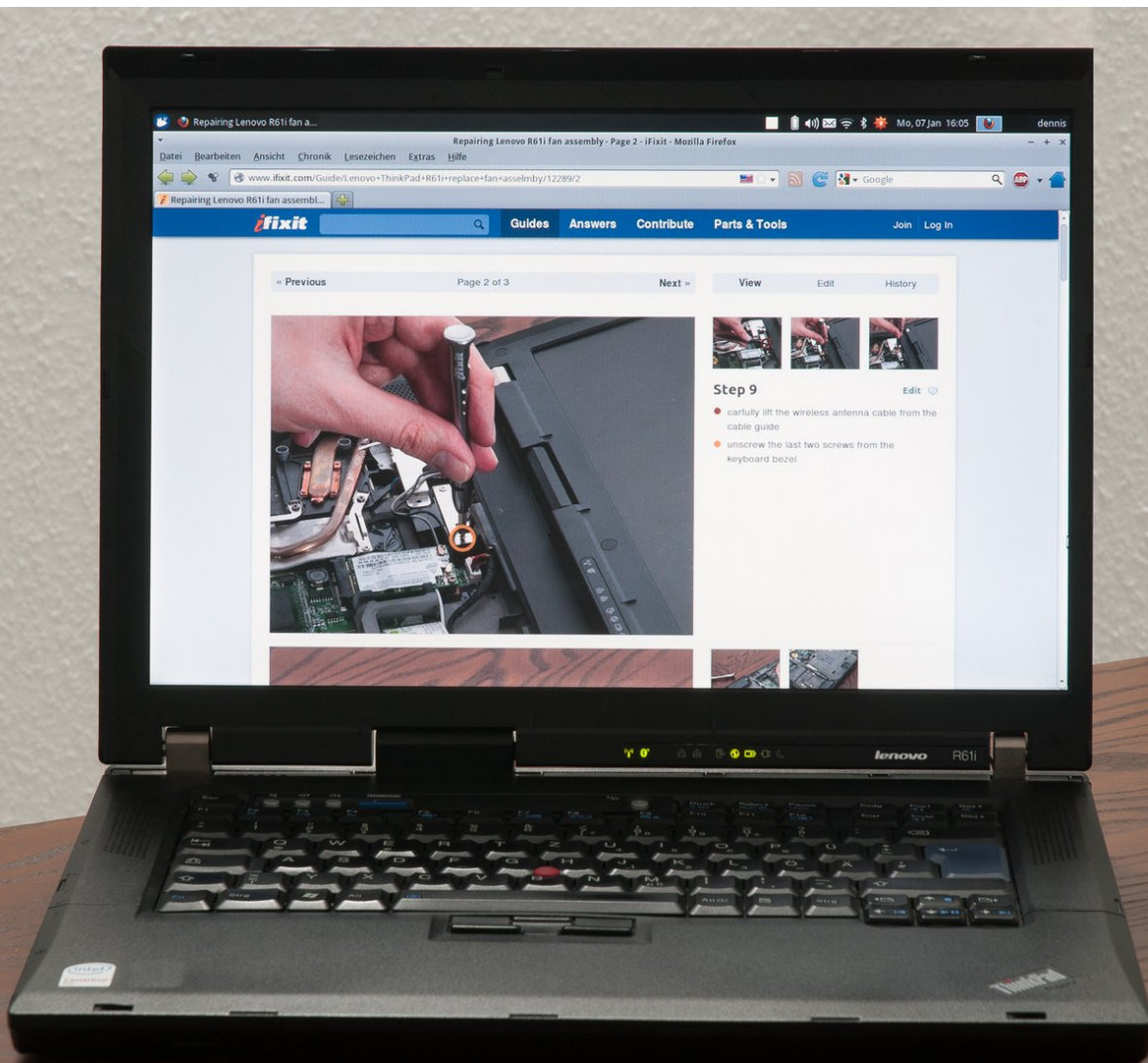




Repairing Lenovo R61i fan assembly replacement or cleaning

If your ThinkPad get's noisy, it might help to swap the fan assembly.

