



MacBook Air 11" Early 2015 Heat Sink Replacement

Replace the heat sink in your MacBook Air 11" Early 2015.

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to replace a damaged heat sink or its thermal paste.

TOOLS:

- [Arctic Silver ArctiClean](#) (1)
- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [P5 Pentalobe Screwdriver Retina MacBook Pro and Air](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [T5 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)

PARTS:

- [MacBook Air 11" \(Mid 2013 to Early 2015\) Heat Sink](#) (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case



- ⓘ Shut down and close your computer. Lay it on a soft surface top-side down.
- Remove the following ten screws:
 - Two 8 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws
 - Eight 2.5 mm 5-point Pentalobe screws
- ⓘ The special screwdriver needed to remove the 5-point Pentalobe screws can be found [here](#).

Step 2



- Wedge your fingers between the display and the lower case and pull upward to pop the lower case off the Air.

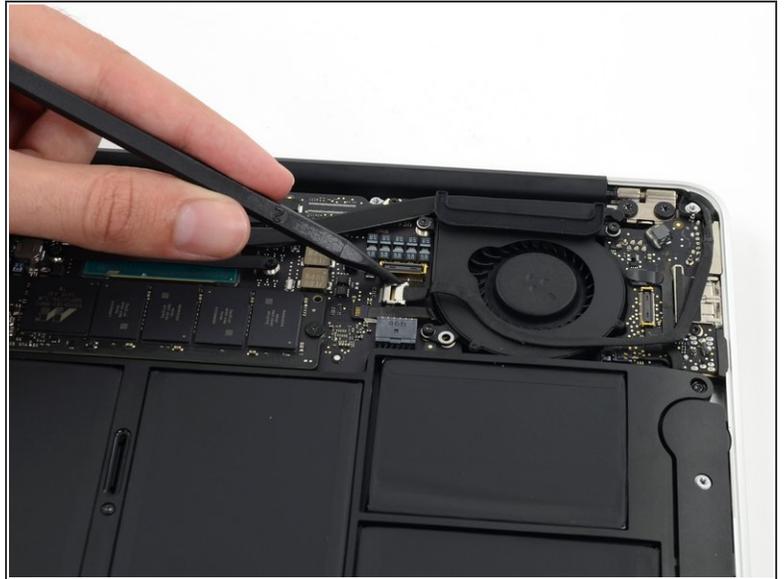
Step 3 — Battery Connector



⚠ In this step you will disconnect the battery to help avoid shorting out any components during service.

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry both short sides of the battery connector upward to disconnect it from its socket on the logic board.
- Bend the battery cable slightly away from the logic board so the connector will not accidentally bend back and make contact with its socket.

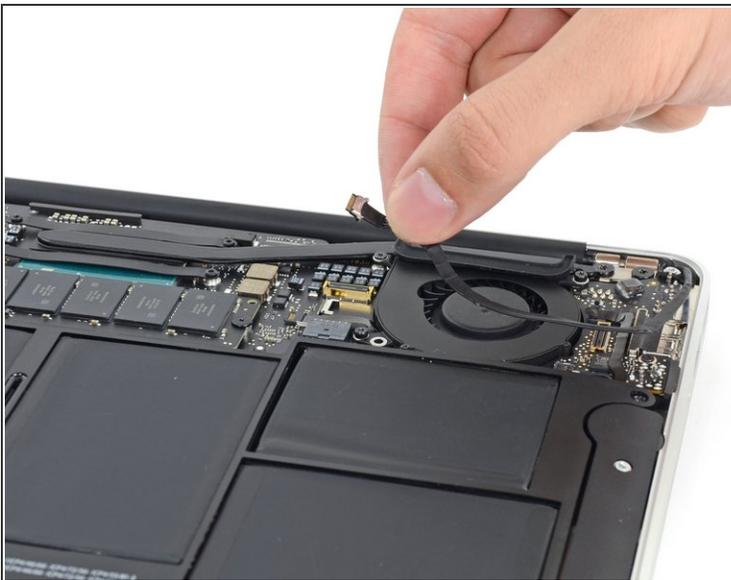
Step 4 — Fan



- Use the tip of a spudger to carefully push on each side of the iSight camera cable connector to loosen it out of its socket on the logic board.

