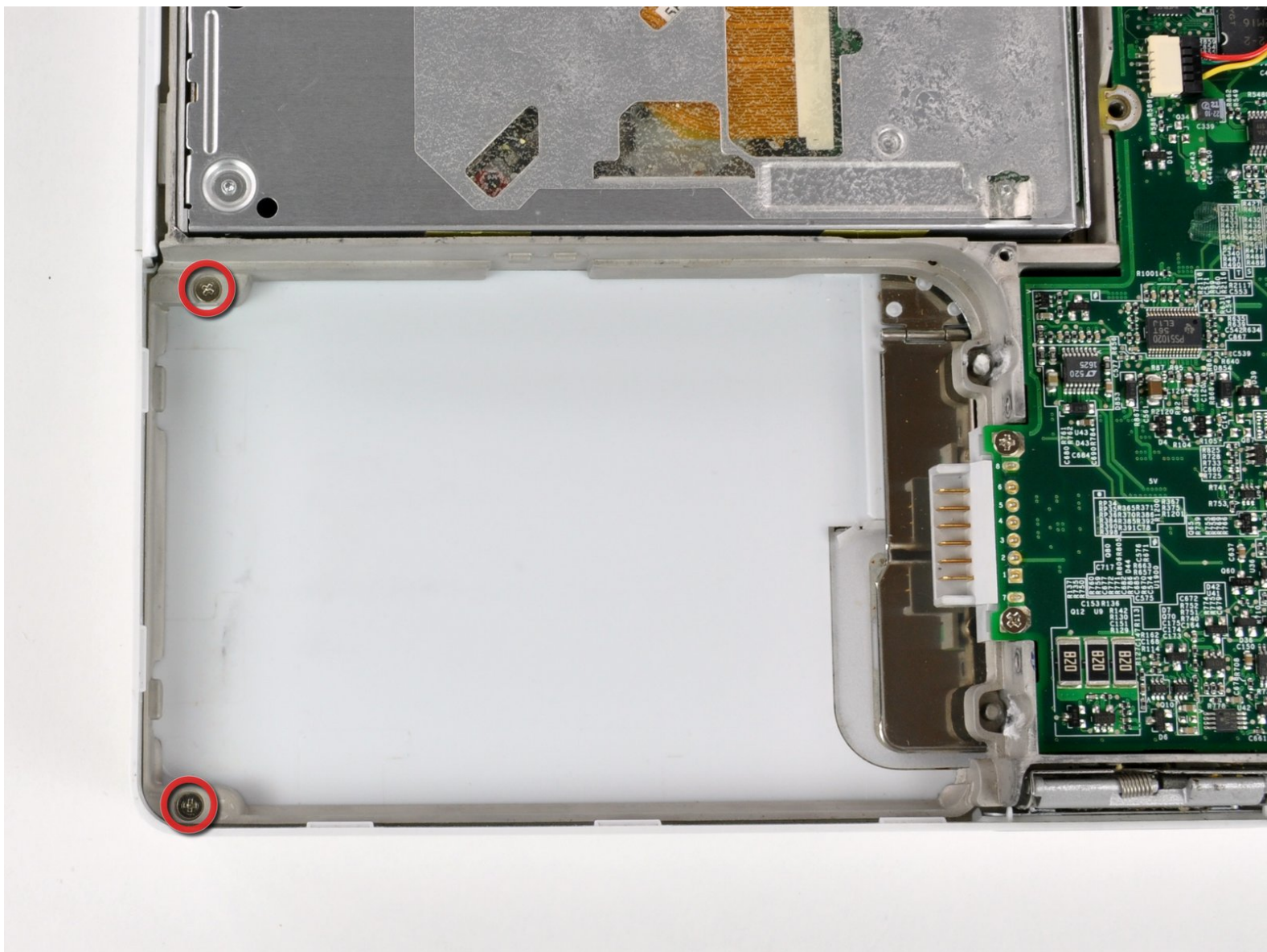




iBook G4 12" 1.33 GHz Upper Case Replacement

Written By: Walter Galan



INTRODUCTION

Changing the top case will also give you a new trackpad.



TOOLS:

- [Coin](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Flathead 3/32" or 2.5 mm Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [T8 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [iBook G4 12" 1.33 GHz Upper Case](#) (1)

Step 1 — Battery



- Lay your iBook upside down on a flat surface.
- Use a coin to rotate the battery locking screw 90 degrees clockwise.
- Lift the battery out of the computer.