Written By: Dennis

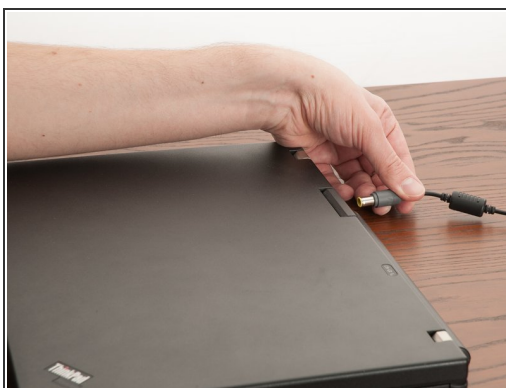




TOOLS:

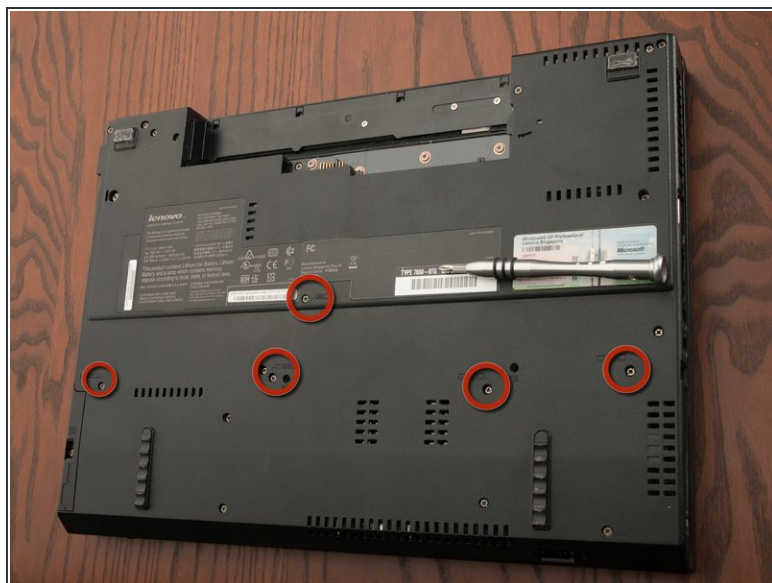
- [Dust Blower](#) (1)
- [High Content Rubbing Alcohol](#) (1)
- [Metal Spudger](#) (1)
- [Phillips #1 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver ArctiClean](#) (1)

Step 1 — fan assembly



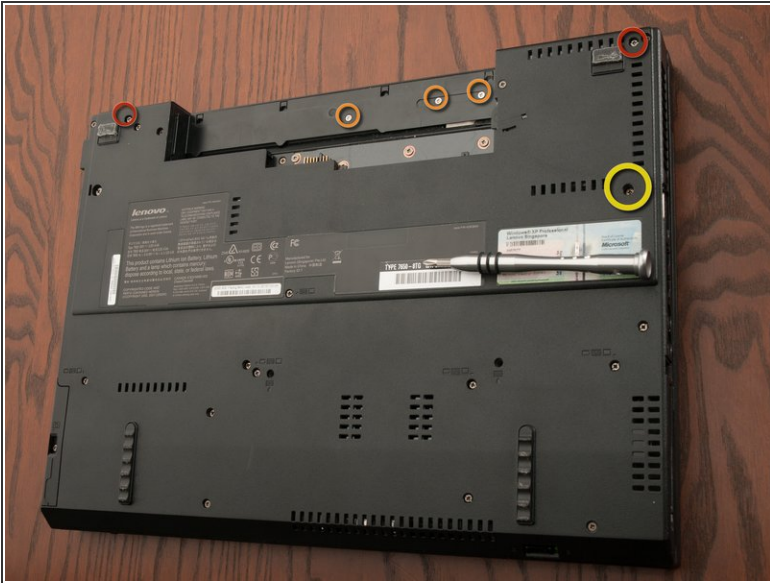
- identify the exact type of your ThinkPad
- get the right fan assembly, in this case FRU P/N: 42W2779
- disconnect power-supply
- detach battery

Step 2



- find all five screws with the shown symbols and unscrew them

Step 3



- unscrew all the shown screws
- These ones are tiny
- ☑ watch the sizes of the screws

