



# MacBook Air 11" Early 2015 Heat Sink Replacement

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

Written By: Sam Goldheart



# 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



- i 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
- i 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.



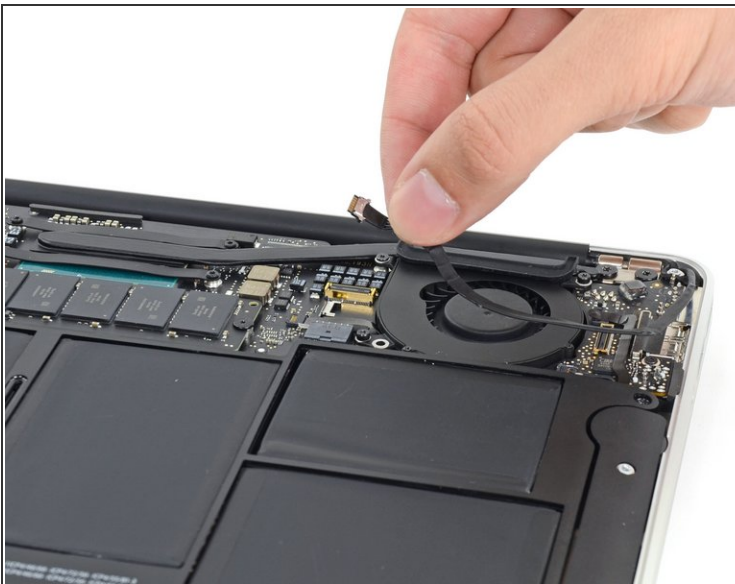
## Step 4 — Fan



- 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.

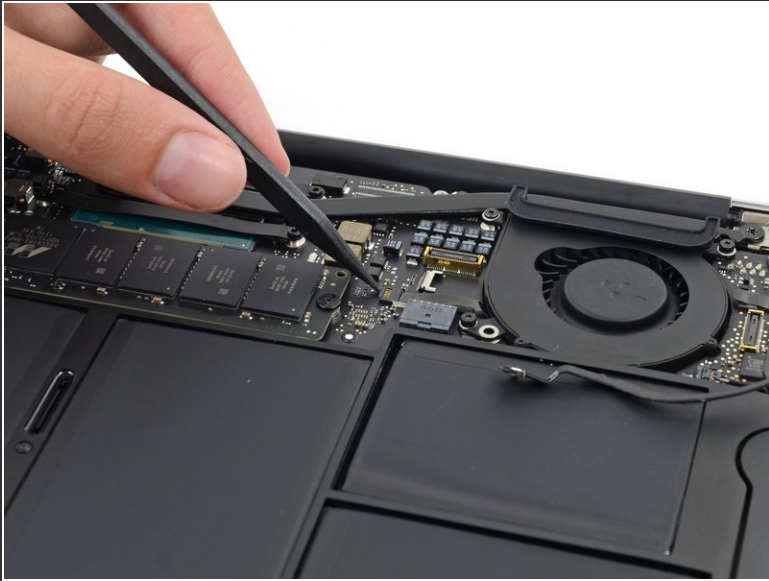
 We recommend you gently "walk" the connector out of its socket.

