



Mac mini Late 2012 Antenna Plate Replacement

Remove the perforated steel antenna plate.

Written By: Andrew Optimus Goldheart



INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to replace the antenna plate that serves as a mount for the antenna as well as the hard drive.



TOOLS:

- [2 mm Hex Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [T6 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [T8 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Mac mini A1347 \(Mid 2011/Late 2012\)](#)
[Antenna Plate](#) (1)

Step 1 — Bottom Cover



- Place your thumbs in the depressions cut into the bottom cover.
- Rotate the bottom cover counter-clockwise until the white dot painted on the bottom cover is aligned with the ring inscribed on the outer case.
- ❗ You do not need to apply much downward pressure while turning.

Step 2



- Tilt the mini enough to allow the bottom cover to fall away from the outer case.
- Remove the bottom cover and set it aside.

Step 3 — Fan



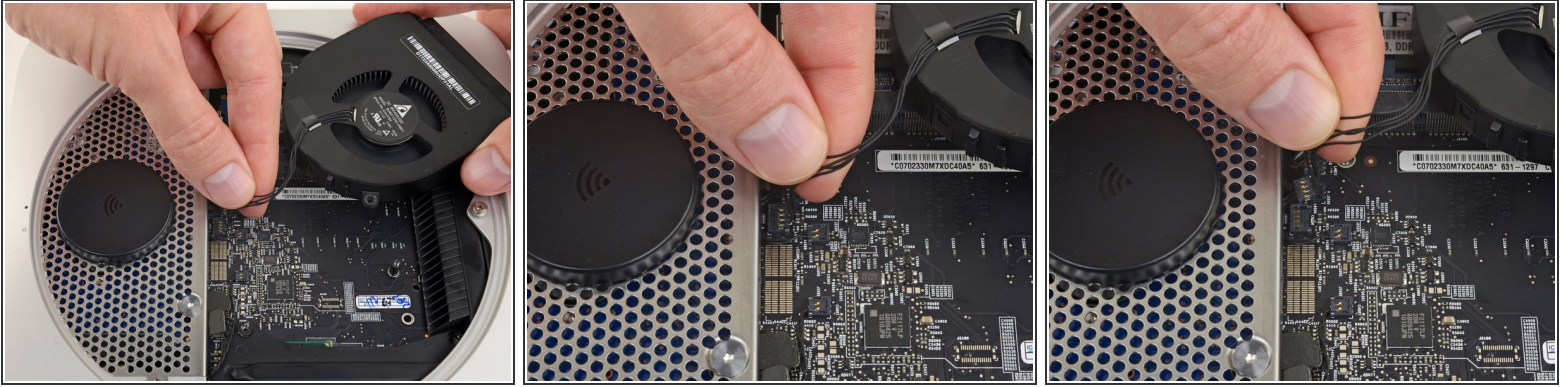
- Remove the two 11.3 mm T6 Torx screws securing the fan to the logic board near the antenna plate.

Step 4



- Lift the ear of the fan nearest the RAM up off the standoff secured to the outer case.
- ⓘ Removing the standoff screw is not necessary to remove the fan. You need only raise the fan enough to lift it off the standoff screw.

Step 5



- Lift the fan out of the mini for enough clearance to access its connector.
- Grab all the wires at once and gently pull straight up to disconnect the fan from the logic board.
 Do **not** pry at the socket, or you may rip it from the logic board.
- Remove the fan.

Step 6 — Cowling



- Remove the single 3.5 mm T6 Torx screw securing the cowling to the heat sink.

