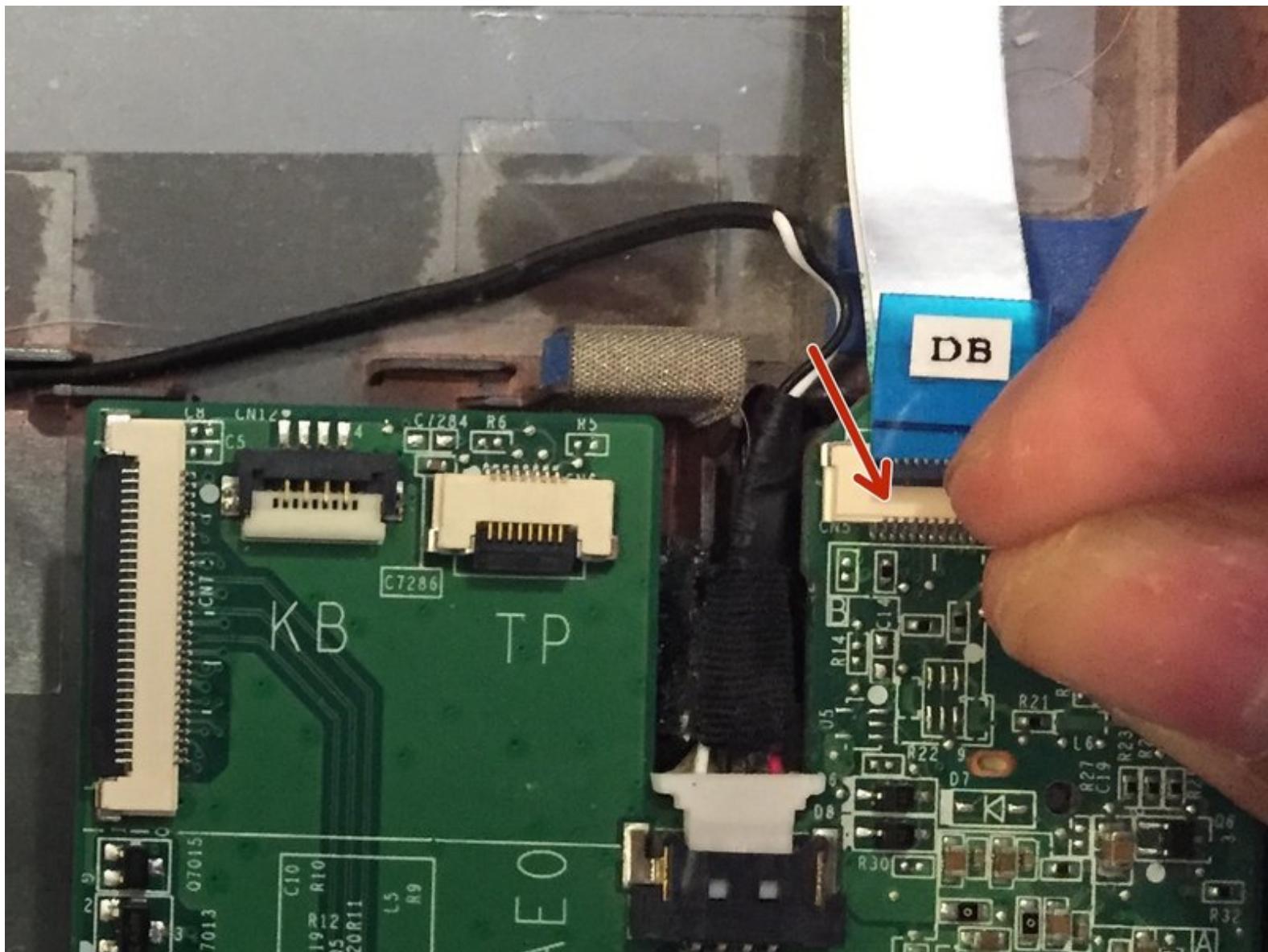




# Acer Aspire TimelineU M5-481TG Motherboard Replacement

Replacing the motherboard could result in the deletion of all Desktop files. Make sure you try other forms of troubleshooting and replacement before resorting to motherboard replacement.

