MacBook Air 13" Late 2010 Primary Storage Replacement

Replacing the stock 128 GB storage in a Macbook Air 13" Late 2010 model with Transcend JetDrive 500. This is the 480 GB replacement drive.

Written By: Timothy Lee Russell

INTRODUCTION

Learn how to expand your storage in the Macbook Air 13" Late 2010 model with a Transcend JetDrive.

⚙ PARTS:

- Transcend JetDrive replacement drive (1)

Step 1 — MacBook Air 13" Late 2010 Primary Storage Replacement

- I have a Macbook Air, pretty early days. Late 2010. Got the JetDrive 500 in an attempt to increase drive space.

- Coincidentally, I have no conflict of interest with the company Transcend. I'm just a customer.

- Demographic / Skill level - I'm a software developer who primarily uses a windows machine.

Step 2

- Comes with the tools that you need. Neat, I like it! Even if you are a home repair kind of guy, you are unlikely to have a magnetically charged screwdriver that can take out tiny Apple screws.

- Also, packaging is nice. No clamshells. Stacks in a box with an eye toward efficiency.

- Nice quality case which you could use to store the external drive case they provide.

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Step 3
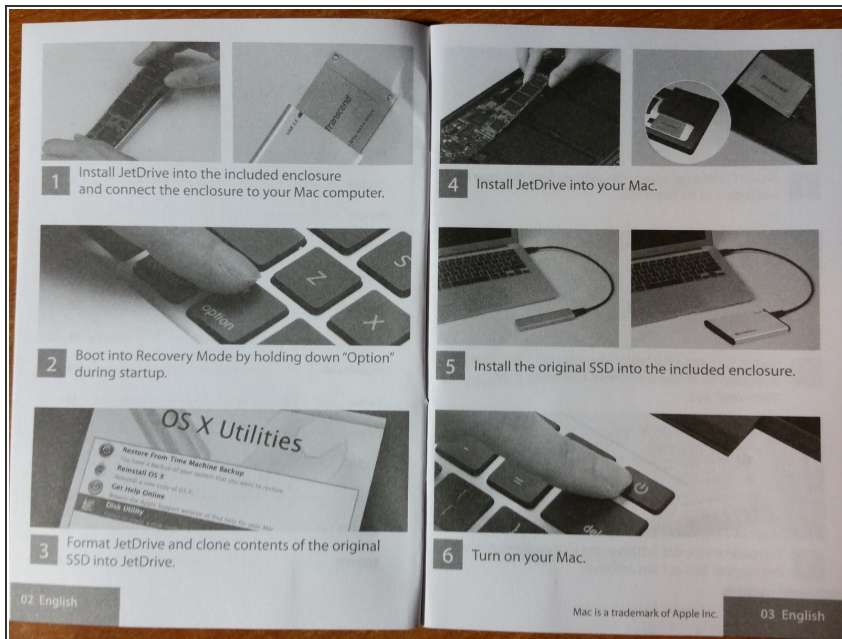
- Terse instructions--but I've built 100's of computers over the years, so I think I'll just go for it.

- Later, I will also take a photo of my finger in this most awkward "Option key" position. For the sole purpose of lighting and camera angle. Bring it on Kubrick.

Step 4

- Take the new storage and put it in the external enclosure.

- When inserting cards like this, hold one side of the connector with two fingers supporting it and gently wiggle the card into place with the other hand. Think, micro-wiggles.

- Put the monstrosity of science you just assembled into the case, connector first. Make sure it seats comfortably and that you can plug the usb cable in.

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Step 5

- Button it up.

- Only use one screw. This is the storage that we're going to put in the Macbook Air in a couple hours after we clone our internal drive to it.

Step 6

- Attach the Macbook Air to power and shut it down.

- Plug in the new drive enclosure.

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Step 7

- Awkward option finger photo, in full effect.

- Hold the "Option" button down the entire time that the system is restarting and you will get to the boot options screen.

- Being someone more familiar with windows, here is the point where I start worrying about the ramifications of low level operations but, like, whatever, right?