## 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.

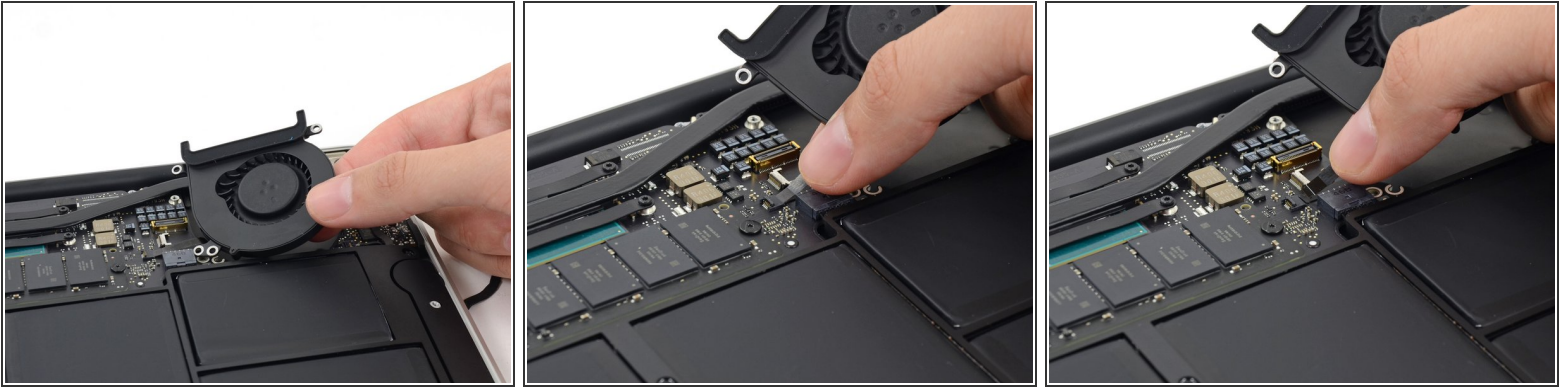
## Step 7



- 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.

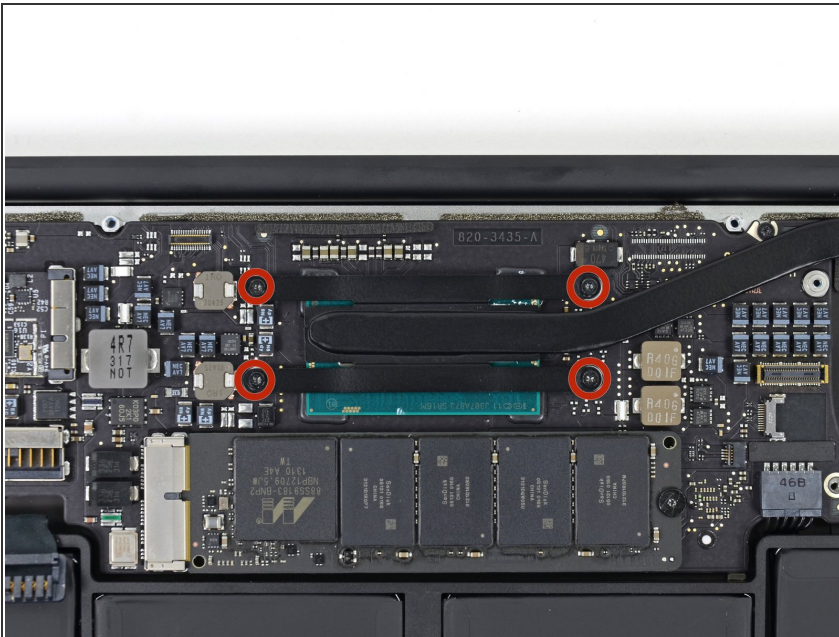


## Step 8



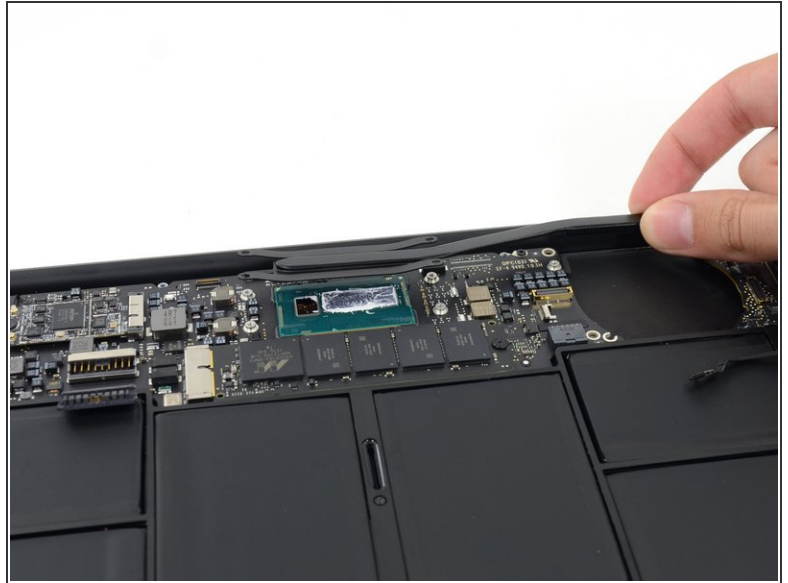
- Lift, but **do not** remove the fan out of its recess in the upper case.
- Carefully pull the fan ribbon cable out of its socket as you remove the fan from the Air.

## 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.