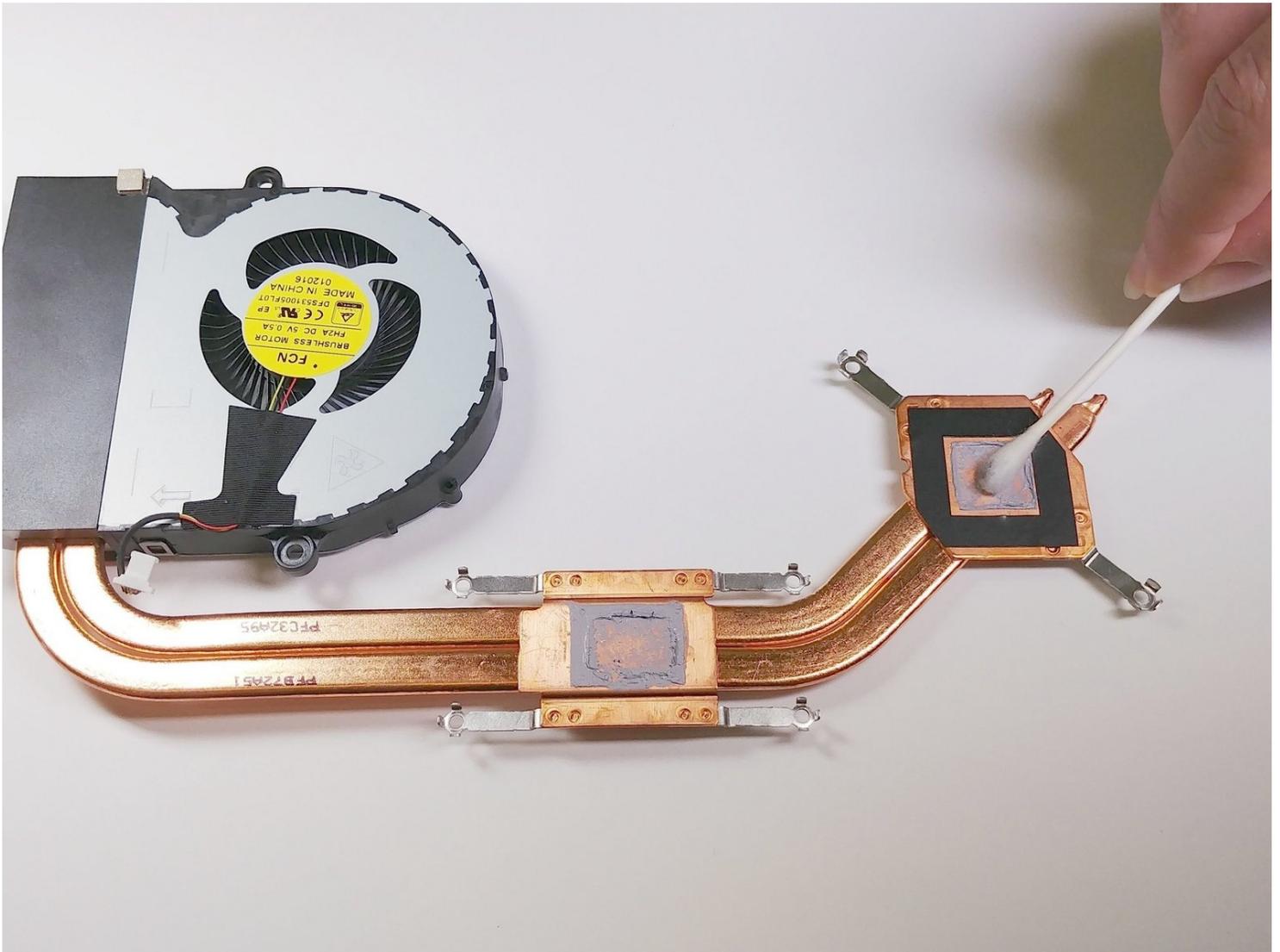




How to Clean and Apply Thermal Compound

Written By: Reina Godeck



TOOLS:

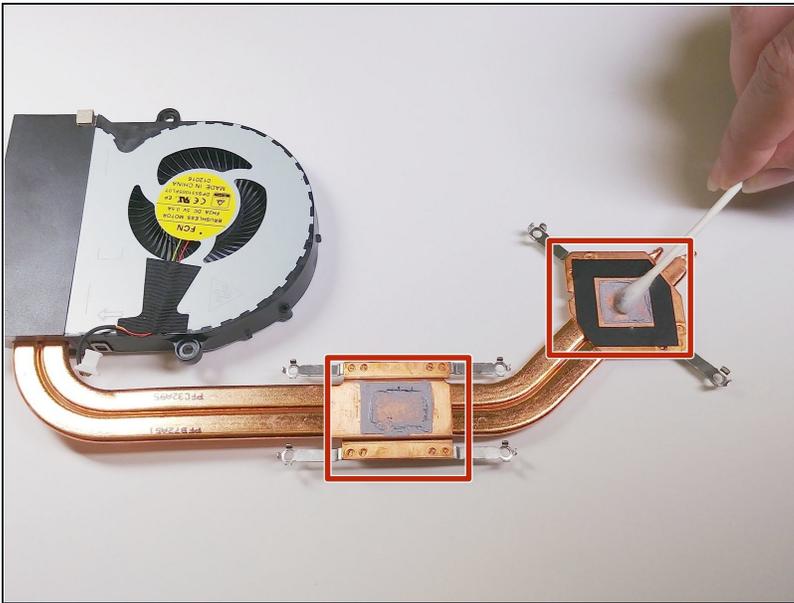
Thermal Paste (1)

Plastic Cards (1)

Cotton Swabs (1)

Isopropyl Alcohol (90% or Greater) (1)

Step 1 — How to Clean and Apply Thermal Compound



- Saturate a cotton swab with isopropyl alcohol, and remove the thermal compound from the thermal plates on your component using gentle circular motions.