- I chose the "Recovery" drive. With the amount of information provided, I figured it was pretty much a crap shoot. Two sentences of text would have probably made it crystal clear. I'm glad I made "The Right Choice (c) 2014."

Step 8
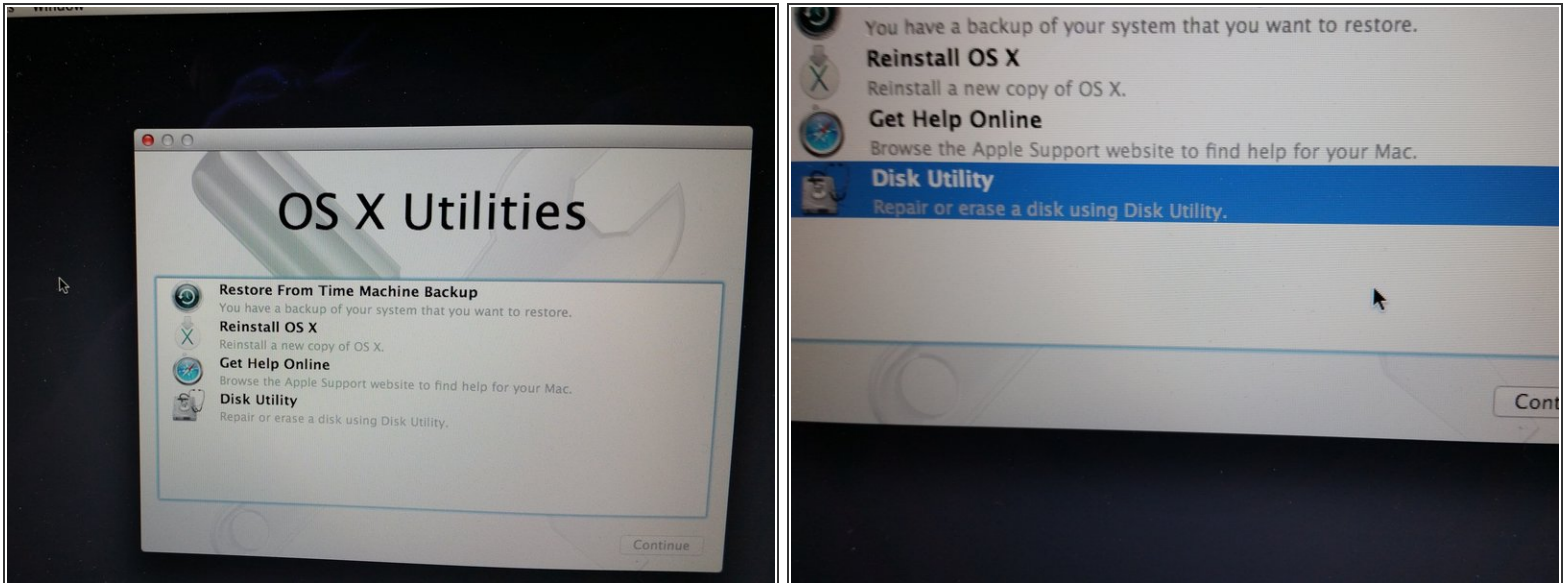
- This is what happened next. Disk Utility seemed like the most logical choice.

