Installing Catalina on Mac Pro 5,1 Using Sonnet M.2 4x4
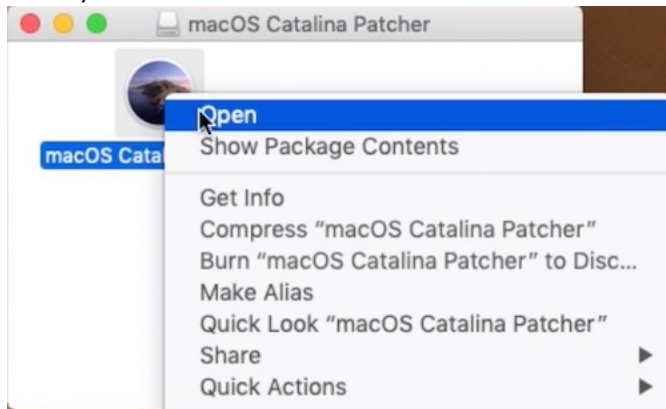
Before you start…
*** Your Catalina volume will not have a recovery partition.
*** You will no longer be able to option-boot to select your boot volume. To select a new startup volume, you may do it from System Preferences—>Startup Disk and restart.
*** If you upgrade your graphics card to a card supported only in Catalina, for example the AMD Radeon 5700, that you will no longer be able to boot previous versions of macOS. If you want to install a Radeon RX 570/580 Graphics card that is supported by Mojave and High Sierra, you may do it now. (Radeon RX 590 requires Mojave.)
*** Catalina on Mac Pro 5,1 is not supported by Apple or Sonnet. Sonnet is providing this guide as an informational courtesy.
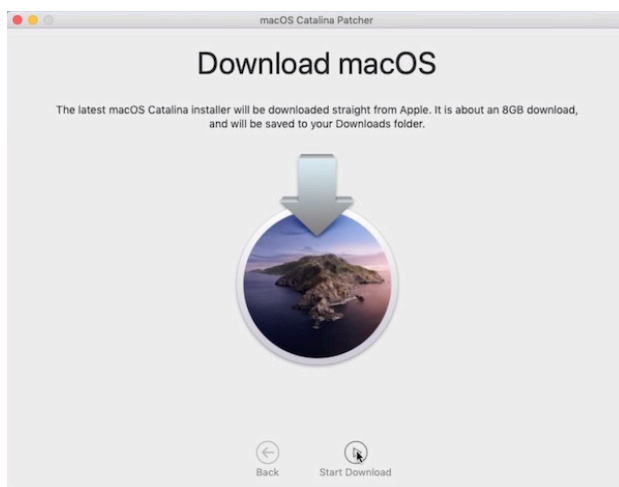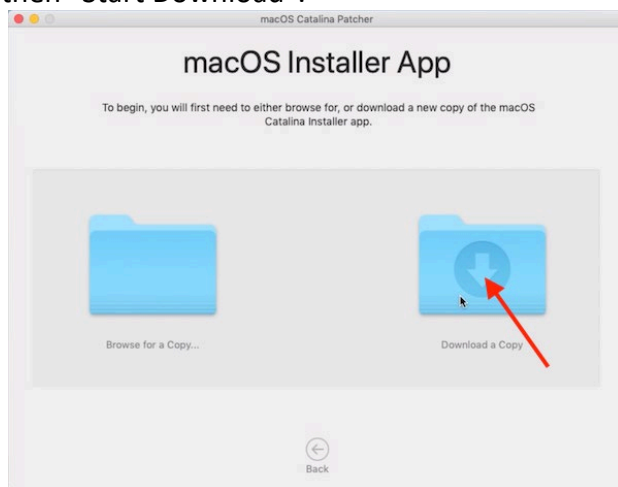
1. First update to Mojave. See this Apple Note for important information regarding Mojave.

2. Select one of the SSDs on the M.2 4x4 card and format it as APFS, and name it "Catalina". Catalina will not boot from a volume formatted as Mac OS Extended (Journaled).

