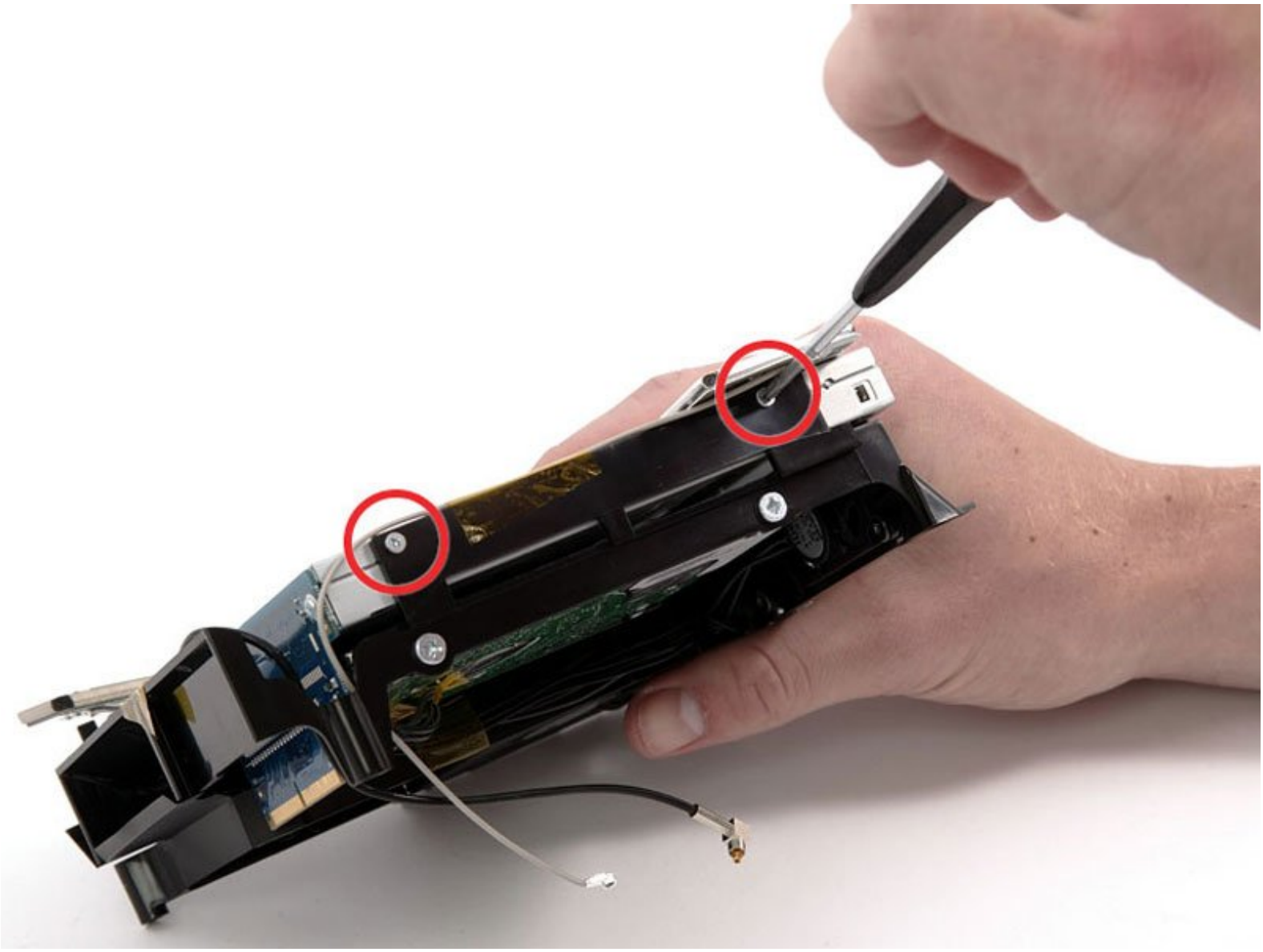
Mac mini (PowerPC) Optical Drive Replacement

Written By: iRobot



INTRODUCTION

Upgrade or replace the combo or SuperDrive.

