



ThinkPad T420 Memory Replacement

Do you need more RAM in your Lenovo T420? This guide will show you how to access the memory.

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INTRODUCTION

If your Lenovo T420 is running slowly, complaining about memory usage or does not boot up correctly, the problem may be related to a faulty memory module. This guide will show you how to replace both memory modules in your system.

Note: If you need to access the factory memory module, the keyboard has to be removed. Keyboard removal is not required for the bottom module.

Guide notes

- Use of a matched pair of memory modules is recommended. Mixing and matching modules works, but may cause system instability. My mixed pair seems to work, but I've had two blue screens and I suspect this isn't the last time it'll happen (errors are not related to memory, but memory is suspect). If you mix and match modules, run Memtest 86+ for ~8 hours and test for stability.
- It is important that you do not lose the silver keyboard screw. The RAM door screw also holds the keyboard in, so this isn't the end of the world. However, your keyboard be noticeably loose.

TOOLS:

- [64 Bit Driver Kit \(1\)](#)

If you want to skip the magnetic project mat, the sorting tray in the top of the 64-bit driver case will work.

- [iFixit Opening Tools \(1\)](#)
- [Magnetic Project Mat \(1\)](#)

Optional - Not required, but suggested for screw management.

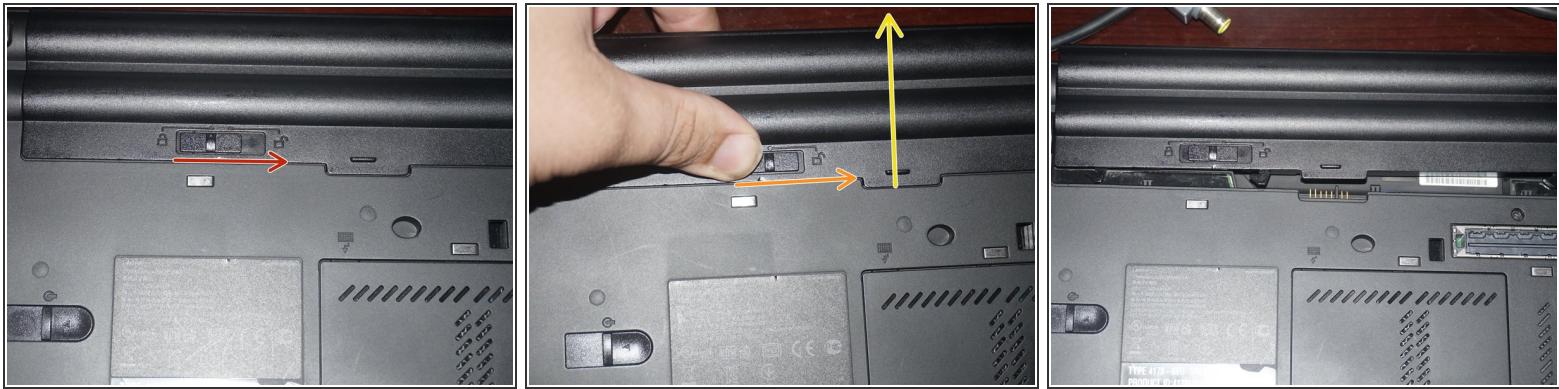
PARTS:

- [8GB PC3-1600 \(2x 4GB pair\) \(1\)](#)
Standard 1.5V memory. Guaranteed to work.

- [16GB PC3L-1600 \(2x8GB\) \(1\)](#)
While this is DDR3L memory, it is backwards compatible with 1.5V compatible systems.

- [4GB PC3-10600 \(Single stick\) \(1\)](#)
Only included for users who do not want to remove the keyboard and are only installing 8GB of RAM. Lenovo FRU: 55Y3717

Step 1 — Remove the battery



- Remove the battery from the system. To do this, push the locking tab into the unlocked position.
- Once the battery is unlocked, hold the locking tab in the unlocked position and pull the battery out.

