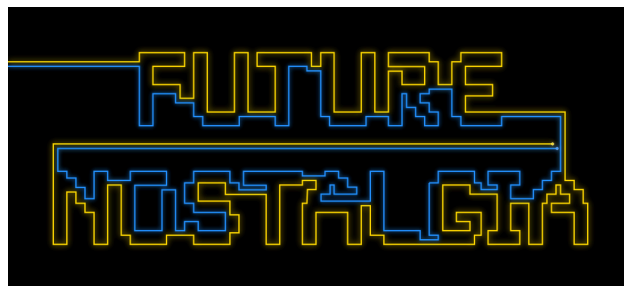


## Kit List for *Copy that Floppy... LIVE!*

If you want to follow along with the *Copy that Floppy... LIVE!* workshop, you need a suitable computer along with the hardware required to read your floppy disks.

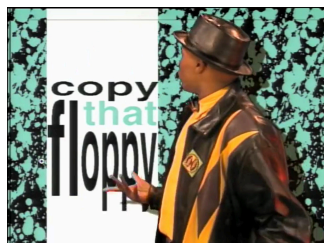


The workshop will focus on 3.5-inch and 5.25-inch disks as they are the most common varieties. We recommend you pick one of those two and use the appropriate kit list below. Note that it is also possible to image 3-inch and 8-inch disks using a similar workflow, but some extra steps are required (please refer to the [Copy The Floppy! guide](#) for more information on rarer disk formats).

If you don't have disks you are happy to experiment with, ask around, put a call out in local groups for floppy disk drives, you would be surprised how many people have these in their attics. For more details, please do look in the Copy That Floppy! guide as it goes into supplies in a lot more detail.

### A Suitable Computer

Any computer that can run Python 3 scripts should work. You may need administrator privileges to install the necessary software and get things set up, but once that's done, it should be possible to use a normal user account to copy floppies.



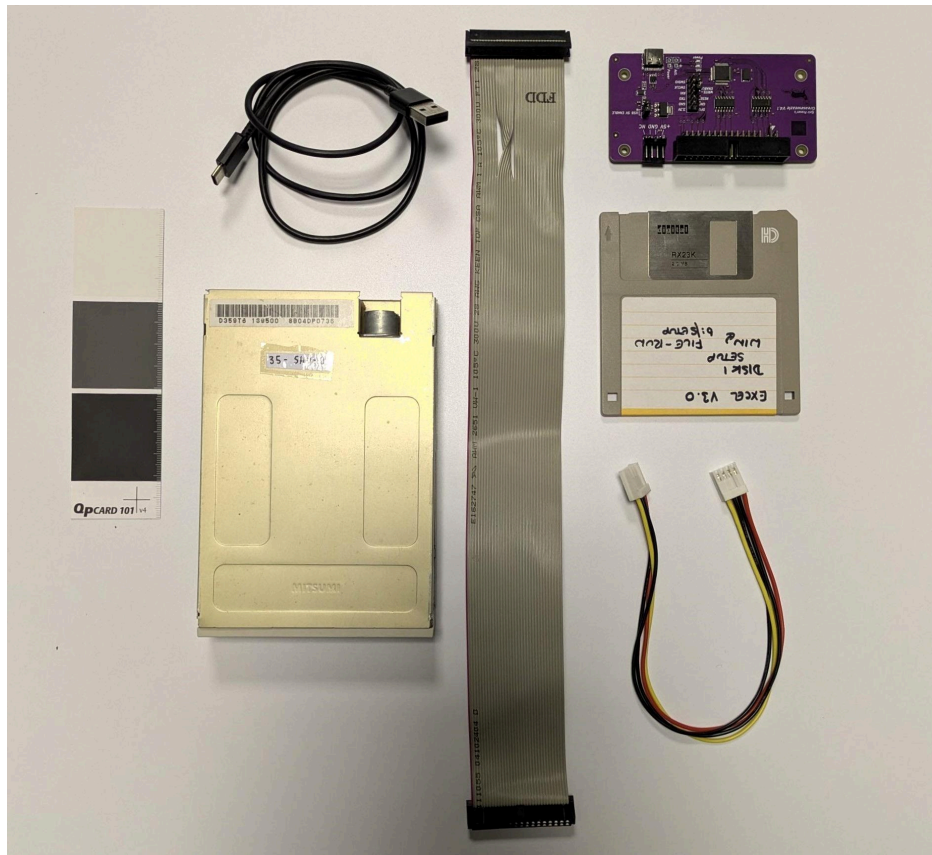
As we'll be using the Greaseweazle floppy controller (see below) you'll need to install the software it needs, and be reasonably comfortable running command-line programs.