TOOLS:

- Jimmy (1)
- Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)

PARTS:

- 12.7 mm PATA 8x SuperDrive (UJ-875) (1)

Step 1 — Top Housing


- Power down your Mac mini, disconnect all of the cables, and flip it over.
- Insert the Jimmy into the crack between the aluminum top housing and the plastic lower housing.
- The Jimmy should reach a stop about 3/8" down.

Step 2



- Gently bend the Jimmy outwards to pry the crack open a little larger and lift the lower housing up a small amount.

There are several plastic clips on the lower housing that fit into a channel in the aluminum top housing. Your goal is to use the Jimmy to push these clips inward enough to free them from the channel, while gently pulling up on the lower housing.

Step 3

- Once you have the first side free, rotate the Mac mini and start prying up on the front edge.
- Use the same prying motion to both bend the clips inward and lift the lower housing up out of the top housing.

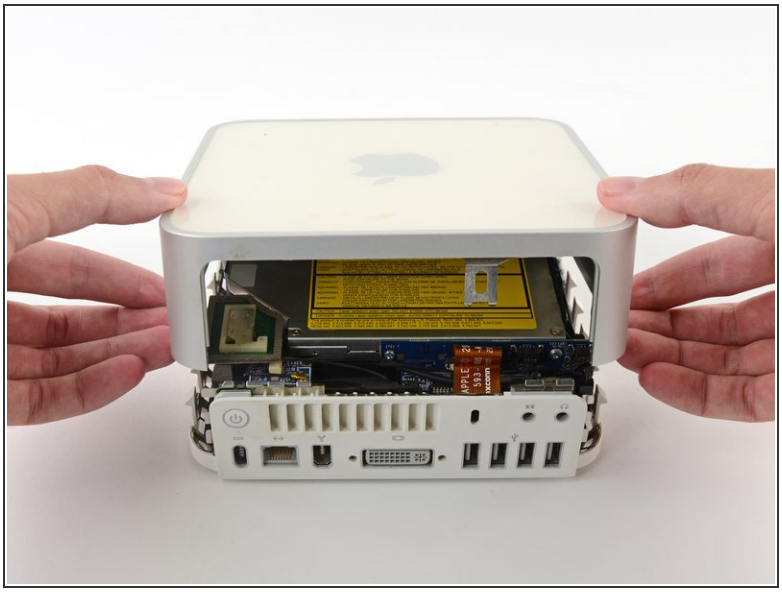
Step 4

- You may need to move the Jimmy along the edge to pry up all of the clips. Be patient and do a little bit at a time.

Step 5

- Keep working around the perimeter, freeing the clips along the final edge.

Step 6



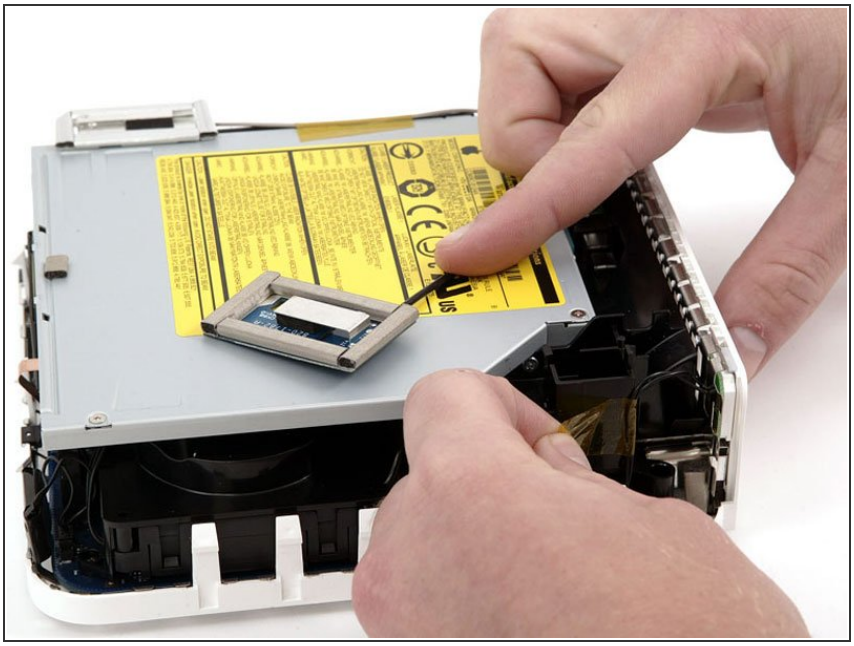
- Flip the Mac mini back over and lift the top housing off of the lower housing.

