



Alienware M18x CD Drive Replacement

This will be a replacement guide on how to replace the CD Drive in the Alienware M18x computer.

Written By: Anu Kadampelil



INTRODUCTION

This guide illustrates the steps needed to locate, remove, and replace the CD drive in an Alienware M18x gamer laptop.

TOOLS:

- [JIS #000 Screwdriver \(1\)](#)
- [iFixit Opening Tools \(1\)](#)
- [Small Chain Nose Pliers \(1\)](#)

Step 1 — Battery



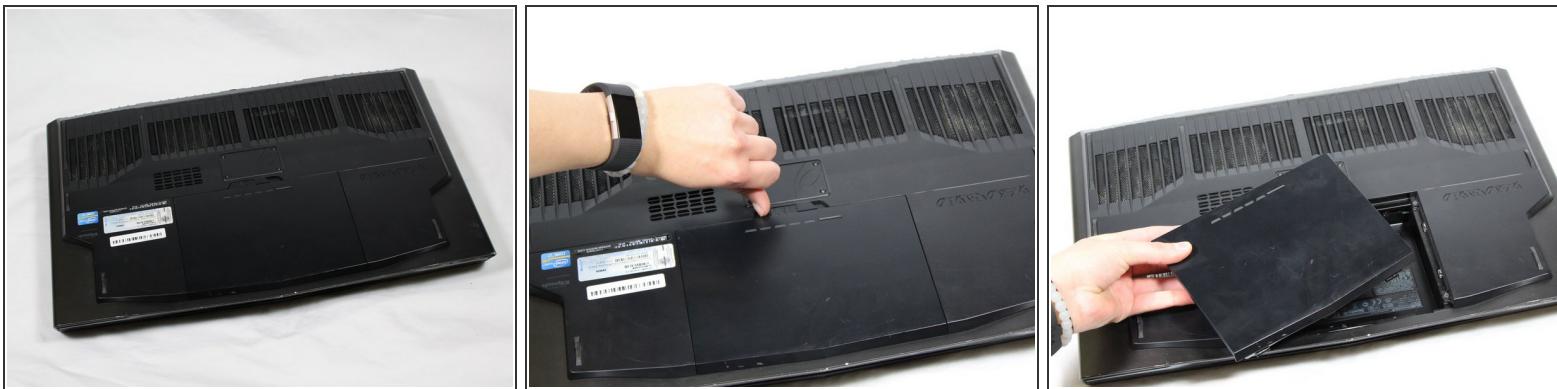
- Flip the laptop over and slide the battery release latch to the right.

Step 2



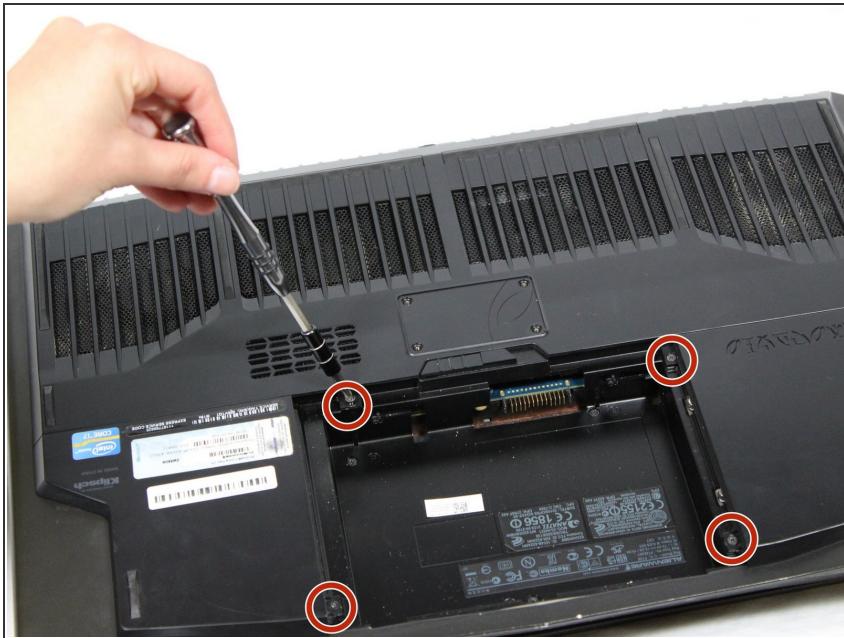
- Remove battery.

