



MacBook Air 11" Late 2010 Heat Sink Replacement

Remove the heat sink on your MacBook Air 11" Late 2010.

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to remove the heat sink. Before reinstalling the heat sink, be sure to apply a new layer of [thermal paste](#).

TOOLS:

- Arctic Silver ArctiClean (1)
- Arctic Silver Thermal Paste (1)
- P5 Pentalobe Screwdriver Retina MacBook Pro and Air (1)
- Spudger (1)
- T5 Torx Screwdriver (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case



 Before proceeding, close your computer and lay it on a soft surface top-side down.

- Remove the following ten screws:
 - Two 8 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws
 - Eight 2.5 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws

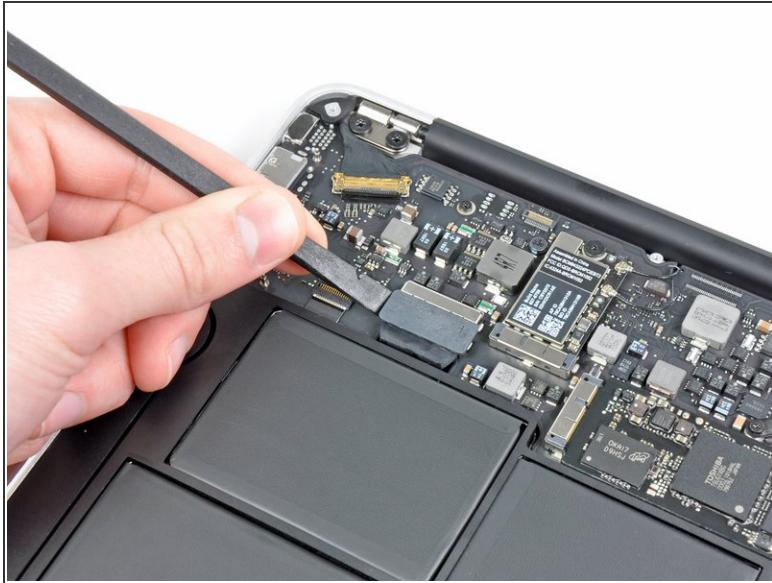
 The special screwdriver needed to remove the eight 5-point Pentalobe screws can be found [here](#).

Step 2



- Wedge your fingers between the display and the lower case and pull upward to pop the lower case off the Air.
- Remove the lower case and set it aside.

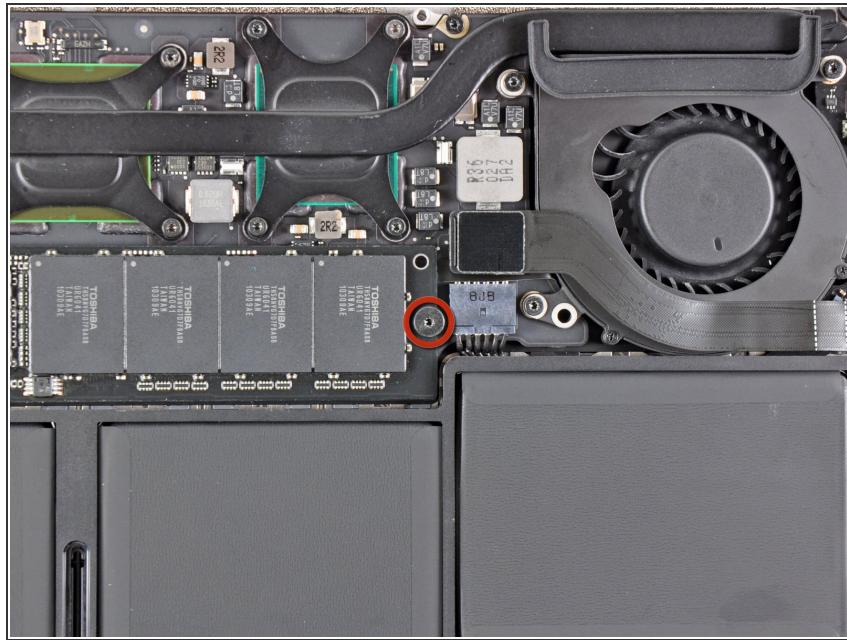
Step 3 — Battery



⚠ In this step you will disconnect the battery to help avoid shorting out any components during service.

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry both short sides of the battery connector upward to disconnect it from its socket on the logic board.
- Bend the battery cable slightly away from the logic board so the connector will not accidentally contact its socket.

Step 4 — Solid-State Drive



- Remove the single 2.9 mm T5 Torx screw securing the SSD to the logic board.

Step 5



- Use a spudger to help lift the free end of the SSD just enough to grab it with your other hand.
- ⚠ Do not lift the end of the SSD excessively.
- Pull the drive straight out of its socket and remove it from the logic board.
- ★ When reinstalling the SSD, be sure it is properly seated before reinstalling its retaining screw.

