This tutorial will walk you through how to initialize, partition and format a brand new SSD.

Any new drive you purchase unless clearly stated should come completely clean, meaning not formatted, not partitioned, and not even initialized. For instance, let's say you purchase a brand new BP4 mSATA 120GB SSD and a BP4 mSATA enclosure because you wanted a fast, reliable, low cost USB/SSD solution. You carefully assemble it, and when you plug it in, it makes the successful USB noise and even shows that a device is being installed, but it's not in 'My Computer' as a drive, and you cannot transfer information to or from it. This is a common issue, and hopefully this tutorial will explain what needs to be done.

*This tutorial is specific to Windows operating systems, it is similar with Mac and Linux, but for exact instructions, please email me at tech@mydigitaldiscount.com.*
QUICK GUIDE:
>Right Click Computer > Manage > Disk Manager > Initialize MBR > Right Click choose New Simple Volume > Follow the wizard.

Step 1. Plug in your Drive.

Step 2. Accessing the 'Disk Manager': There are several ways to do this, but for the purpose of this tutorial, we will use the most visual method.

I. Open a folder:

II. Right click on 'Computer' or 'This PC' and choose 'Manage' :

III. This will bring up the computer management console, click on 'Disk Management' in the left pane. If you installed the drive correctly, you will get a popup stating that you must initialize a disk before you can access it:
Example A

For the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to click 'Cancel.'

Now we can see the full disk management console:

![Disk Management Console](image)

IV. As you can see from the photo above, Disk 2 has a red arrow pointing down and the area that would normally contain the drive letter and information about the drive states unallocated.

Step 3. Initialize the drive

I. Right click on the area where the red down arrow is located and select 'Initialize Disk':

![Initialize Disk Menu](image)
II. This will bring up the same dialog box we cancelled out of a moment ago, choose whether you want MBR or GPT and click okay. For the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to create a Master Boot Record. See Example A above.

**Step 4. Partition the drive**

I. Now that the drive is initialized, you can right click on the unallocated area and create 1 or many partitions.

II. Right click on the area and choose 'New Simple Volume':

III. This will bring up a short Wizard that will walk you through the next steps, for the purpose of this tutorial, we are going to leave everything as default which will create 1 full size partition formatted in NTFS and a drive letter will be automatically assigned.
New Simple Volume Wizard

Specify Volume Size
Choose a volume size that is between the maximum and minimum sizes.

- Maximum disk space in MB: 228934
- Minimum disk space in MB: 8
- Simple volume size in MB: 228934

- Back  Next  Cancel

Assign Drive Letter or Path
For easier access, you can assign a drive letter or drive path to your partition.

- Assign the following drive letter: E
- Mount in the following empty NTFS folder: 
- Do not assign a drive letter or drive path

- Back  Next  Cancel
After clicking finish, depending on the size and speed of the drive, it should only take a few seconds to complete, and now, you can see your drive in the computer area and you can use it just like a thumb drive, wherever you plug it in.
Enjoy!