The instructions for installing the software are here:  
<https://github.com/keirf/Greaseweazle/wiki/Software-Installation>

Additionally, you may find it helpful to install the *HxC Floppy Emulator software*, which is a handy tool for opening up and inspecting the data you extract from floppy disks. See [https://hxc2001.com/download/floppy\\_drive\\_emulator/](https://hxc2001.com/download/floppy_drive_emulator/) for details (about half-way down the page).

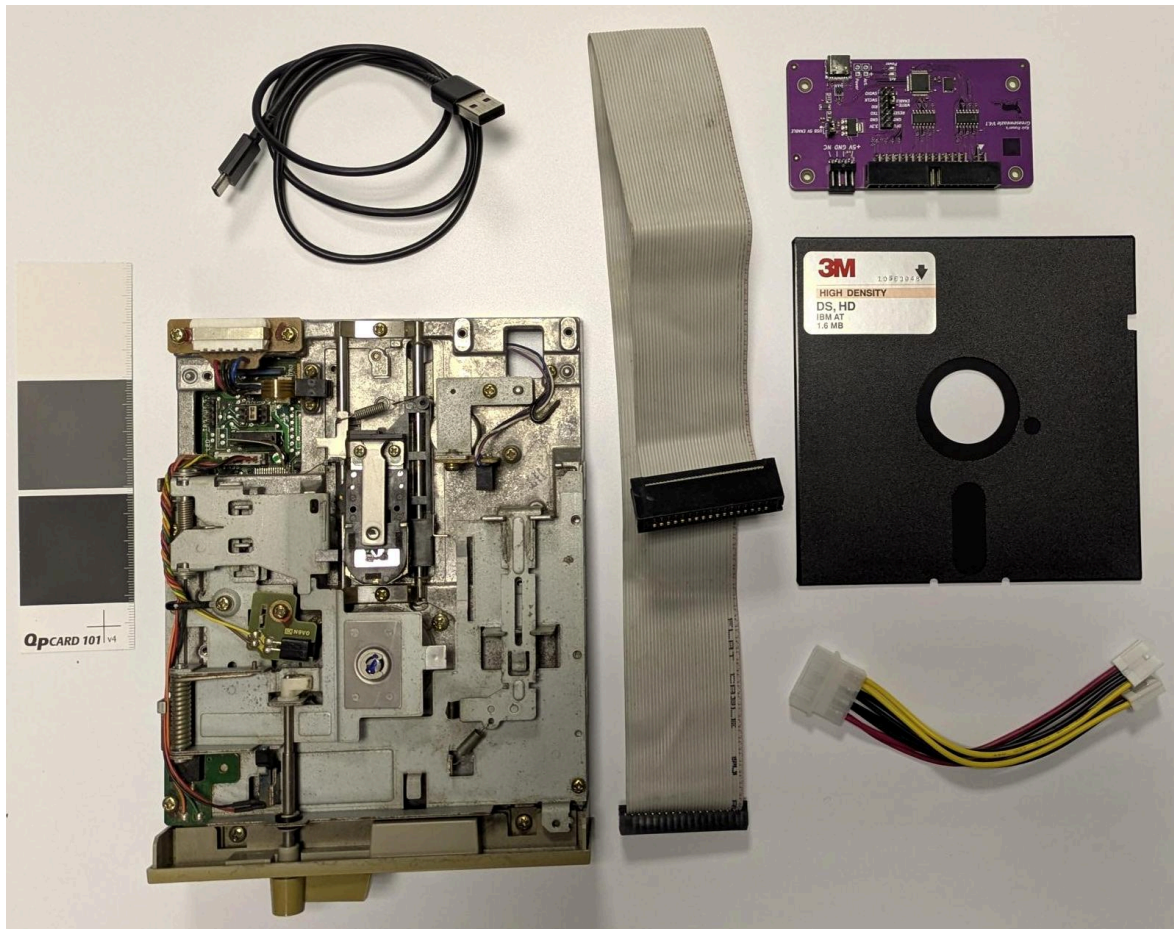
You can also use FluxFox to view disk images and flux streams in your web browser (it doesn't need to be installed on your machine). You can access it here:  
<https://dbalsom.github.io/fluxfox/>