Step 9
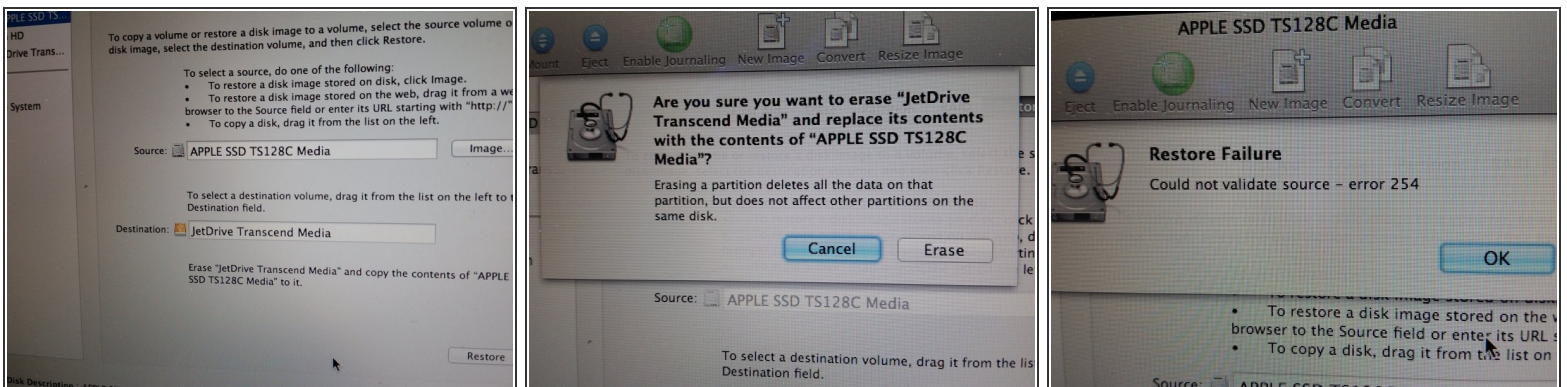
- So, now we're going to clone this drive. We enter a weird UX. Must click to fill in the source but have to drag to add the destination.

- Anyway, click the hardware old and drag the hardware new with great hope but in the interest of foreshadowing, I will let you know now that this will fail miserably.

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Step 10
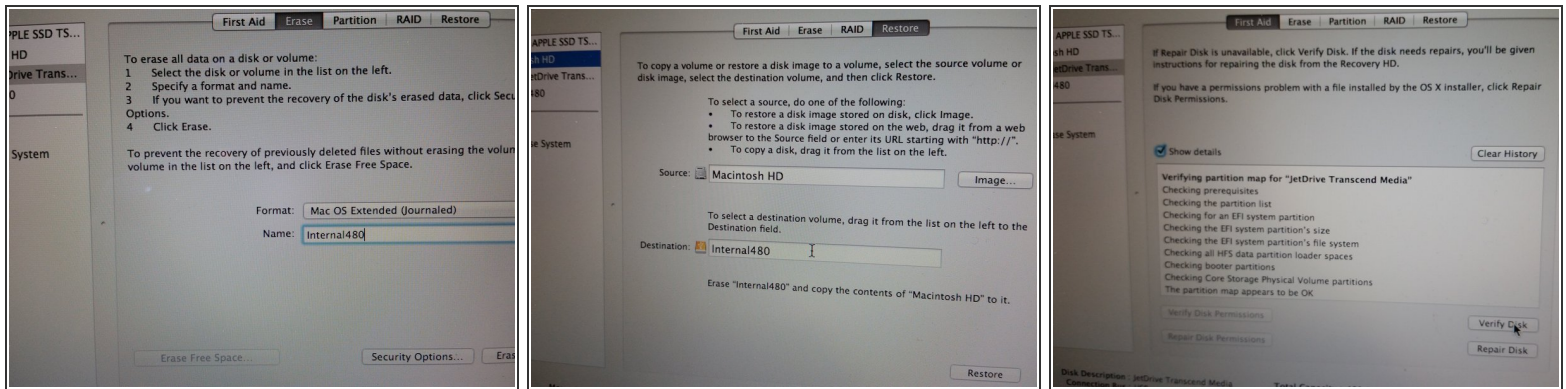
- Let's erase it. (google translate: "format")

- And then, let's try and clone it. This time though, we're going to choose what I believe is called a volume, rather than a device. The device being the stick of ram we just installed and a volume as the collection of files and metadata stored on it.