Step 6 — I/O Board Cable



- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the I/O board cable connector upward out of its socket on the I/O board.

Step 7



The following connector has an especially deep socket. Use care when disconnecting it.

- While gently pulling the I/O board cable upward near its connection to the logic board, use the tip of a spudger to pry upward on alternating sides of the connector to help "walk" it out of its socket.
- Remove the I/O board cable.

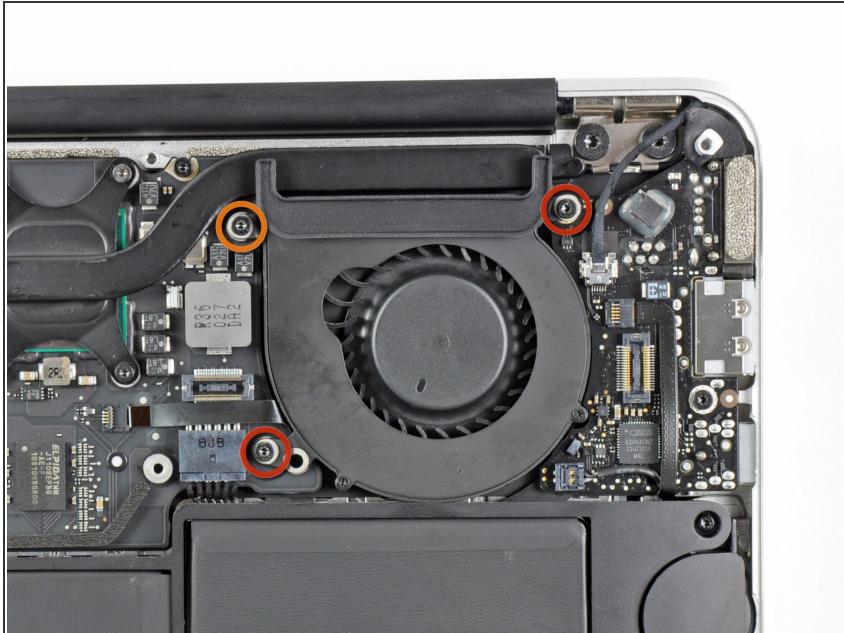
Step 8 — Fan



- Use the tip of a spudger to carefully flip up the retaining flap on the fan cable ZIF socket.

 Be sure you are prying up on the hinged retaining flap, **not** the socket itself.

Step 9



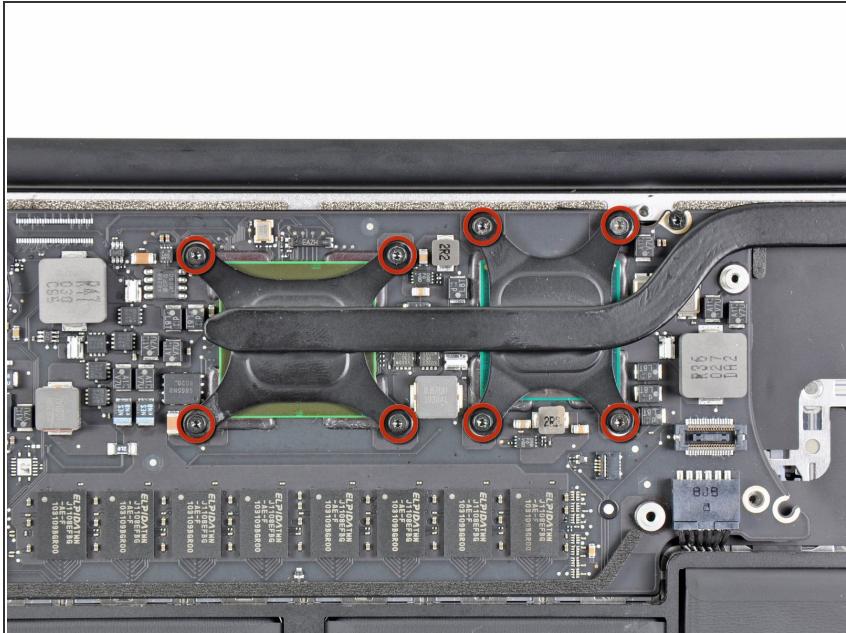
- Remove the following three screws securing the fan to the upper case:
 - Two 5.2 mm T5 Torx screws
 - One 3.6 mm T5 Torx screw

Step 10



- Lift the fan out of the upper case and carefully pull the fan ribbon cable out of its socket as you remove it from the Air.

Step 11 — Heat Sink



- Remove the eight 2.5 mm T5 Torx screws securing the heat sink to the logic board.

Step 12



i If the heat sink seems to be stuck to the logic board after removing all eight screws, use a spudger to carefully separate the heat sink from the faces of the CPU and GPU.

- Remove the heat sink from the logic board.
- When reinstalling the heat sink, be sure to apply a new layer of [thermal paste](#). If you have never applied thermal paste before, we have a [guide](#) that makes it easy.

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