Step 2 — Accessing the lower memory module



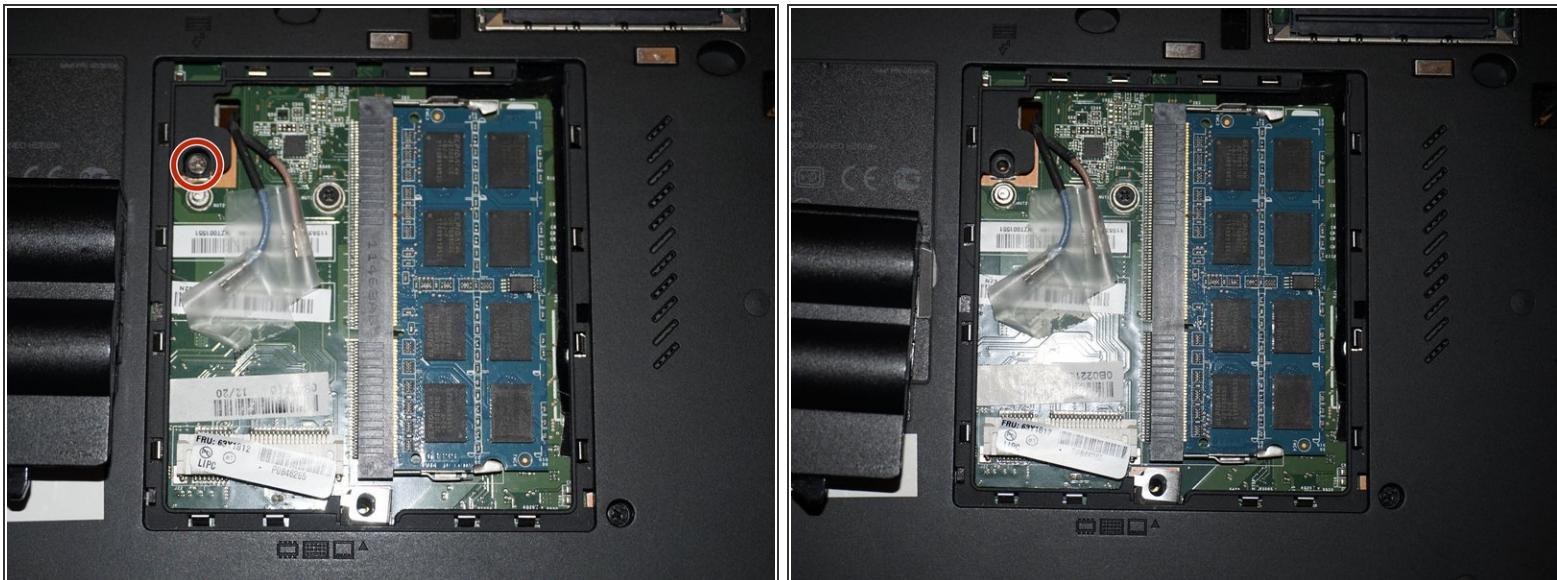
- To remove the bottom memory module, open the memory door. To do this, use a **Phillips #0** screwdriver.

Step 3 — Remove the bottom memory module



- With the bottom RAM door removed, release the bottom memory module. To do this, push both locking tabs back and the module should pop up for removal.