Step 3 — Keyboard



- Turn the computer over.
- Slide the battery latch over and lift the battery out.

Step 4



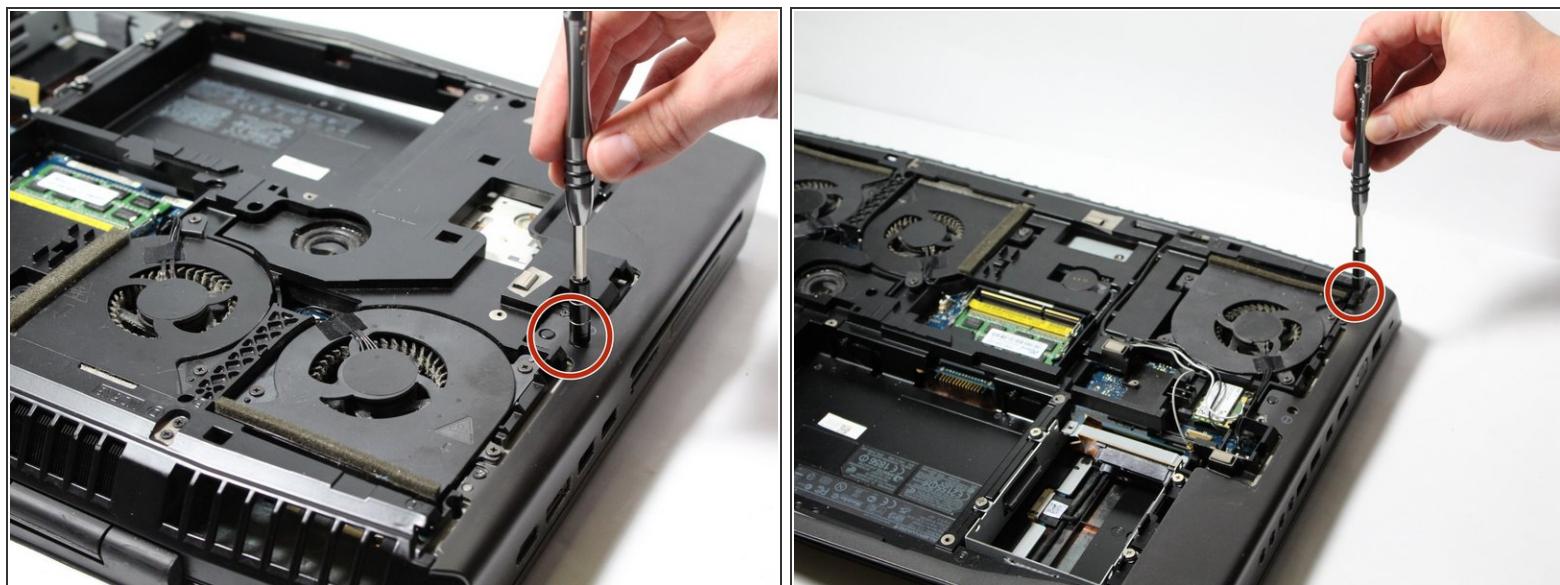
- Unscrew the four 3mm screws with a J000 screwdriver.