Step 7 — Mass Storage Unit

If your mini does not have Airport installed, then skip this step.

- Grasp the Airport antenna board and lift it off of the two plastic posts holding it in place. You may need to push back the black plastic tab jutting through the lower left corner of the board.

Step 8

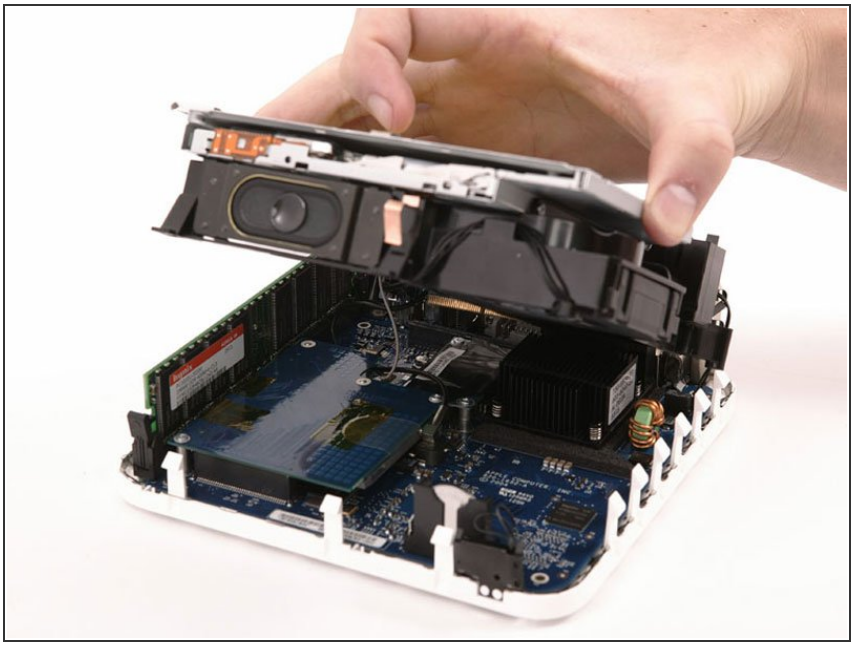


- Remove the yellow tape securing the power button cable to the black plastic framework.

Step 9

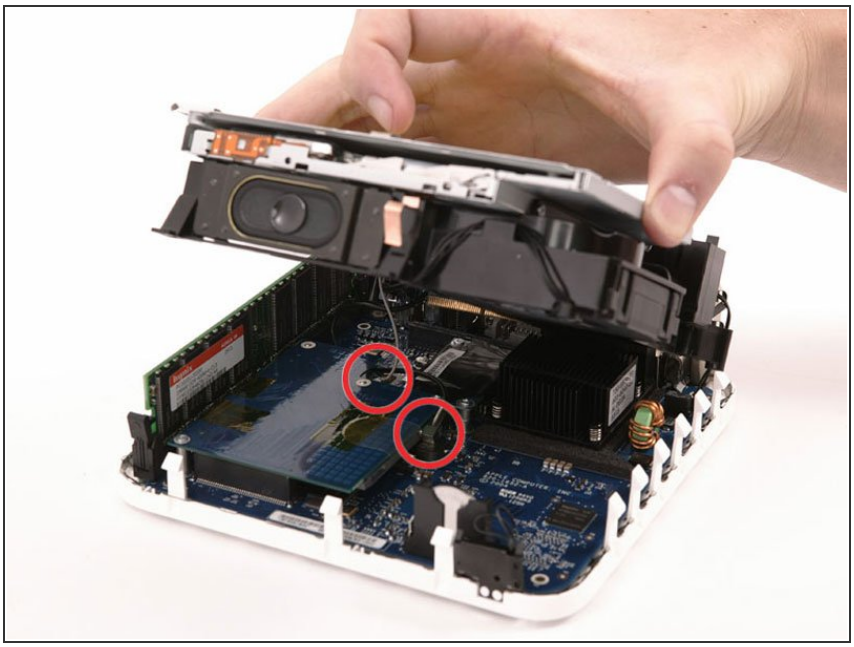
- Remove the three black Phillips screws securing the plastic framework to the logic board and lower case.

