How to Install Debian as a Dual-Boot (with Mac OS X) on the Mac Mini

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Update: *March 31, 2013 — I've since ditched this setup in favor of running ubuntu with a lightweight window manager under VirtualBox instead.*
Inspired by this how to guide, I recently installed Debian 5.0 (a.k.a. "Lenny") on a new Mac Mini.

My experience was basically the same, with a few key differences (highlighted):

- *Started MacOS X*
- *Ran BootCamp (my version of OS X already had BootCamp installed), and created a 32 gb sized partition for "Windows" (BootCamp assumes the partition is for XP). As per the original instructions, I quit BootCamp when it prompted for the Windows XP CD.*
- *Downloaded and installed rEFIt. Piece of cake.*
- *Downloaded and burned the i386 netinst CD version of "Lenny".*
- *Put the netinst CD into the drive and rebooted; the next time the Mini started, I saw the rEFIt menu.*
- *At the rEFIt menu, I scrolled to the "partition map tool" and, as suggested, copied the GPT partition map into the MBR. It left me with three partitions:*
    1. *Boot*
    2. *Mac OS X*
    3. *Empty (where Linux is going to go)*
- *Exited the partition map tool and booted Linux from CD; the familiar Debian install screen appeared. Two critical steps followed.*
- *At Debian's disk partition step, I chose "manual" (using any other option would have given the Debian installer the all-clear to wipe out Mac OS X from the hard drive). Here I re-sized partition #3 to 31 gb, and created a fourth partition of 1 gb for swap. The final table was:*
    1. *Boot*
    2. *Mac OS X*
    3. *ext3 mounted as "/" with the bootable flag on*
    4. *swap*
- *The installer continued, but when it prompted me to install GRUB, I hit "Go Back" and installed LILO instead (the original guide says install GRUB and then edit it manually; I simply could not get that to work, so I tried LILO instead, and LILO worked), allowing LILO to write to the Master Boot Record (MBR)*
- *After the Debian install finished, I rebooted, and saw the rEFIt menu offered two choices: start Mac OS X or Linux*

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