

# HOW TO INSTALL ALFA USB ON MAC OS X 10.6 SNOW LEOPARD

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This guide is to help new users install the Alfa USB Network Connector on Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard.

Basically what the problem is is that there is no Realtek RTL8187L driver for Mac 10.6. The 10.5 driver does work, but the installer doesn't. Using some simple command line work, we can fix the install so that you can use your Alfa USB with 10.6.

## STEPS:

1) Download the ALFA USB from this link:

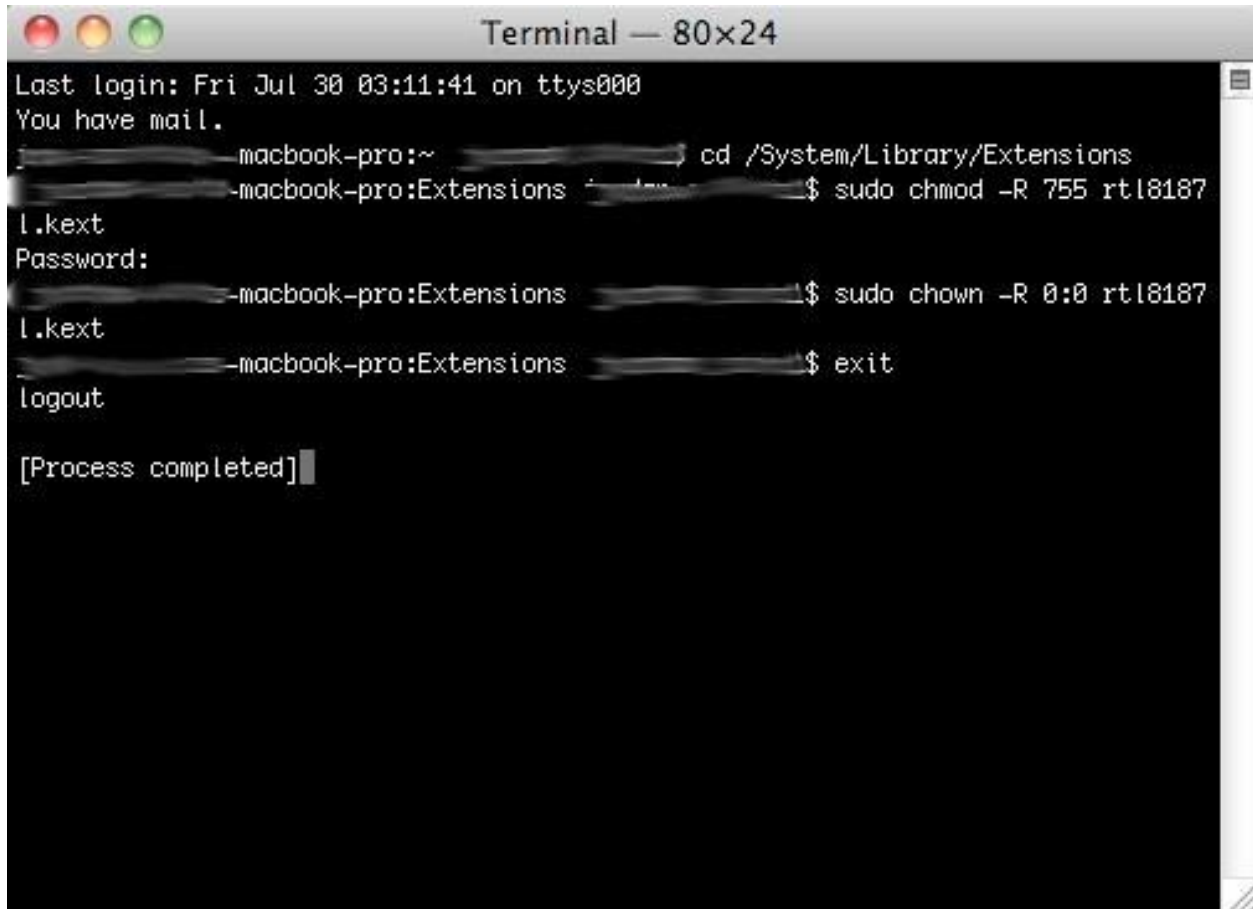
<http://www.alfa.com.tw/in/front/bin/ptlist.phtml?Category=105397>

If you download from another link, be sure you are downloading 8187L, NOT 8187B. 8187B will not work in this case.

