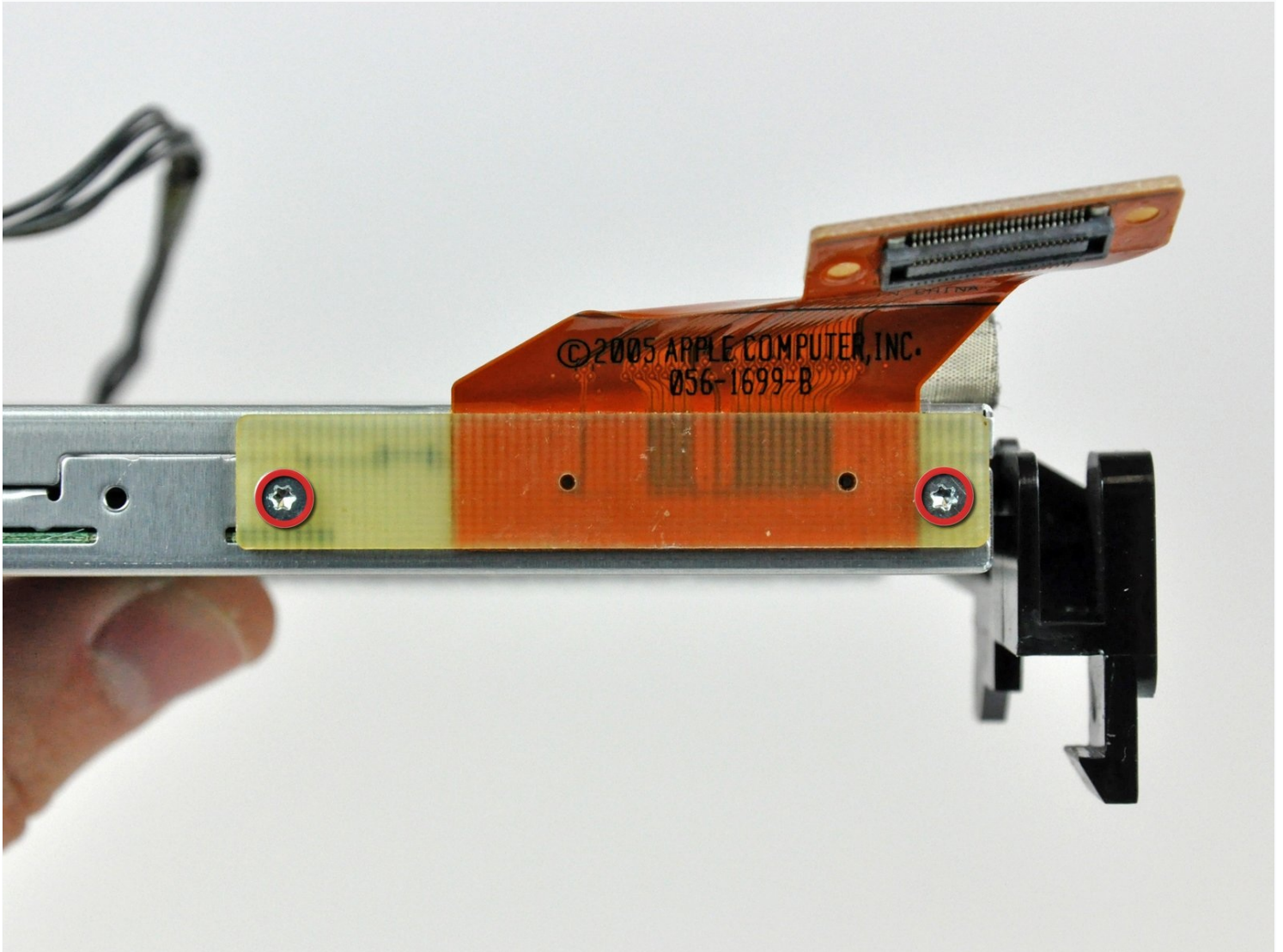# iMac G5 20" Model A1145 Optical Drive Replacement

Use this guide to replace a broken optical drive.

Written By: Andrew Bookholt

INTRODUCTION

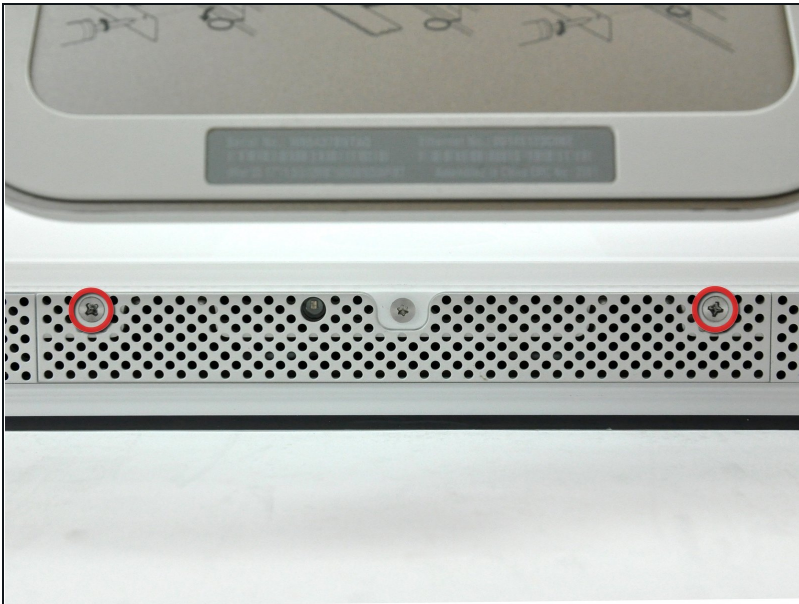Use this guide to replace a broken optical drive.

🔧 **TOOLS:**

Phillips #1 Screwdriver (1)
Plastic Cards (1)
TR10 Torx Security Screwdriver (1)
T6 Torx Screwdriver (1)
TR8 Torx Security Screwdriver (1)

⚙ **PARTS:**

12.7 mm PATA 8x SuperDrive (UJ-875) (1)

Step 1 — Access Door

- Orient the iMac face-side down on a table with the bottom edge facing yourself.