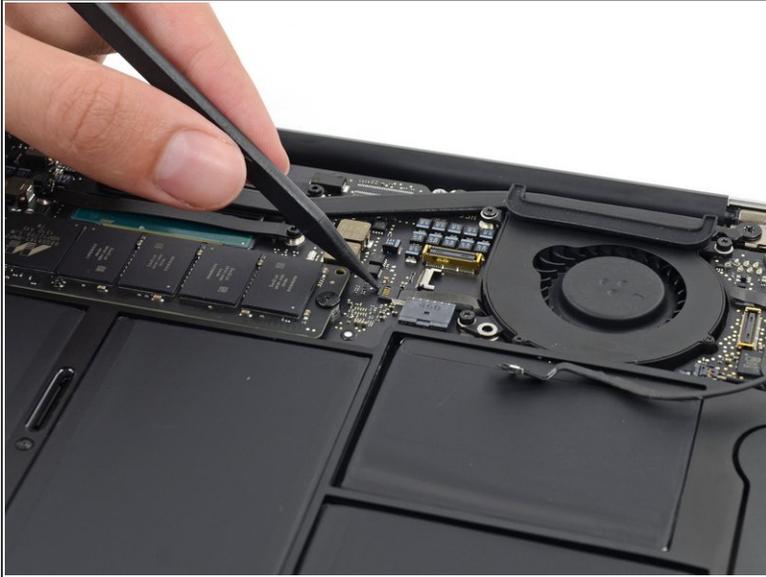
i We recommend you gently "walk" the connector out of its socket.

Step 5



- Peel the iSight camera cable up off the adhesive securing it to the fan.

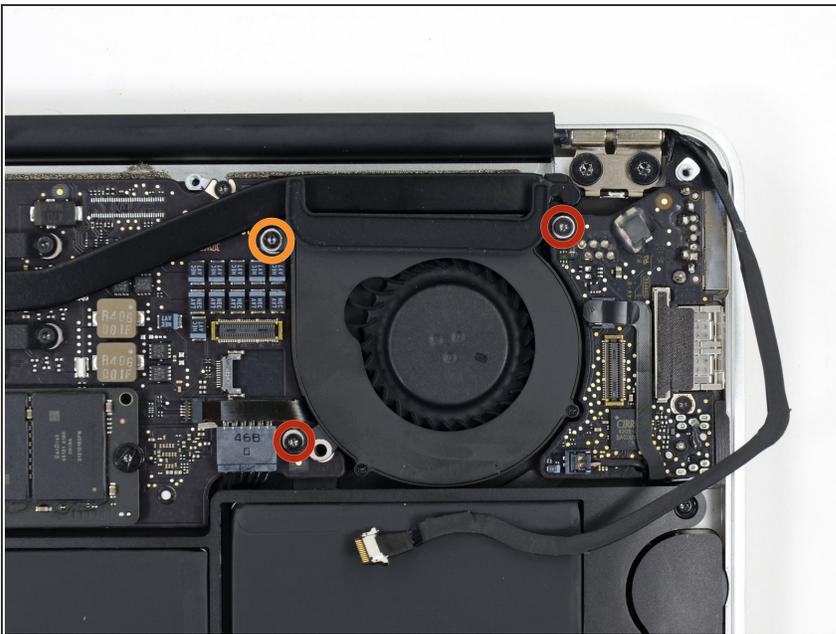
Step 6



- Use the tip of a spudger to carefully flip up the retaining flap on the fan cable ZIF socket.

⚠ Be sure you are prying up on the hinged retaining flap, **not** the socket itself.

Step 7



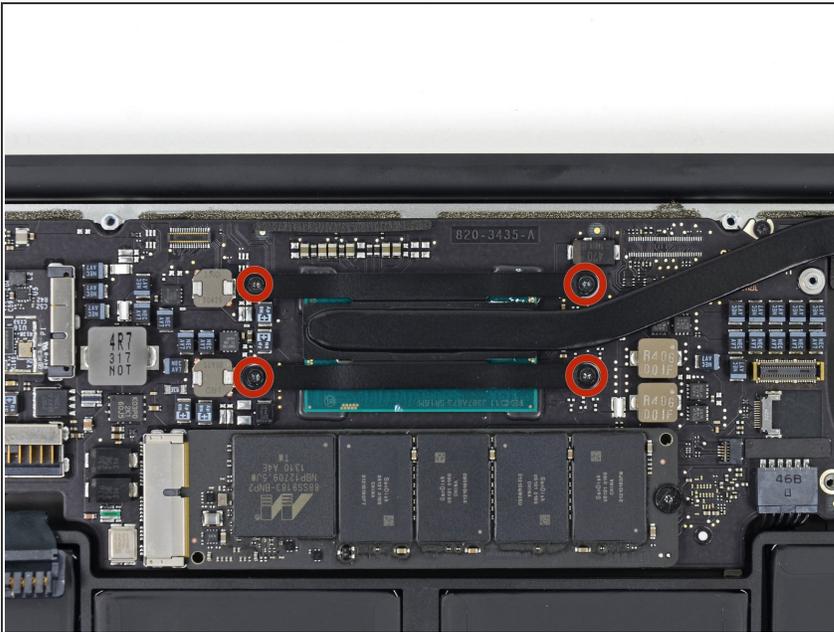
- Remove the following three screws securing the fan to the upper case:
 - Two 5.5 mm T5 Torx screws
 - One 4.6 mm T5 Torx screw
 - ⓘ In some models this is a 3.6 mm T5 Torx screw.