Written By: Christina Crasto



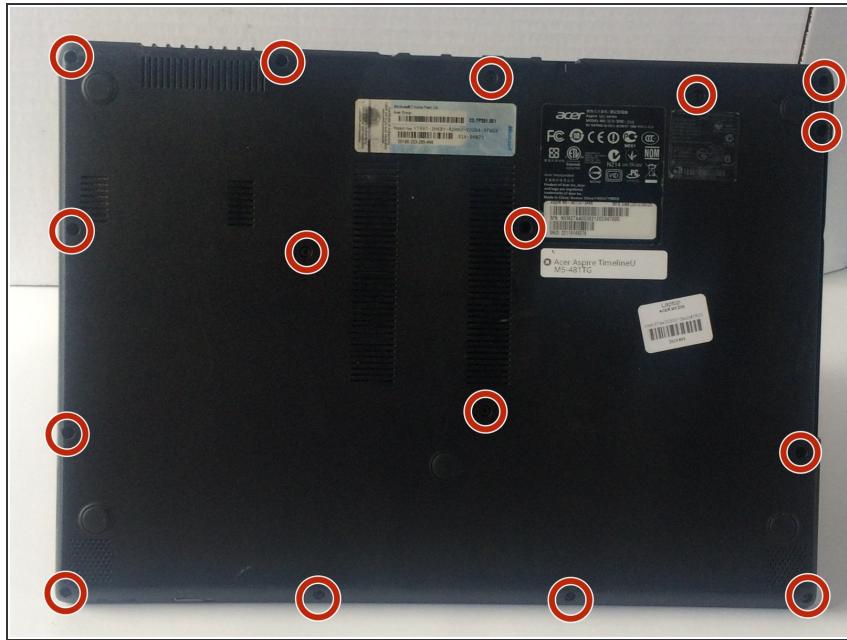
## INTRODUCTION

Before performing any repairs, make sure the laptop is fully powered off and disconnected from its charger. Removing the motherboard involves first removing the keyboard and the battery, and the rest can be done with using just your hands.

### TOOLS:

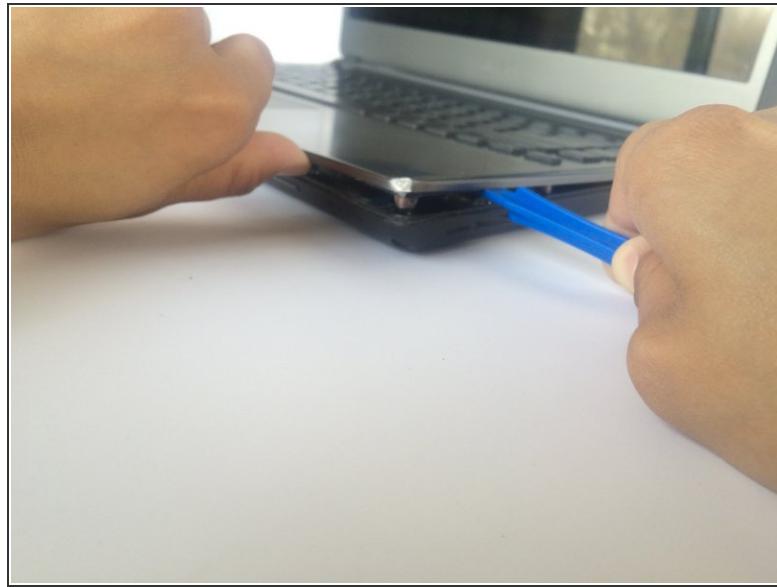
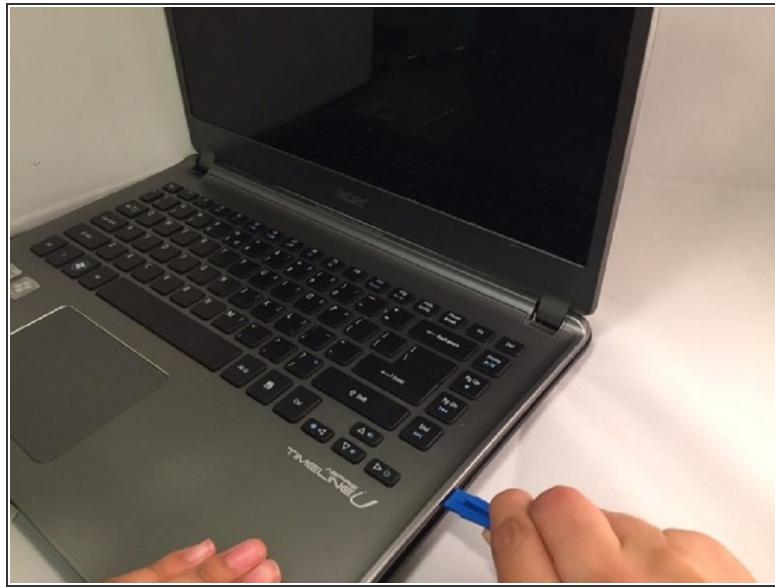
- [64 Bit Driver Kit \(1\)](#)
- [iFixit Opening Tools \(1\)](#)

