



iMac Intel 21.5" EMC 2544 Replaced the Stock Hard Drive for a Samsung 840 Pro SSD

This guide will show the steps that I took to replace the hard drive in my new iMac with a solid state drive.

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INTRODUCTION

An official iFixit version of this guide now exists. Follow our [Hard Drive Replacement](#) guide for the detailed procedure.

In doing alot of research on the web about the new iMac 21.5. I am super impressed with the little machine for the base price of \$1299.00. However, where they went wrong was the hard drive. Doing about every google search out there, and having to listen to the Apple techs say leave it alone, leave it to a professional is just redicoulous. This guide is a walk through of what I did, how I did it, and how easy it is to upgrade your new iMac. Hope you enjoy!



TOOLS:

- [iMac Intel 21.5" \(2012-2017\) Adhesive Strips](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Samsung 840 Pro 256G SSD 2.5 laptop drive](#) (1)

Step 1 — Replace the Stock Hard Drive for a Samsung 840 Pro SSD



- Here is my iMac, basically if you have done the research, and are about to jump into this project you already know that you open it by taking the guitar pick, or the little ifixit tool that comes with the new adhesive kit. To be honest the tool from ifixit worked great!

Step 2



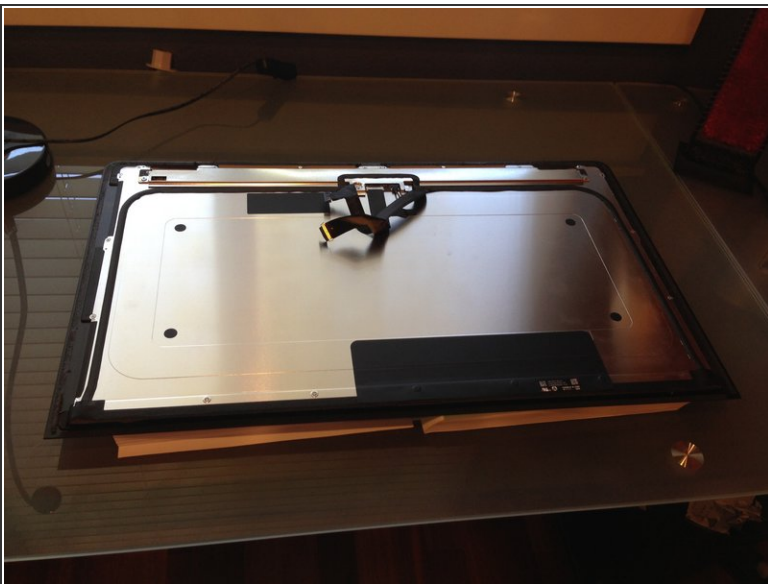
- Sorry no pics of opening the machine, but its pretty self explanatory. Use the ifixit tool, and go around the edges. Once you can roll it around the edge with out drag, slowly start prying up the screen this where I used a guitar pick. Remove the two display cables from the screen. There is the hard drive we so desperately want to replace.

Step 3



- Next take the screen and set it out of the way. I put it on two books, my school books. To be honest the screen it self is delicate, but its just like handling a piece of glass. So DONT FREAK OUT it will be fine:)

Step 4



- Next start removing the old adhesive, this goes really smoothing because of the age of the glue. Doing this five years down the road might be different story. I used the little ifixit tool to help start peeling the strips. Remember you cut the tape so you will have to peel it off the computer and the screen. Takes about 10 mins or so...

Step 5



- Next lets remove the hard drive, now remember to ground yourself. I did that buy constantly touching the metal on the iMac. There are only four screws and two clips. I had a little trouble with one of the clips, but remember just take it slow, and work the clip out.

Step 6



- Once you have the 4 screws out, and the two clips off. Remove the rubber holder and replace it with your new AMAZING samsung 840 pro. The rubber piece has a little adhesive left on it, I used this to glue it to the sides of the new drive. Next connect the clips, put the two plastic plates back on and screw them down.

