



# MacBook Air Models A1237 and A1304 Heat Sink Replacement

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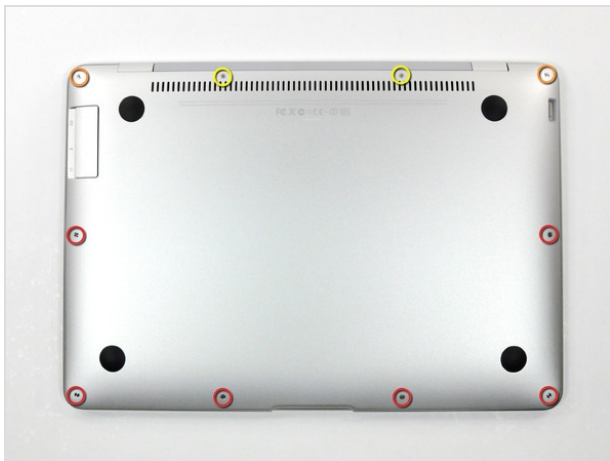
## Tools used in this guide

- [Arctic Silver Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)

## Parts relevant to this guide

- [MacBook Air \(Original\) Heat Sink](#) (1)

Use this guide to swap out your old heat sink for a new one.



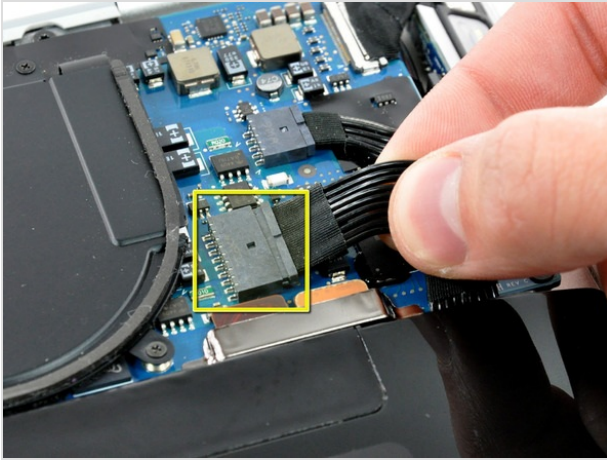
## Step 1 — Lower Case

- Remove the following 10 screws securing the lower case to the Air:
  - Six 2.8 mm Phillips screws.
  - Two 3.8 mm Phillips screws.
  - Two 5.4 mm Phillips screws.



## Step 2

- Slightly lift the lower case near the vents and push it toward the rear of the computer to free the mounting tabs.



## Step 3 — Battery

- Disconnect the battery connector by pulling it straight out of its socket.



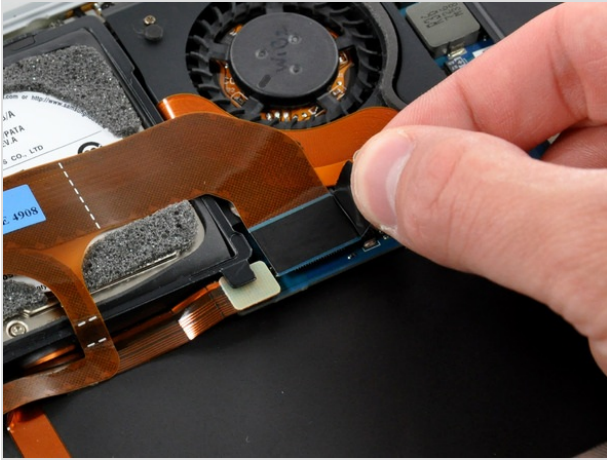
## Step 4

- Remove the following nine screws securing the battery to the Air:
  - Four 2.9 mm Phillips.
  - Four 3.8 mm Phillips.
  - One 7.2 mm Phillips.



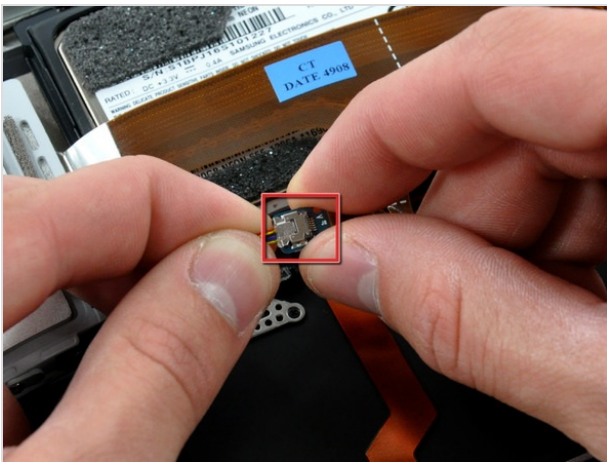
## Step 5

- Lift the battery out of the Air.



