How to Perform an IBM ThinkPad X60s Fan Spindle Replacement

This guide details an IBM ThinkPad X60s fan spindle replacement.

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INTRODUCTION

This guide details how to replace the rotating spindle piece inside of the fan. Replacing this piece can solve cooling and noise problems associated with a broken fan. The fan spindle is only accessible after exposing the bottom of the motherboard and removing the fan housing.

TOOLS:

- Small Needle Nose Pliers (1)
- Phillips #1 Screwdriver (1)

PARTS:

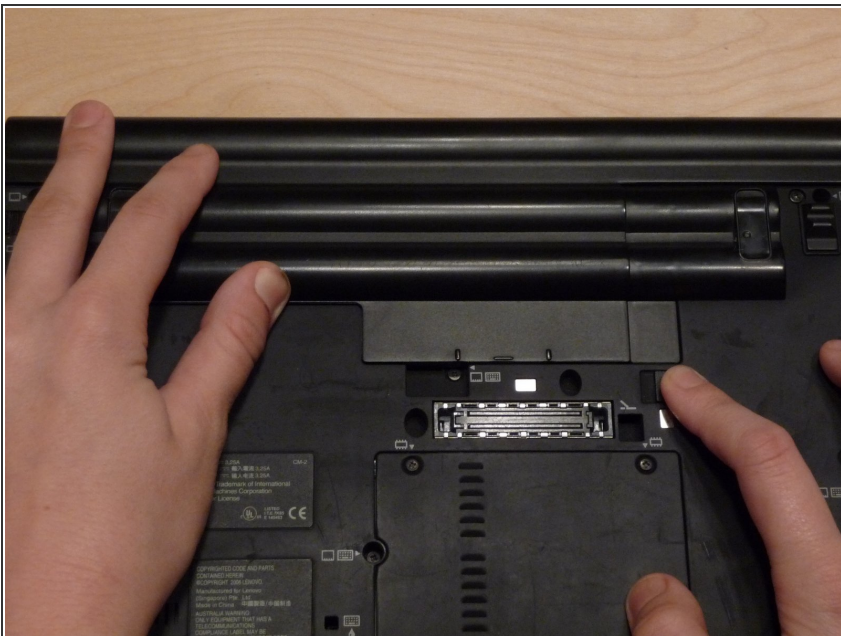- IBM ThinkPad X60s Fan Spindle (1)

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Step 1 — Fan Spindle

- Turn the laptop upside-down, with the battery oriented away.

- Slide the battery lock switch to the left.

Step 2

- ⚠️ Complete these steps after disconnecting the laptop from power and after powering the laptop down.

- Simultaneously complete the following:

  - Slide and hold the battery release switch to the right.