Step 7



- Once the drive is in place, and the old tape is removed, start installing the new tape. This kit from iFixit is fabulous. Its two sided with tabs to pull off the covering. At this point I pulled the tabs off once side only, and placed them on the computer side NOT THE SCREEN SIDE.

Step 8



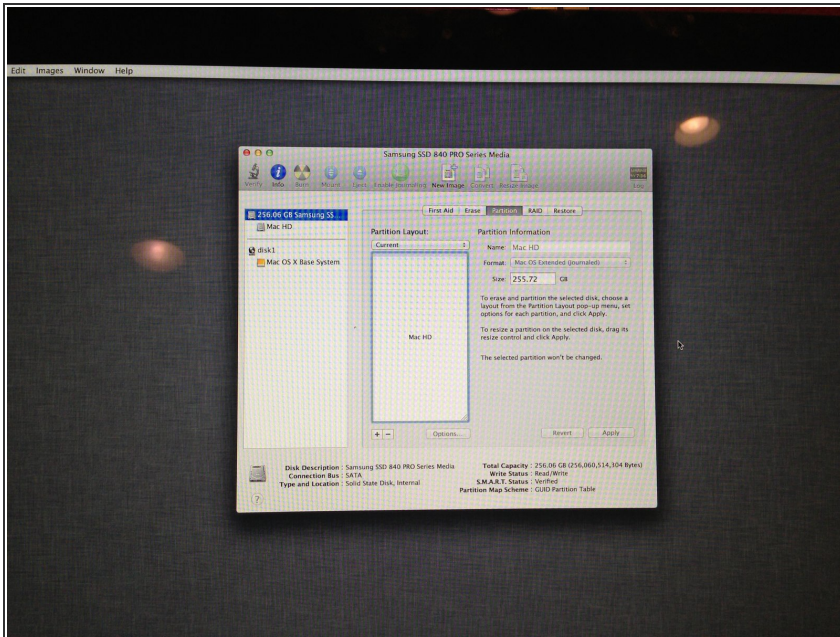
- Once you have replaced all the strips, set the screen back into place.

Step 9



- You can see the tabs sticking out at this point. That is because I chose to tilt the monitor all the way back and leave the screen floating while setting up the new drive in case of failure. When you do this the screen should stay, it did for me. Although, I did not let it out of my sight, nor was I less than a foot away.

Step 10



- Once you have started the computer up and held command R it will take you to the start up manager. Partition the new drive. I just did 1 partition and named it Mac HD.

Step 11



- Heres where it got weird for me. I backed up my computer with time machine, so I was hoping just to load it from my back up and be done...WRONG. For some weird reason it doesn't like that. It kept giving me strange errors, and I went through this process like three times. Long story short this is how I got it to work. Reinstall a brand new OSX.

Step 12



- Once OSX has installed go through the normal process of creating a new account. Once all the way through the installation process. Use migration to connect your time capsule, or whatever you used as a back up, and migrate over your previous account. Once complete go into your system preferences and delete the other user.

Step 13



- Your done!! Except like before, lay your screen back down, take it off, peel the strips, and place the screen back into its home. Be careful, because the strips are strong and **ONCE IN PLACE THEY DO NOT MOVE!** Clean off your screen and enjoy your new extremely fast iMac 21.5. Check out the speeds on that one!

In conclusion, this was a pretty easy process, took all of about two hours, and wasn't scary at all. I chose not to upgrade to 16 gigs at the same time, because I did not feel it was necessary, or felt that it was worth the money at this point. I also did not want to take the whole computer apart. Second thought is that I really like how they glued the screen, because I did not have to worry about getting dust particles, or tape residue, or hair, or whatever stuck between the screen and the glass. For 20 dollars what great kit from ifixit, if you search for coupons you can even get 5 dollars off.

Please do this at your own risk, know what your getting into, and don't blame me for your mistakes, or things going wrong. Like I said if you take your time, work in a static free environment, and be patient it will work like a charm! Hope you enjoyed my guide!