Installing MacBook Pro 15" Unibody Mid 2012 Dual Hard Drive

Replace your optical drive with a second hard drive or SSD.

Written By: Andrew Optimus Goldheart

INTRODUCTION

There are many benefits to adding a second hard drive to your laptop such as improved speeds, greater storage space, and less heartache when installing new software. Use this guide to install one using our optical bay hard drive enclosure.

TOOLS:

- Phillips #00 Screwdriver (1)
- Spudger (1)
- T6 Torx Screwdriver (1)

PARTS:

- 1 TB SSD Hybrid 2.5" Hard Drive (1)

Upgrade Kit

This kit contains the drive and all tools needed.

- 500 GB SSD Hybrid 2.5" Hard Drive (1)

Upgrade Kit

This kit contains the drive and all tools needed.

- Unibody Laptop Dual Drive (1)
- 250 GB SSD (1)
- 500 GB SSD (1)
- 1 TB SSD (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case

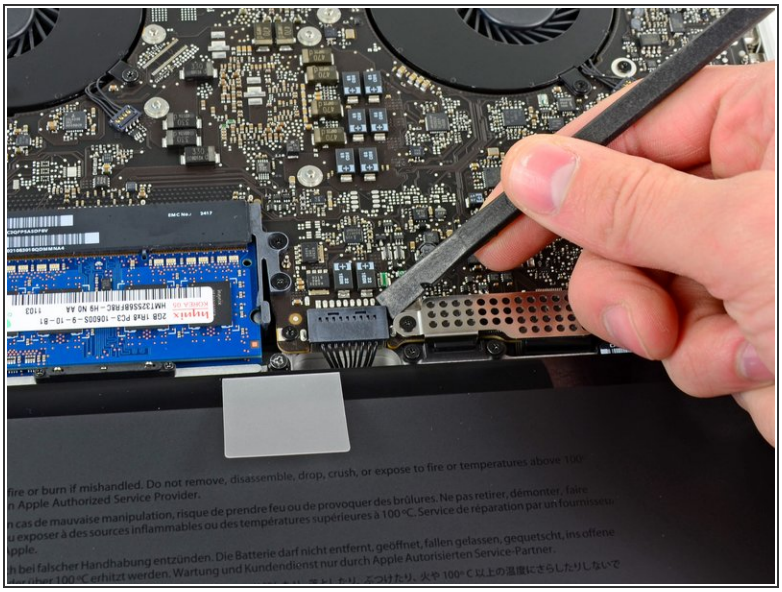
- Remove the following ten screws securing the lower case to the upper case:
  - Three 13.5 mm (14.1 mm) Phillips screws.
  - Seven 3 mm Phillips screws.

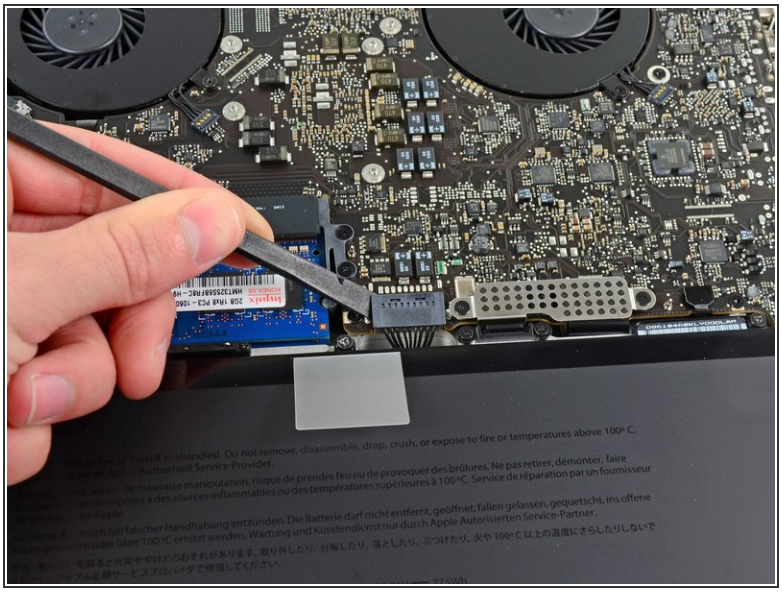
When removing these screws, note how they come out at a slight angle. They must be reinstalled the same way.