Step 4 — Accessing the top memory module



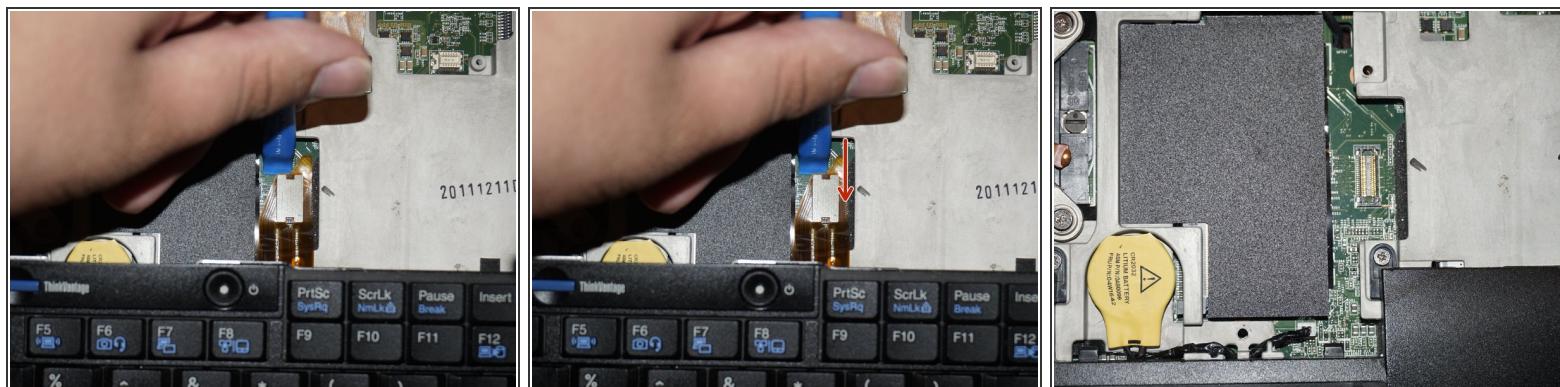
- To access the memory module under the keyboard, remove the silver screw that holds the keyboard in.

Step 5 — Remove the keyboard



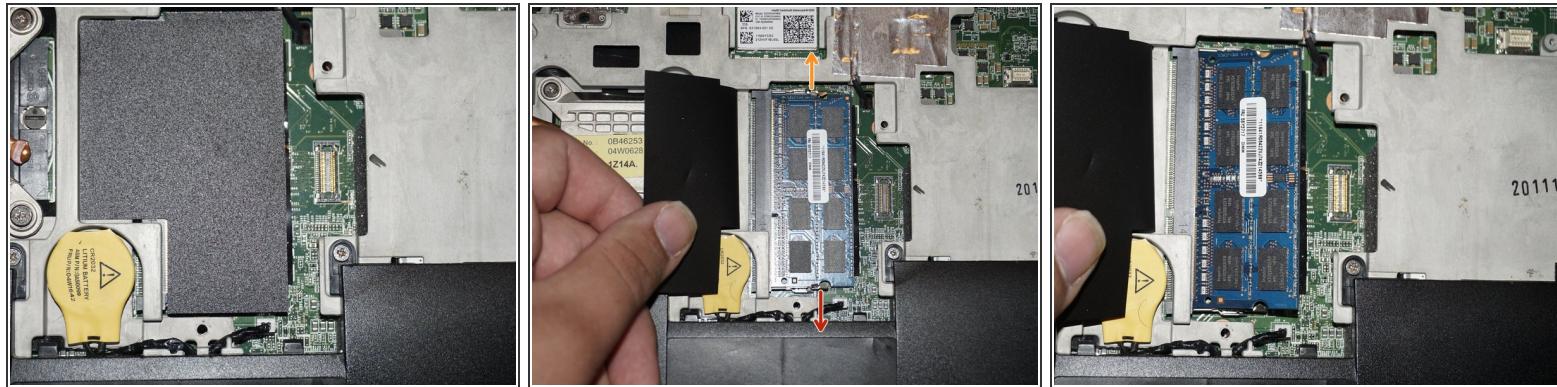
- To remove the keyboard, push up from the bottom first. Once the bottom is released and the metal tabs are all released, use a plastic pry tool to lift the keyboard up.

Step 6 — Disconnect the keyboard



- Once the keyboard is removed, disconnect the cable that connects it to the motherboard. To do this, use a plastic pry tool.

Step 7 — Remove the top RAM module



- To remove the top RAM module, follow the removal procedure from the bottom memory module.

Step 8 — Keyboard reinstallation



(i) This step only applies if you accessed the top module under the keyboard. If you did not remove it, you can skip this step.

- To reinstall the keyboard, push the top of the keyboard in first. Once the top is pushed in, push the bottom of the keyboard down and pull it down to lock it in. Screw the keyboard back in when finished.

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