## Step 1 — Keyboard



- With laptop closed and powered off, place the laptop screen side down.
- i* Turn the laptop so that the hinges are closest to you.
- Unscrew all sixteen 6mm Phillips #J00 screws on the bottom of the laptop with the #J00 Phillips head screwdriver.

## Step 2

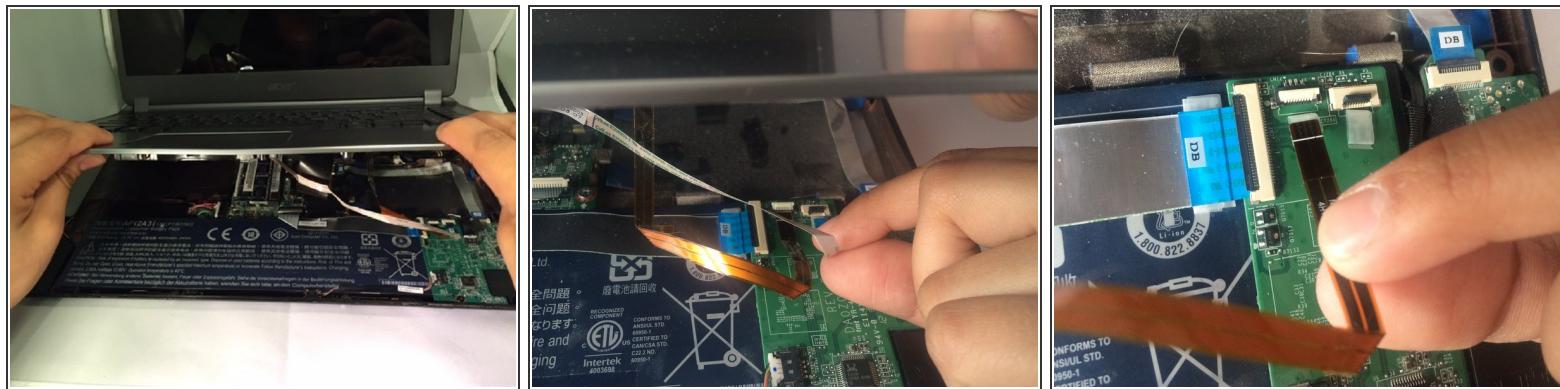


- Once unscrewed, flip laptop over.
- Rotate laptop 180 degrees, so you can open the screen.
- Open the laptop screen.
- Use the plastic opening tool with the half centimeter wide tip to gently separate the bottom case of the laptop from the keyboard.

**⚠** Do not apply too much force or you may break the clips.

- Gently pull the keyboard upwards to a 45 degree angle.

## Step 3



- Hold the keyboard open with one hand to extend the three cables (white, black and copper) still connecting the bottom of the keyboard to the back case.
- ⚠ Be sure you are prying up the hinged retaining flap, not the connector itself.
- Use your fingernail to flip up the small retaining flap of each zero insertion force connector and then gently pull each ribbon cable out one at a time.
- The white line on this ribbon cable marks the edge of the connection area. To reinstall, insert the cable into the connector up to this line and then close the retaining flap. If the cable doesn't insert easily up to (or very near to) this line, it's probably misaligned and needs to be gently removed and repositioned.

## Step 4



- Use both hands to remove the keyboard.

**⚠** Do not pull too forcibly or you could damage your keyboard.

## Step 5 — Battery



**i** After removing the keyboard, open the laptop screen to face you.

- Gently disconnect the silver cable that stretches over the battery by using your fingernail to flip up the small retaining flaps on both sides of the zero insertion force connector.

