Apple Thunderbolt Display Fan Replacement

With this guide you will be able to get inside of your Thunderbolt display and replace that pesky fan that is making your display noisy or slow!

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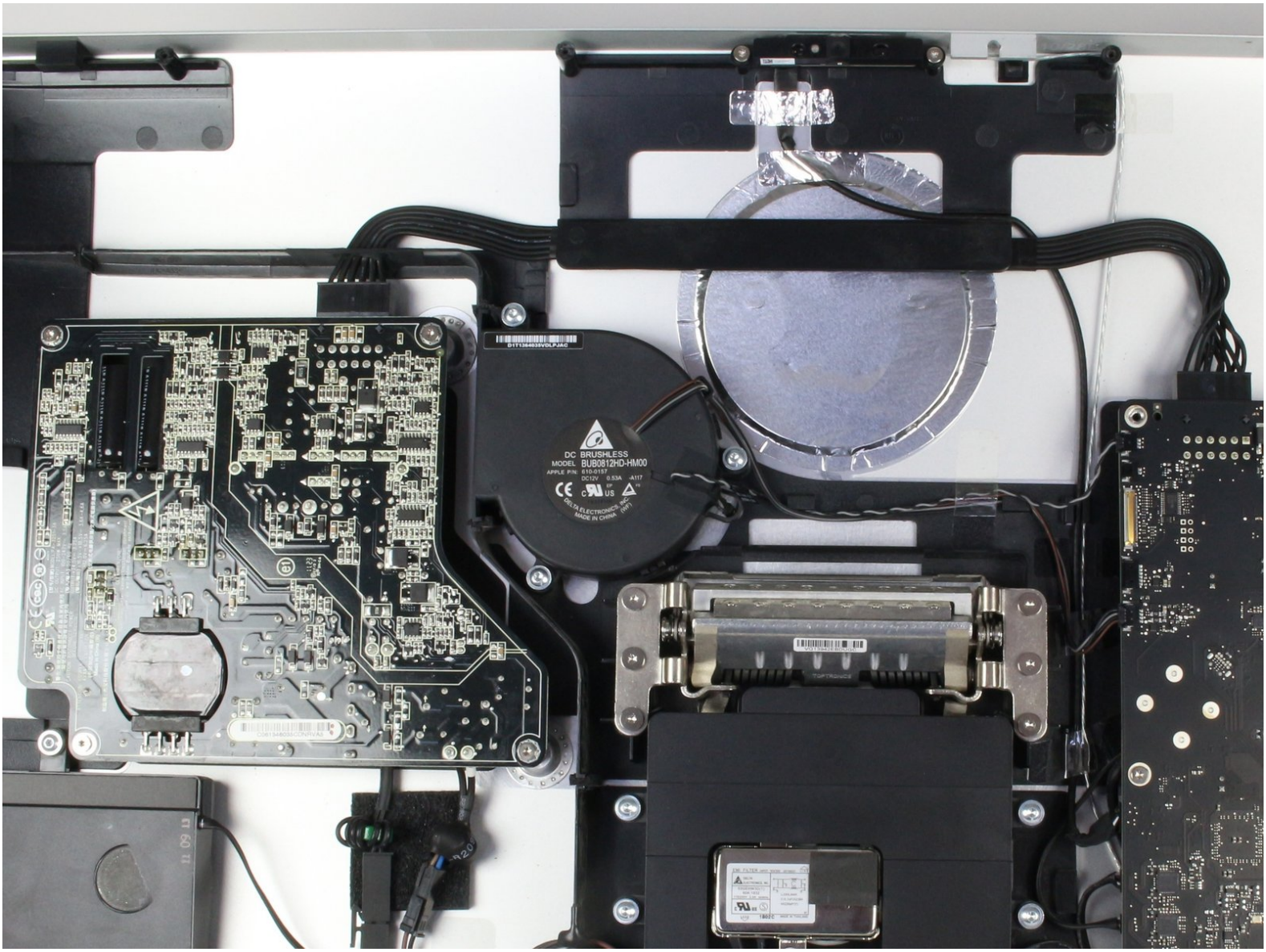


INTRODUCTION

The fan in this device is set in by only a few screws, but recognize that when removing it, there are a few wires that are wrapped behind other components. Make sure not to tug or pull too hard on the wires, and rather move them out from behind the other components before completely removing the fan. Also, keep track of your screws and where they were placed in the device as there is one screw that is different from the others. This will allow for a much less frustrating reversed process!