3. Navigate to the web site dosdude1.com/catalina and download the macOS Catalina Patcher.
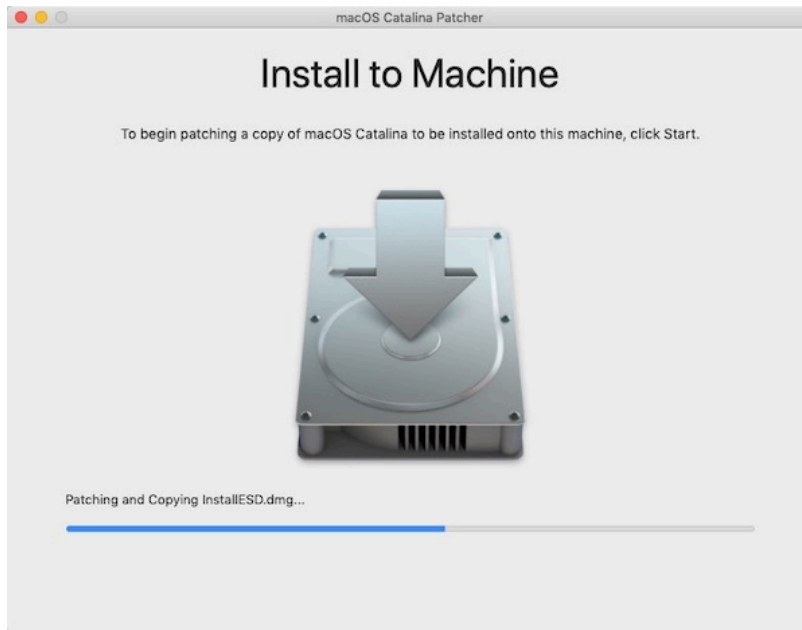
4. After the patcher has downloaded, mount the installer, and right click on the macOS Catalina Patcher to open it. (According to the instructions double-clicking the patcher does not always work.)

5. Follow the on-screen instructions to download Catalina by clicking "Download a Copy", and then "Start Download".
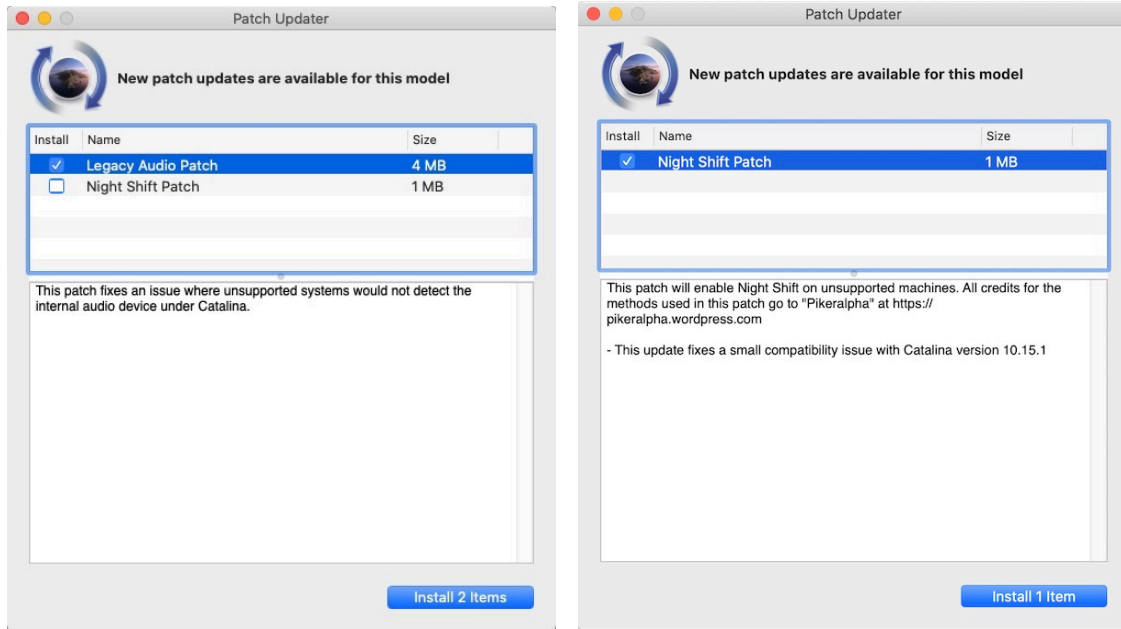
6. Select Install to Machine. There is no need to install to an installer volume or a CD.

7. When you get to this screen, choose the Catalina volume you formatted in Step 1.

8. Your Mac Pro will complete the install and boot into Catalina. Any additional patches will show. We recommend to install one patch at a time and restart; install the next and restart.

9. You can now upgrade your graphics card to a Radeon 5700. We like the AMD Reference card, MSI RX 5700 8G or equivalent. (MSI has a 3-year warranty and excellent customer service.) This reference card will fit the size and power envelope of the Mac Pro 5,1. The power requirement of this reference card is 180W average and 250W peak. The power budget for all of the PCIe slots in a Mac Pro 5,1 is 300W. To be conservative, do not exceed 50W for the other three slots.

For this card, you will also need a readily available "Mini 6 Pin male to 8 Pin male PCI Express Video Card Power Adapter Cable for Mac Pro".

Be sure to save your old video card if you ever need to boot into a previous version of macOS.

10. Navigate to the web site dosdude1.com/catalina and donate. A lot of work went into creating this patcher. Users like you can help keep this patcher current with Catalina updates.

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