Step 4

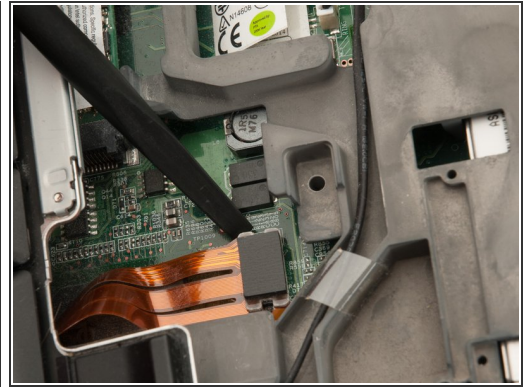
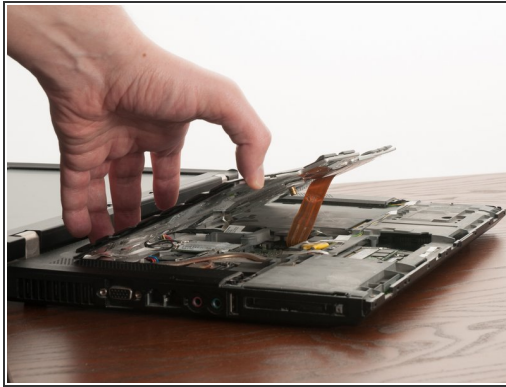


- remove the palm rest carefully

⚠ If you have a touchpad or fingerprint reader watch the cables

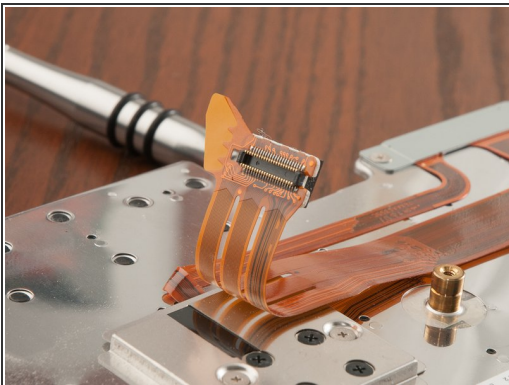
- blow the dust away

Step 5



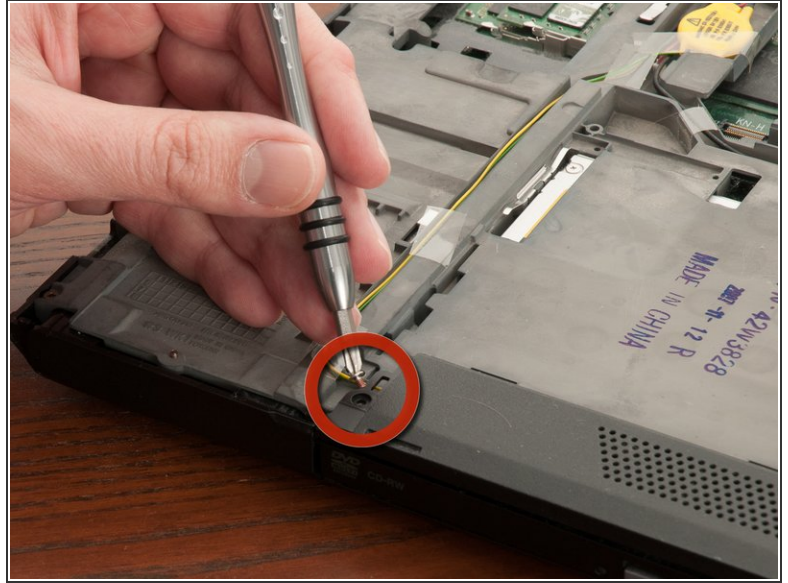
- lift the keyboard carefully
- ⚠ watch the cable
- Use a spudger to detach the cable
- lift the keyboard and leave it on the side