Step 2 — Keyboard



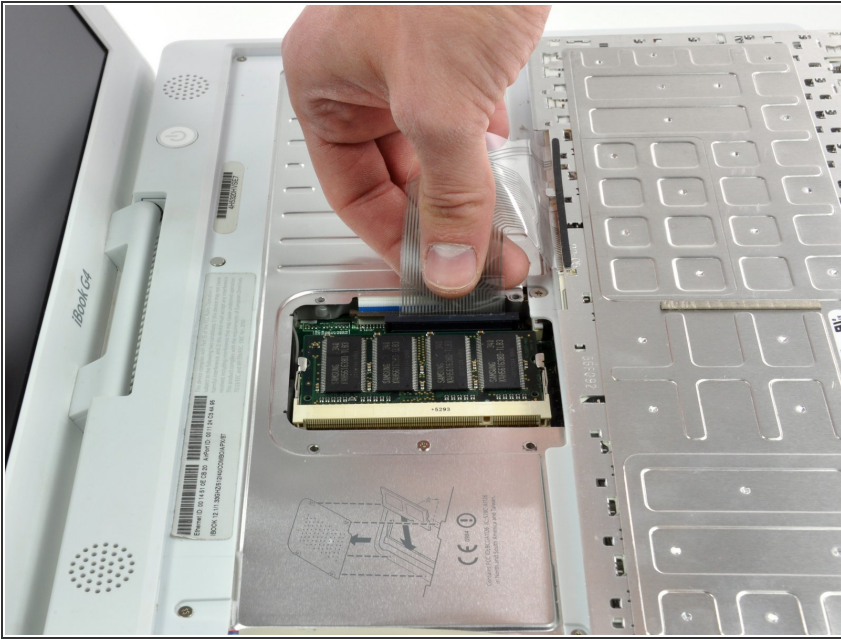
- Pull the keyboard release tabs toward you and lift up on the keyboard until it pops free.
- ❗ If the keyboard does not come free, use a small flathead screwdriver to turn the keyboard locking screw 180 degrees in either direction and try again.
- Flip the keyboard over, away from the screen, and rest it face-down on the trackpad area.

Step 3



- Remove the four silver Phillips screws that secure the RAM shield.

Step 4



- Pull the keyboard cable up from the logic board, holding the cable as close to the connector as possible.
- ★ Make sure that you reconnect the keyboard cable before replacing the RAM shield.

Step 5 — Lower Case



- Use a spudger or small flathead screwdriver to remove the three rubber feet from the lower case.

Step 6



- Remove the three newly-revealed Phillips screws.

Step 7



- Use a spudger or small flathead screwdriver to pry up the three metal rings that housed the rubber bumpers.

Step 8



- Remove the three hex screws using a T8 Torx screwdriver.

★ The shorter screw is in the center of the computer.

Step 9



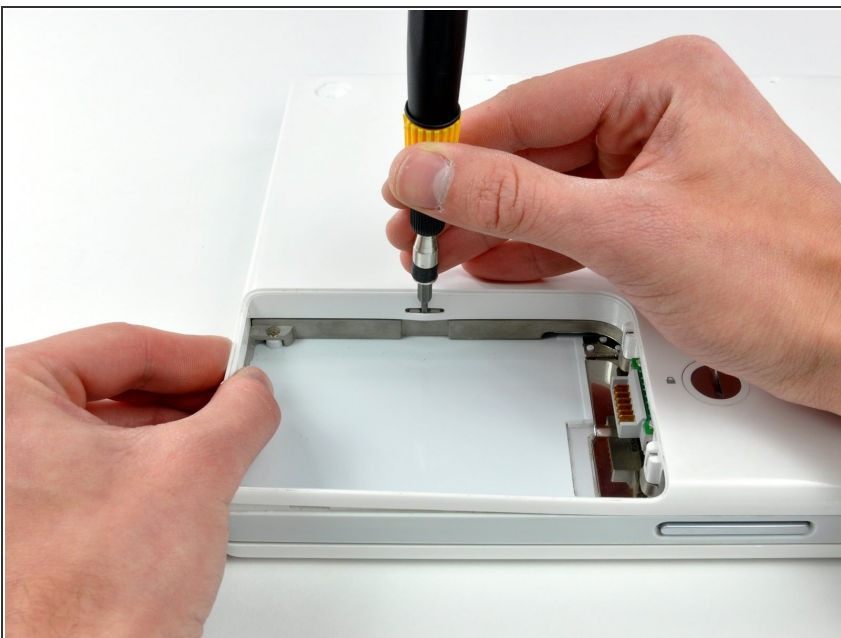
- Remove the two 4.5 mm Phillips screws on either sides of the battery contacts.