**!** Be sure you are prying up the hinged retaining flap, not the connector itself.

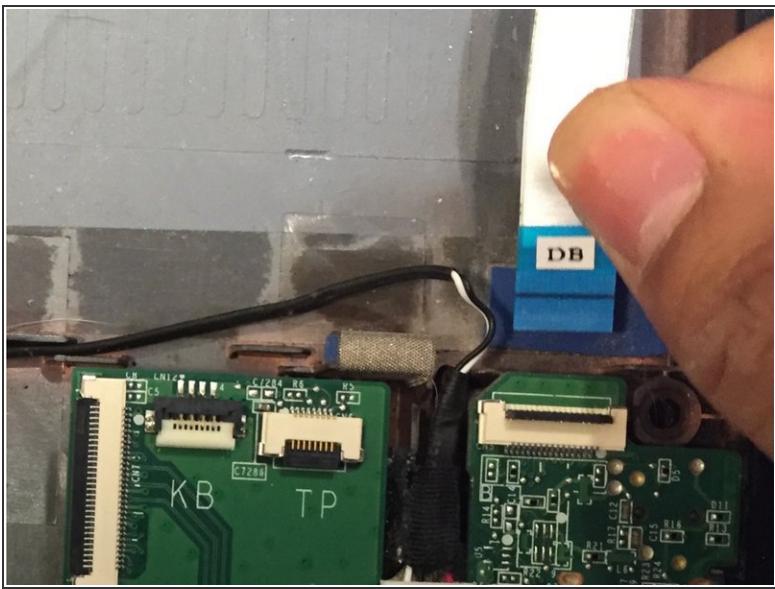
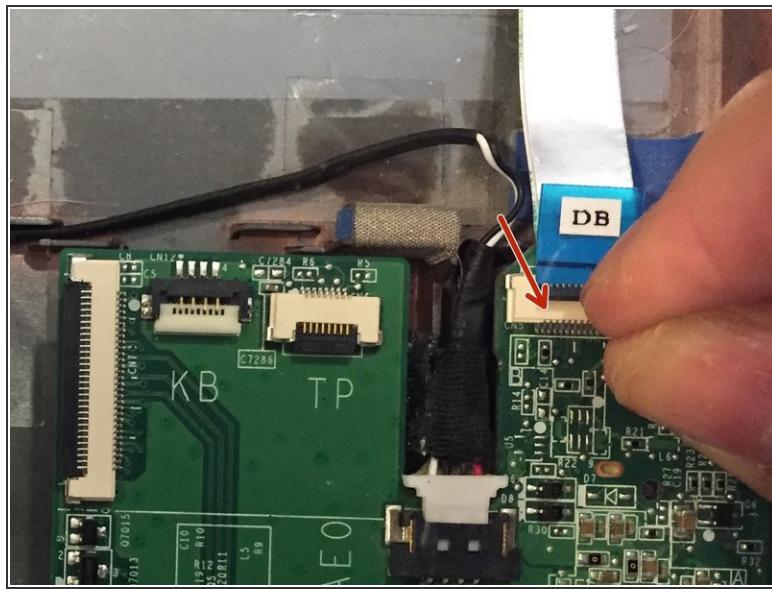
**↗** The white line on this ribbon cable marks the edge of the connection area. To reinstall, insert the cable into the connector up to this line and then close the retaining flap. If the cable doesn't insert easily up to (or very near to) this line, it's probably misaligned and needs to be gently removed and repositioned.

## Step 6



- Unscrew one 3mm #J1 Phillips screw from the side closest to you of the motherboard with a #J1 Phillips head screwdriver.
- Unscrew one 4mm #J1 Phillips screw from the right of the motherboard with a #J1 Phillips head screwdriver.

## Step 7



- Use your fingernail to flip up the small retaining flap of the zero insertion force connector and then gently pull out the silver ribbon cable.

**⚠** Be sure you are prying up the hinged retaining flap, not the connector itself.

**★** The white line on this ribbon cable marks the edge of the connection area. To reinstall, insert the cable into the connector up to this line and then close the retaining flap. If the cable doesn't insert easily up to (or very near to) this line, it's probably misaligned and needs to be gently removed and repositioned.

## Step 8



- Gently disconnect the six cables (red, black and green) attached to both the battery and motherboard by pinching them with your thumb and forefinger. Pull with moderate force towards the left to disconnect.