Step 6



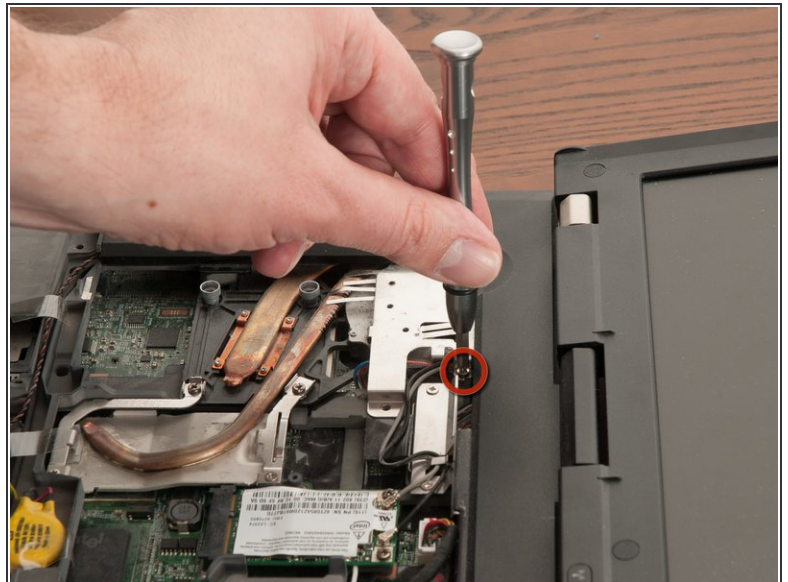
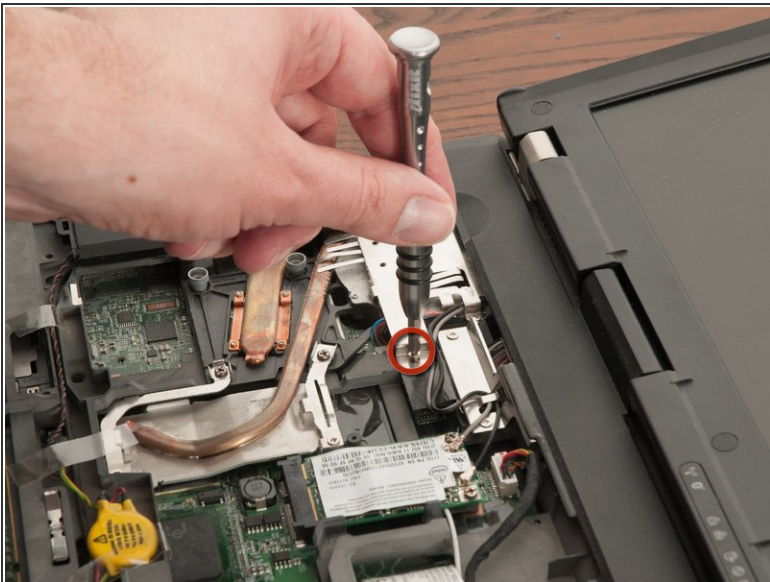
- ⓘ just for reference: images showing the keyboard-connector
- blow the dust away

Step 7



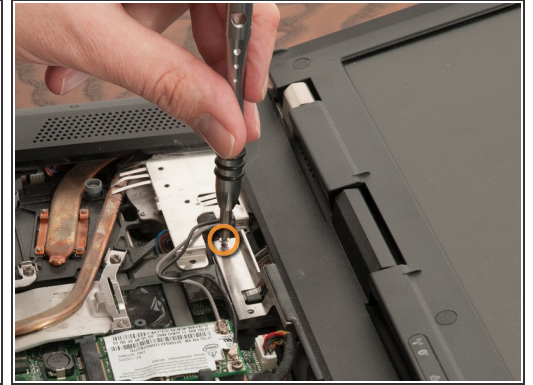
- unscrew the left and right screw of the keyboard bezel and speakers