- Remove the two Phillips screws securing the access door to the bottom grille of your iMac.

- ⓘ The screws are captive in the access door.

- ⚠ **Before beginning the repair, unplug the computer and press and hold the power switch for 20-30 seconds, to discharge internal capacitors.**
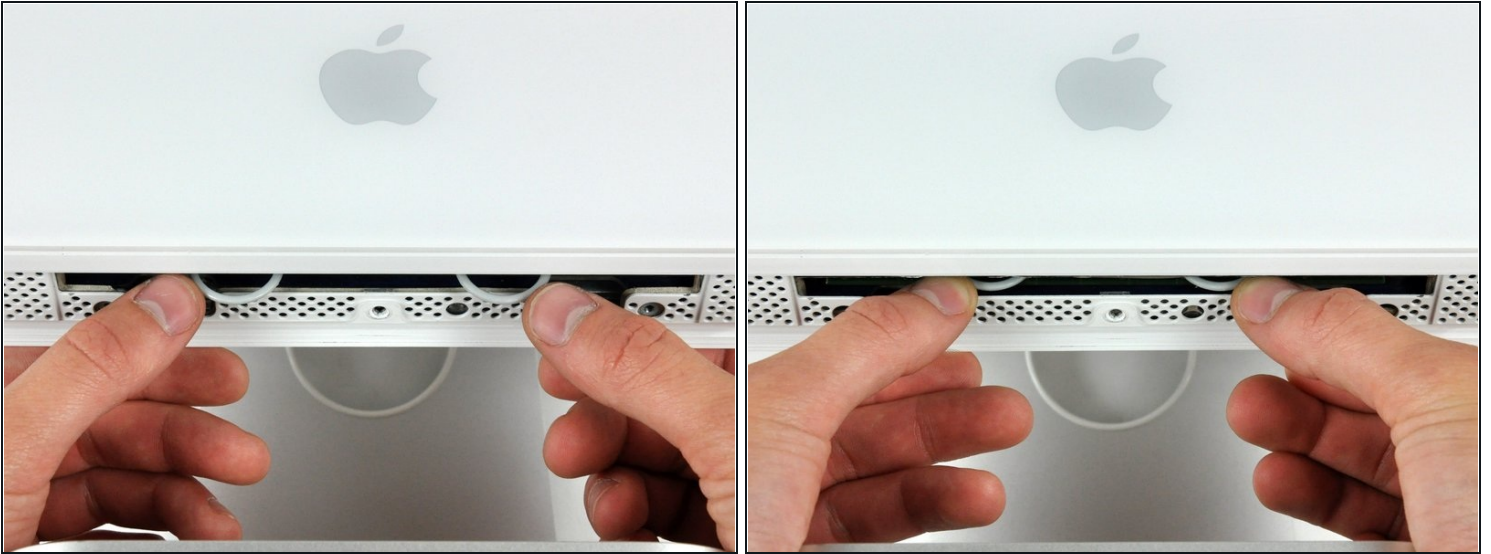
Step 2

- Remove the access door.

Step 3 — Front Bezel

- Remove the three T8 Torx screws securing the front bezel to the rear case along the lower edge of the iMac.

Step 4

- Turn the computer over.

- Use your thumbs to press both RAM arms in past the front bezel for enough clearance to lift it off the rear case.

Step 5

- While holding the RAM arms in with your thumbs, lift the lower edge of the front bezel enough to clear the rear case.

Step 6

ⓘ Re-orient your iMac so it sits upright on the stand.

- Insert a plastic card up into the corner of the air vent slot near the top of the rear case.

- Push the card toward the top of the iMac to release the front bezel latch.

- Pull the front bezel away from the rear case.

- Repeat this process for the other side of the front bezel.

ⓘ It may be necessary to apply several layers of duct tape to the top of the access card to aid in releasing the latches.

- If the bezel refuses to release, try pressing the lower edge back onto the rear case and repeat this opening process.