## For 3.5-inch Floppy Disks



- **A 3.5-inch Floppy Disk Drive** - An 80-track or high density drive is what you are looking for. These will be able to cover most floppy disks (there are exceptions, but they are rare!) - This is a good example - <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/267498850587> - If you are unsure about the floppy disk drive, as they all look the same online, try to find a serial number or brand and look this up. Places like the Internet Archive and other online repositories will have data sheets that will give you further specifications.
- **Test Disk** - Look for a software disk, there will be sets available of old versions of Mac or Windows software, for example, available on second hand marketplaces. Software disks are ideal for testing because they will have been written on highly calibrated drives.
- **Greaseweazle Floppy Controller** - Any controller will do, but this is the one used in the workshop - <https://github.com/keirf/greaseweazle/wiki/Purchase-a-Greaseweazle>
- **34-pin ribbon cable** - These are easy to find, even new – <https://thepihut.com/products/rainbow-34-pin-dual-row-ide-floppy-ribbon-cable-30cm-1> [ong](https://thepihut.com/products/rainbow-34-pin-dual-row-ide-floppy-ribbon-cable-30cm-1). Just make sure they are of substantial length, preferably without a twist, have 34 pins and a female side on both sides (no pins).
- **Power Cable** - 5-pin power cable is needed. These are common - one is usually included with the Greaseweazle unit, or it can even be bought in sets with the ribbon cable, such as here <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/135073687549>
- **Power Supply (not shown)** - If using the Greaseweazle, this is not needed as the Greaseweazle board can power the drive.

## For 5.25-inch Floppy Disks



- **A 5.25-inch Floppy Disk Drive** - An 80-track or high density drive is what you are looking for. These will be able to cover most 5.25-inch floppy disks (there are exceptions, but they are rare!). This is a good example: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/406261083344>. If you are unsure about the floppy disk drive, as they all look the same online, try to find a serial number or brands and look this up, places like the Internet Archive and other online repositories will have data sheets that will give you further specifications. When looking for these drives online, it is also worth looking at the listings and what other types of items the seller has available. Look for notes in the listing that mention the condition of the drive and if parts have been replaced or cleaned. From experience, notes like this are a good sign that the equipment will actually work as they suggest the item has been listed by a knowledgeable seller.
- **Test Disk** - Look for a software disk, there will be sets available of old versions of Mac or Windows software, for example, available on second hand marketplaces. Software disks are ideal for testing because they will have been written on highly calibrated drives.
- **Greaseweazle Floppy Controller** - Any controller will do, but this is the one used in the workshop - <https://github.com/keirf/greaseweazle/wiki/Purchase-a-Greaseweazle>

- **Edge ribbon cable** - Edge (female) ribbon cable to 34-pin (female) is needed. Something like this may work – <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/292811901048> This one would be dual purpose as it also has the ability to connect a 3.5-inch drive.
- **External power supply (not shown)** - You can use your PSU in your computer for the most stable power supply, but you can also use a portable power supply for an internal hard drive, such as this one – <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/257024096191>. Just make sure it is for 12 volts as this is the power needed for a 5.25-inch floppy disk drive.
- **Potentially Power Cable** - Most of the PSU will have a [Molex connection](#), which will connect to the Floppy Disk Drive, but sometimes a converter is needed to make it fit. A cable like this may be handy – <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/173419796726>

