

Artix/Arch Install (Runit)

First of all this is a good video guide:¹⁾ https://vid.puffyan.us/watch?v=nCc_4fSYzRA

Secondly this guide assumes you'll be installing runit as your init of choice, of course you don't have to follow that recommendation, but note that some commands/actions may be different depending on your init choice.

(Also this guide was last updated 2023-12-25 so beware if its currently a few years after this.)

Pre-steps

For sake of completeness:

- Grab a iso from [artixlinux.org downloads page](https://artixlinux.org/downloads)
- Flash to a usb
- Disable secure boot on the target machine (backup keys too)
- Plugin & boot (live passwd is 'artix')
- `$ su root`

Now for some hardware checks, most modern systems will be running some form of EFI for the system firmware, if the following command *fails* you **do not** have a efi system.

```
artix-live:[root]:~# ls /sys/firmware/efi/efivars/
```

However if it spits out a lotta rubbish then you **do** have an efi system.

Finally, you want to make sure you are connected to the internet, if its a wired connection, you should be good to go, but if you are on wifi, youll have to manually turn it and connect (at least in the xfce image).

Partitioning

Find your target drive with `lsblk`, generally sepaking it will *most likely* be `/dev/sda`

```
artix-live:[root]:~# lsblk
NAME        MAJ:MIN RM   SIZE RO TYPE MOUNTPOINTS
loop0       7:0      0   73.2M  1 loop /run/artix/sfs/livefs
loop1       7:1      0    1.5G   1 loop /run/artix/sfs/rootfs
sda         8:0      0  931.5G  0 disk
sdb         8:16     1   29.3G  0 disk
├─sdb1      8:17     1    1.6G  0 part /run/artix/bootmnt
└─sdb2      8:18     1     4M   0 part
```

In the above example `/dev/sda` will be the target drive for the install.

Now most systems when partitioning will have the following set of partitions:

- /boot boot partition, 512MiB is the minimum size it should be, fs is FAT32 (required for efi systems)
- / root partition (most likely ext4)
- [SWAP] should be the same size as your system memory²⁾ but I usually just set it to half my total mem size.

Now some systems *also* have 1 more more of the following partitions:

- /home to make hopping easier, all the user files are here
- /var dunno why, but probably because it has just a high a count of read/write to justify placement on another disk in certain cases

However this is my *usual* partition scheme

- / (40-80GB)
- [SWAP] ({total mem}/2)
- /home rest of disk

Now run `fdisk` on the drive to format. The following is a creation of the boot partition, but the process is the same for literally everything else.

```
artix-live:[root]:~# fdisk /dev/sda
```

```
Welcome to fdisk (util-linux 2.38.1).
```

```
Changes will remain in memory only, until you decide to write them.  
Be careful before using the write command.
```

```
Device does not contain a recognized partition table.
```

```
Created a new DOS disklabel with disk identifier 0xcfc381f3.
```

```
Command (m for help): n
```

```
Partition type
```

```
  p   primary (0 primary, 0 extended, 4 free)
```

```
  e   extended (container for logical partitions)
```

```
Select (default p): p
```

```
Partition number (1-4, default 1):
```

```
First sector (2048-1953525167, default 2048):
```

```
Last sector, +/-sectors or +/-size{K,M,G,T,P} (2048-1953525167, default  
1953525167): +512M
```

```
Created a new partition 1 of type 'Linux' and of size 512 MiB.
```

tips:

- p to list partitions
- q to quit **without** writing changes
- w to quit **and write changes**

When you finish, double check the scheme, then write changes. The below is the scheme for a efi system.

```
Command (m for help): p
Disk /dev/sda: 931.51 GiB, 1000204886016 bytes, 1953525168 sectors
Disk model: Samsung SSD 870
Units: sectors of 1 * 512 = 512 bytes
Sector size (logical/physical): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
I/O size (minimum/optimal): 512 bytes / 512 bytes
Disklabel type: dos
Disk identifier: 0xcfc381f3
```

Device	Boot	Start	End	Sectors	Size	Id	Type
/dev/sda1		2048	1050623	1048576	512M	83	Linux
/dev/sda2		1050624	126879743	125829120	60G	83	Linux
/dev/sda3		126879744	1953525167	1826645424	871G	83	Linux

Filesystems

With the above scheme, you can make the following filesystems on the partitions:

```
# if your system is efi, you *will* need a boot partition
# it is also *required* that it is a FAT32 filesystem
mkfs.fat -F32 /dev/sda1

# the rest of the disks get a normal filesystem like ext4
mkfs.ext4 /dev/sda2
mkfs.ext4 /dev/sda3
```

Mounting & OS Bootstrap

Next we need to mount the filesystems so that we can install the os

```
# first the root partition
mount /dev/sda2 /mnt

# then make the mountpoints for the other 2 fs
mkdir -p /mnt/{boot,home}
mount /dev/sda1 /mnt/boot
mount /dev/sda3 /mnt/home
```

