

Handy Windows 95 Desktop Icons Using Explorer

These are handy “Explorer” icons I keep on my desktop. They allow me quick access to any of my disk drives. It makes it much easier to open several explorer windows for more than one disk drive to allow copying files back and forth.

The “Edit Start Menu” icon allows me to quickly access my Start Menu for editing without going through the tedious process of selecting “Start | Settings | Taskbar | Start Menu Programs | Advanced” and then having to close an extra dialog box when finished.

These shortcuts open explorer in the double-pane view, which shows the directory tree on the left and the files on the right. I find this more convenient than the single-pane “My Computer” view. However, if you prefer the single-pane view, see the note* at the end of this article.

To create these icons on the desktop, do the following:

- 1) Right-click on an empty space on the desktop.
- 2) Select “New | Shortcut” from the pop-up menu.
- 3) In the “Command Line” box, type the proper command listed in the table below.

Shortcut Name	Command Line
Edit Start Menu	c:\windows\explorer.exe /e, /root, c:\windows\Start Menu
Drive A	c:\windows\explorer.exe /e, /root, a:\
Drive C	c:\windows\explorer.exe /e, /root, c:\
Drive D	c:\windows\explorer.exe /e, /root, d:\

- 4) Click the “Next” button.
- 5) In the “Select a name for the shortcut:” box, type the shortcut name from the table above.
- 6) Click the “Finish” button.
- 7) To change the icon image, right-click on the new shortcut.
- 8) Select “Properties” from the pop-up menu.
- 9) Click the “Shortcut” tab at the top of the window.
- 10) Click the “Change Icon” button.
- 11) Select an appropriate icon and click the “OK” button.
- 12) Click the “OK” button to close the dialog box.

When choosing an icon, select an appropriate icon. For example, if Drive D is your CD-ROM drive, choose the icon that looks like a CD-ROM drive. You could also name the icon “CD ROM” instead of “Drive D” if you want.

*Note: If you prefer the single-pane Explorer view, leave out the “/e,” in the command line.