Step 10



- ❗ Breathe deeply. Trying times are ahead, but we promise the lower case does come off.
- Push the thin rims of the lower case surrounding the battery compartment in, bending them past the tabs, and then lift up to free that corner of the lower case.

Step 11



- There is a slot on the wall of the battery compartment that locks the lower case in place. Use a small flathead screwdriver to pry out the slot's lower rim and pull up on the lower case to free the slot from the tabs holding it.

Step 12



- Run a spudger along the seam between the lower case and upper case on the front of the computer to free the tabs locking the lower case. Pull up on the lower case and continue to use the spudger as necessary until you hear three distinct clicks.

Step 13



- Continue to run the spudger around the front right corner. There are two tabs on the port side of the computer, one near the front corner and one near the sound-out port.

Step 14



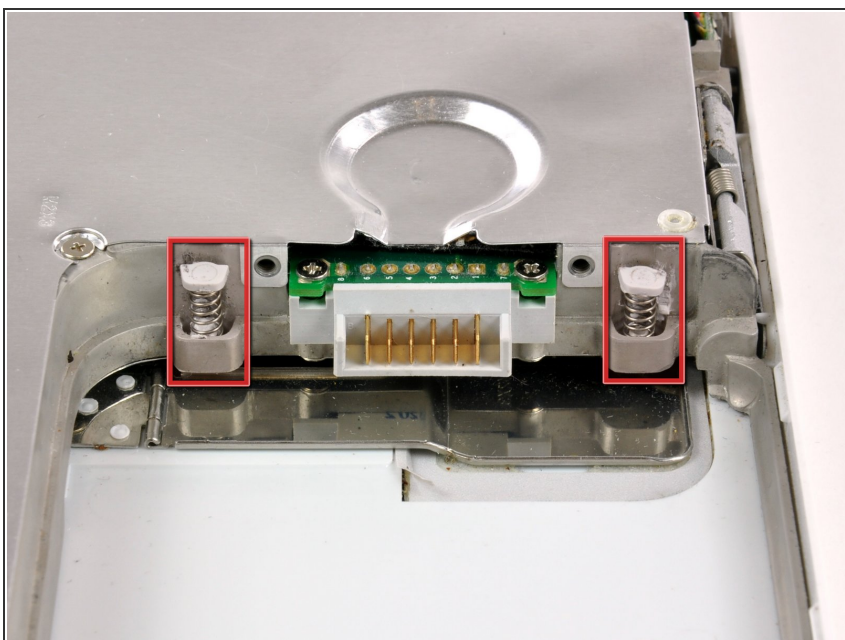
- There are three tabs over the optical drive that must be released before the lower case can come off. Slide the spudger into the lower case above the optical drive and run it toward the back of the computer until you hear three distinct clicks.

Step 15



- i The front and sides of the lower case are now free.
- Turn the computer so that the back is facing you and pull the lower case up and toward you until the back tabs pop free.
- ★ It may be helpful to jiggle the case up and down.

Step 16



- Remove the small greasy springs with white plastic caps from either side of the battery contacts.

Step 17



- Have patience and follow the directions, the end result is up to you. In my case it worked. But I was a Technician TRW Automotive. and worked on Air Bag modules that was returned from customer's that needed them analyzed. I just retired after 26 years.