Step 5



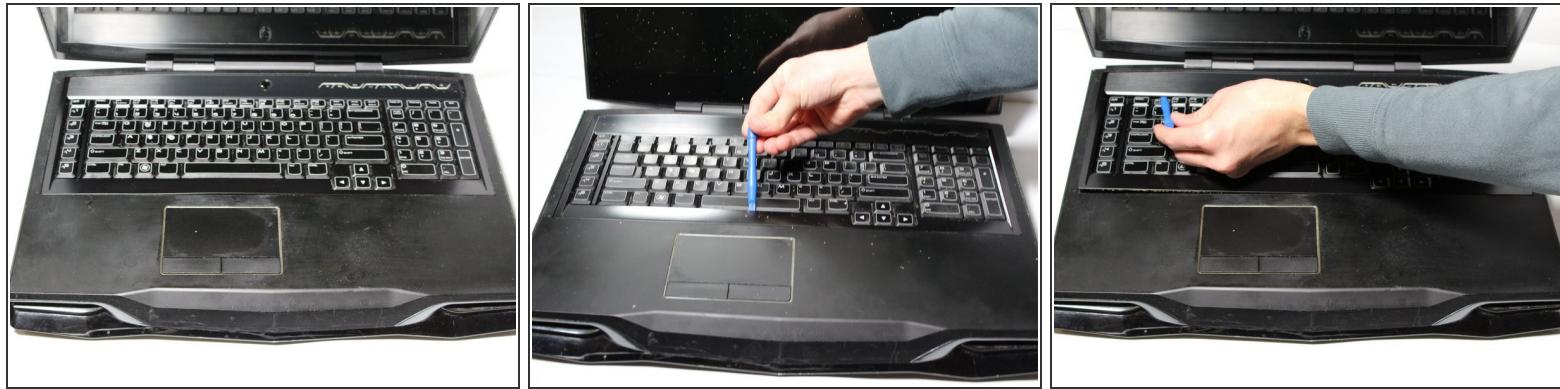
- Use the iFixit opening tool to lift the bottom cover off.

Step 6



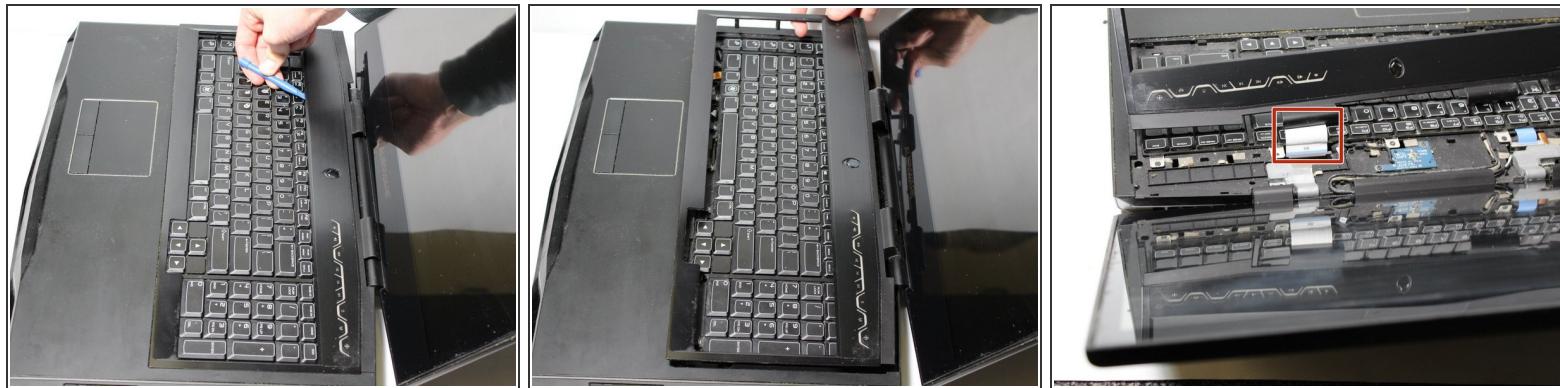
- Remove the two 4mm screws with the J000 screwdriver.