ⓘ Alternatively, you can use a strong magnet by holding it to the front top left/right corner of the display. You will hear a snapping sound when the hatch is released.
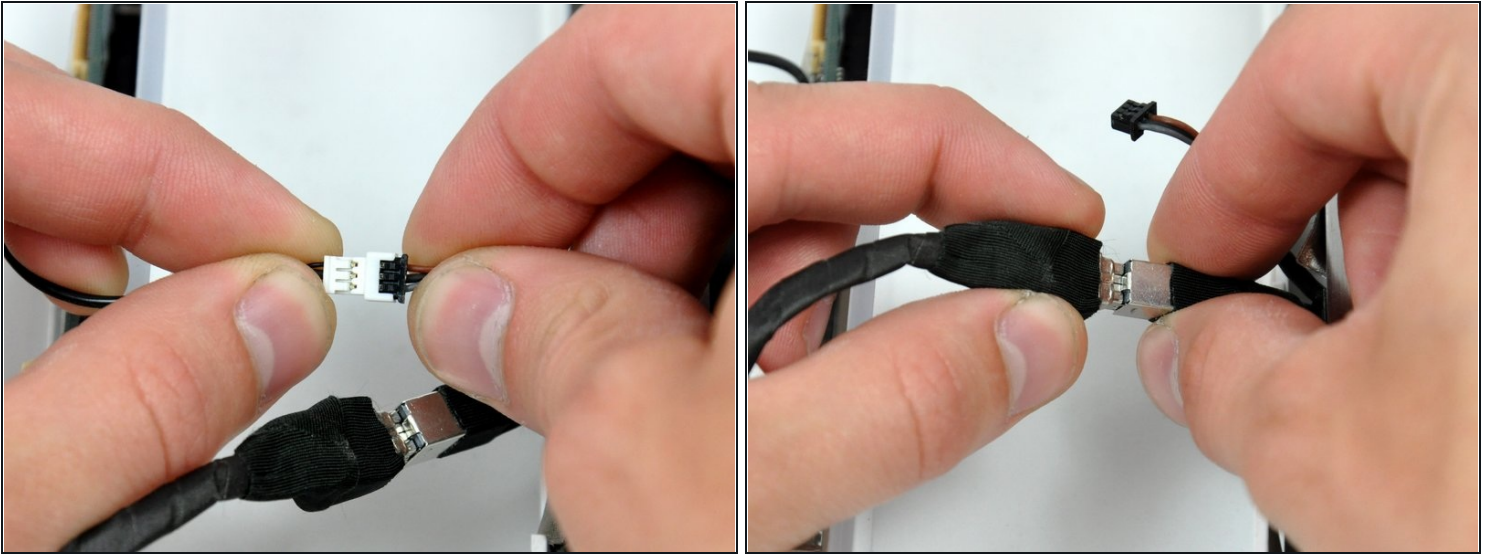
Step 7
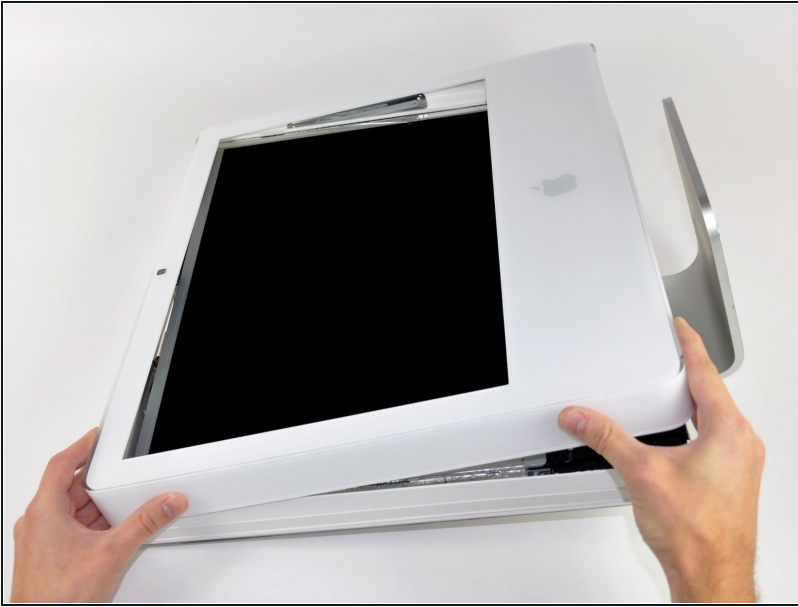
- Lay your iMac stand-side down on a table.

- Lift the front bezel from its lower edge and rotate it away from the rest of your iMac, minding the RAM arms that may get caught.

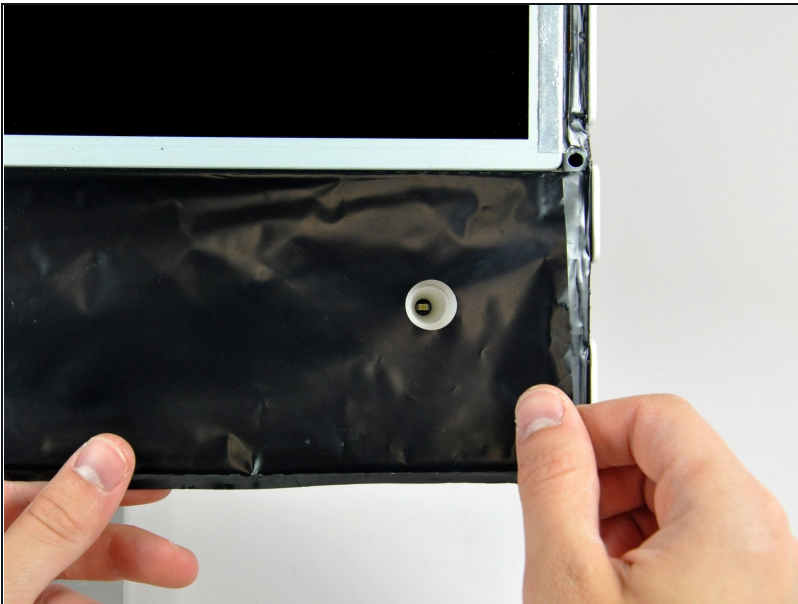- Lay the front bezel above the rest of the iMac.

Step 8

- If necessary, remove the piece of kapton tape wrapped around the microphone and camera connectors.

Step 9

- Disconnect both the camera and microphone cables.
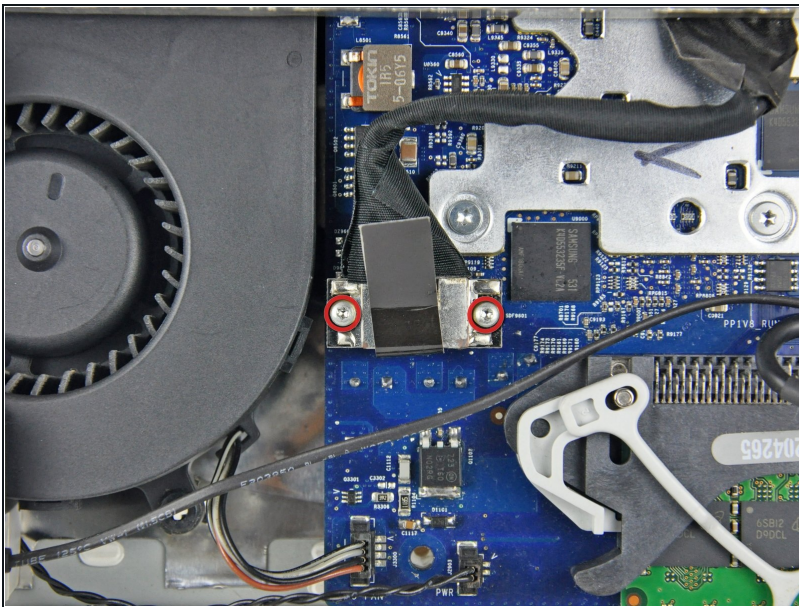
Step 10 — Lower EMI Shield

- Peel the lower EMI shield off the lower edge of the iMac and off the two vertical 4" sections on either side of the iMac.