- Chkdsk never hurt anyone. In Mac parlance, "Verify disk" under "First Aid"

Step 11
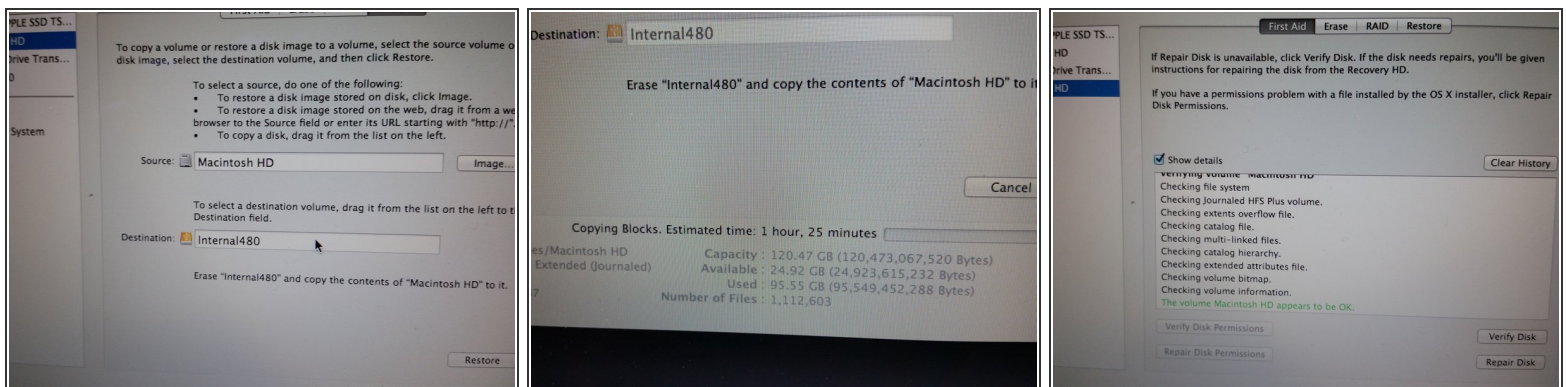
- We have successfully reached the point where we can clone our volume.

- It's going to take awhile. This is the perfect time to do something else for at least two hours. I decided to go to sleep. YMMV.

- After the cloning process finished. I verified the disk and it reported that things were super-duper, you betcha.

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Step 12

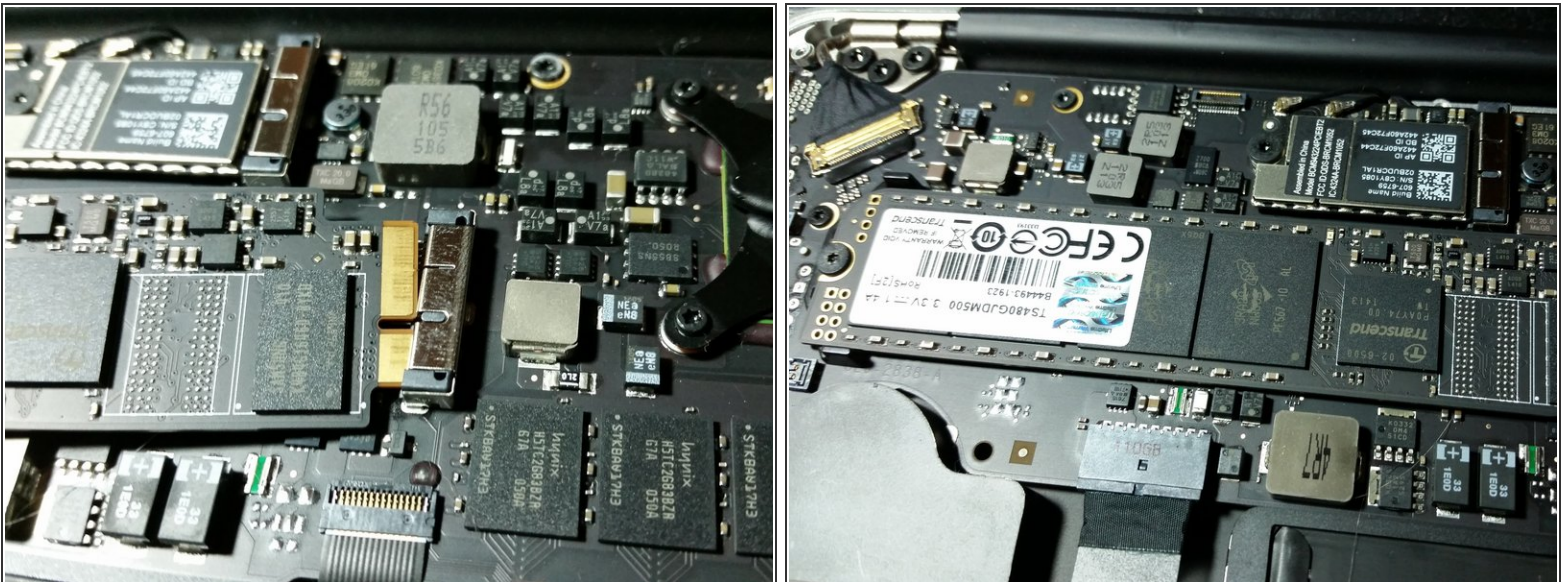- There are two long screws holding the back cover. Retain in your brain which ones they are.

