



Dell Inspiron 1721 CPU Fan Replacement

How to replace the CPU fan in a Dell Inspiron 1721.

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INTRODUCTION

If your [Dell Inspiron 1721](#) has a loud fan or is prone to overheating, use this guide to replace the internal fan.

Internal fans circulate cool air to a heat-sink, allowing the CPU to stay at a low temperature, even during stressful performance. Dusty internal fans will restrict airflow in any device.

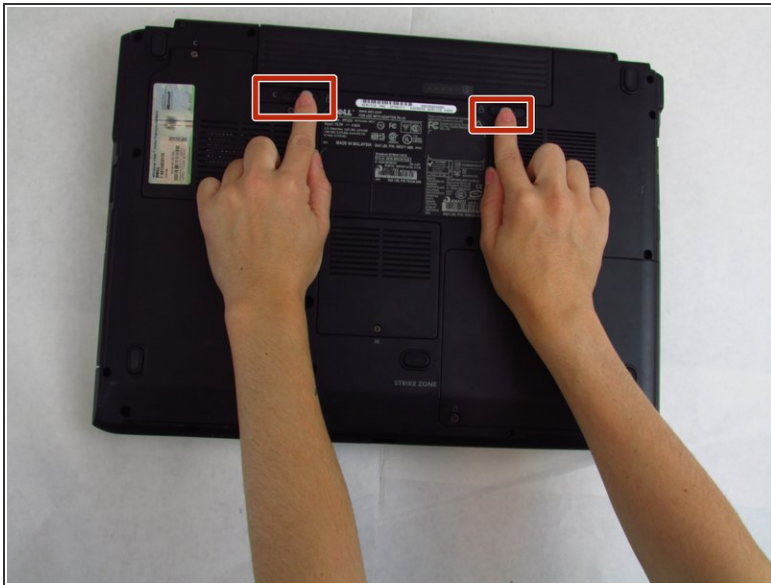
Before using this guide, verify that the computer is completely shutdown.



TOOLS:

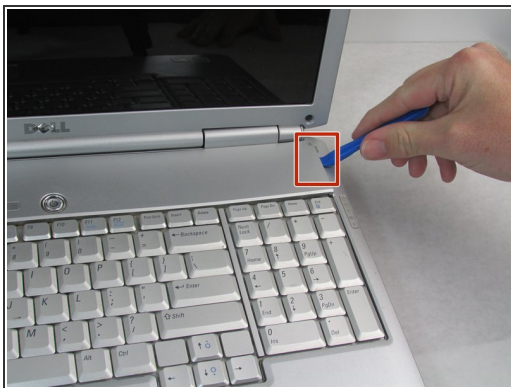
- [Phillips #1 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Spudger](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Tweezers](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Battery



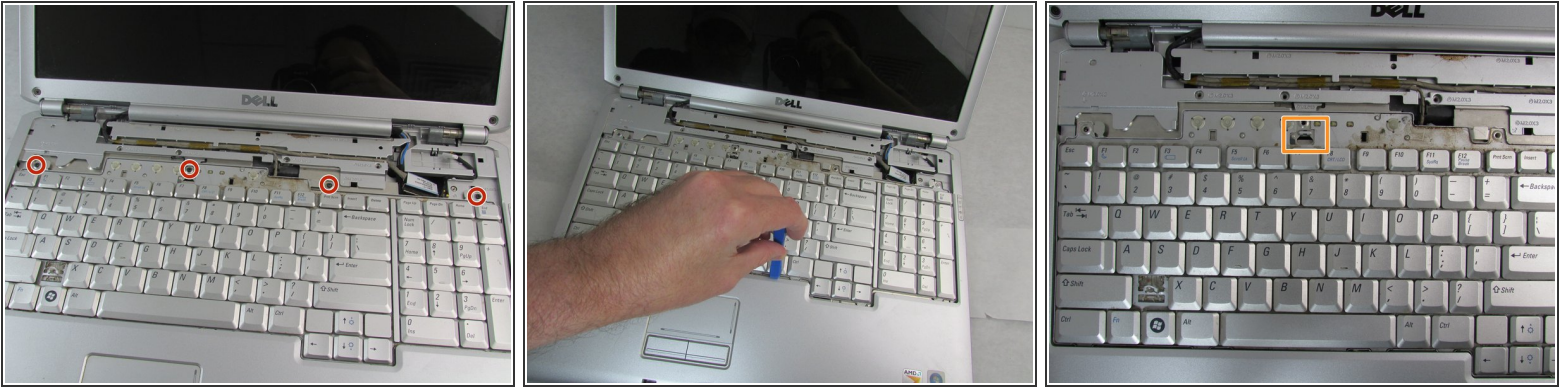
- Slide tabs outward to undo the locks.
- Grab and pull the battery away from the device to remove.