Step 18 — Bottom Shield



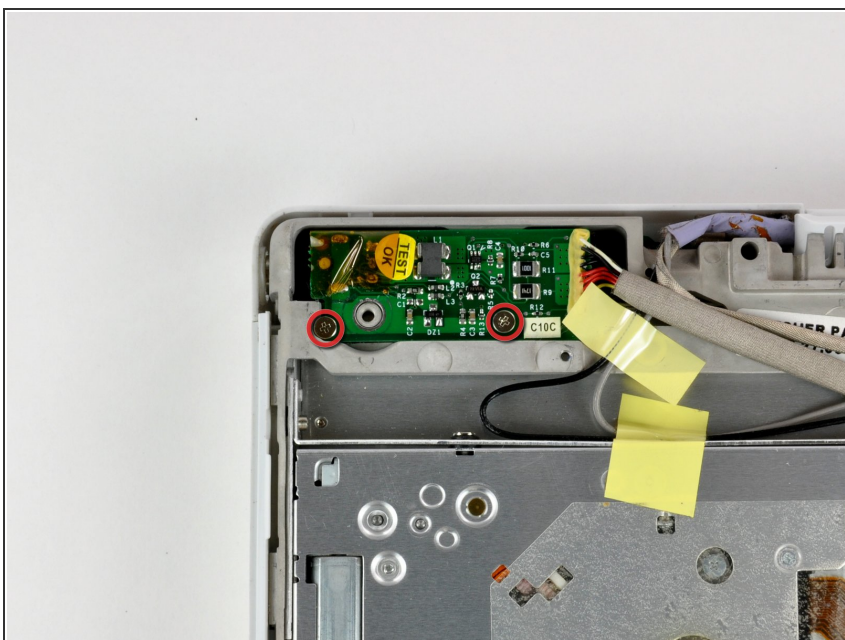
- Remove the following 4 screws from the bottom shield:
 - Two 3 mm Phillips.
 - Two 7.5 mm Phillips.

Step 19



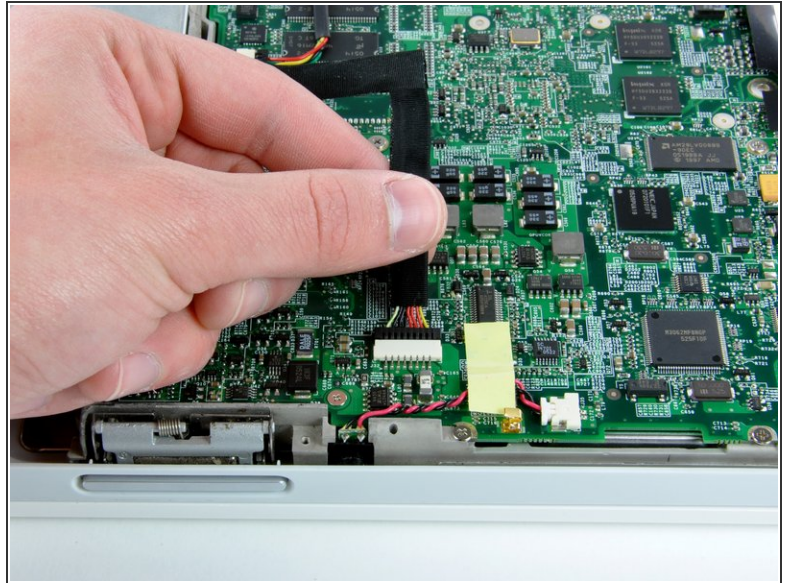
- Lift the bottom shield off.

Step 20 — DC-In Board



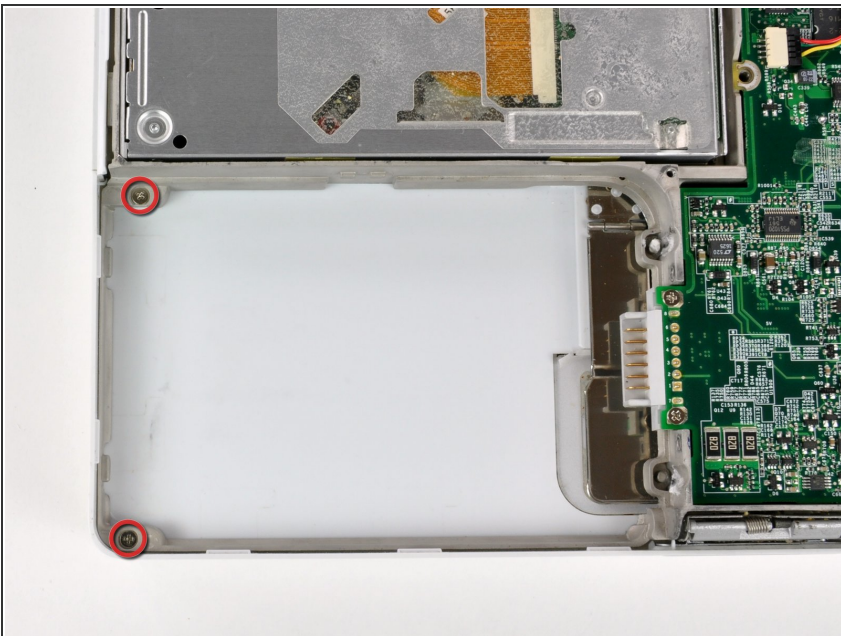
- Remove the two Phillips screws securing the DC-In board, removing tape as necessary.