Step 2

- Using both hands, lift the lower case near the vent to pop it off two clips securing it to the upper case.
- Remove the lower case and set it aside.

Step 3 — Battery Connector



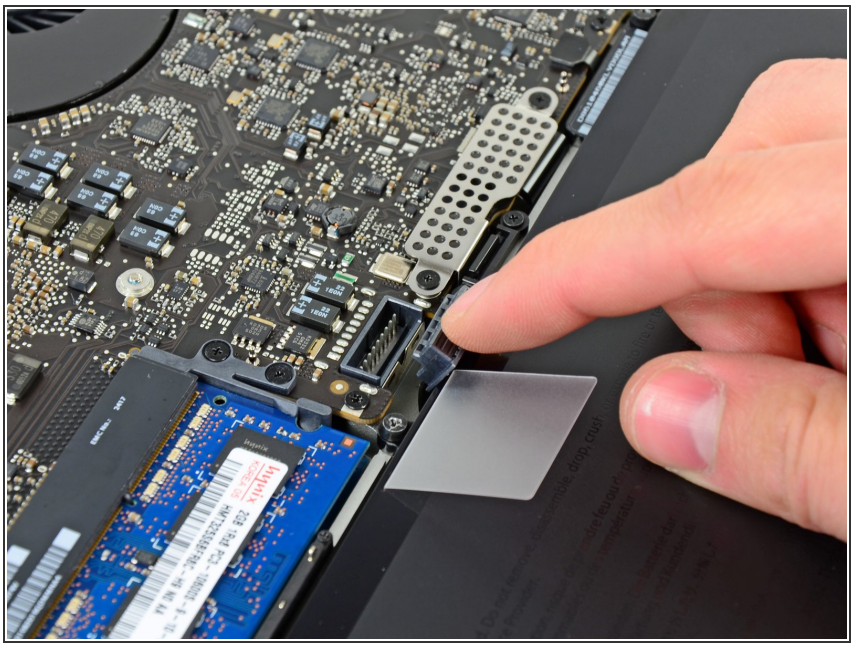


For certain repairs (e.g. hard drive), disconnecting the battery connector is not necessary but it prevents any accidental shorting of electronics on the motherboard. If you do not disconnect the battery connector, please be careful as parts of the motherboard might be electrified.

- Use the edge of a spudger to pry the battery connector upwards from its socket on the logic board.

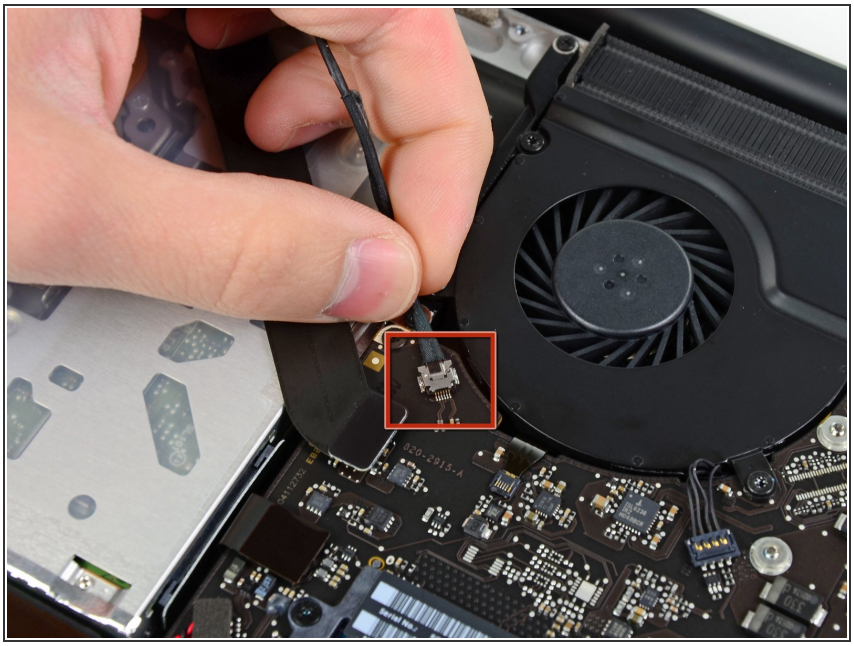
It is useful to pry upward on both short sides of the connector to "walk" it out of its socket.