Step 2 — Hinge Plate Cover



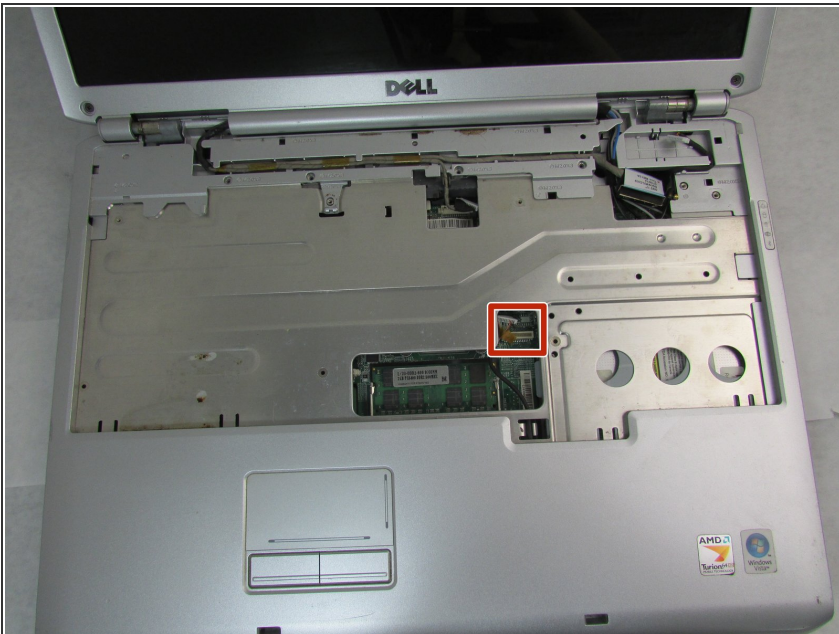
- Pry up on the corner of the hinge cover with an iFixit opening tool.
- Use the iFixit opening tool along both sides and the front of the hinge cover to release it.
- Lean the display back as far as it goes and lift up on the hinge cover to remove.

Step 3 — Keyboard



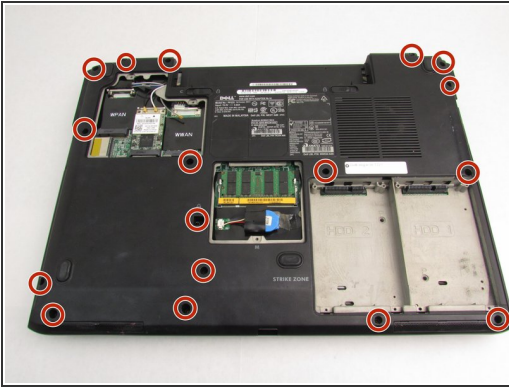
- Remove four 3mm Phillips #1 screws from the top of the keyboard.
- Use an iFixit opening tool to slide the keyboard upwards toward the display.
- Slide the keyboard until it is clear of the lock tab, and lift it up to remove.

Step 4 — Back Cover



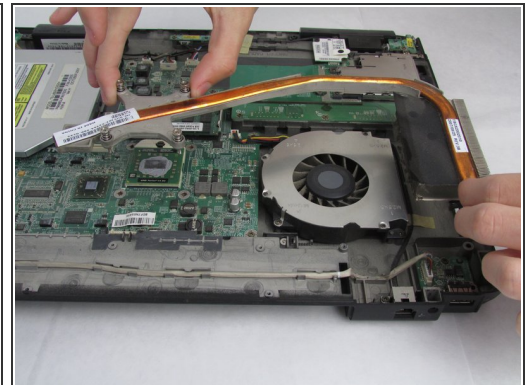
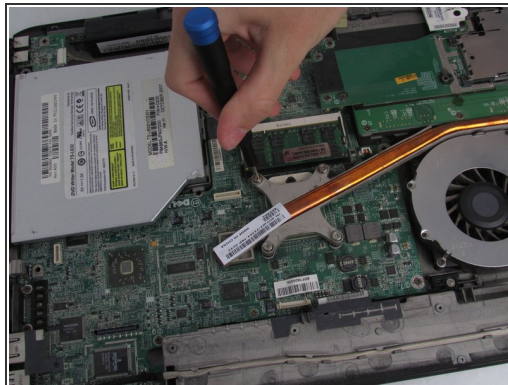
- Disconnect the touch pad connector.