TOOLS:

- Heavy-Duty Suction Cups (Pair) (1)
- T10 Torx Security Bit Screwdriver (1)
- iMac Service Wedge (1)
- Phillips #00 Screwdriver (1)

PARTS:

- Apple Thunderbolt Display Fan (New) (1)

Step 1 — LCD

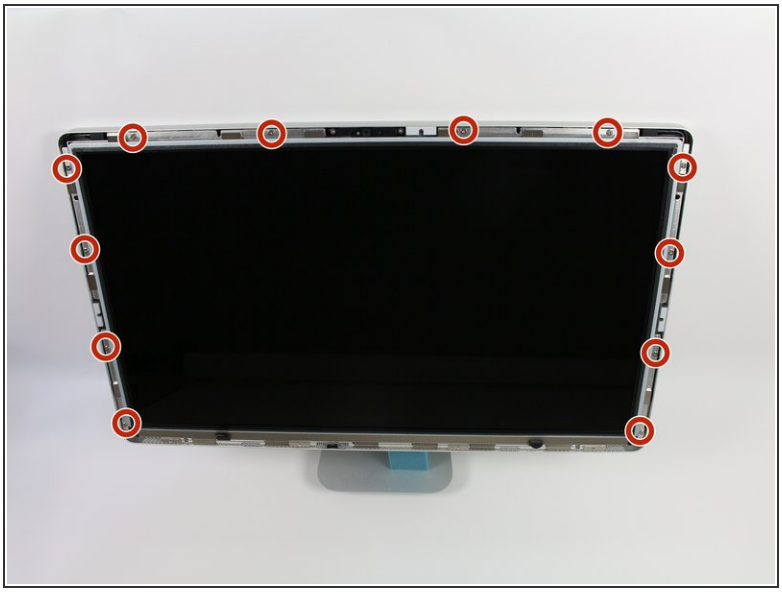


- Lay down the display with screen side up.

Since the display is able to be tilted up and down, we found it useful to prop up the screen up with a styrofoam block in between the screen and the base.

- Place the two suction cups on both sides of the top of the screen and make sure to lock them in place.
- The glass screen to connected to the rest of the display by small magnets. Lift slowly and the screen will come right off.

Step 2




- Unscrew the 12 screws around the side edges and the top of the LCD with the TR 10 Screwdriver.

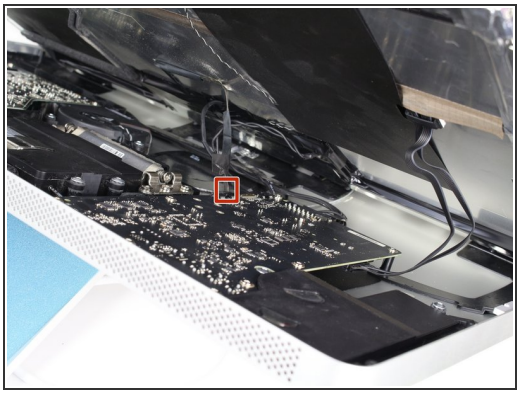
Step 3

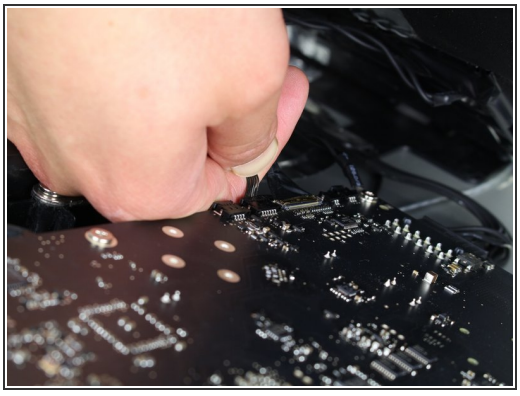
- Slowly lift the LCD out from its placement and tilt it upwards.

