Using a floppy emulator instead of normal old floppy drives:

(This method works both for the d8b and the HDR.)

Some time ago, I wanted to do a reinstallation of my d8b, but unfortunately I was completely unable to find or buy a single floppy disk that still worked.

So instead I started to look around for a floppy emulator, and I found various products in various price ranges.

The cheapest option was a Chinese emulator from a company called "Gotek". I didn't have much faith in Chinese products, but I felt it was so cheap that I didn't mind trying it out - and it turned out to work great!

I have to warn you that they seem to make several different emulators. I think the one I got was the model "SFR1M44-U100".

Here's a link to the European amazon where I got mine: <u>https://www.amazon.co.uk/3-5-Inch-Floppy-Drive-</u> <u>Emulator/dp/B0083Z29JO/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1421512816&sr=8-</u> <u>2&keywords=3.5+Inch+USB+SSD+Floppy+Drive+Emulator</u>

Although with a little searching you should be able to find it elsewhere.

The drive is usually delivered with a small cd containing software to use with the drive.... In Chinese.... However, since the drive is basically a clone of a product from the German company Ipcas, we can simply use their software instead. Here's a link to a zip file containing the program and the image files we need:

Floppy Emulator Software and Image Files

First unzip the content into a directory on your computer. Then install the software on your computer. Now go get a usb stick and insert it in your computer. Just use the smallest one you have - you really don't need a lot of space for this.

When you've installed the software, start it up, and you should have a window like this:

ile USB Flash Drive S	ingle Bulk Optio	n			
3 🖬 🗑 🖽 🖾 ⁵	° 1- III 📶 😭				
🗐 My computer	Serial numb	er Capability	Used	Renew time	
	\Leftrightarrow				

When you insert a usb stick, it should show up in the navigation window on the left. (in my computer it's named N)

(be aware, you can move the divider between the left and right side - if you accidentally move it all the way right, you might think the program is missing something - just grab it with the mouse and move it back)

Now we need to format the usb stick. This can be done in several ways:

1: Click "USB Flash Drive" and then "Format".

2: Simply press Ctrl + F.

You should see a window like this:

N: (3.22 G) 6 SMI L	ISBDISK USB Device	
ormat parameter		
Select floppy form	at	
◉ 1. <u>4</u> 4M	<u>О 1</u> .2М	() 7 <u>2</u> 0K
DOS bootable dis	k	
<u> </u>) DOS <u>6</u> .22	○ DOS <u>7</u> 1
The number of flopp	y disk 🛛 100 🗸	
🗹 Quick format		

(I usually just check "quick format").

Press the "Begin to format" button, and click "OK" to begin, and "OK" again, once the format is done - finally close the format window.

Your main window should now look like this:

le USB Flash Drive Single Bul	k Option				
🖬 🗑 🖽 😰 ≞₂ 🔚 📰	🏛 🔤 🖬				
🔰 My computer	Serial number	Capability	Used	Renew time	
	37 000	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	001	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	370 002	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	se 003	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	004	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	005	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	006	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	007	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	Jac 008	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	370 009	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	JE 010	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	971 011	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	012	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	970 013	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	see 014	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	se 015	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	350 016	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	Jac 017	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	JW 018	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	see 019	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	see 020	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	021	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
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	Jac 024	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	ggg 025	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	370 026	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	027	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	JE 028	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-18	
	029	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-18	

Now we have a 100 floppy disk partitions on the usb stick. Mind you - we need to use this same program to write images on those floppy partitions.

The next step is to convert the floppy images from Mackie into images that we can write on these partitions. This can be a bit difficult, so I've done it already - they are included in the zip file with the program software installation file.