Step 10



- Grasp the optical drive and mass storage unit in one hand and lift up enough so that you can see beneath it.

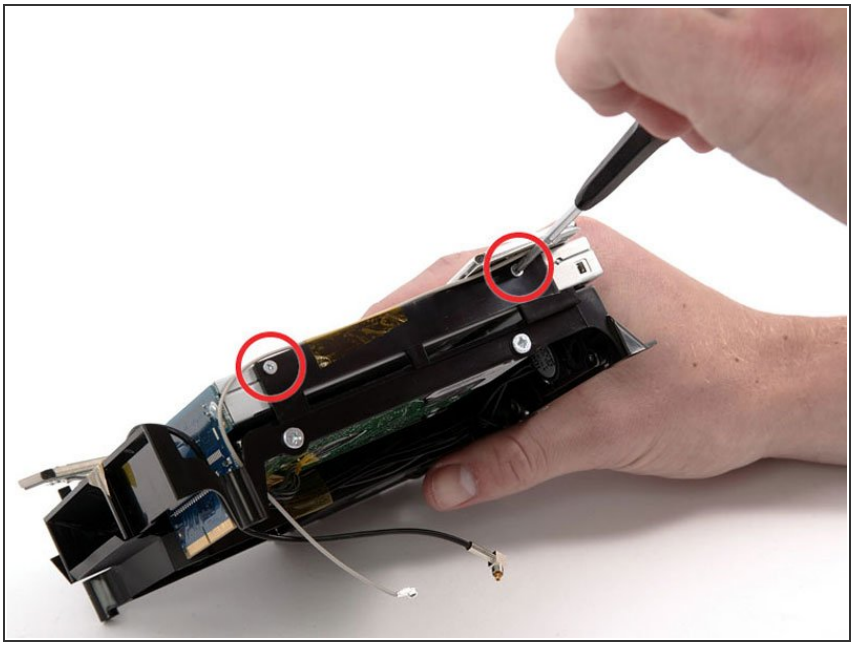
Step 11



If your mini has neither an Airport card nor a Bluetooth board, you can simply lift the optical drive up and away. Otherwise, you need to disconnect the Airport and/or Bluetooth antenna cables first.