Step 13

- A long screw and three short screws with a size comparison.

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Step 14

- A look at the internals. We are concerned with that orderly looking circuit board...held by a set screw.

Step 15

- Put in your monocle and make sure you are respecting the gap when you introduce the new memory module.

- Replace the black set screw.

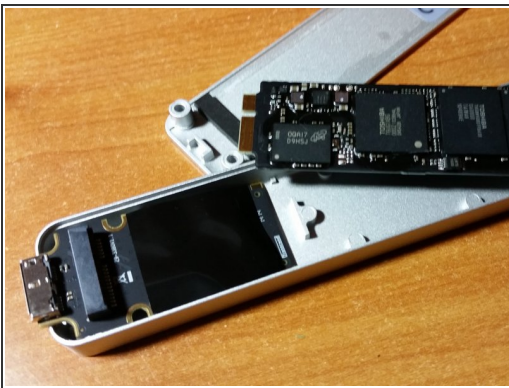This document was generated on 2019-09-20 01:09:06 PM (MST).

Step 16

- Gently re-introduce the rear plate. Add a screw to each location. It is recommended to fasten each screw a bit at a time, so that each screw can best contribute to the case's tensor integrity.

Step 17

- Let's put the old drive in this neat new case!

- The purpose was unclear for the black rubber piece with an adhesive backing. I attached it to the top of drive case. It seems to hold the memory stick snug in the case.
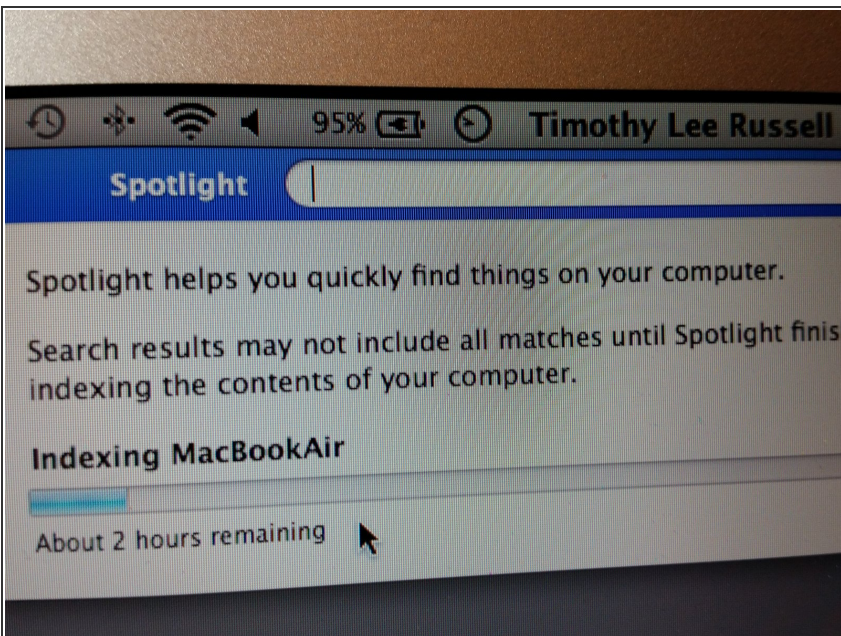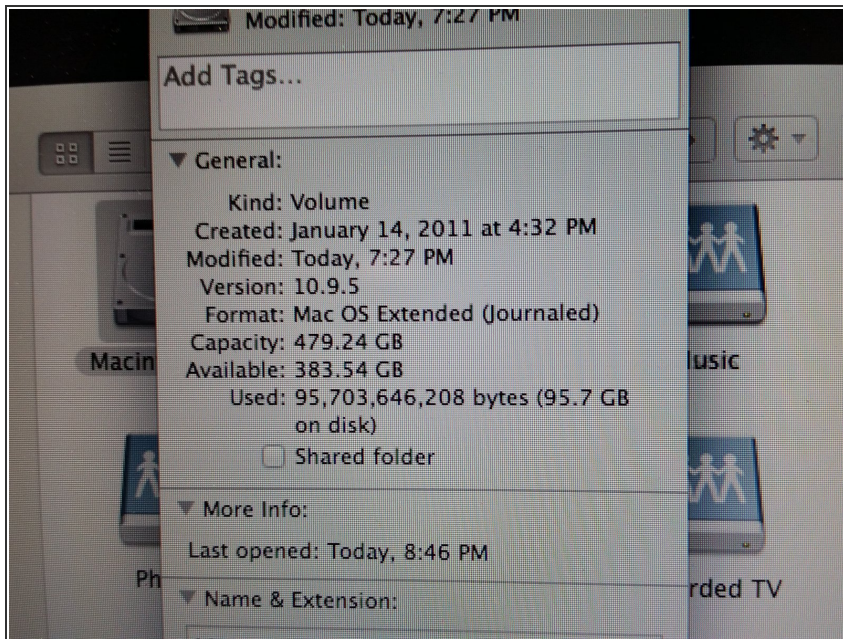
Step 18