Now time for the install part, you will run `basestrap` with the path to the root and a list of packages along with `base`, `base-devel`, and `linux`. The following other packages I recommend installing:

- `linux-firmware`: all of your hardware blobs so that your system can run
- `runit`: the only good init system³⁾
- `elogind-runit`: `elogind` for above init
- `vim`: good editor
- `git`: source control for installing aur pkgs
- `librewolf`: webbrowser

```
basestrap /mnt base base-devel linux linux-firmware runit elogind-runit
```

Finally, before we chroot, we need to generate our fstab for boot filesystems.

```
fstabgen -U /mnt >> /mnt/etc/fstab
```

Artix Chroot

Now that we have a system, lets chroot in:

```
artix-chroot /mnt
```

Pacman mirrors setup

Edit the mirrorlist for pacman to get slight faster speeds:

```
vim /etc/pacman.d/mirrorlist
```

Locale Setup

Depends on where you live, but you need to link the timezone info. For example

```
ln -sf /usr/share/zoneinfo/America/New_York /etc/localtime
```

Now set the system clock to hardware. **NOTE:** If youre time is incorrect even after setting both the timezone and the hwclock. Go into your BIOS and make sure your system clock is synced up to **GMT**. If it is not, set it, as if its on anything else your clock will be wrong.

```
hwclock --systohc
```

Now finally setup the locale, first edit and find your locale (the us for example is en_US) uncomment **both** UTF-8 & ISO-8859-1 variants. Then run locale-gen.

```
vim /etc/locale.gen  
locale-gen
```

Now edit /etc/locale.conf (this should be a new file. For example from locale.gen

```
echo "LANG=en_US.UTF-8" > /etc/locale.conf
```

Networking

First install some networking packages

```
pacman -S networkmanager networkmanager-runit
```

Then enable it for boot, runit of course:

```
ln -s /etc/runit/sv/NetworkManager/ /etc/runit/runsvdir/current
```

Now edit your machines hostname:

```
vim /etc/hostname
```

Finally the hosts file.

```
vim /etc/hosts
```

People put a variation of things here, but the following are **highly recommended**⁴⁾

```
127.0.0.1    localhost
::1         localhost
```

I also like to put the following line in as well (not \$hostname this should be the hostname in /etc/hostname)

```
127.0.0.1    ${hostname}.local $hostname
```

Bootloader

Now, its finally time to make our machine bootable, we need to install our bootloader grub. os-prober is required if you want to dual-boot and efibootmgr is required if you are installing an efi system.

```
pacman -S grub os-prober efibootmgr
```

Now we install grub and generate the grub config

```
grub-install --target=x86_64-efi --efi-directory=/boot --bootloader-id=GRUB
grub-mkconfig -o /boot/grub/grub.cfg
```

Finally, set the root password:

```
passwd
```

Post-install

Once you finish the main install, there may be a couple of other things that you want to do with your system. There are a couple of things that I do with all of my systems.

Primary User

You'll probably want to setup the primary user for the system, usually this is more than enough.

```
useradd -mU $username -s /bin/bash
# for sudo privs
usermod -aG wheel $username
```

Universe Repository

Artix has some nice community-maintained packages in the upstream universe repository. This often contains software not in the arch community repository (as we will cover later), so its nice to have. However, this is *not* enabled by default, you will have to add it yourself. Append the following snippet to `/etc/pacman.conf`:

```
[universe]
Server = https://mirror.pascalpuffke.de/artix-universe/$arch
Server = https://mirrors.qontinuum.space/artixlinux-universe/$arch
Server = https://mirror1.cl.netactuate.com/artix/universe/$arch
Server = https://ftp.crifo.org/artix-universe/$arch
Server = https://artix.sakamoto.pl/universe/$arch
Server = https://mirror1.artixlinux.org/universe/$arch
Server = https://universe.artixlinux.org/$arch
```

Arch Repos

You can setup artix to also pull from the arch extra⁵⁾ for additional software not present on artix. You can install the arch mirrorlist with the `arch-mirrorlist` in the universe repo (and it should work if you followed the previous section). Then append the following line **AFTER** all the artix repo declarations in `/etc/pacman.conf`:

```
[extra]
Include = /etc/pacman.d/mirrorlist-arch
```

1)

The arch manual sucks really bad

2)

Some people recommend double, but I've never seen that in the wild

3)

You can also install whatever you want for an init

4)

Required imo

5)

Community and extra were recently merged together, this is the only repo that needs to be enabled

From:

<https://memex.kyaruc.moe/> - **kyaruc memex**

Permanent link:

https://memex.kyaruc.moe/guide:artix_arch_install?rev=1742695948

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