



Dell XPS 13 Disassembly

To investigate possible water damage (and cleaning) after spilling a small amount of coffee on the keyboard.

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Step 1 — Dell XPS 13 Disassembly



- This one's on the house!
- Sporting a Intel Core i7-8550U QUAD CORE processor and 8 GB of RAM (optional 16 GB) and blazing fast SSD in a chassis smaller than ever before.
- Edit: the original Toshiba drives are said to have impaired performance. Switch to another slip for 500MB read / write!
- This is crazy. How much heat does it produce, though?
- With a TDP of 15W, there is actually room for compromises. Especially when Dell decided to give it a better fan.

Step 2



- Under the newly revamped XPS sticker cover, I am supposed to find a Philips screw ...
- Ah yes, it's here. Say hello to my PH 0 screwdriver!
- ⓘ Despite the large size of some Philip screw threads, not all of them can be driven with a PH 1. PH 0 also work on some small screws and, as long as it fits, should not strip the screw.
- Oof, these T5 screws put up a tough fight! My bit started to show gentle signs of wear already ...
- ⓘ Gladly, these are the only 8 T5 screws you will need to fight through. After that you can put it aside, and grab that PH 0.

Step 3



- I am expected to encounter heavy clippage ...
 - And I did. Apparently these clips all extend outwards, and none of them give me any apparent sign for hinges.
 - So ... you need to use some brute force here. The chassis and the back cover are both strong, but the side with the card reader is slightly weaker. Start there ...
 - And, please, don't use metal tools. Don't make the mistake of scratching the beautiful sides of aluminum sides.
- ⓘ These messy stuff is not encountered in that [previous XPS chassis ...](#)

Step 4



- These are good stuff!
- What should we work on next?
- Let's focus on removing the display first. Eases things up for a bit.
- To do that, you will need to remove the display connector secured under motherboard bracket, and the antenna secured under the WLAN bracket.
- You WILL need to disassemble that "screw-in-tape" stuff...
- and the camera? Where ... probably the one labeled M/B.
- But why M/B?

Step 5



- Then we will remote the battery.
- These are 2*M2 screws, or so they are labeled ...
- USE PH 1 SCREWDRIVER
- Sometimes, it appears that the screws are overtightened, but when the case screws on your laptop started to fall out all over again, it's really not the same argument.
- But for the case of battery and speaker, it's really not that necessary. You can loosen them for a bit.

Step 6



- Allright, so what do we get here?
- Motherboard, think it's I2C touchpad, the keyboard and light and motherboard interconnect board with a few chips
- You can say why they give a interconnect board, but the motherboard is not pretty crammed with stuff.
- Especially when compared to the 2012 model, as they added a USB-C and a card reader. Plus some unnamed ports.
- But hey, remember that this chassis is also used for the precision mobile workstations. That might be explaining all the unsoldered ports (and the SATA settings in BIOS)

Step 7



- These black screws, when being driven with PH 1, feels really good.
- The white ones use PH 0.
- Perhaps this is the push of Dell's reparability program? PH 1 is easier to find than PH 00 and PH 0s...
- Or they carry more torque. Either case, these screws are ... tough.

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