- ⓘ It is not necessary to peel the lower EMI shield off the display.
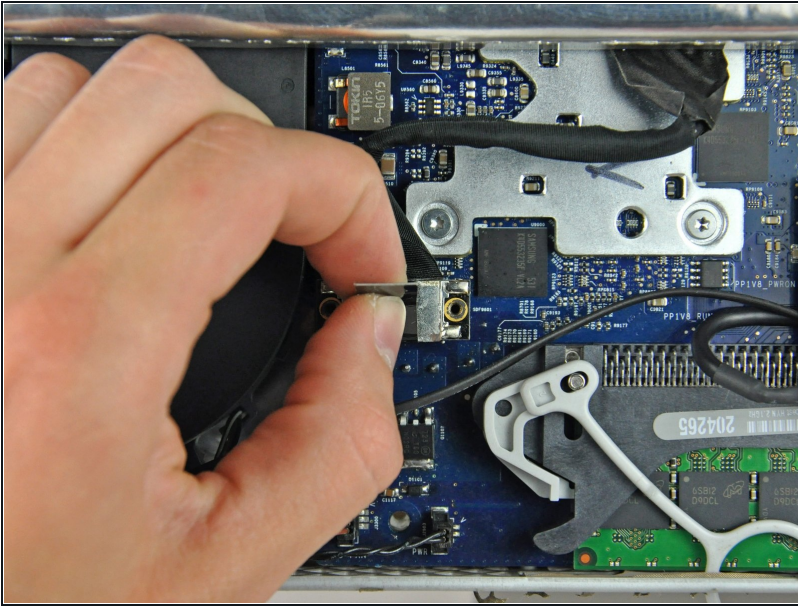
Step 11

- Tape the lower EMI shield up against the face of the display to keep it out of the way while you work.

Step 12 — Display

- Remove the two T6 Torx screws securing the display data cable connector to the logic board.

Step 13

- To disconnect the display data cable, grab its connector's black tab and pull it away from the face of the logic board.

Step 14

- Peel back the two EMI tape strips from the left and right edges of the display.

- ⊡ During reassembly, it is helpful to use several small strips of tape to hold the EMI shielding along the left and right edges of the display footprint out of the way before lowering the display into the rear case of your iMac.
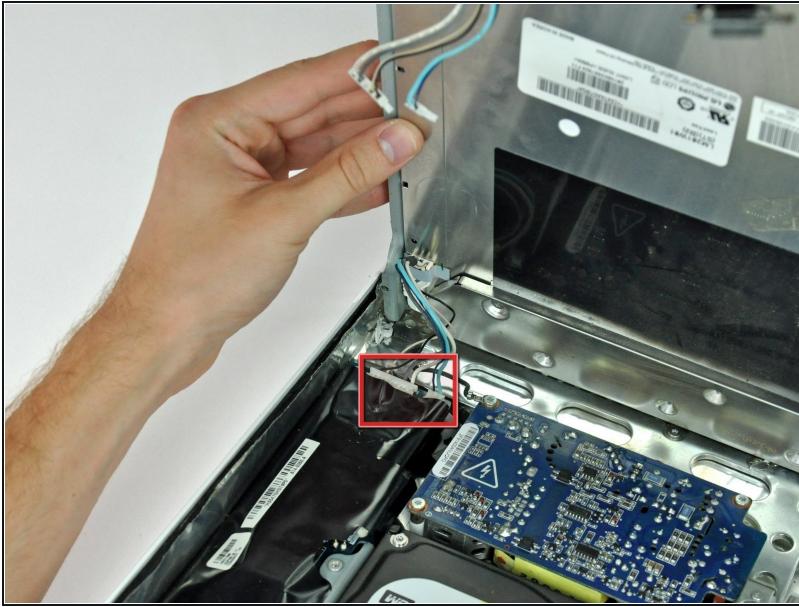
Step 15

- Remove the four recessed T10 Torx screws securing the display to the rear case.

ⓘ Bit drivers tend to be too short to reach these screws. Be sure to have a magnetic thin-shafted T10 Torx screwdriver on hand.

Step 16

- Lift the lower edge of the display slightly out of the rear case.

- Disconnect both inverter cables (shown in red) by pulling their connectors toward the bottom edge of your iMac.
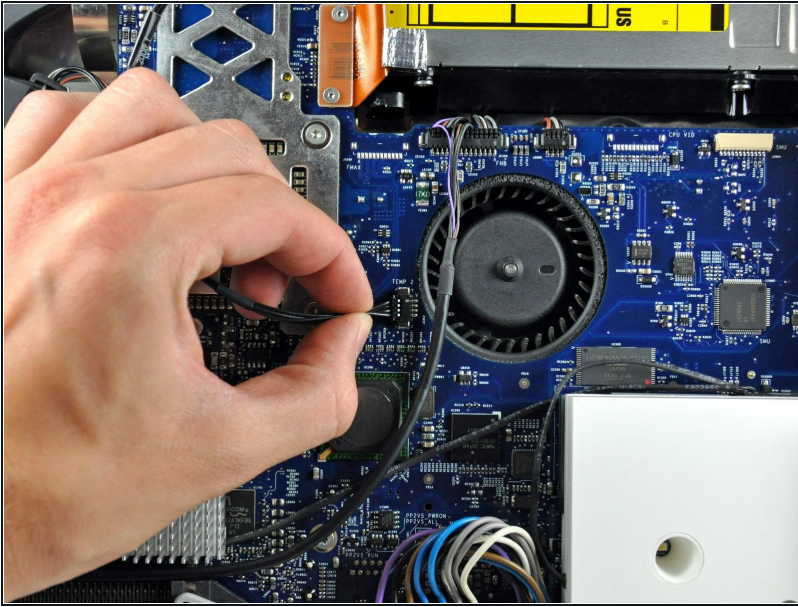
Step 17

- Lift the display until it is nearly perpendicular to the rear case.