● I guess you could use the case to hold on to the screwdriver set. You know, for the apocalypse.
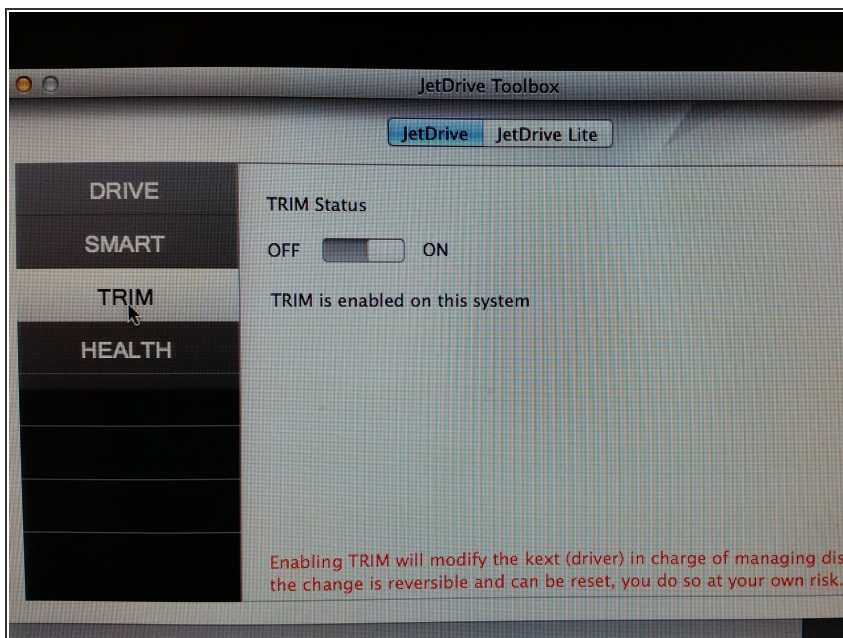
Step 19

● For whatever reason, making a clone seems to wipe out the index so it's going to churn on Spotlight for awhile.

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Step 20

- At the end though, you're likely to have a bit more disk space. 383 GB, in my case.

- Good luck!

Step 21

- Download the JetDrive Toolbox from Transcend's website.

- Install it and make sure you turn TRIM on. This will make your drive harder, better, faster, stronger.

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