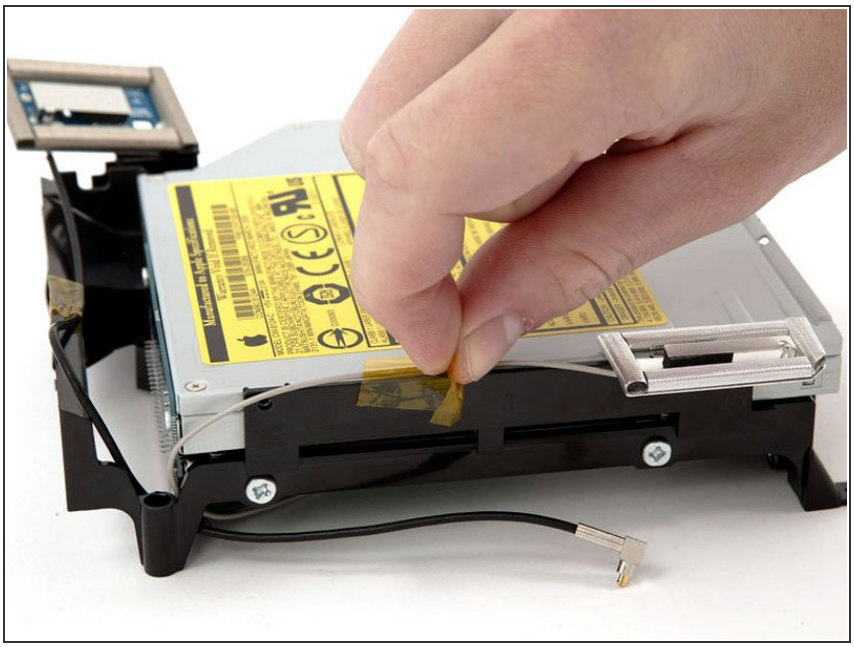
- With your free hand, pull the Bluetooth cable up from Bluetooth board and unplug the Airport antenna cable from the right of the Airport card. Caution: both of these connections are very small. When re-assembling unit after repair, you may want to remove the two screws holding the airport card to the assembly and lift the card up and out to re-attach the cables.

Step 12 — Optical Drive



- Remove the four silver Phillips screws attaching the optical drive to the black plastic framework (two on each side).

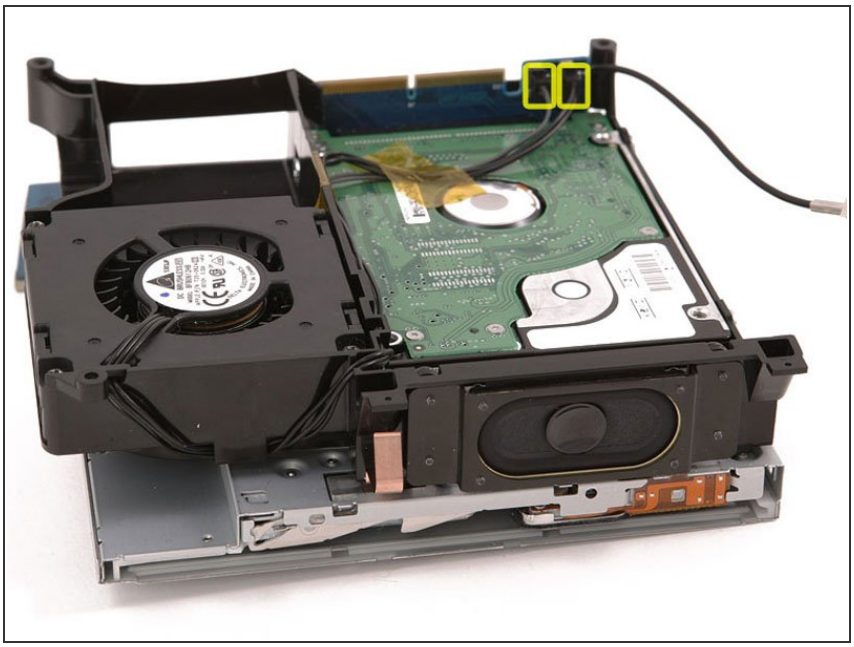
Step 13



If your mini does not have a Bluetooth board, you may skip the following step.

- Remove the yellow tape securing the Bluetooth antenna cable to the black plastic framework.
- Lift the silver Bluetooth antenna board out of its slot.