Step 7



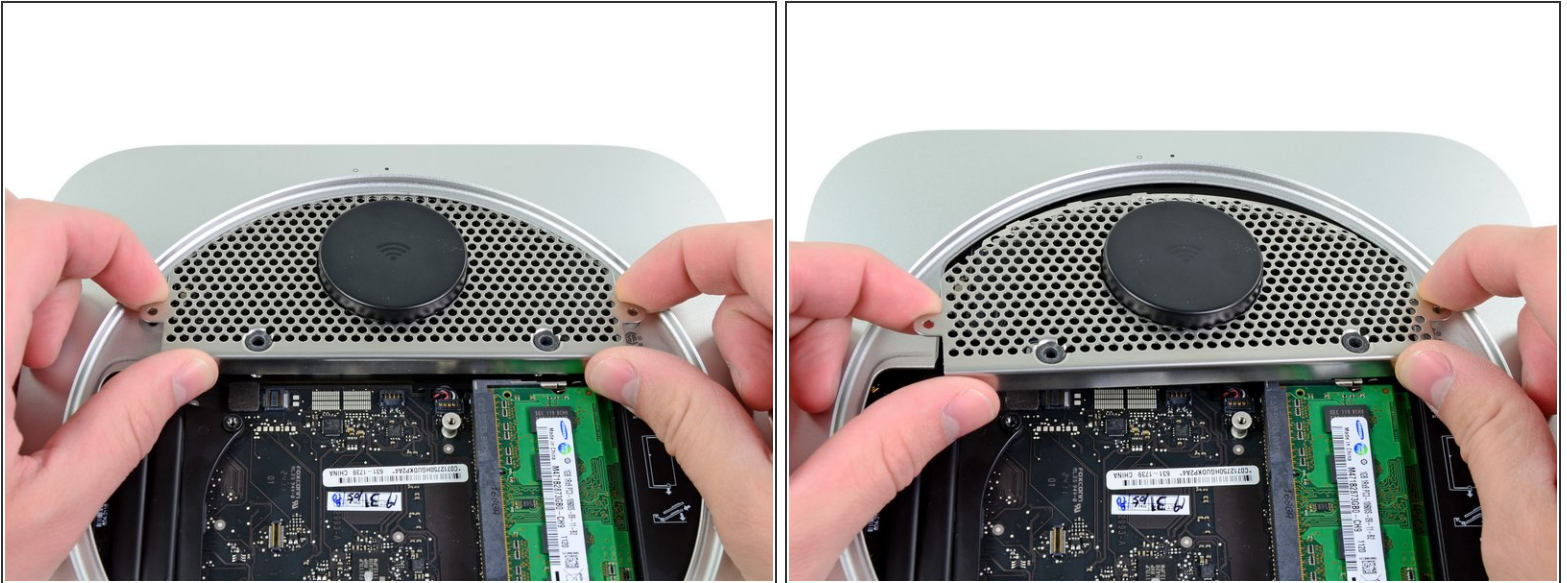
- Lift the cowl from the end nearest the antenna plate.
- Rotate the cowl away from the outer case and remove it from the mini.

Step 8 — Antenna Plate



- Remove the following screws securing the antenna plate to the mini:
 - Two 6.6 mm T8 Torx screws
 - Two 5.0 mm T8 Torx or 2.0 mm Hex screws (either screwdriver will work)
- When putting back together:
 - ⓘ It can be difficult to get the hard drive seated correctly such that the antenna plate fits in place correctly. If the screw holes don't line up with those on the hard drive, make sure that the two pins that are in the back of the hard drive are properly seated in the holes at the back of the case, above the housing for the second hard drive.
 - ✦ The antenna attaches directly to the hard drive (red markers), therefore attaching the antenna can move the hard drive around and loosen the connection of the hard drive cable to the logic board.

Step 9



- Slightly lift the antenna plate from the end closest to the RAM.
 - Carefully pull the antenna plate away from the circular rim of the outer case.
- ⚠ Do not remove the antenna plate yet. It is still attached to the AirPort/ Bluetooth board.

Step 10



- Use the tip of a spudger to carefully pry the antenna connector up from its socket on the AirPort/Bluetooth board.

Step 11



- Remove the antenna plate from the mini.

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