Step 8



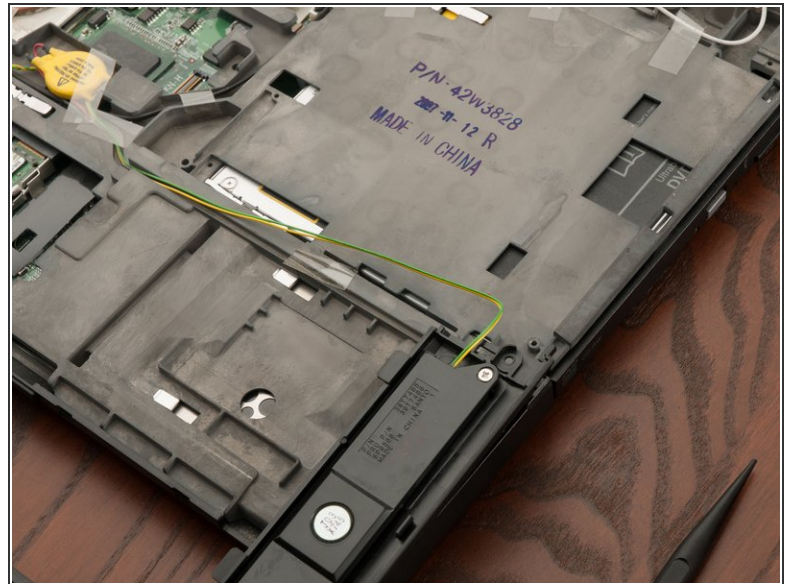
- unscrew the first two screws of the shielding

Step 9



- carefully lift the wireless antenna cable from the cable guide
- unscrew the last two screws from the keyboard bezel

Step 10

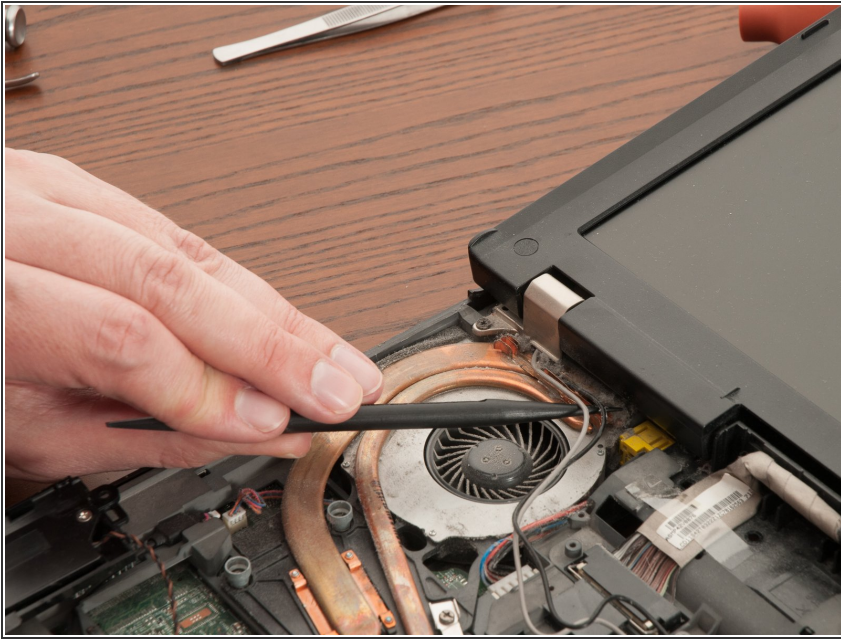


⚠ watch the claws of the bezel (Sorry, no image!)