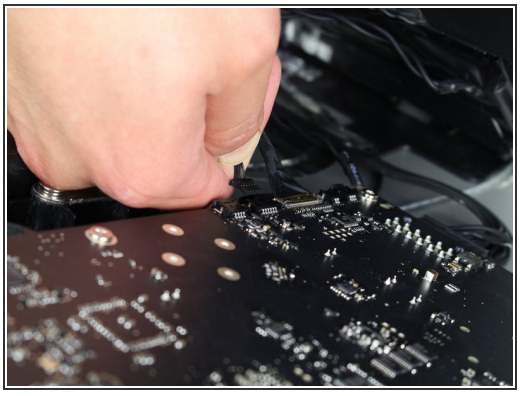
It can be very helpful to have an extra set of hands to hold the LCD up while you work with the cables underneath.

There are four wires that connect the LCD to the rest of the components. Make sure not to pull hard and break any of the wires.

Step 4

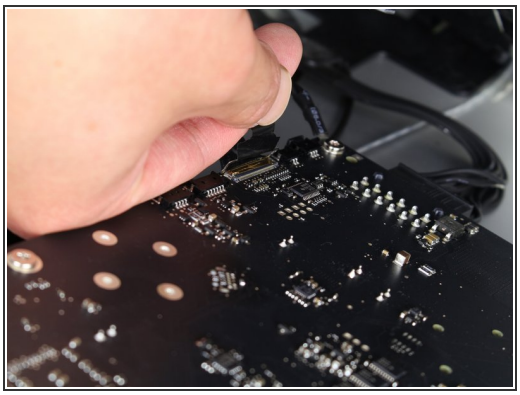
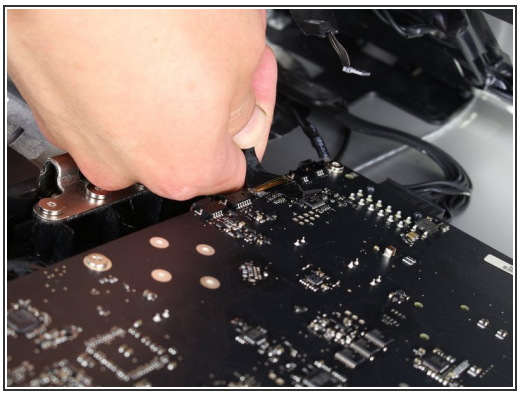
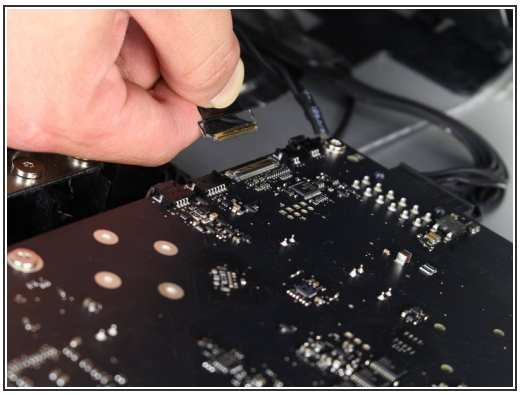






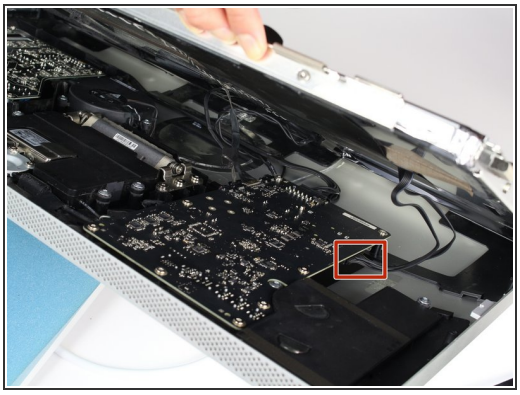
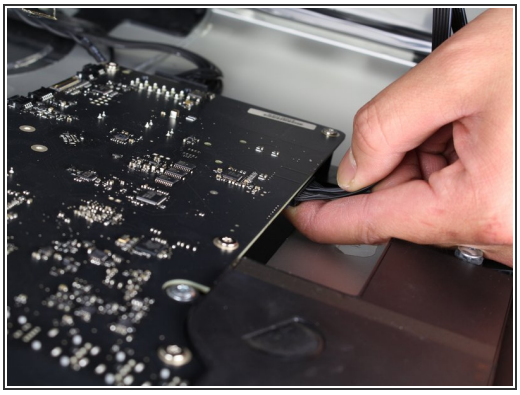
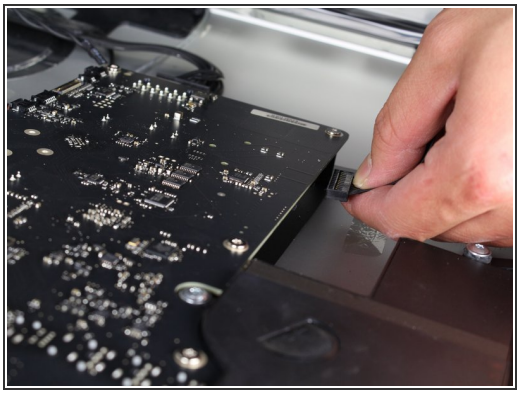
- For the first of the four wires (furthest away from the wire that is held in by a screw), grab onto the connector and pull slowly.