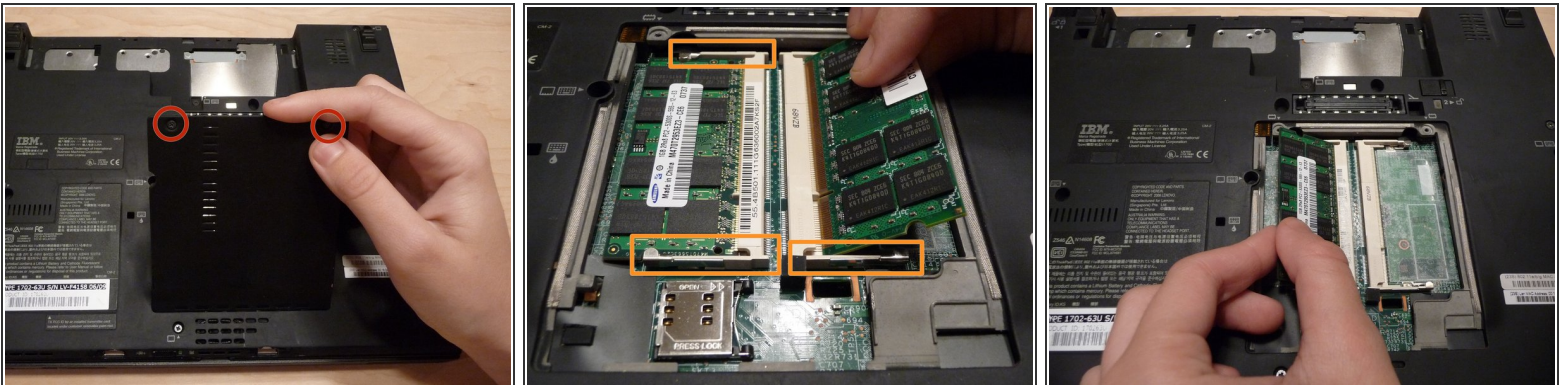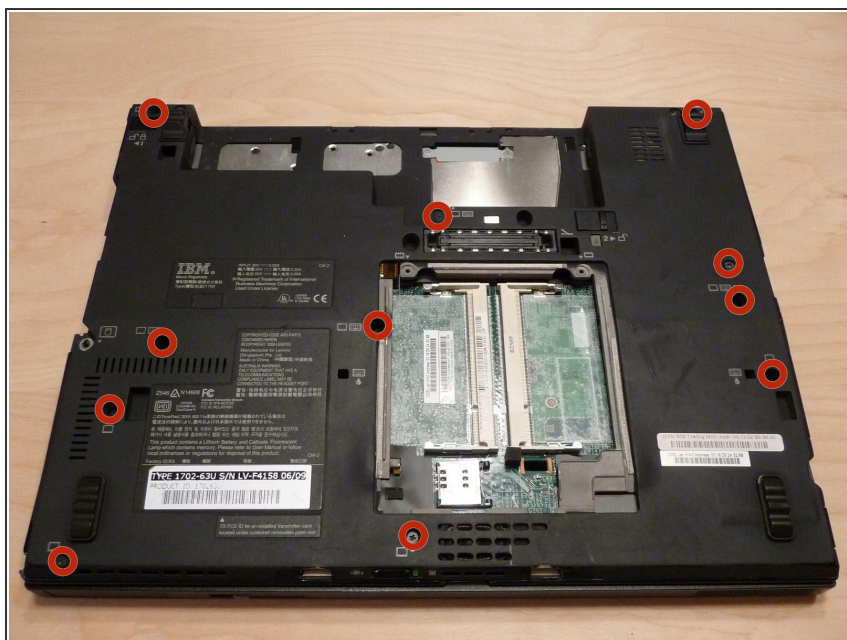 - Push the battery away from you, out of the back of the laptop.

Step 3

- Unscrew the black 4mm Phillips #2 screw securing the hard drive enclosure cover.

- Pull the hard drive enclosure cover up and to the left to expose the hard drive caddy.

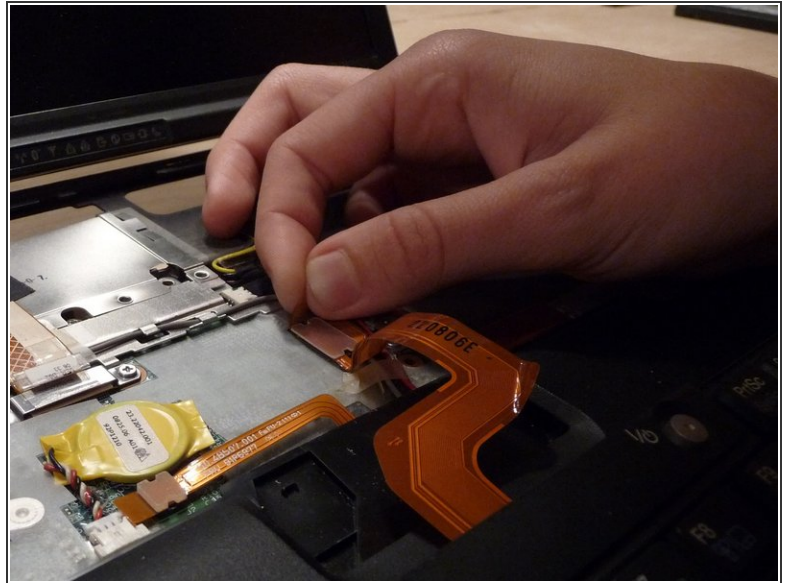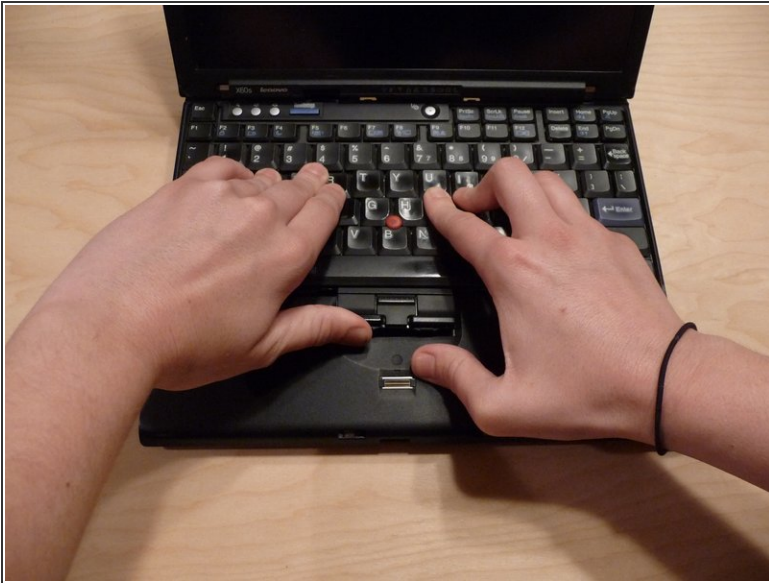- Pull the hard drive caddy out by the plastic pull tab.