- carefully pull out the keyboard bezel
- flip the bezel 180°

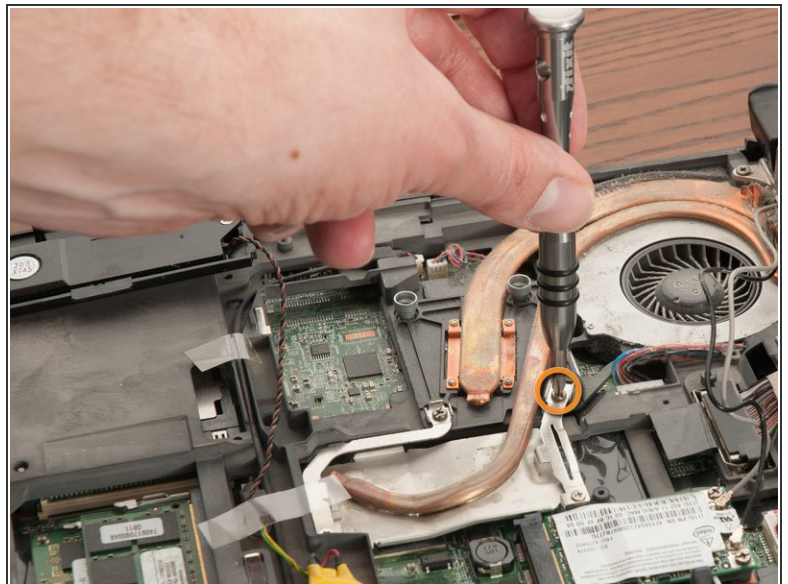
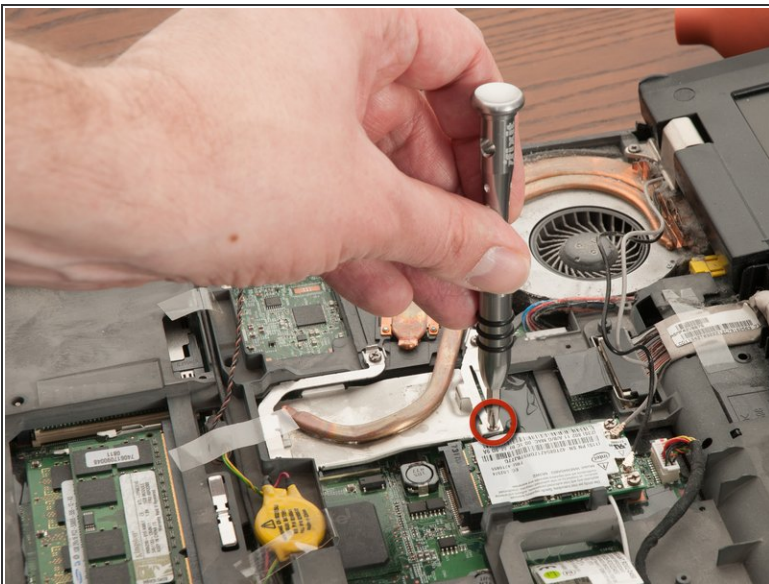
⚠ watch the cables

Step 11



- remove the wireless antenna cable from the cable guide of the fan assembly
- ⓘ you might want to use a metal spudger to widen the cable guide if necessary

Step 12



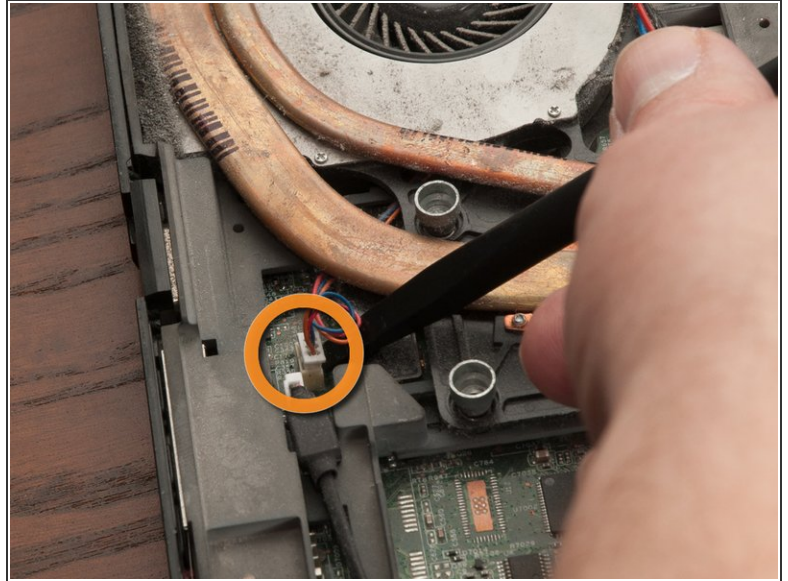
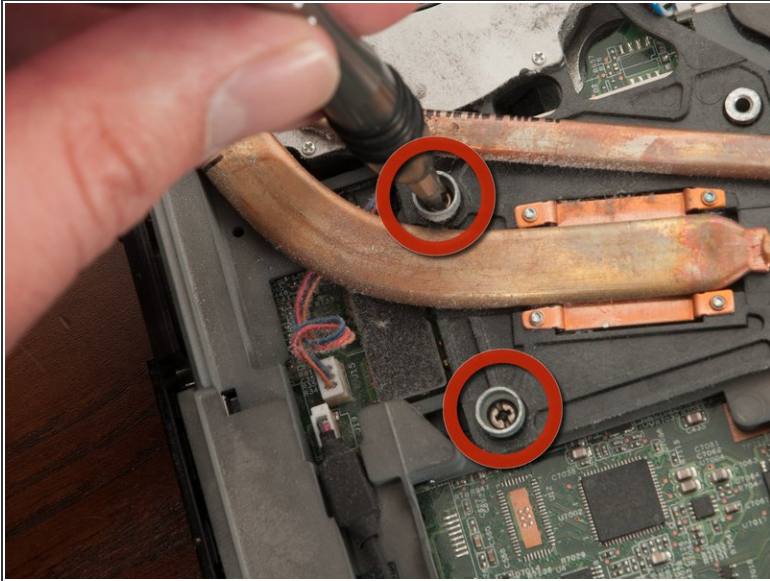
- unscrew the first, tiny screw of the clip
- unscrew the longer screw of the clip
- remove the clip

