count=1
```

Before you do that, you might want to back up the old bootsector so that you can restore it. The command below saves the old bootsector into a file called *oldboot.bin*:

```
dd if=/dev/hda of=oldboot.bin bs=512 count=1
```

*This tutorial was written by [K.J.](#) - May 6, 2002*