Step 7



- Turn the laptop right-side up, and open the laptop.
- Use the plastic pryer tool to loosen the flat piece surrounding the keys by gently prying it upwards from the laptop's base.
- Make sure to go around the entire perimeter of the piece to loosen all areas of it.

Step 8



- The piece is now free from its fastenings to the base of the laptop, and can be lifted off.

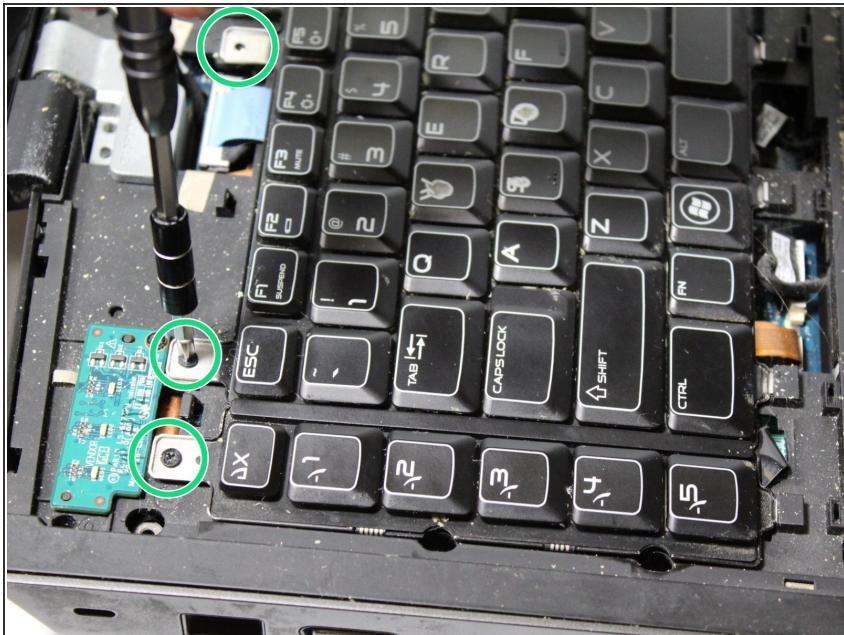
⚠ This piece is still connected to the laptop via power cable. Be sure not to lift it off too far or with too much force, as doing so could potentially rip or damage the cables.

Step 9



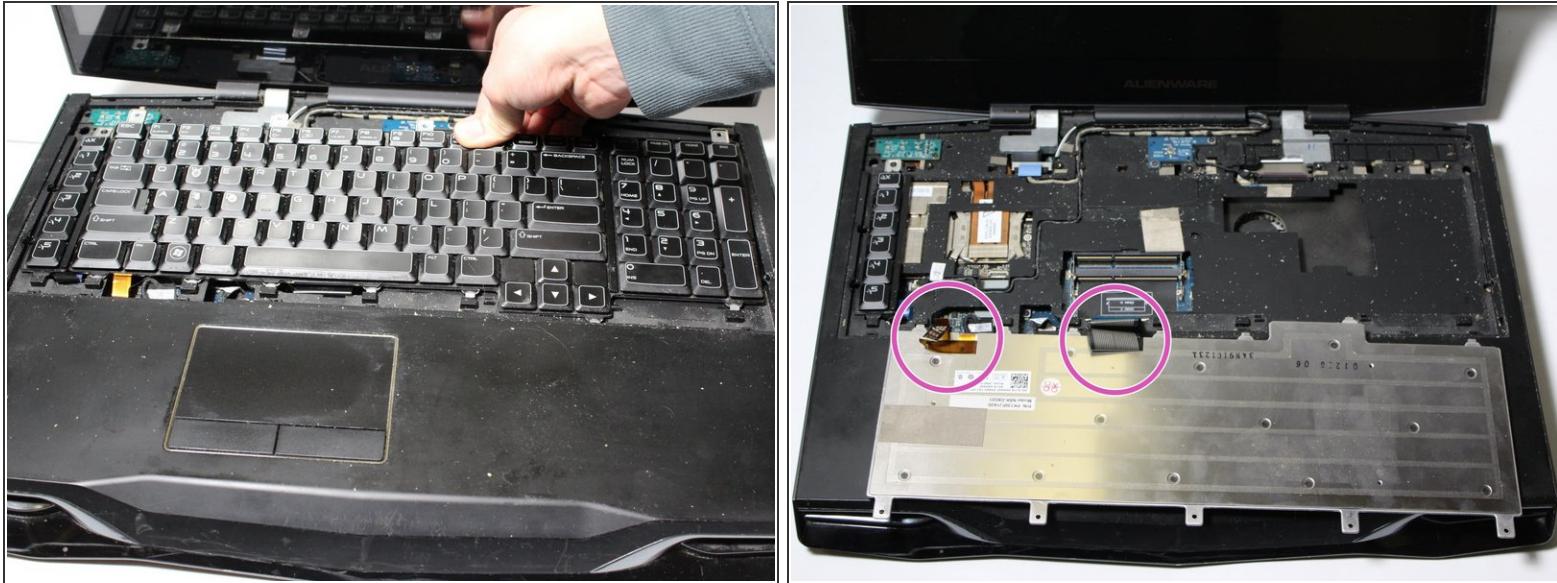
- Gently remove the power cable with your hands or with the help of a prying tool.