Step 4

- Unscrew the two black Phillips #1 screws securing the RAM cover plate.

- (i) These screws will remain attached to the cover plate.

- Remove the exposed RAM sticks by prying outward (away from the edges of the RAM sticks) on the securing tabs.

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Step 5

- Unscrew the eleven black 6mm Phillips #1 screws securing the keyboard and palmrest.
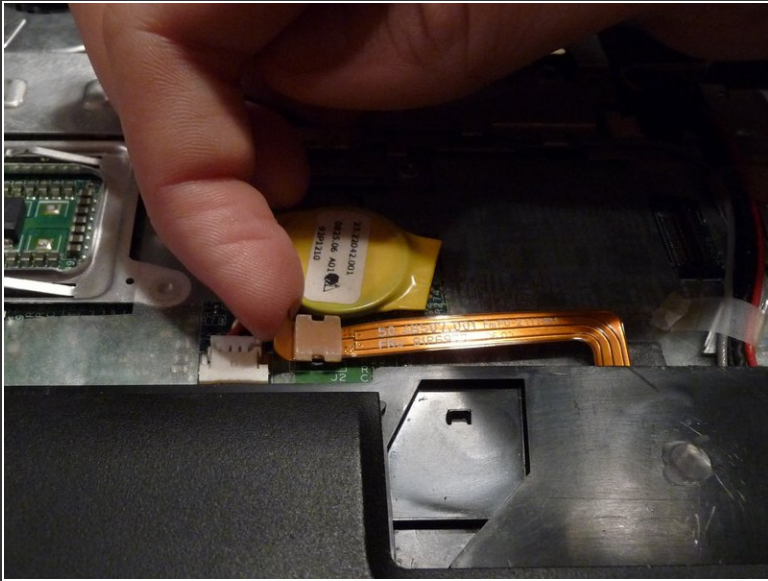
- Flip the laptop over.

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Step 6

- Simultaneously complete the following:

  - Push the keyboard backwards (away from yourself) with both hands.

  - Pry your thumb under the mouse buttons to lift the keyboard upwards (away from the work surface).