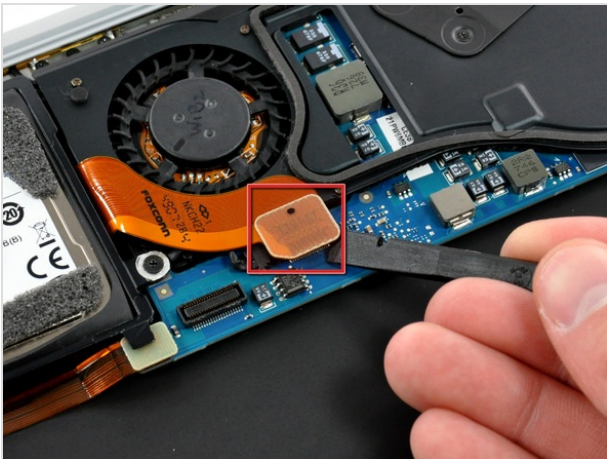
## Step 6 — Hard Drive

- Disconnect the port hatch ribbon cable from the logic board by pulling it straight up by its black pull tab.
- Pull the audio out ribbon cable off the adhesive securing it to the upper case.
- Use a spudger to pry the audio out ribbon cable connector board off the hard drive bracket.



## Step 7

- Disconnect the audio out cable from its socket on the port hatch ribbon cable.



## Step 8

- Use a spudger to pry the hard drive cable connector up off the logic board.



## Step 9

- Use the sharp end of a spudger to de-route the microphone cable from the hard drive bracket.
- Remove the cosmetic screw cover from the adhesive securing it to the hard drive bracket.



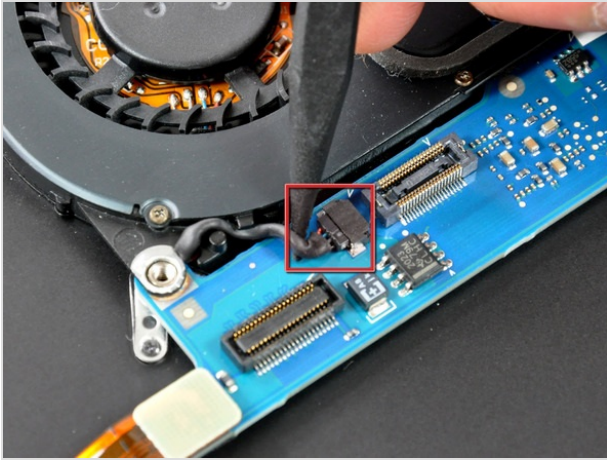
## Step 10

- Remove the four Phillips screws securing the hard drive assembly to the upper case.



## Step 11

- Lift the hard drive assembly out of the upper case.



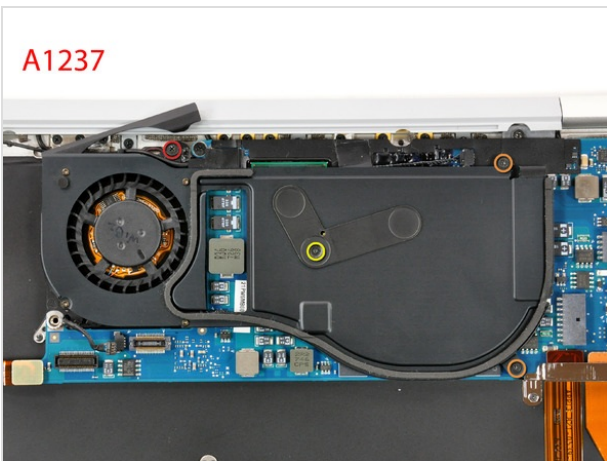
### Step 12 — Heat Sink

- Use the tip of a spudger to pull the fan cable connector straight away from its connector on the logic board.



### Step 13

- Use the tip of a spudger to move the cosmetic fan cover aside.



### Step 14

- If you have the original version of the MacBook Air (A1237), refer to picture 1. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
  - One 5.9 mm Phillips screw.
  - Two 1.9 mm Phillips screws.
  - One 1.9 mm Phillips screw.
- If you have the A1304 version of MacBook Air, refer to picture 2. Remove the following screws securing the heat sink to the logic board:
  - One 5.0 mm Phillips screw
  - Five 1.9 mm Phillips screws.
  - One 2.5 mm Phillips screw.





## Step 15

- Lift the processor clamp off the heat sink.



## Step 16

- Deroute the microphone cable away from the channel in the fan.




## Step 17

- Lift the heat sink up off the logic board.
- Be mindful of the microphone cable when lifting the heat sink, as it can get tangled on the top edge of the fan.
- When you mount the heat sink back onto the logic board, be sure to apply a new layer of thermal paste. We have a [guide](#) that makes replacing the thermal paste easy.





## Step 18 — Heat Sink Replacement

- If you have the A1304 version of MacBook Air, the fan is a separate component. The following steps therefore do not apply to your model. 
- Remove the four 2.5 mm Phillips screws holding the fan on the heat sink.



## Step 19

- Lift the heat sink off the fan.
- Heatsink remains.

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

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