Step 4



- Bend the battery cable slightly away from its socket on the logic board so it does not accidentally connect itself while you work.

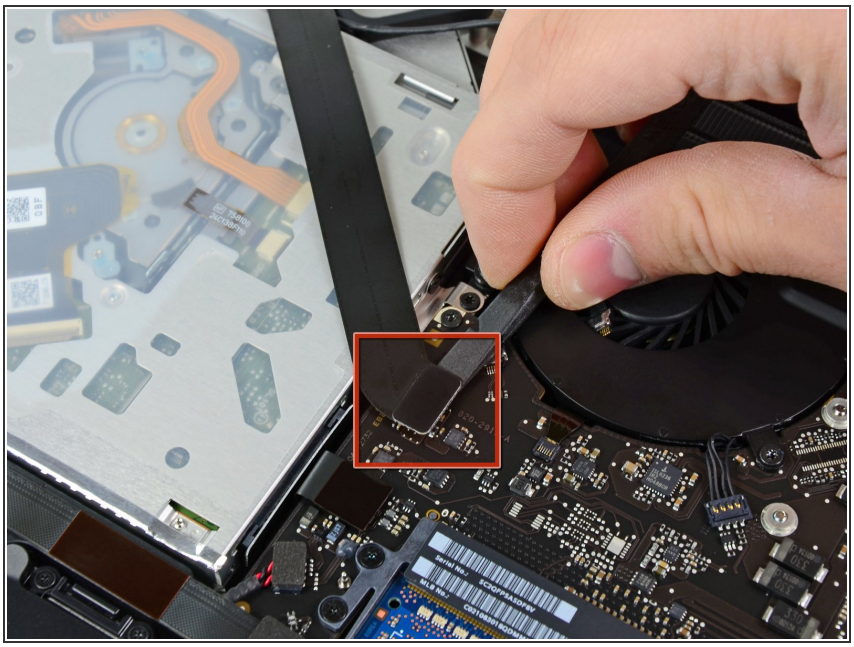
Step 5 — Optical Drive



- Disconnect the camera cable connector from its socket on the logic board.

⚠ Do not lift up on the cable as you disconnect it from the logic board. Pull the cable parallel to the face of the logic board.

Step 6

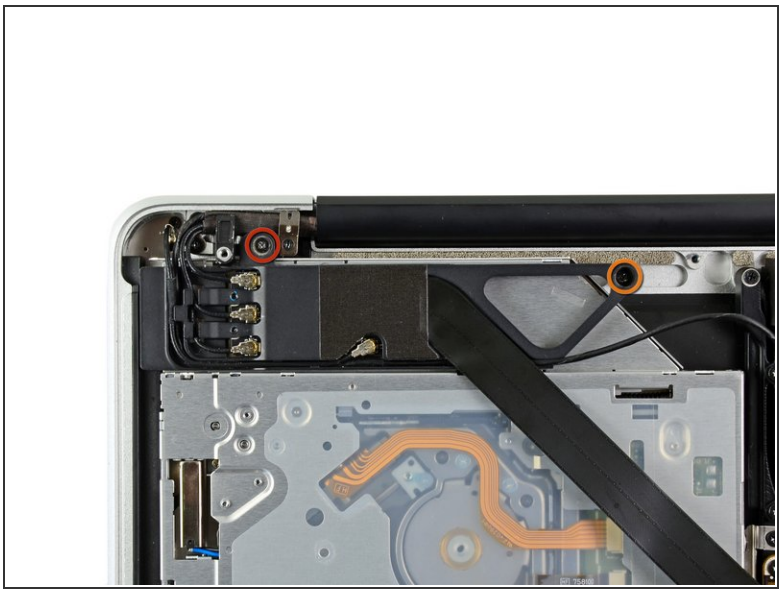


- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the AirPort/Bluetooth connector up from its socket on the logic board.

Step 7

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the optical drive connector up from its socket on the logic board.