Step 21



- Deroute the cable from around the optical drive, removing tape as necessary.
- Disconnect the DC-In cable from the logic board and angle the DC-In board out of its compartment.

Step 22 — Upper Case



- Remove the two 3 mm Phillips screws inside the left edge of the battery tray.
- Three 3 mm Phillips around the battery compartment.
- Three 4.5 mm Phillips along the optical drive bezel. (a magnetic screwdriver may help to lift these screws out)
- One 12 mm Phillips in the lower right corner.

- Four 14.5 mm Phillips.

Step 23



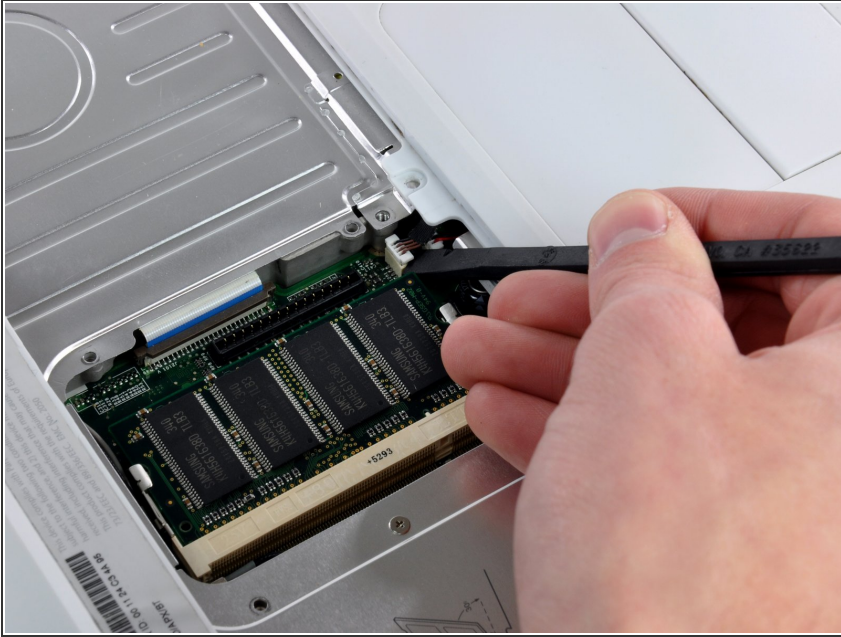
- ⓘ We recommend placing the computer on a soft cloth from this point on to prevent damaging the logic board.
- Turn over the computer and open it.
- Use the flat side of a flathead screwdriver to remove the small magnet covering a screw near the middle of the computer.
- ☑ The shorter screw goes in the lower left corner.

Step 24



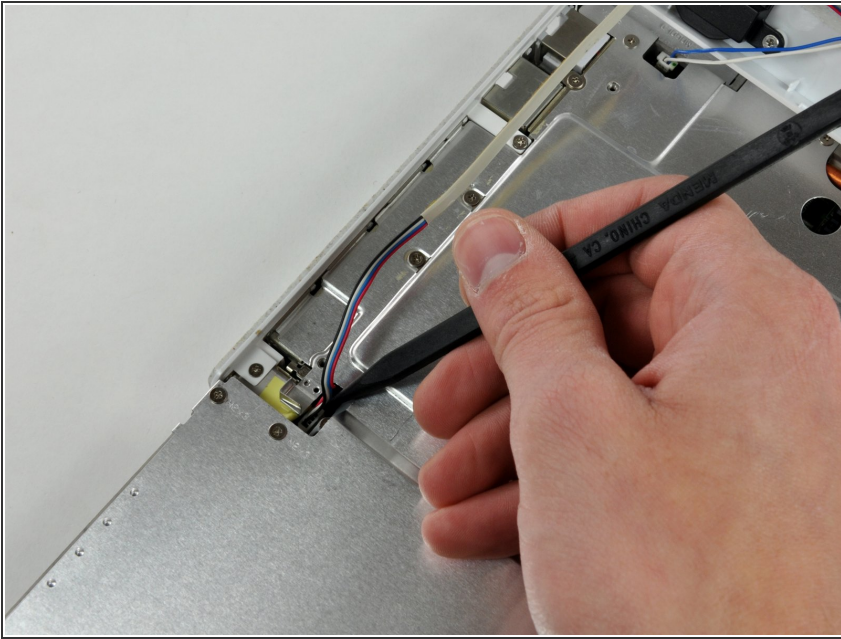
- Remove the following 7 screws from the edges of the keyboard area.
- Three 2 mm Phillips along the right edge.
- One 4.5 mm Phillips underneath where the magnet was.
- One 6 mm Phillips with a small head in the lower left corner.
- Two 6 mm Phillips with large heads, one in the upper left corner and one in the middle.