Step 5

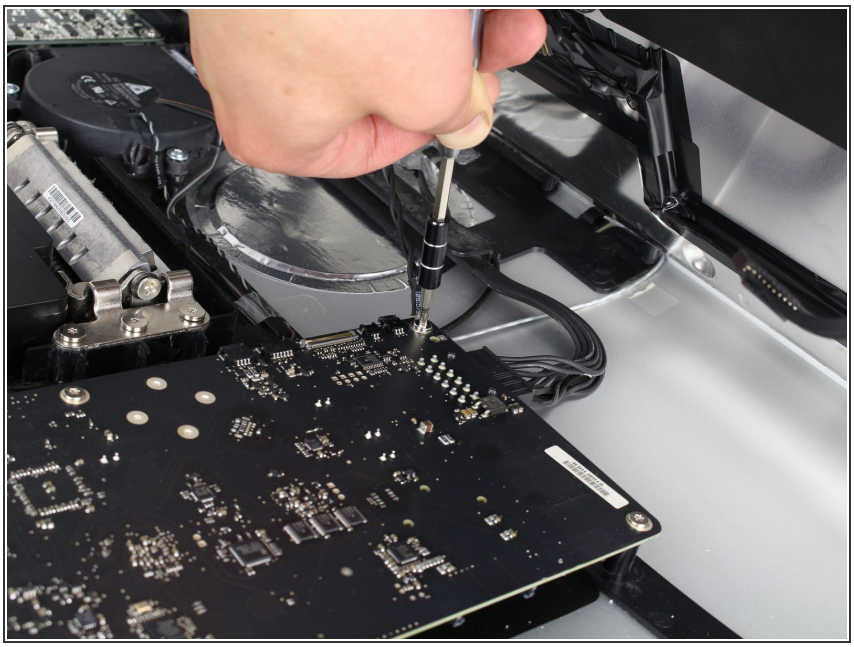
- For the next connector, which is right next to the previous wire, there is a piece of tape attached to a metal bar.
- Flip the metal bar over using the tape as a handle.
- Next, grab onto the connector and slowly pull it from the socket in the logic board.

Step 6

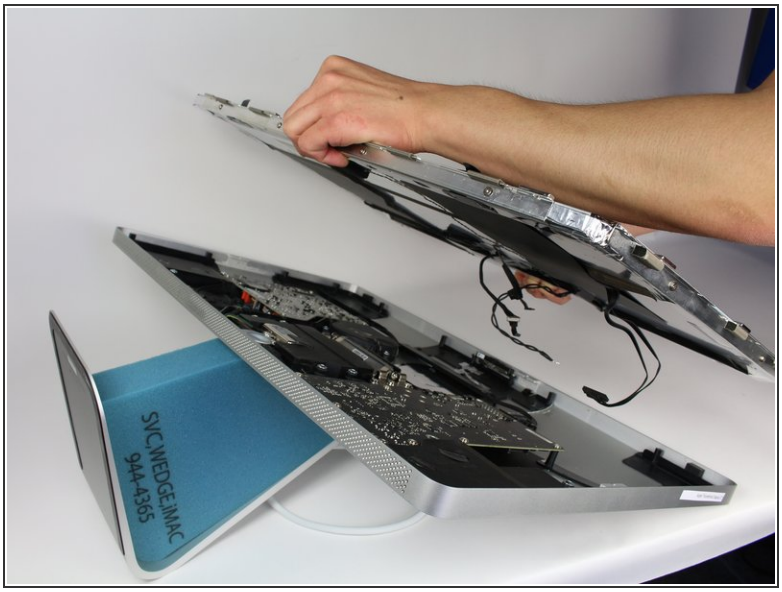
- For the connector on the other side of the logic board, grab the connector from underneath and carefully pull it from the board.