2) Unpack the RAR file using a program such as Zipeg (my personal favorite unarchiving tool for Macs - Google it for a download link). Once unpacked, double-click the install.pkg file to begin the installation, and proceed through the installation as you normally would. Restart your computer.

3) Once rebooted, open up a Terminal window. Then type in the commands listed below in that order (leave out the #, they are simply indicators of commands). When using sudo you will be prompted for your password, so be prepared to enter it.

```
# cd /System/Library/Extensions  
# sudo chmod -R 755 rtl8187l.kext  
# sudo chown -R 0:0 rtl8187l.kext  
# exit
```

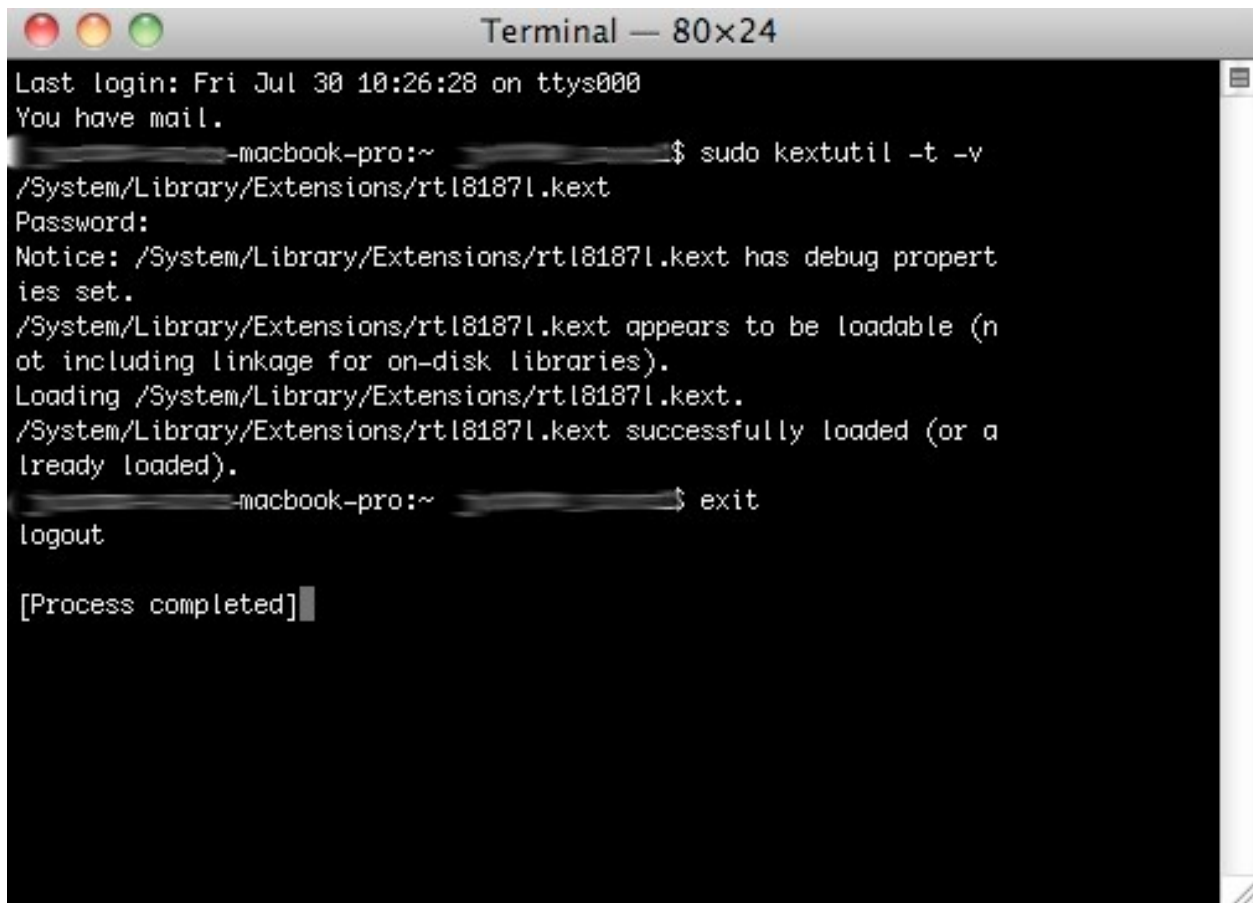
A screenshot of a macOS Terminal window titled "Terminal — 80x24". The window shows a user logging in, receiving a "You have mail." notification, and navigating to the directory `/System/Library/Extensions`. The user then runs `sudo chmod -R 755 rtl8187.l.kext` and `sudo chown -R 0:0 rtl8187.l.kext` to set permissions. After exiting the terminal, the message "[Process completed]" is displayed.

```
Terminal — 80x24
Last login: Fri Jul 30 03:11:41 on ttys000
You have mail.
~ macbook-pro:~ $ cd /System/Library/Extensions
~ macbook-pro:Extensions $ sudo chmod -R 755 rtl8187.l.kext
Password:
~ macbook-pro:Extensions $ sudo chown -R 0:0 rtl8187.l.kext
~ macbook-pro:Extensions $ exit
logout
[Process completed]
```