Step 25



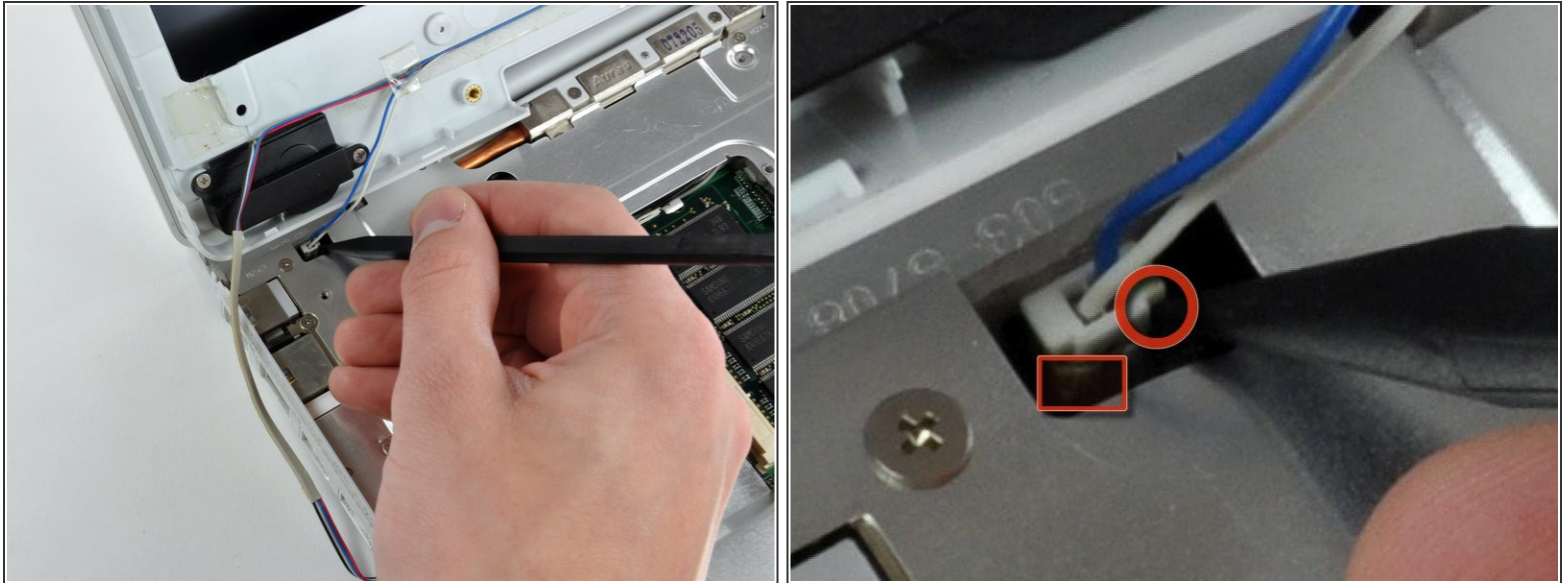
- ❗ Before you can yank the upper case off, you must disconnect the trackpad connector, the blue and white power cable, and speaker cable as described in the next steps. Be especially careful with these cables; never pull directly on the cables, but use a spudger to pry up the connector directly.
- Carefully lift the upper case slightly and move it toward the front of the computer to reveal the trackpad connector. Use a spudger or your finger to disconnect the trackpad connector hidden beneath the white plastic tab.
- After disconnecting the track pad connector, carefully rotate the upper case away from you and rest it against the display.

Step 26



- ⓘ The connectors at the ends of the following cables are attached very firmly to the sockets on the logic board. Pulling directly on the cable will either separate the cable from its connector or the socket from the logic board.
- Use the sharp end of a spudger to disconnect the speaker cable connector.

Step 27



- Using the sharp end of a spudger, disconnect the connector for the blue and white power cables. Again, be careful to pry up only on the connector.

 It is very easy to break the connector from the board, so be careful.

 The key is to apply force in two directions, down to keep the surface board connections intact, up to release the connector.

- The upper case is now free and can be removed from the computer.

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