Step 7



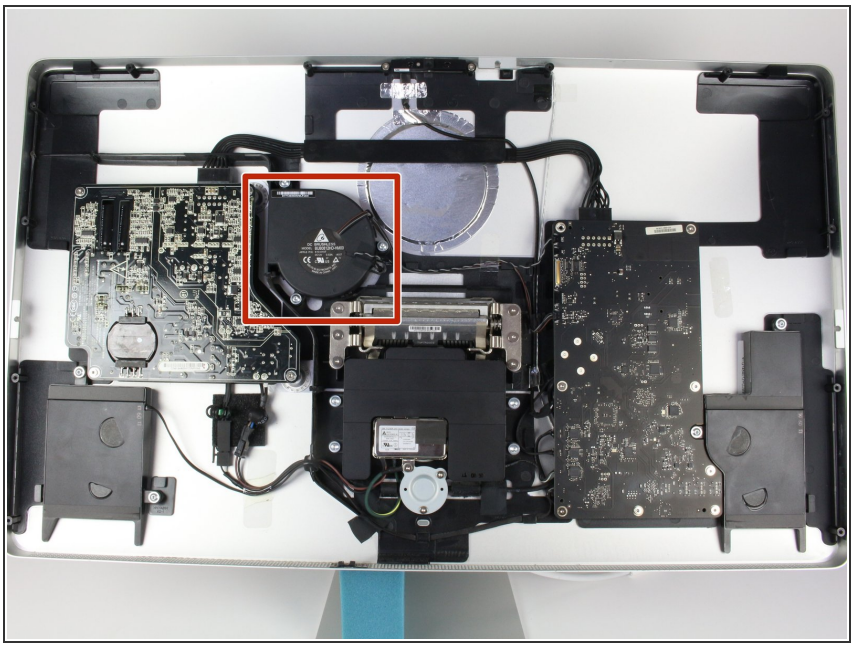
- For the last wire connecting to the LCD, use your TR 10 Screwdriver to remove the screw.

Step 8



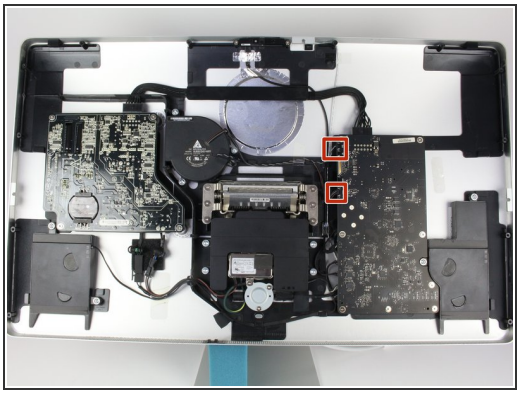
- The LCD has now been fully disconnected from the casing and can be repaired/replaced!

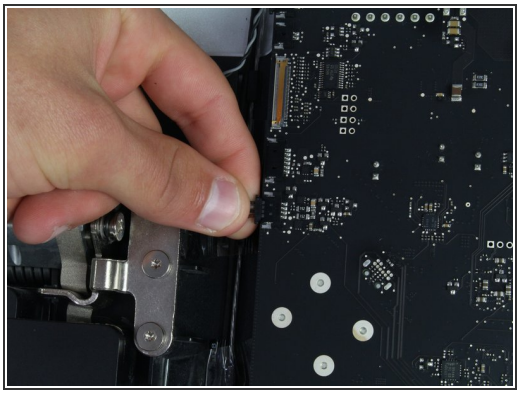
Step 9 — Fan

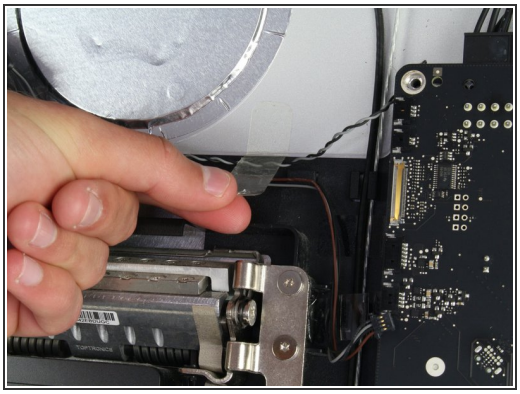


- Now you should have access to the rest of the display. From here, locate the fan.