Step 13



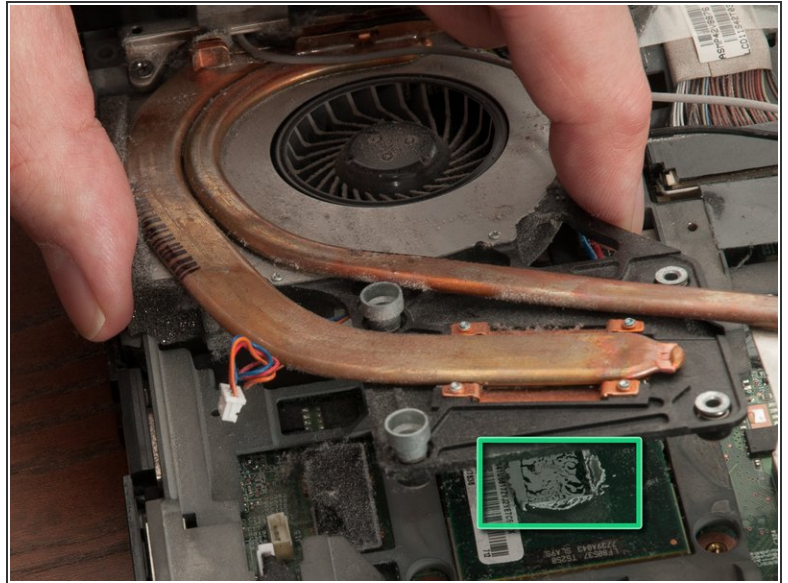
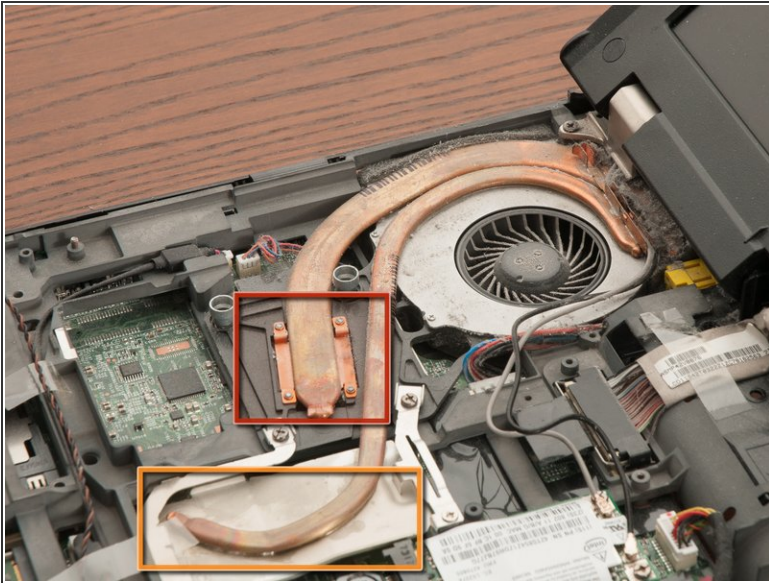
- remove the shorter screw of the second clip
- remove the longer screw of the second clip
- remove the clip