Step 8



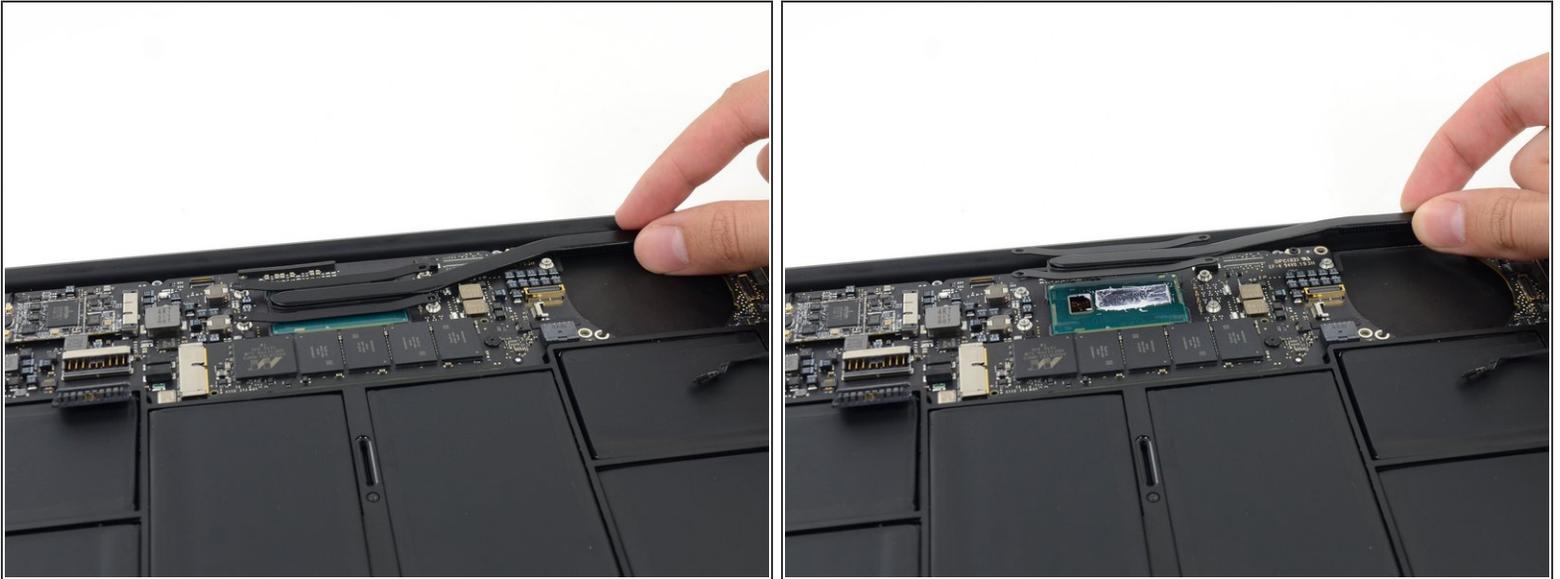
- Lift, but **do not** remove the fan out of its recess in the upper case.
- Carefully pull the fan ribbon cable out of its socket as you remove the fan from the Air.

Step 9 — Heat Sink



- Remove the four 2.5 mm T5 Torx screws securing the heat sink to the logic board.

Step 10



- ⓘ If the heat sink seems to be stuck to the logic board after removing all four screws, use a spudger to carefully separate the heat sink from the face of the CPU.
- Remove the heat sink from the logic board.
- ☑ When reinstalling the heat sink, be sure to apply a new layer of [thermal paste](#). If you have never applied thermal paste before, we have a [guide](#) that makes it easy.

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