## Step 9

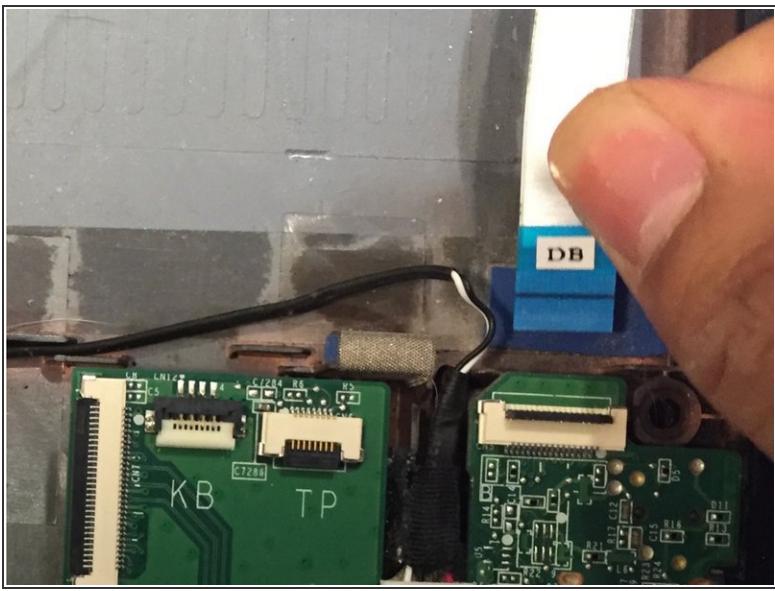
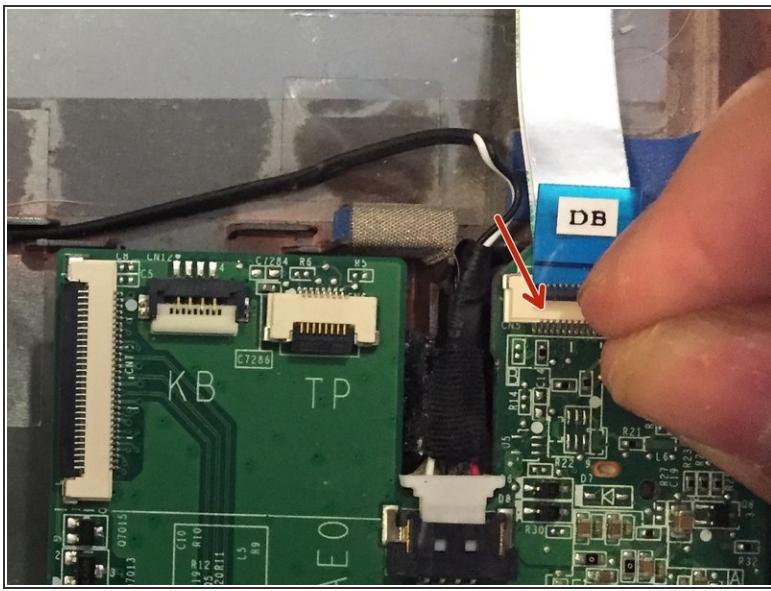


- Gently lift up the black-covered cables that remain connected to the motherboard at the bottom left of the laptop base. Move the cables toward the bottom edge of the laptop closest to you without disconnecting them.

**⚠** Do not pull too forcibly or you could damage your motherboard.

- Carefully lift up the motherboard and slide the battery to the left to pull it out.