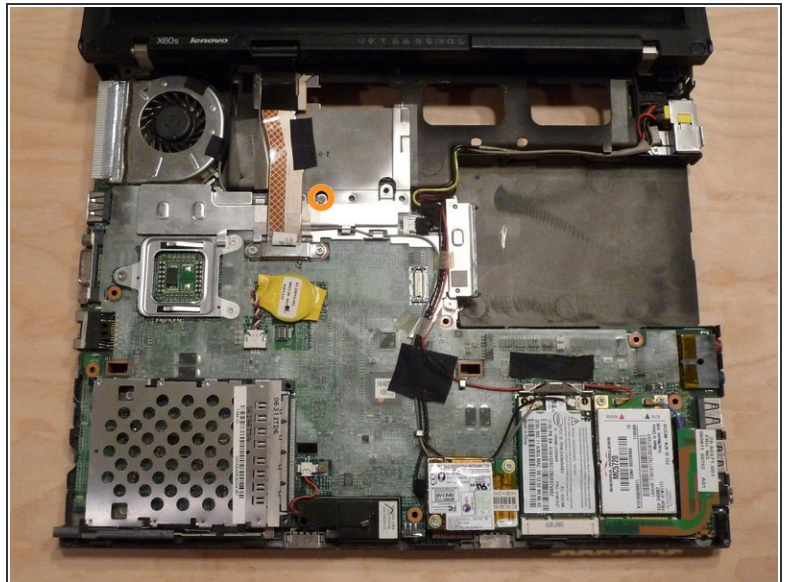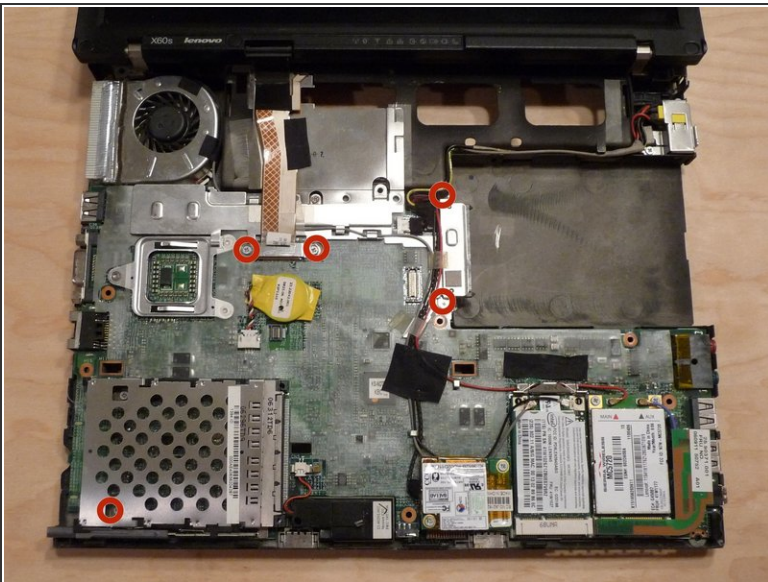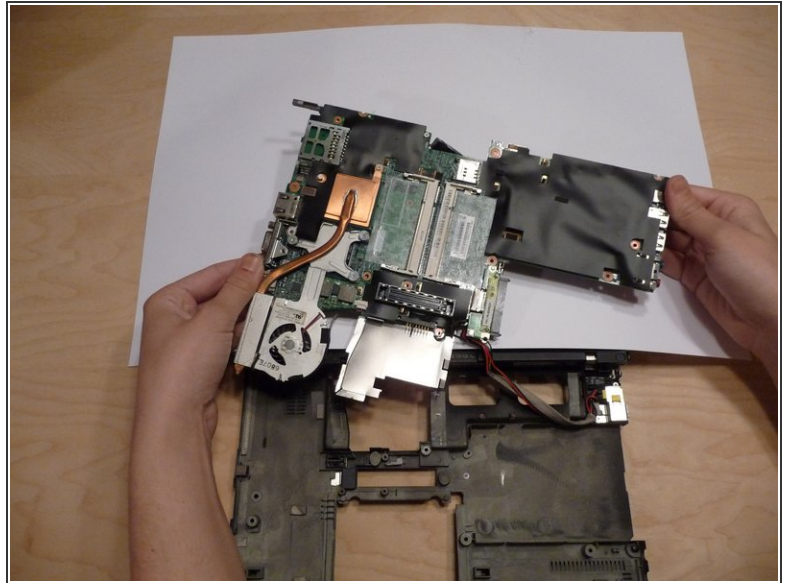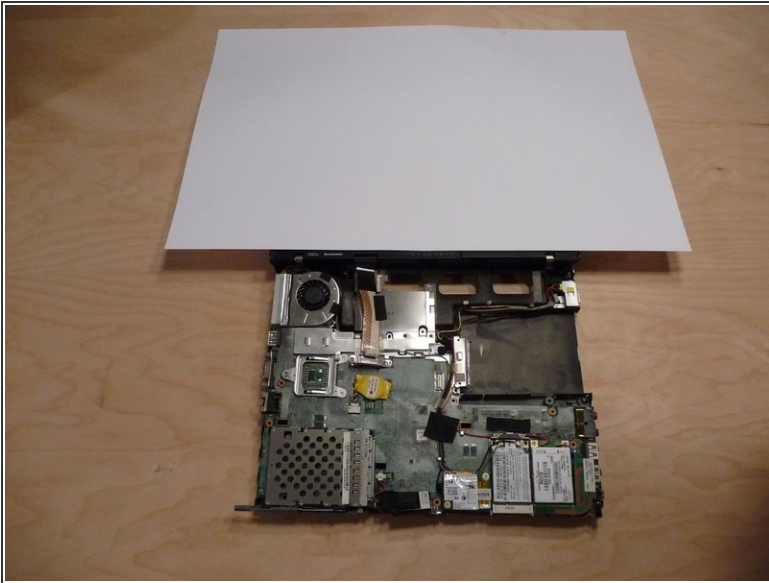- Pull up to detach the keyboard ribbon tab.

Step 7

- Pull up to detach the fingerprint scanner ribbon tab.

- Lift up on the faceplate to remove it.