Step 8



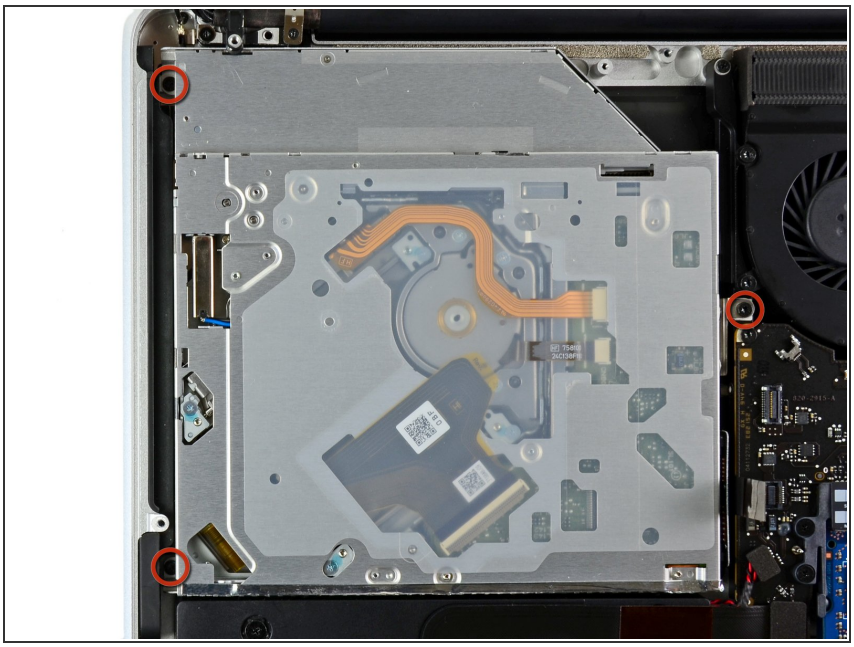
- Remove following two screws:

  Take care, as these screws are unusually easy to strip. Apply firm pressure while unscrewing. Read comments before proceeding.

  - One 8.6 mm Phillips screw
  - One 3.9 mm Phillips screw

- Carefully rotate the AirPort/Bluetooth board housing (with AirPort/Antenna cables still attached) out of the lower case.