- Disconnect the remaining two inverter cables (shown in red) by pulling their connectors toward the top edge of your iMac.
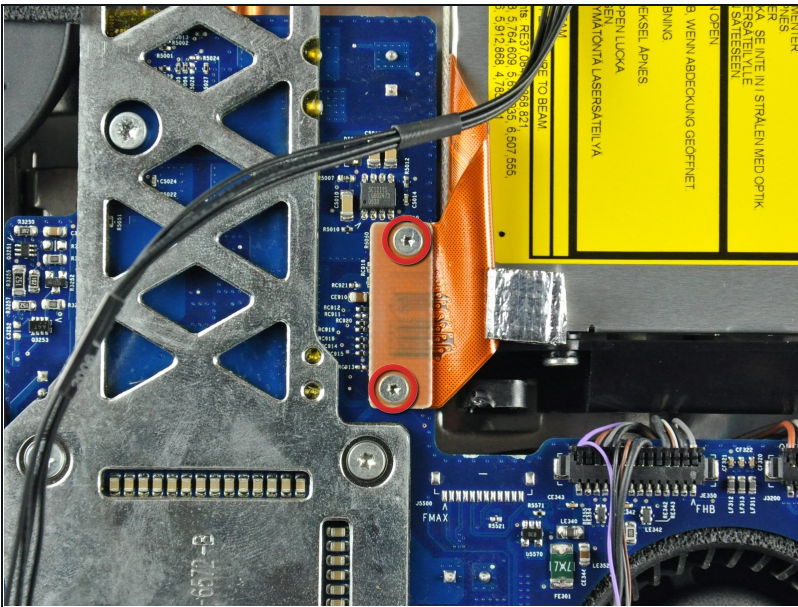
Step 18

- While holding the display perpendicular to the rear case, pull it upward to peel off the EMI shield stuck to its upper edge.
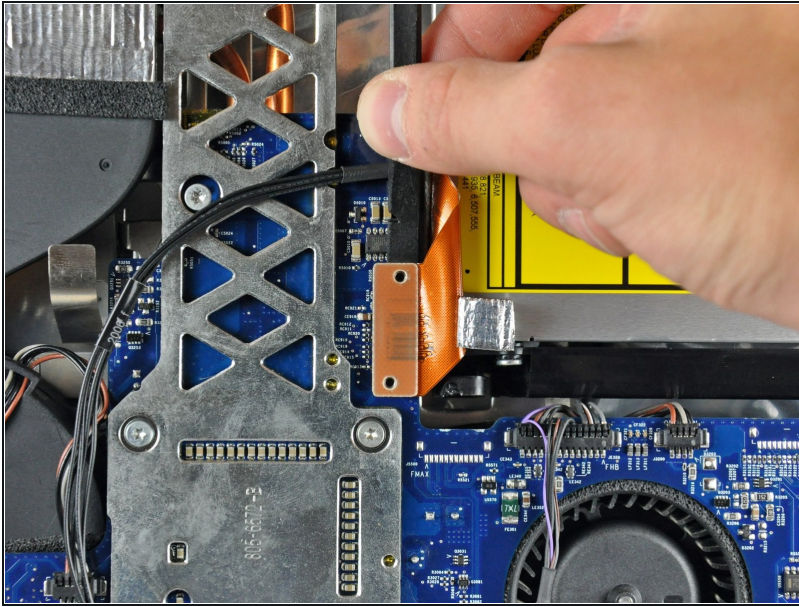
Step 19 — Optical Drive

- Disconnect the optical drive thermal sensor by pulling its cable toward the left edge of your iMac.
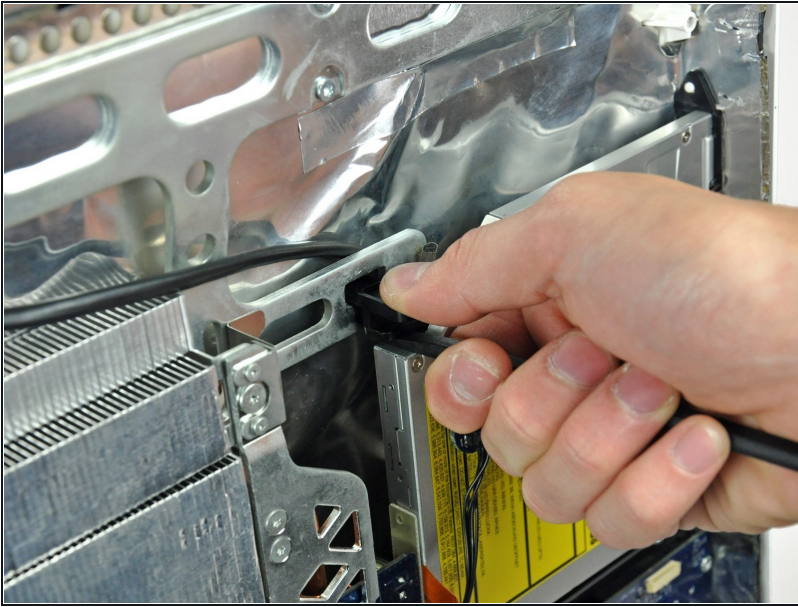
Step 20