Step 10

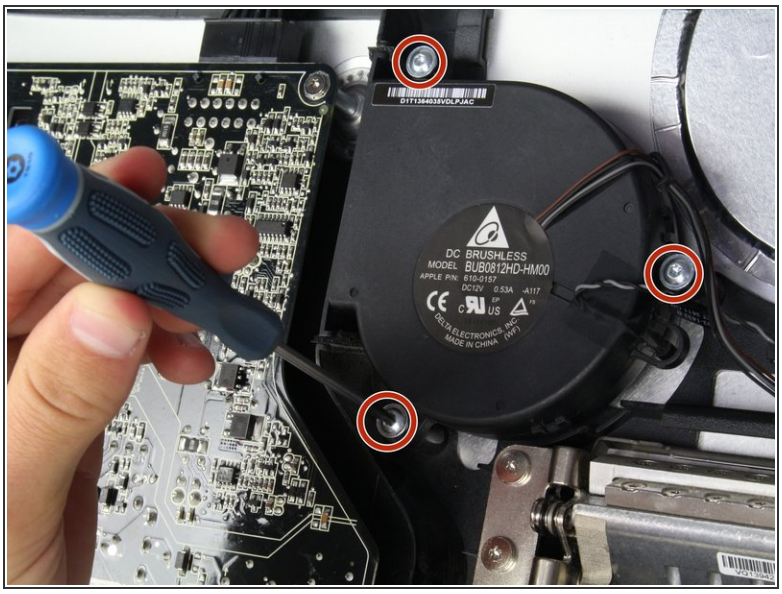






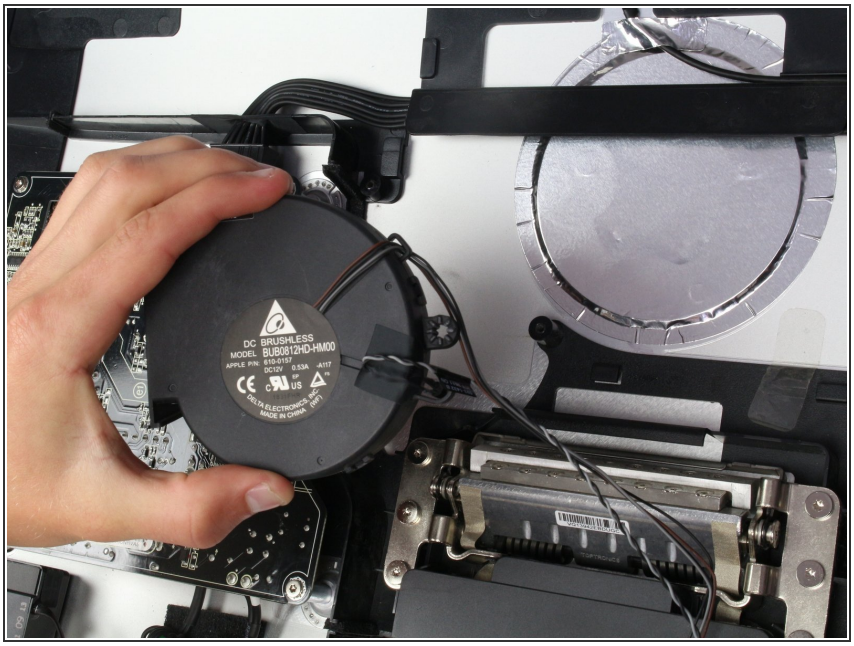
- The fan is connected to the main logic board by two connectors. Make sure that while disconnecting them, grab the wire at the point closest to the board and the pull slowly to avoid damaging the connectors.
- Remove the piece of tape that is holding the wires to the casing.

Step 11



- Next, you can see that the fan is connected to the casing by three screws.
- Use the TR 10 screwdriver to remove these three screws.

Step 12



- Make sure to carefully remove the fan after it is free of the casing as to not damage surrounding parts.
- Switch out the old fan with the new one and you're all set!

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