Step 10



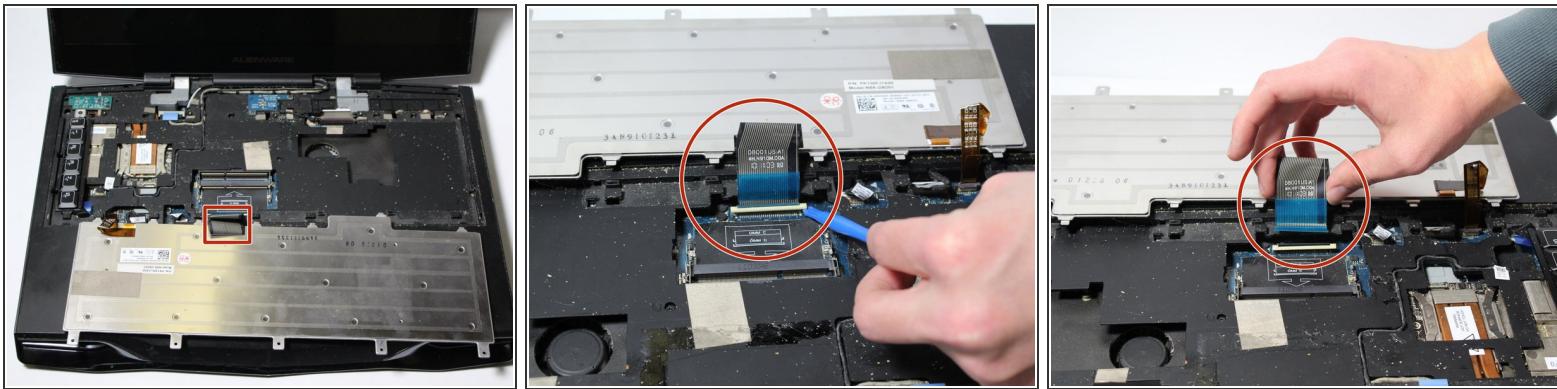
- The keyboard's 3mm fastening screws are now exposed and can be removed with a J000 screwdriver.