Step 14



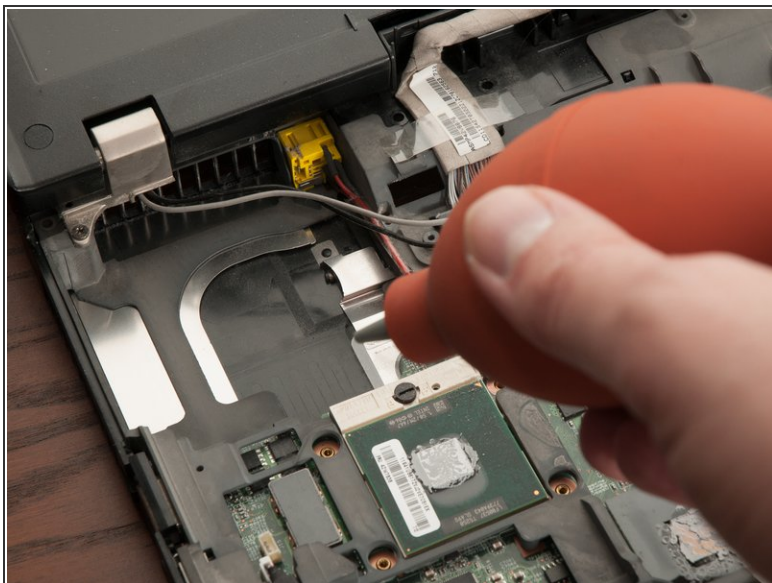
- remove the last two screws of the fan assembly
- detach the power cord with a spudger

Step 15



- CPU with thermal grease
- other chip with thermal grease
- carefully lift the fan assembly
- you may need to pull a little more because of the thermal grease

Step 16



- blow the dust away
- take a spudger and remove the old thermal grease

Step 17



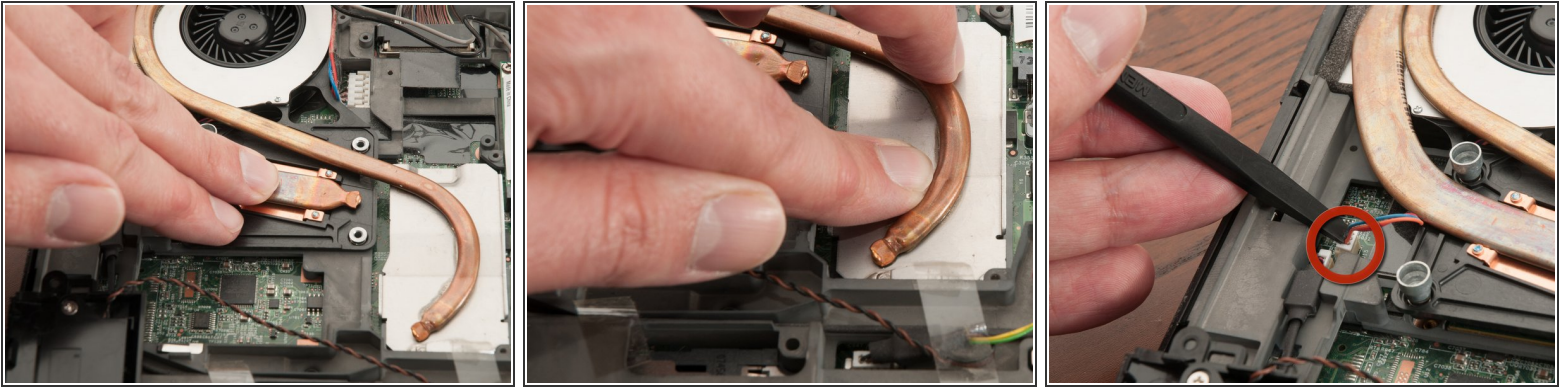
- get a paper-wiper
- wrap the wiper around the spudger

Step 18



- get some alcohol on the wiper
- clean the CPU with the wiper
- clean the chip with the wiper
- Ensure there is no old thermal grease left
- Follow this [guide to add new thermal paste](#) to the CPU.

Step 19



- now place the new fan assembly
- ⚠ pay attention to the thermal grease on the backside of your new fan assembly
- press down the CPU- and chip-connector
- don't forget to plugin the power cable of the fan assembly

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