Close the Terminal window and once again reboot your computer.

4) Plug in your device via the USB connector. Then open up Terminal once more and type:

```
# sudo kextutil -t -v /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187.l.kext
# exit
```

A screenshot of a macOS Terminal window titled "Terminal — 80x24". The window shows the following text: "Last login: Fri Jul 30 10:26:28 on ttys000", "You have mail.", a prompt for a user named "macbook-pro" followed by "\$ sudo kextutil -t -v /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext", "Password:", "Notice: /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext has debug properties set.", "/System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext appears to be loadable (not including linkage for on-disk libraries).", "Loading /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext.", "/System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext successfully loaded (or already loaded).", another prompt for "macbook-pro" followed by "\$ exit", "logout", and "[Process completed]".

```
Terminal — 80x24
Last login: Fri Jul 30 10:26:28 on ttys000
You have mail.
macbook-pro:~$ sudo kextutil -t -v
/System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext
Password:
Notice: /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext has debug properties set.
/System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext appears to be loadable (not including linkage for on-disk libraries).
Loading /System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext.
/System/Library/Extensions/rtl8187l.kext successfully loaded (or already loaded).
macbook-pro:~$ exit
logout

[Process completed]
```

Close Terminal.

5) At this point the Mac Network window will open and you if you want to accept a new interface. **DO NOT TOUCH ANY SETTINGS JUST YET**, just accept it. Realtek should then open and assign an IP address to your Alfa device.

Network

Location: Automatic

RTL81... Wireless  
Self-Assigned IP

AirPort  
Connected

Ethernet  
Not Connected

FireWire  
Not Connected

Status: **Connected**  
RTL8187\_Wireless has a self-assigned IP address and will not be able to connect to the Internet.

Configure IPv4: Using DHCP

IP Address: 169.254.106.77

Subnet Mask: 255.255.0.0

Router:

DNS Server:

Search Domains:

Advanced... ?

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

Assist me... Revert Apply

Realtek WLAN Client Utility

Link Status Profiles Available Network Advanced Setting Information

MAC Address : [Redacted]

SSID : [Redacted]

BSSID :

Security : None

Connection : Disconnected

Network Type :

Channel :

Signal Strength: [Progress Bar] 0%

Turn Radio Off

That's it! You're done. To connect to a wireless network, plug in your Alfa device and open up the Realtek application. Go over to the "Available Network" tab and choose the network you want, then click connect. Input the password if necessary. And your connected! You can shutdown the Apple AirPort service if you so choose and make your Alfa device your primary wireless interface.

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## TROUBLESHOOTING

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- Check to make sure the chipset is rtl8187l, NOT rtl8187b, as this chipset requires a different driver and is not covered in this guide (though the same basic steps should in fact work).

- Check your spelling. After typing rtl8187l over and over all of the letters and numbers seem to jumble together. Make sure you have the correct spelling.

- In Terminal, type:

```
# sudo rm /System/Library/Extensions.mktext
```

This will reset all of the kept caching done by OS X. Reboot your computer.

- Ask in the YouTube video comments. I will see what I can do.