Step 11



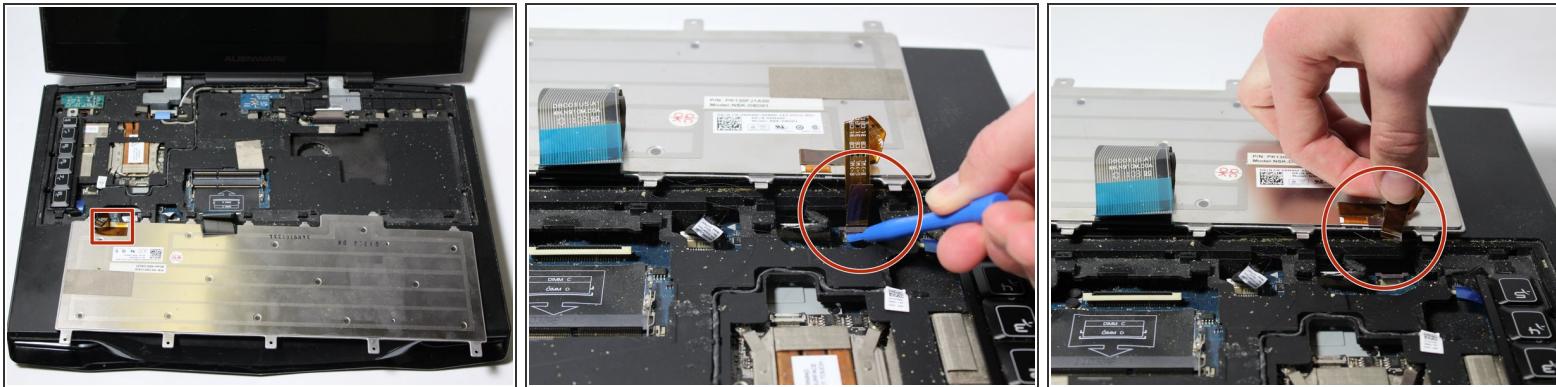
- As before, the keyboard is now unfastened but still connected to the base via cables.
- Flip the keyboard over towards the edge of the laptop to expose the locations of the connectors. Avoid tugging on the cables when you do this.

Step 12



- Locate and remove the first connector cable.
- Use a prying tool to assist in unplugging the cable.

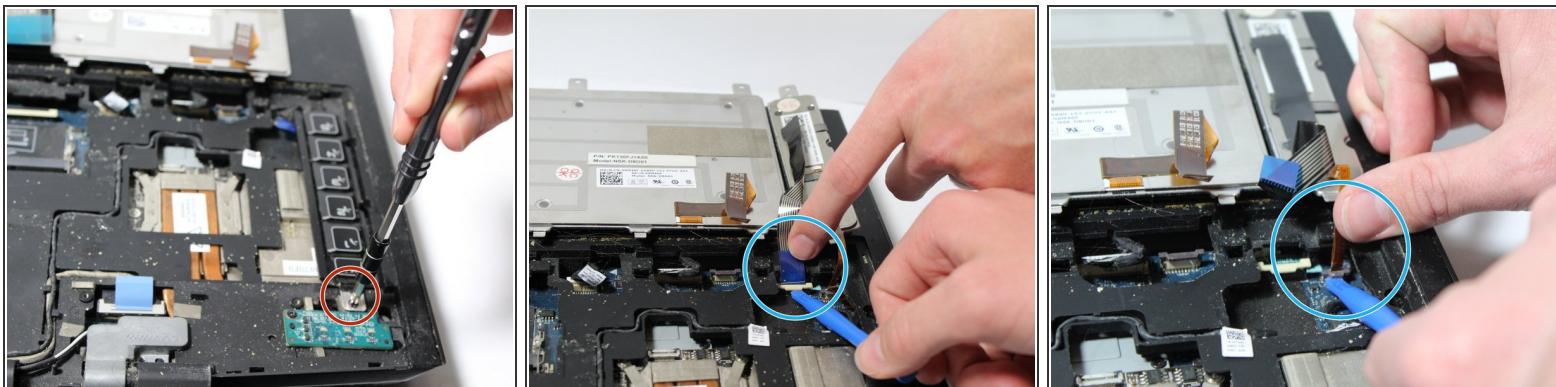
Step 13



- Locate and remove the second connector cable.

(i) Again, use a prying tool to help remove.