- Remove the two T6 Torx screws holding the optical drive connector to the logic board.
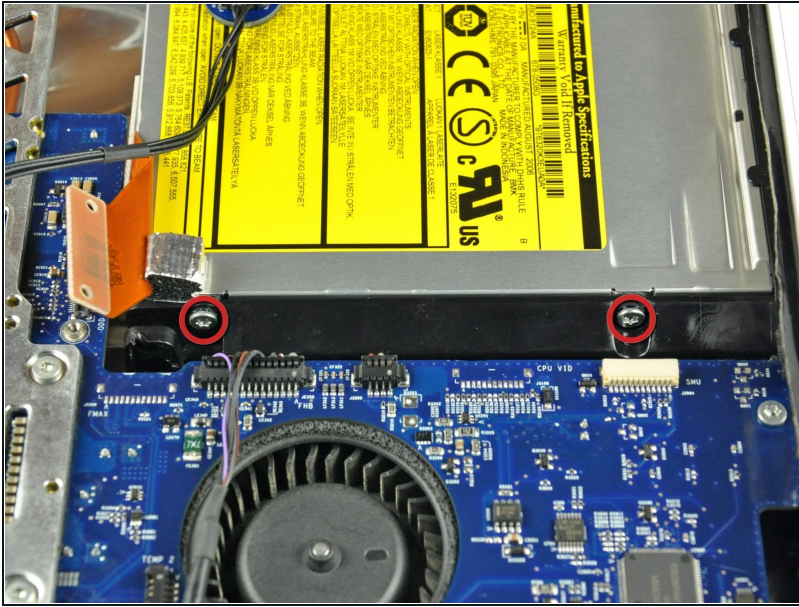
Step 21

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the optical drive connector up off the logic board.

- ⓘ It is helpful to insert the spudger under the top or bottom edge of the optical drive connector and twist to separate the connector from the logic board.

ⓘ Apple's "engineers" didn't learn much about deflection and material stiffness when they went to "college", so this optical drive is particularly difficult to remove because the bracket flexes too much. The next few steps require some patience and a good amount of force.

• Insert the flat end of a spudger into the gap between the optical drive and its bracket until it contacts the chassis.

• Grab the spudger as close to the surface of the optical drive as you can, then depress the release tab with your thumb while pulling toward yourself.

ⓘ The wedge shape of the spudger may cause it to slip out of the gap toward yourself. Be sure to press the spudger in toward the rear case while squeezing the release tab.

Step 23

ⓘ To avoid the screws falling behind the logic board, lay your iMac stand-side down on a table.

● Remove the two T10 Torx screws from the lower edge of the optical drive.

Step 24
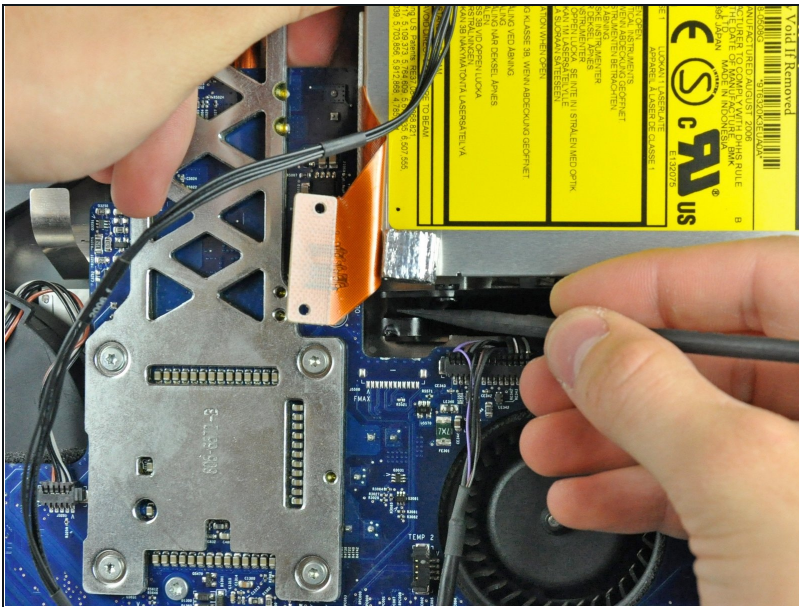
● Use the flat end of a spudger to press the bottom edge of the lower optical drive bracket release tab toward the lower edge of the iMac.

ⓘ The optical drive should now be free from the rear case.

● Maneuver the optical drive out of the rear case, minding the two plastic pins molded into the rear case near the open end of the optical drive that can break off.
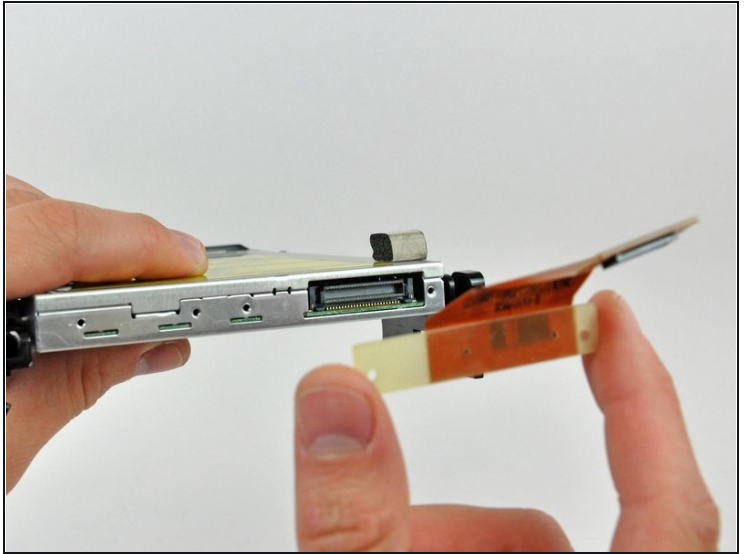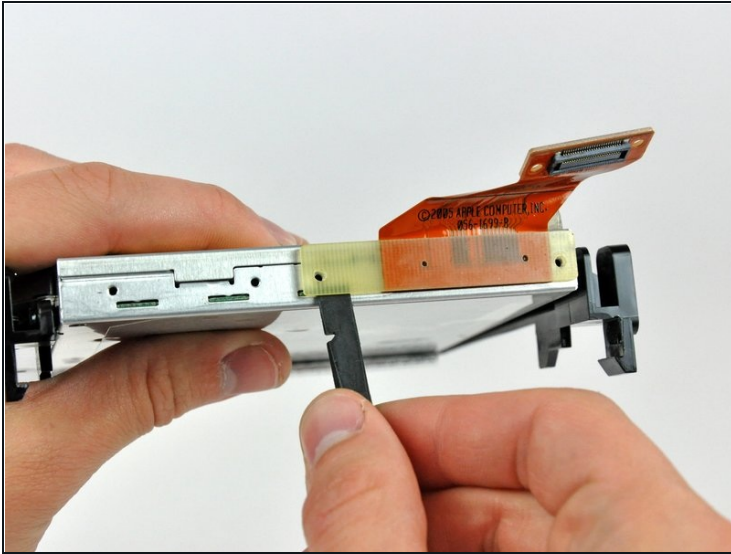
Step 25

- Maneuver the optical drive out of the rear case, minding the two plastic pins molded into the rear case near the open end of the optical drive that can break off.