ⓘ As the cotton swab becomes saturated with thermal compound, discard and continue with a freshly dipped cotton swab. The compound plate is clean when the cotton swabs come away clean.

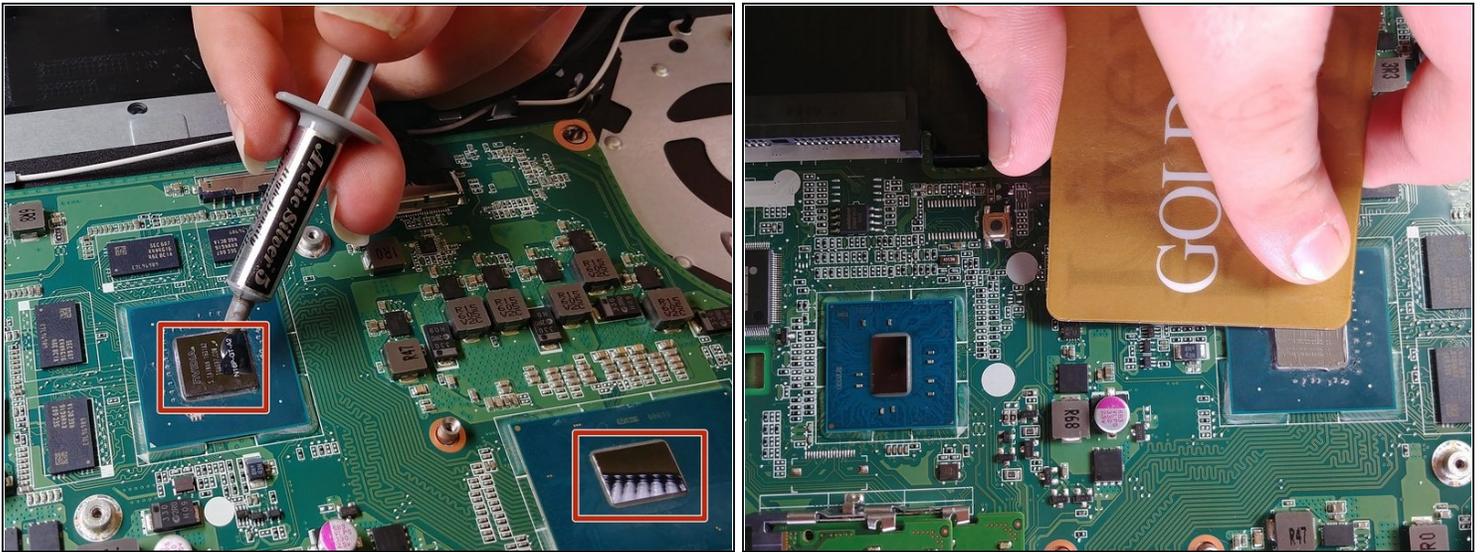
Step 2



- Repeat the same cleaning process from the previous step on the matching thermal plates on the motherboard.

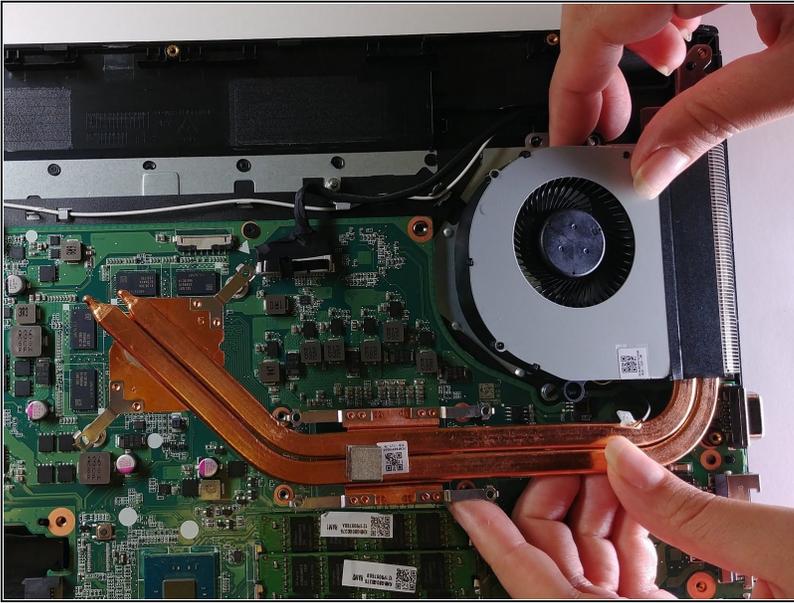
⚠️ Avoid touching the thermal compound areas once they are clean. Dirt or oil on either surface can disrupt cooling performance and lead to overheating or thermal throttling.

Step 3



- Apply a small amount of **thermal compound**, about the size of a grain of rice, on the corner of each the **cleaned thermal plates on the motherboard**.
 - Using a **clean plastic card**, carefully spread the thermal compound evenly over the surfaces of each thermal plate.
- ⓘ *You need to clean the thermal plates on both the component and the motherboard, but you only need to apply thermal paste on the motherboard thermal plates.*
- ⚠ *Avoid applying too much or too little thermal compound, as it can impede crucial heat transfer. Once spread, the compound should be about as thick as a single sheet of paper.*

Step 4



- Gently re-seat your component, making sure that the thermal plates align correctly.

Please refer to the previous guide in order to reassemble your device.