Step 14



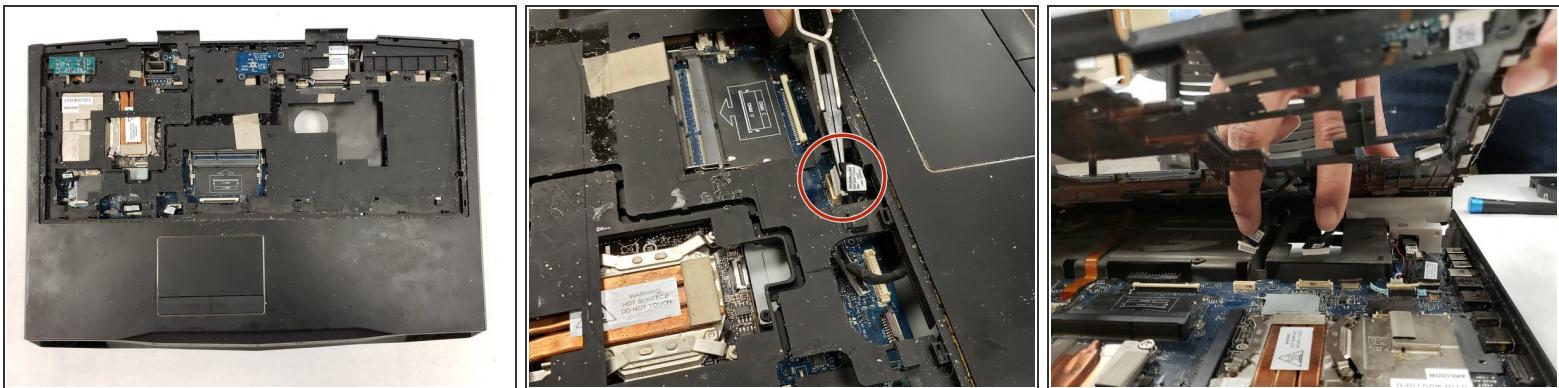
- The left section of the keyboard is connected by a single screw and two connector cables.
- Remove the 4mm screw with a J000 screwdriver.
- Remove the connecting cables with a prying bar.

Step 15



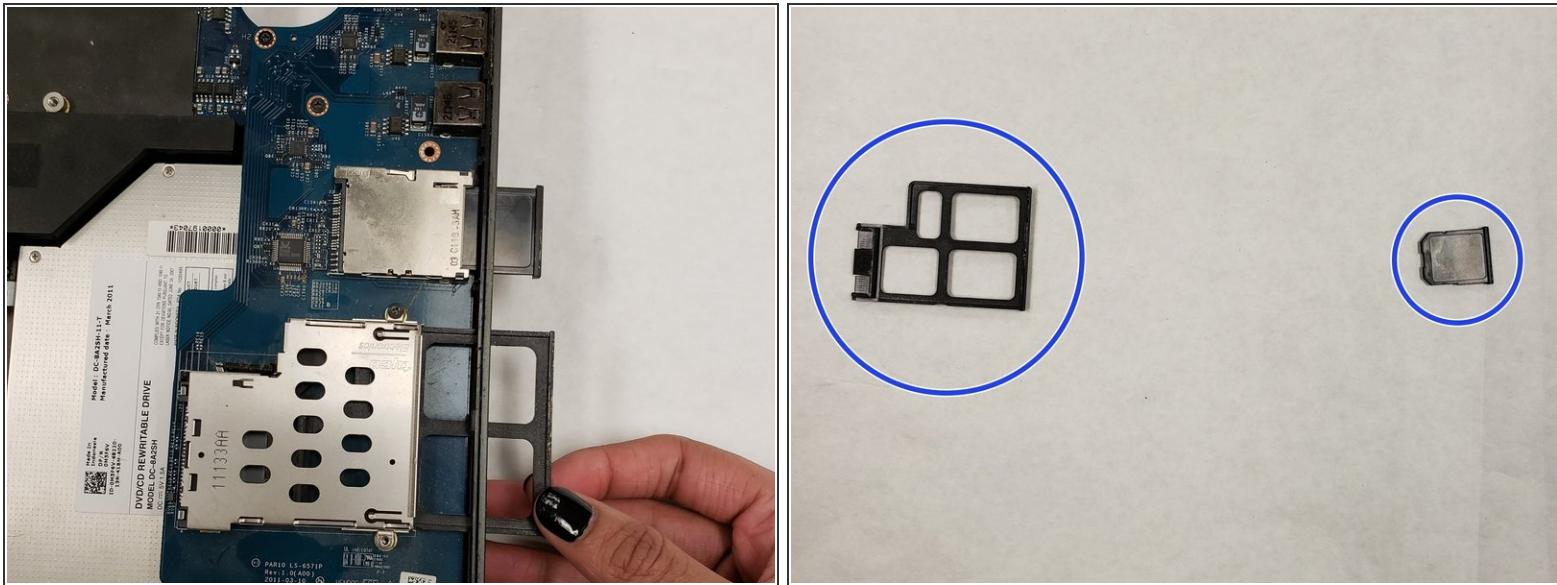
- All sections of the keyboard are now free to be taken off and replaced!