Step 26 — Optical Drive
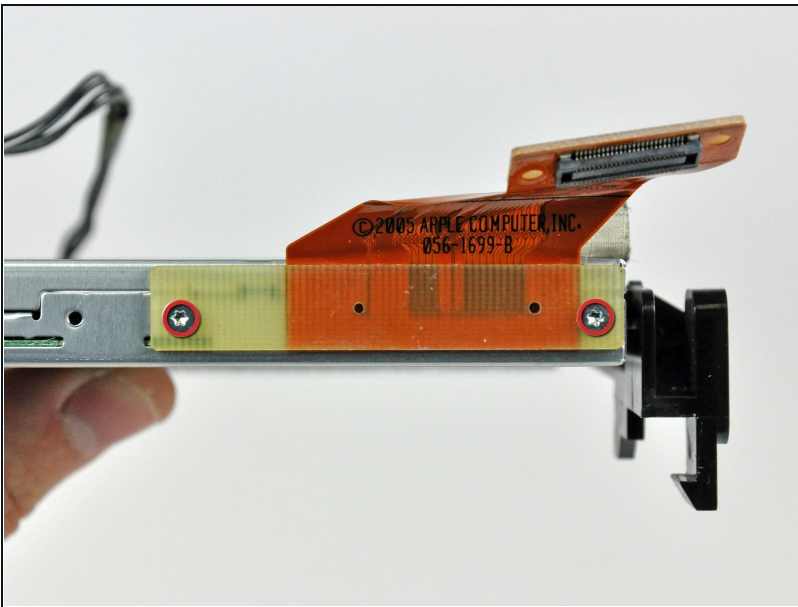
- Remove the two T6 Torx screws securing the optical drive cable to the optical drive.

Step 27

- Insert the flat end of a spudger into the gap between the optical drive cable connector and the optical drive.

- Twist the spudger to separate the connector from the optical drive.

- (i) Repeat this process for both sides of the connector.

- Pull the optical drive cable connector away from the optical drive.

Step 28

- Use the flat end of a spudger to remove the small pieces of EMI foam from the underside of the optical drive.

- ⊡ Don't forget to transfer these to your new drive.

Step 29
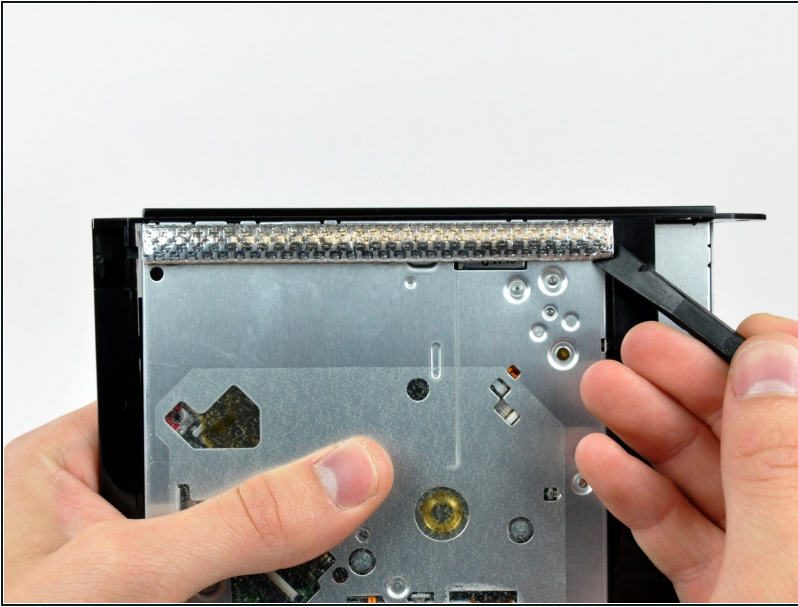
- Use the flat end of a spudger to remove the long strip of EMI foam from the underside of the optical drive.

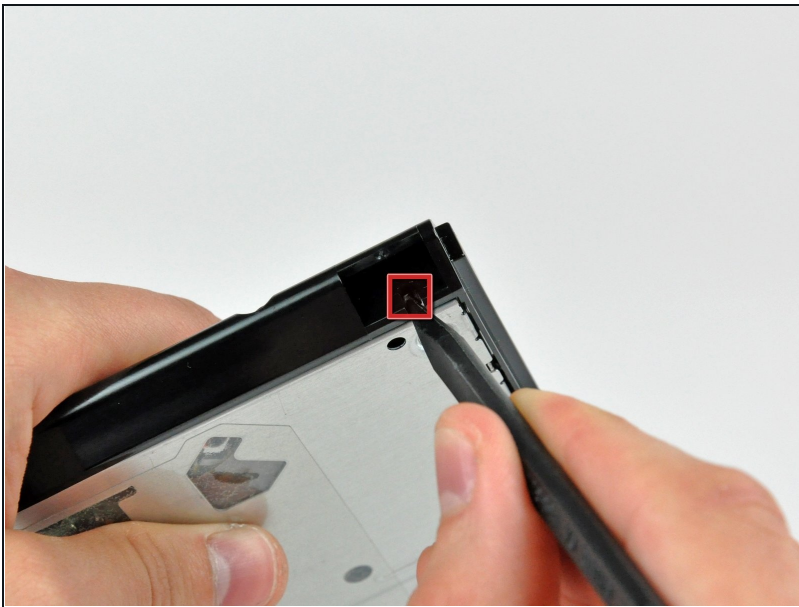- ⊡ Don't forget to transfer this to your new drive.

