

Use External Storage

Introduced in **Batocera v43**.

Batocera's Storage Manager allows you to expand your ROM storage across multiple drives while keeping a single unified game library. USB drives, external hard drives, SSDs, SD cards, and additional internal drives can all be used.



Overview



The Storage Manager can:

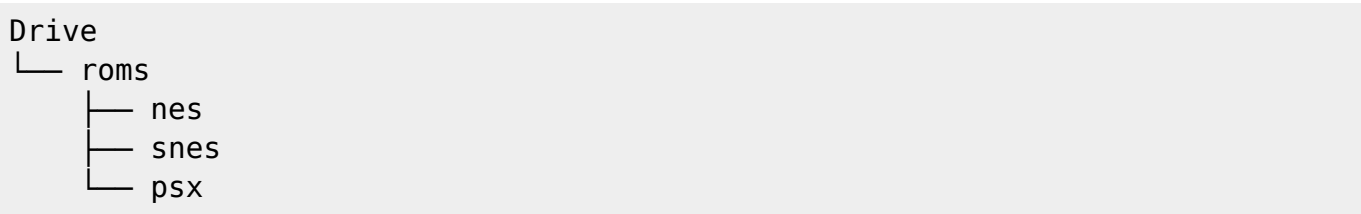
- Detect compatible storage devices automatically
- Merge existing ROM drives
- Format and prepare new drives
- Use multiple drives simultaneously
- Present all ROMs as a single library under ``/userdata/roms``
- Safely eject drives
- Automatically refresh game lists

Requirements

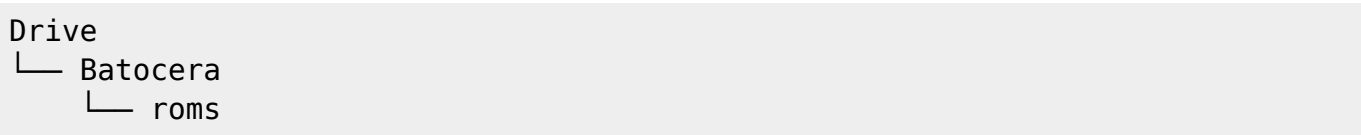
A drive must contain a root-level folder named:

roms

Supported:



Not supported:



Using Existing Drives



When Batocera detects a mounted drive containing a compatible `roms` folder, it offers to merge the drive into the Storage Manager.



After the merge completes, the ROMs become available alongside your existing collection.

Formatting a New Drive



If a blank drive is detected, Batocera can automatically prepare it for game storage.



Selecting **Format & Merge** will erase all existing data on the drive.



Batocera will:

- Format the drive
- Create a `roms` folder
- Generate the standard ROM directory structure
- Merge the drive into the Storage Manager

Using Multiple Drives

Multiple drives can be used simultaneously.

Example:

```
/media/roms1/roms  
/media/roms2/roms
```

Batocera combines them into a single virtual library:

```
/userdata/roms
```

Internal Drives

The Storage Manager is not limited to removable USB devices.

Additional internal SATA and NVMe drives can also be used, provided they are mounted and contain a root-level `roms` folder.

Safe Drive Removal



Drives can be safely removed from:

- Main Menu
- System Settings
- Eject an External Disk



Batocera automatically updates the storage pool and refreshes game lists.

What Gets Merged?

Only:

```
/userdata/roms
```

is merged.

Folders such as:

```
/userdata/bios  
/userdata/saves  
/userdata/screenshots
```

remain on internal storage.

Advanced Technical Details

Batocera uses **MergerFS** to combine ROM folders from multiple drives.

Current policy:

```
category.create=eplfs  
moveonenospc=true  
minfreespace=4G
```

eplfs means **Existing Path, Least Free Space**.

When writing a new file:

- A branch containing the target folder is selected
- The branch with the least free space is preferred
- Branches with less than 4 GB free are ignored
- Files can move automatically if a drive becomes full

References

Batocera TV - Batocera 43 - Episode II

<https://youtu.be/XpH27Yswe38?t=143>

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<https://wiki.batocera.org/> - **Batocera.linux** - Wiki

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