Mind you, that in the installation disk image (disk 1), there's the possibility of making the installation format the hard drive before the installation. I've enabled this option, since I've had trouble installing if I didn't. Just be aware of this, and make sure you've made backup of anything you want to save, before installing. Again - the installation WILL WIPE the harddrive. Now, with the software still open, and the images downloaded, right click on the first partition (disk 000 in the "serial number" column), and choose "write image file":

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My computer	Serial number	Capability	Used	Renew time	
	000	1.20.140	0.00	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	001	Open		2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	002	2 🔛 Save		2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	003	AV-16		2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	004	004 Write image file 005 Export image file		2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	997 005			2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	006	Format		2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	007		070	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	557 008	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	009	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	010	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	011	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	012	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	013	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	014	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	015	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	016	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	017	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	BEE 018	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	019	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	020	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	021	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	022	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	023	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	024	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	025	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	026	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	557 027	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	028	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-18	

You will get this window:

Select to writ	te image file			>
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Denne pc				
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	Filtype:	Image file (*.img)		Annuller

You won't be able to see the images yet, since they end in ".IMA" and not ".img". No problem - just click the "Filetype" field, and choose "all file(*.*)" - and you should be able to see the image files. Choose the first image file and click "open" (Note on the screenshots: I'm using a Danish version of windows).

Søg i:	software	and images	🔄 🥝 🖉 🖾 🗖		
4	Navn	^	Ændringsdato	Туре	
~~~	d8b-51-	455-disk1.IMA	04-03-2016 15:42	IMA-fil	
Hurtig adgang	d8b-51-	455-disk2.IMA	04-03-2016 14:39	IMA-fil	
	d8b-51-	455-disk3.IMA	04-03-2016 14:40	IMA-fil	
	d8b-Plu	gins-disk1.IMA	04-03-2016 14:43	IMA-fil	
Skrivebord	d8b-Plu	gins-disk2.IMA	04-03-2016 14:44	IMA-fil	
-	d8b-Plu	gins-disk3.IMA	04-03-2016 14:44	IMA-fil	
-	HDR-B4	20-1.IMA	30-04-2016 23:29	IMA-fil	
Biblioteker	HDR-B4	20-2.IMA	30-04-2016 23:30	IMA-fil	
	🔀 USB_Flo	ppy_Emulator_1.40i.exe	15-04-2014 16:06	Progran	
Denne pc					
Network	٢				
INELVÆTK	Filnavn:	d8b-51-455-disk1.IMA	~	Åbn	
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When you click "open" the file will be written the the floppy partition, and you should be back at the main window. If you've done it correctly, you should see around 89% shown in the "used" column:

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🚽 My computer	Serial number	Capability	Used	Renew time	
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	001	1.39 MB	0% 45	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	002	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	J 003	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	<b>973</b> 004	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	005	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	006	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	<b>553</b> 007	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-10	
	BEE 008	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	<b>1009</b>	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	<b>550</b> 010	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	<b>977</b> 011	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-11	
	ggg 012	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	<b>997</b> 013	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	014	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	015	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-12	
	ssa 016	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	017	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	018	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	ggg 019	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-14	
	020	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	021	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
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	023	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-16	
	024	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	025	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	026	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	<b>PFT</b> 027	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-17	
	028	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-18	
	029	1.39 MB	0%	2018-08-15 17-40-18	

Do the same for the rest of the floppies you need. If you're installing the d8b, you might as well get the plugin images written too. If you're just installing the HDR, you only need the two files for that.

Now you need to install the physical emulator drive in your d8b or HDR. It's not too difficult in the d8b, but is a bit bothersome in the HDR, since you have to pull a lot of stuff out in order to get to the floppy drive location. I won't show that in this document. If you have trouble with that - ask in the forum.

When the drive is installed (correctly) boot up your machine. The display on the floppy emulator lights up. (there are as mentioned different versions. I have two - one with two digits, and one with three. They basically work the same). Make sure you choose the number relating to the disk image you want to boot from. (you have a few seconds to do this, before the actual boot process starts.)

Now the installation process will go as if you were using normal floppies. When the installation asks for disk two or three, just change the number on the floppy emulator to the partition containing that disk image. (be aware that the screen is pretty blank during the installation - the process is controlled from the device you're installing on (d8b or HDR), so keep an eye on the display on the device).

When the installation is finished, turn off the device, and remove the USB stick.