## Step 10 — Motherboard

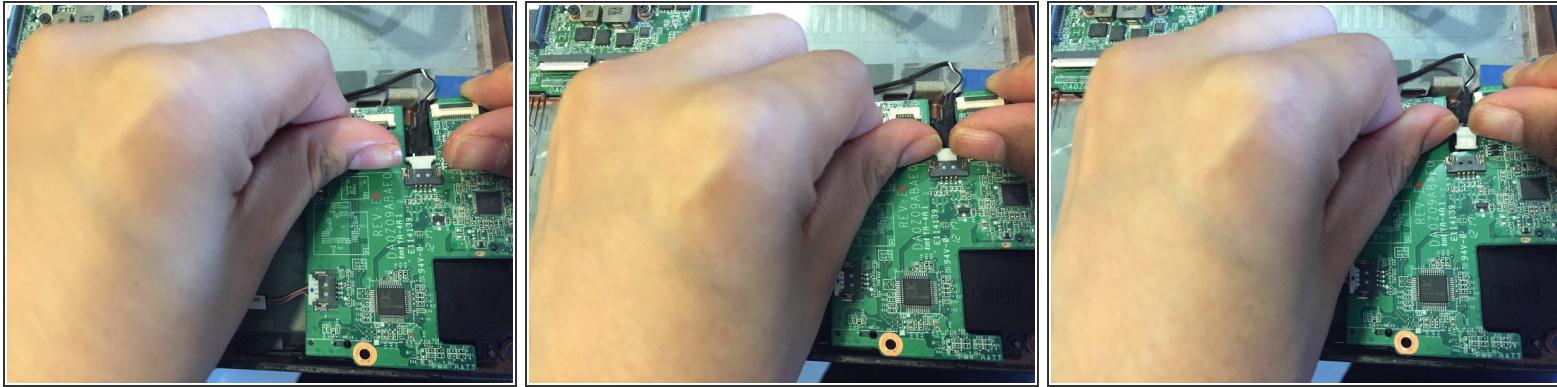


- Use your fingernail to flip up the small retaining flap of zero insertion force connector and then gently out pull the silver ribbon cable.

⚠ Be sure you are prying up the hinged retaining flap, not the connector itself.

★ The white line on this ribbon cable marks the edge of the connection area. To reinstall, insert the cable into the connector up to this line and then close the retaining flap. If the cable doesn't insert easily up to (or very near to) this line, it's probably misaligned and needs to be gently removed and repositioned.

## Step 11



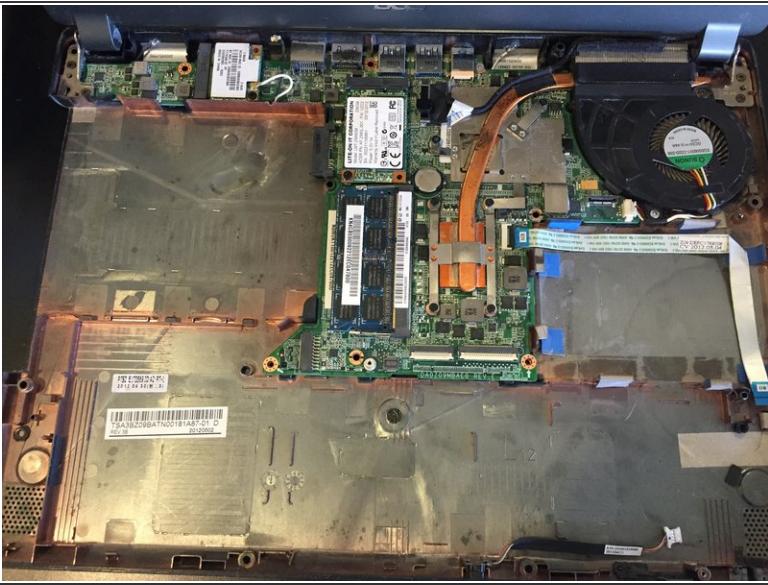
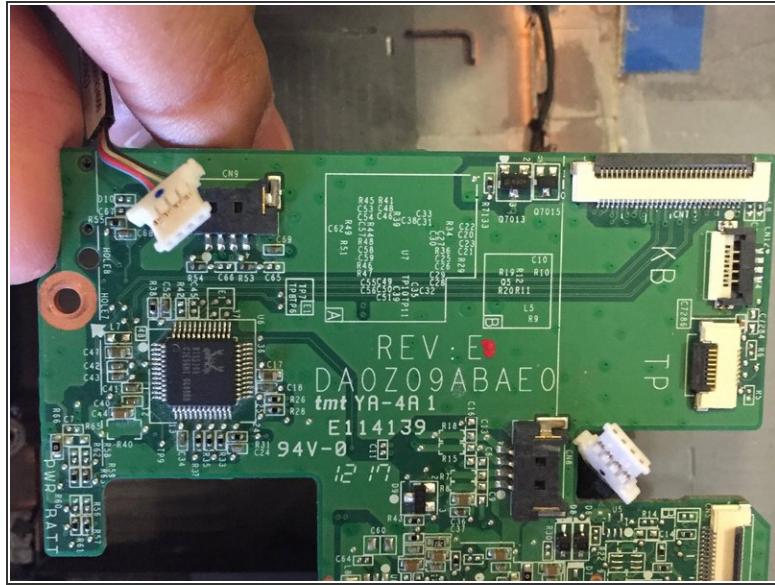
- Gently use your fingernail to push the white ribbon cable away from its connector.
- ▣ To reinstall the cable, hold it near the end and push it straight into the connector, being careful not to kink the cable.

## Step 12



- Gently use your fingernail to push the white ribbon cable away from its connector.
- ▣ To reinstall the cable, hold it near the end and push it straight into the connector, being careful not to kink the cable.

## Step 13



- Gently lift up the motherboard with your hands to remove it.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.