Step 8

- Unscrew the five silver 3mm Phillips #1 screws securing the motherboard.

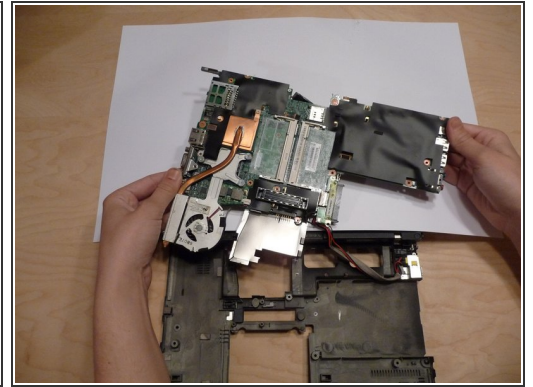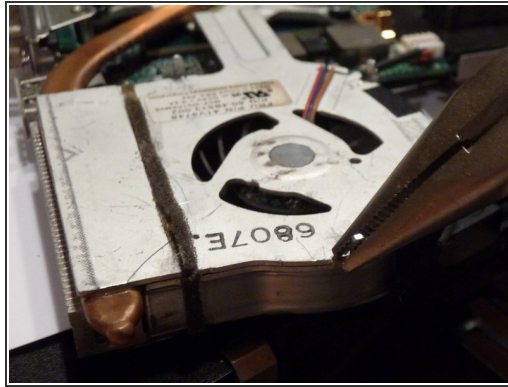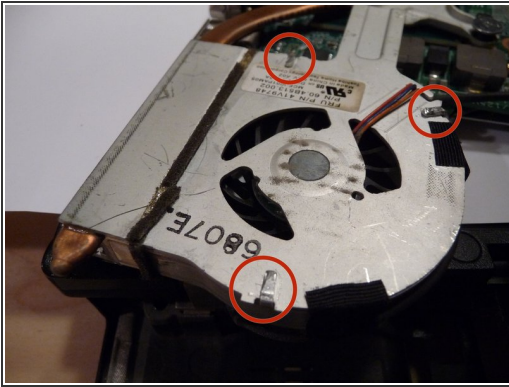- Unscrew the silver 7mm Phillips #1 screw securing the motherboard.

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Step 9

(i) (Optional) Lay a piece of paper, or other protective material, over the laptop screen.

● Flip the motherboard over onto the screen (or protective material).

(i) Flipping the motherboard over should not require forceful motion.

⚠ Take extreme care not to damage any ribbon cables or wires still connected to the motherboard.
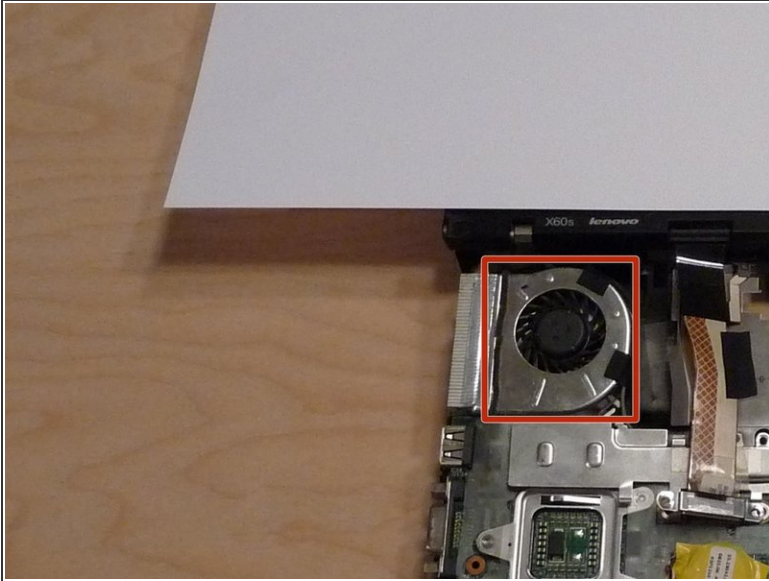
Step 10

- Pry back the three metal tabs on the now-exposed underside of the fan housing with needle-nose pliers.

- Flip the motherboard back over.

- ⓘ Flipping the motherboard over should not require forceful motion.

- ⚠ Take extreme care not to damage any ribbon cables or wires still connected to the motherboard.

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Step 11

- Lift the metal housing off of the fan.

- (i) There may be foil tape securing the housing. If so, remove it carefully in order to put it back after replacing the fan spindle.

- Remove and replace the fan spindle.

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