Step 14



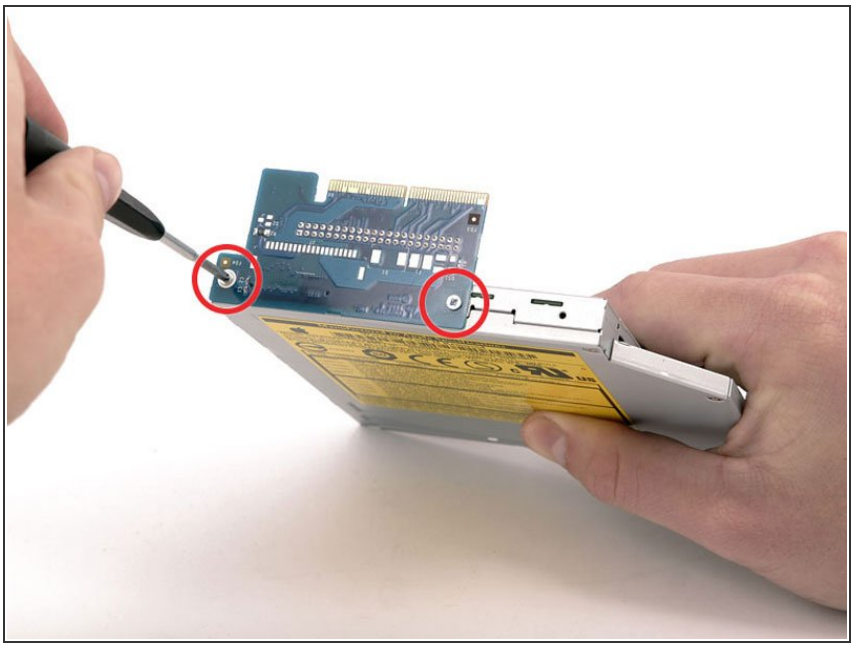
⚠ The cables you're about to remove are very fragile - do not pull directly on the wires. Instead, try to pry up the connector directly, using your fingernails or a small flathead screwdriver if necessary.

- Flip the mass storage assembly over and disconnect the speaker and fan cables from the interface board.

Step 15

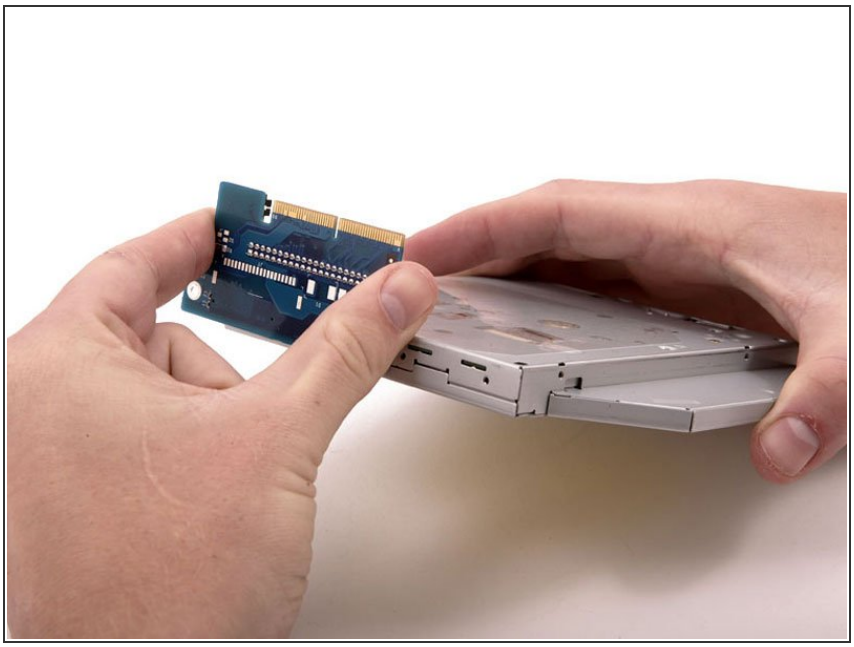
- Flip the mass storage assembly back over. Grasp either side of the plastic framework and push the optical drive away from you with your thumbs on either side of the bezel until you hear it pop free.
- Lift the optical drive and attached interface board up from the assembly.

Step 16



- Remove the two silver Phillips screws connecting the interface board to the optical drive.

Step 17



- Grasp either side of the interface board and wiggle it free of the optical drive.

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