Step 9

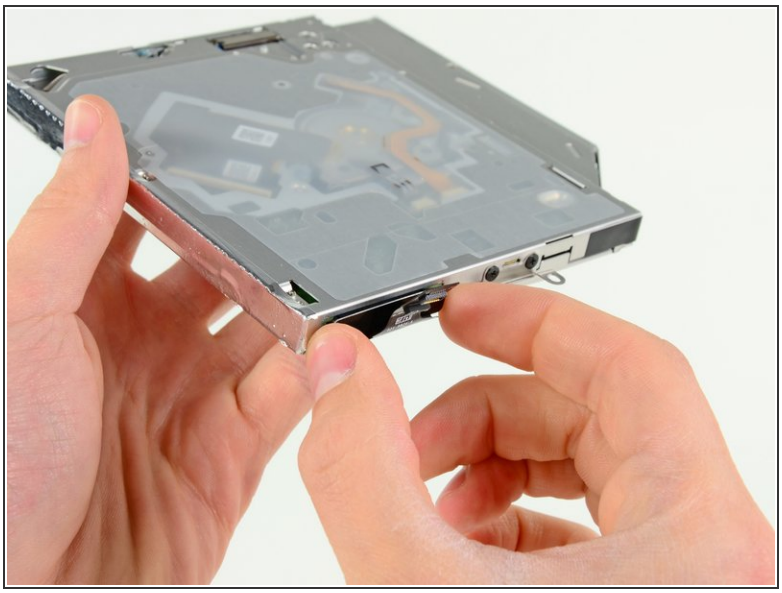


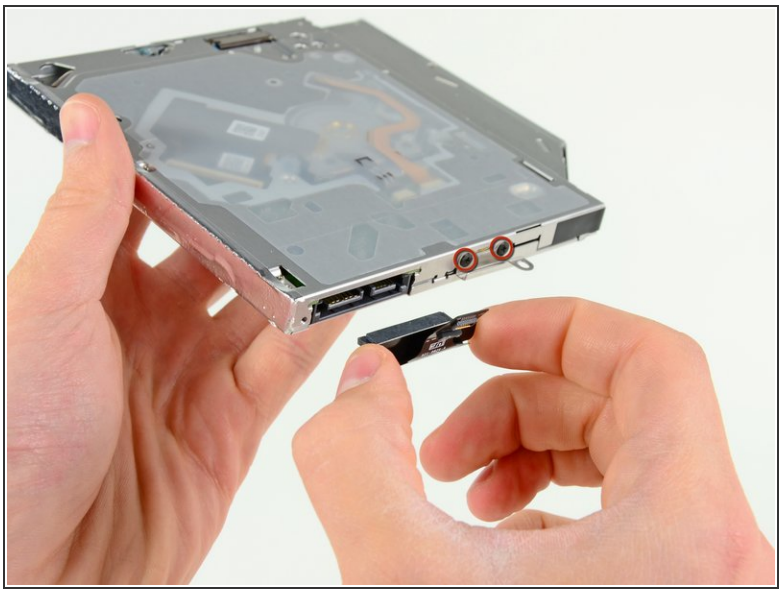
- Remove the three 3.5 mm T6 Torx screws securing the optical drive to the upper case.

Step 10

- Lift the optical drive near its connector and pull it away from the upper case to remove it from the computer.

Step 11 — Optical Drive Cable



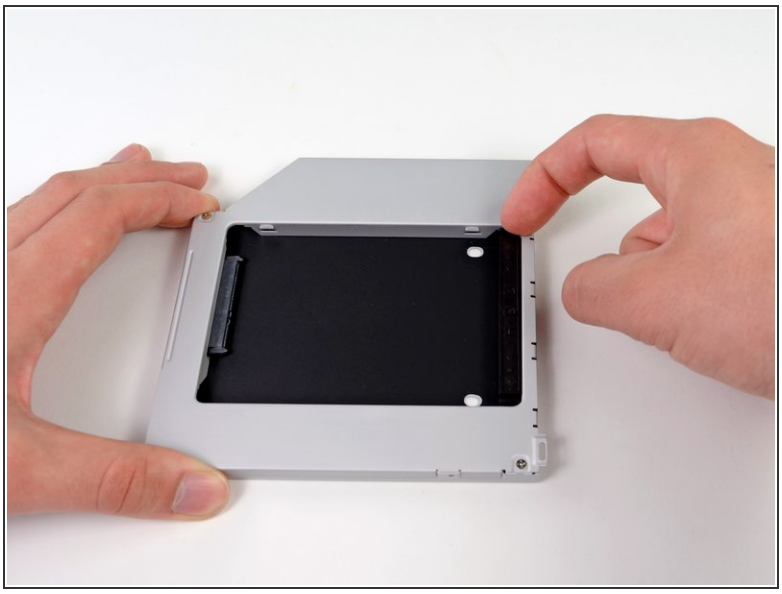


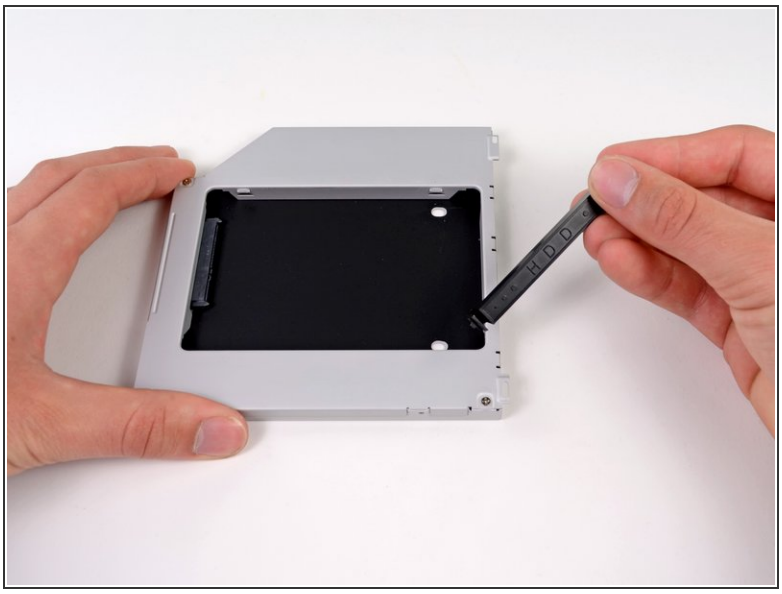
- Pull the optical drive cable out of the optical drive.