Step 16 — CD Drive



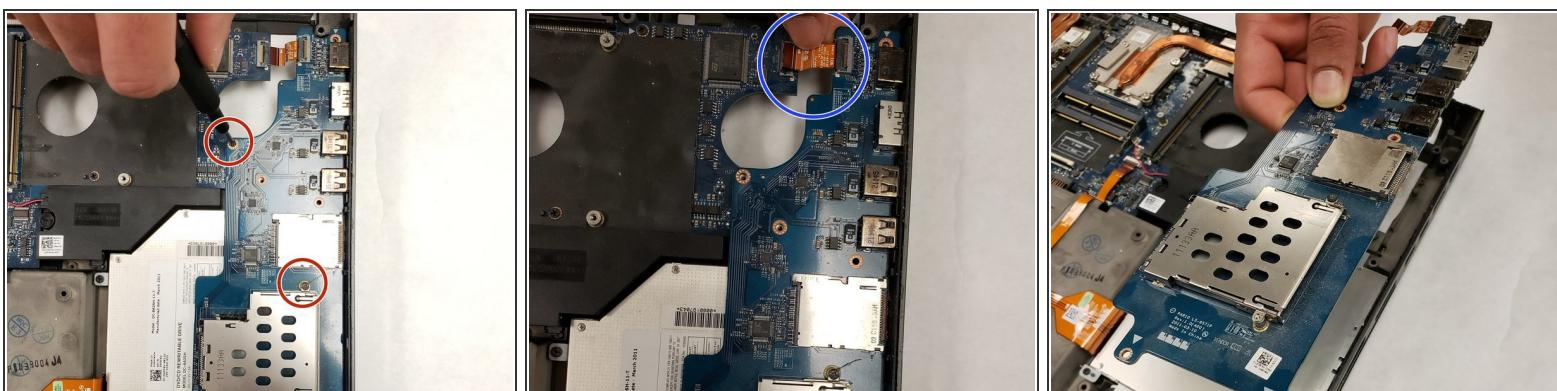
- Place computer face up.
- Locate the connecting tab holding the top section of the laptop in place.
- Using needle nose pliers, disconnect the tab.
- Carefully lift up on the panel to access the internal components.

Step 17



- Locate the blue USB board. This board covers the CD Drive.
- Find the edges of each card holder and gently pull each out of their socket.

Step 18



- Remove the screws retaining the USB port board with a screwdriver.
- Disconnect orange tab to free board of all connections.
- Lift up on the board for access to CD Drive.

Step 19



- Remove the four 3mm screws from the CD Drive housing.
- Disconnect the thin end of the orange connector from the motherboard. It should still be connected to the CD Drive at one end.
- Remove the CD drive gently from the laptop.

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