Step 30
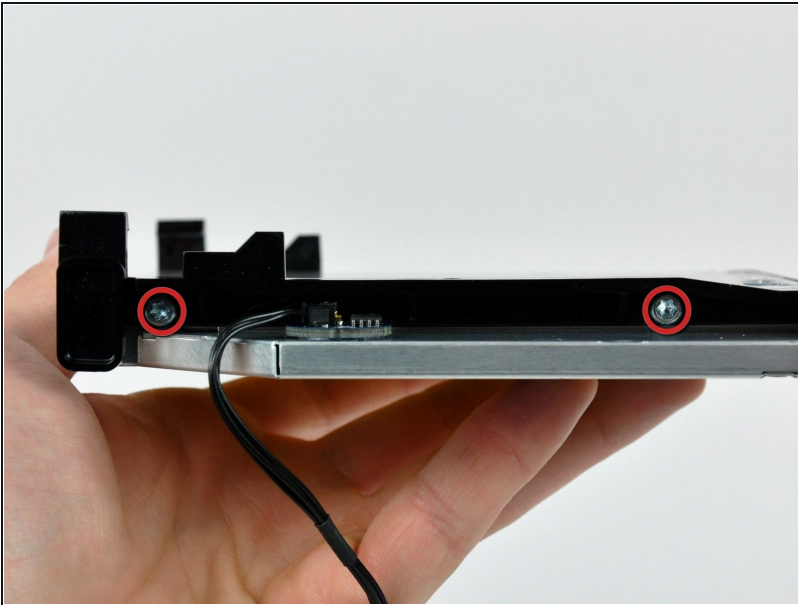
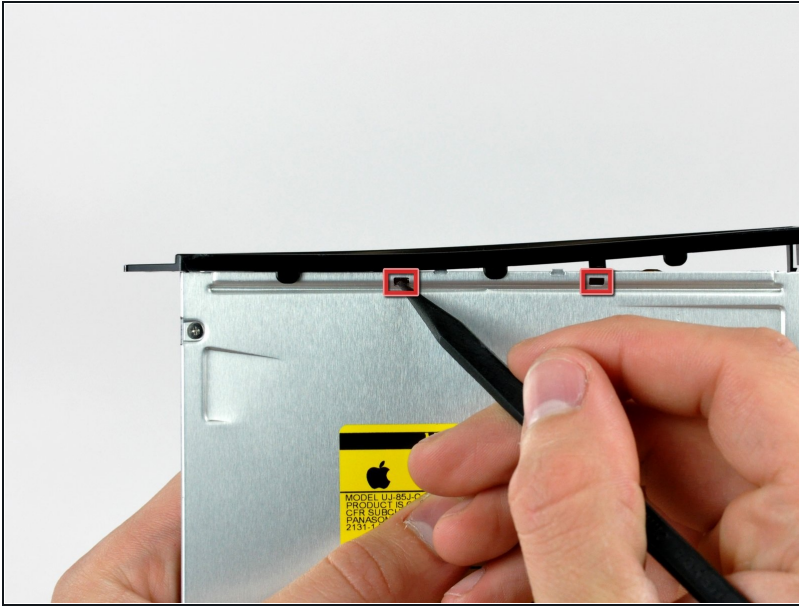- Remove the two T10 Torx screws from the side of your optical drive.

Step 31

- Use the tip of a spudger to push the two optical drive bracket tabs out of their slots in the top of the optical drive.

Step 32

- Using the tip of a spudger, press the optical drive bracket tab out of its slot on the side of the optical drive.
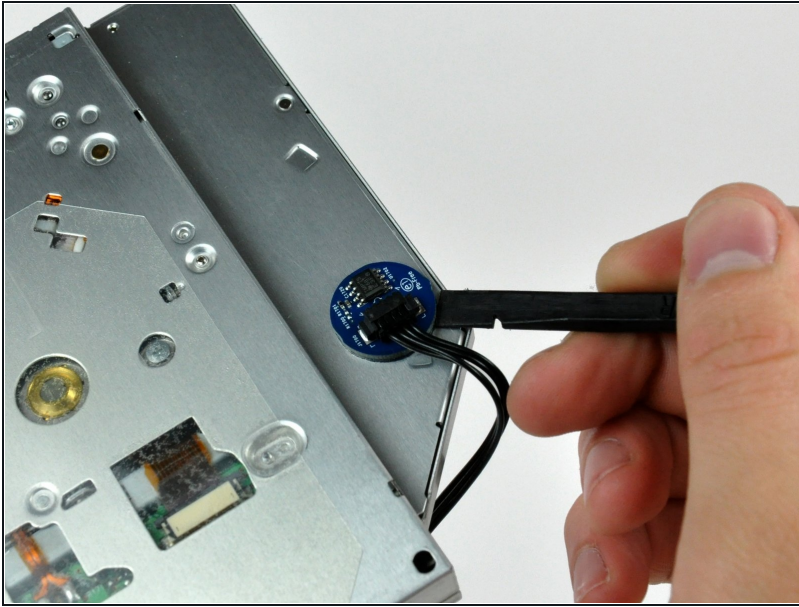
Step 33

- Use the tip of a spudger to press the optical drive bracket tabs out of the slots in the top of the optical drive.

Step 34

- Pull the optical drive bracket toward the open end of the optical drive to free it from the optical drive.

Step 35

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the optical drive thermal sensor off the adhesive securing it to the optical drive.

- ⊡ Don't forget to transfer this to your new drive.

- ⓘ If you have a disk or anything else stuck inside your optical drive, we have a guide to fix it.

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