⚠ Be sure to pull by the edges of the connector, not by the cable itself.

- Remove the two black Phillips #0 screws securing the small metal mounting bracket. Transfer this bracket to your new optical drive or hard drive enclosure.

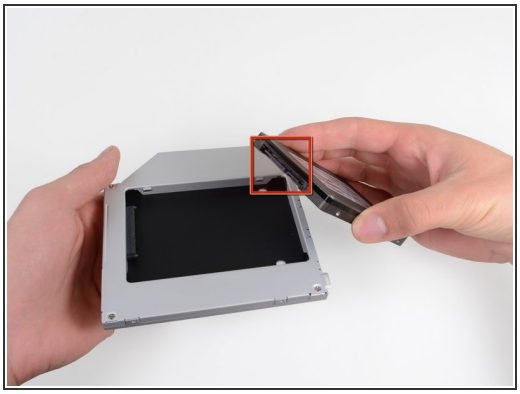
Step 12 — Dual Hard Drive





- Remove the plastic spacer from the optical bay hard drive enclosure by pressing in on one of the clips on either side and lifting it up and out of the enclosure.

Step 13



- Make sure that the hard drive connectors are facing down before placing it into the enclosure.
- Gently place the hard drive into the enclosure's hard drive slot.
- While firmly holding the enclosure in place with one hand, use your other hand to press the hard drive into the enclosure connectors.

Step 14

- Once the hard drive is snug, reinsert the plastic spacer while holding the hard drive against the bottom of the enclosure.

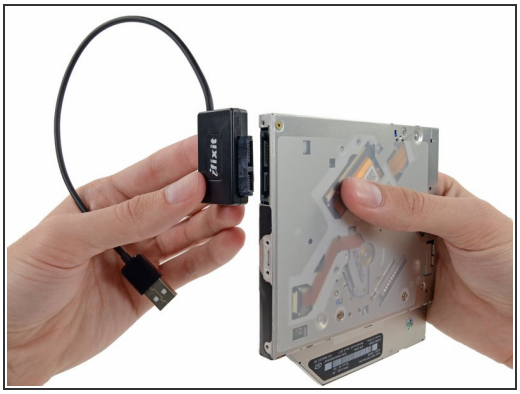
Step 15

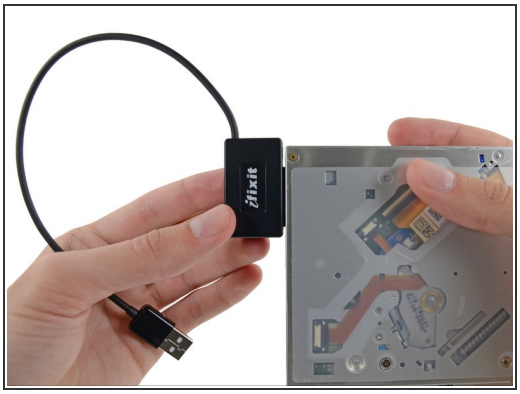
- Use two Phillips #1 screws to secure the drive to its enclosure.

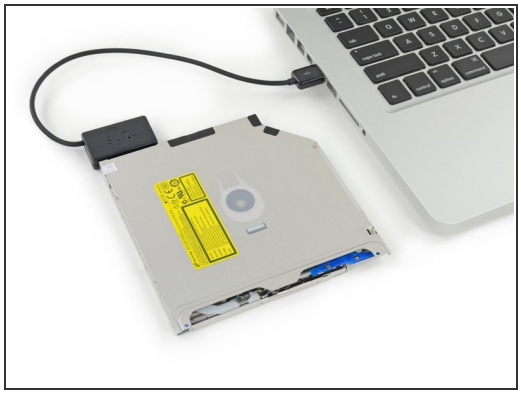
Step 16

- Attach the optical drive bracket to the new enclosure with two Phillips #0 screws.
- Reconnect any cables you have removed from the original optical drive onto the optical bay enclosure.

Step 17







Don't ditch that drive! You can still use your optical drive externally with the help of our SATA Optical Drive USB Cable.

- Align the cable's SATA connector with the drive's port and plug in securely.
- Plug the USB connector into your laptop and your optical drive is ready for use.

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