Step 5



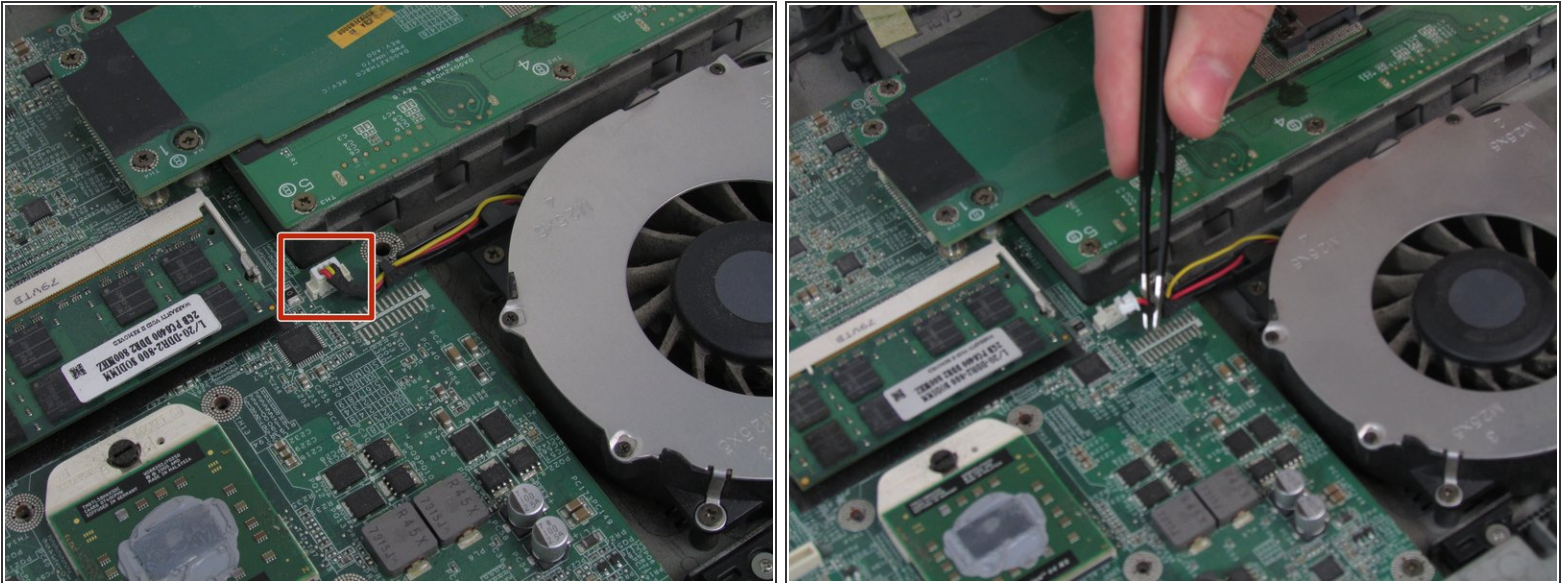
- Lay the device flat and remove the 17 7mm Phillips #0 screws.
- Use an iFixit opening tool to separate the back cover.
- Remove the back cover.

Step 6 — Heat Sink



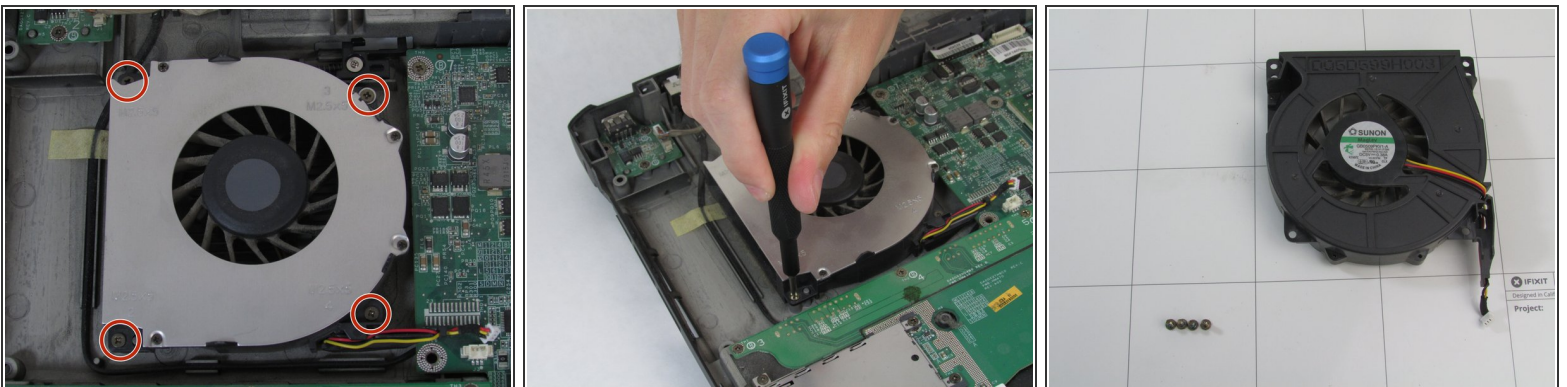
- Unscrew the Phillips #0 screws attaching the heat sink to the motherboard.
 - ⓘ The screws attaching the heat sink to the motherboard are part of the heat sink.
- Carefully remove the heat sink from the motherboard.
 - ⓘ You may have to apply upward force while removing the heat sink from the motherboard, due to the thermal paste between it and the CPU.

Step 7 — CPU Fan



- Disconnect the fan power cable from the motherboard using a pair of tweezers.

Step 8



- Remove four 3mm Phillips #1 screws.
- Gently remove the fan from the motherboard.

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