MacBook Pro 17" Unibody Hard Drive Cable Replacement
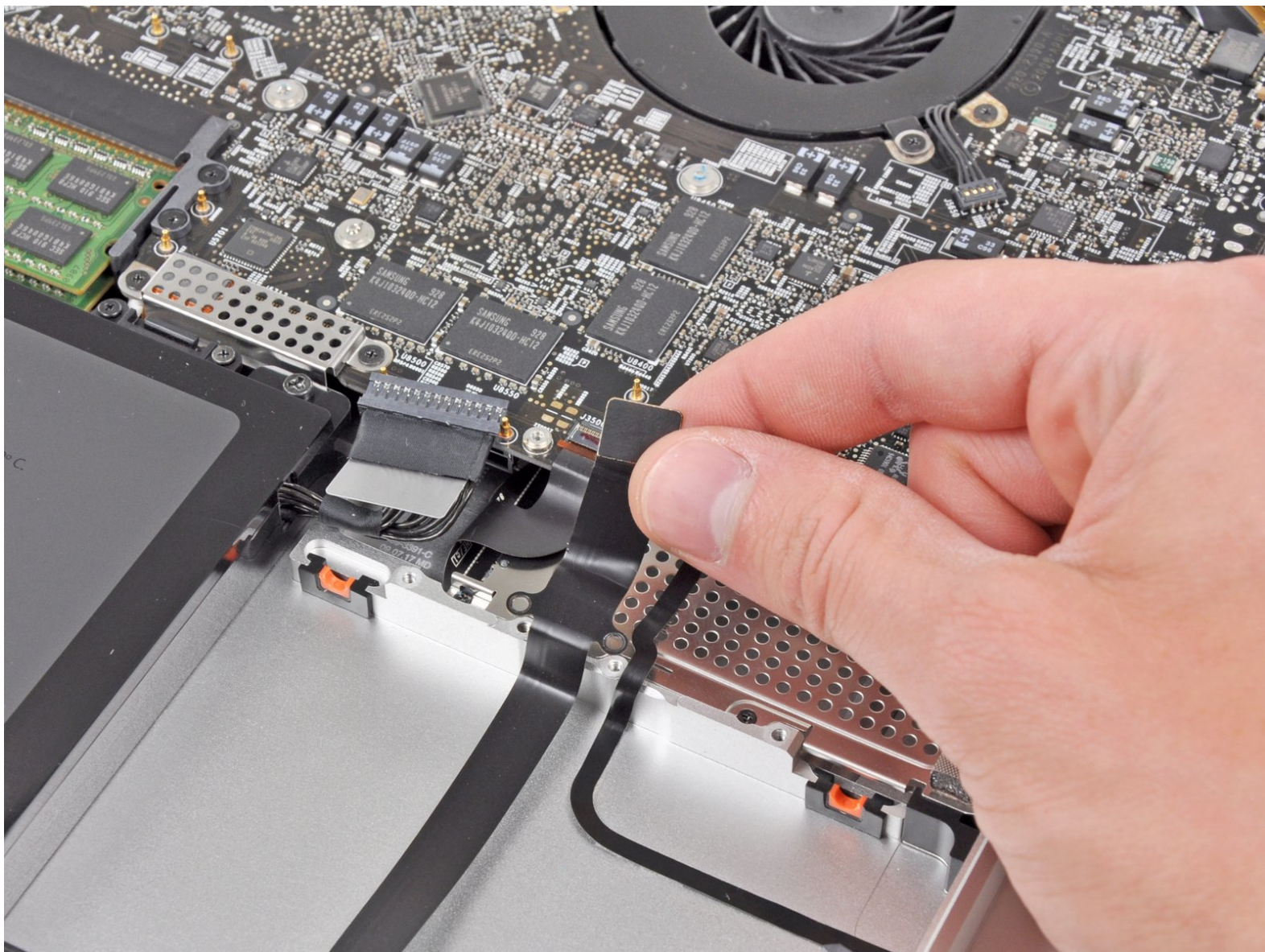
Replace a broken hard drive cable.

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to replace a hard drive cable that is torn or has broken connectors.

TOOLS:
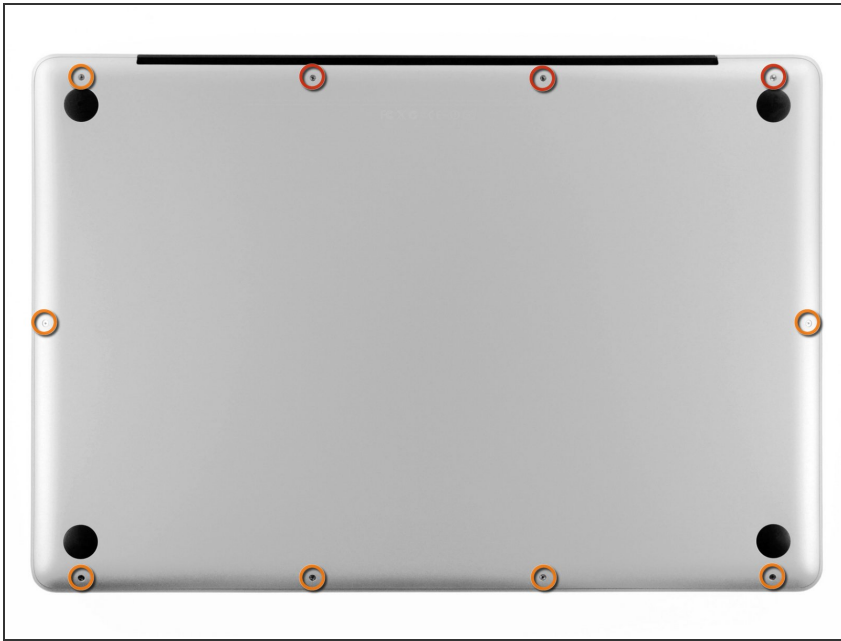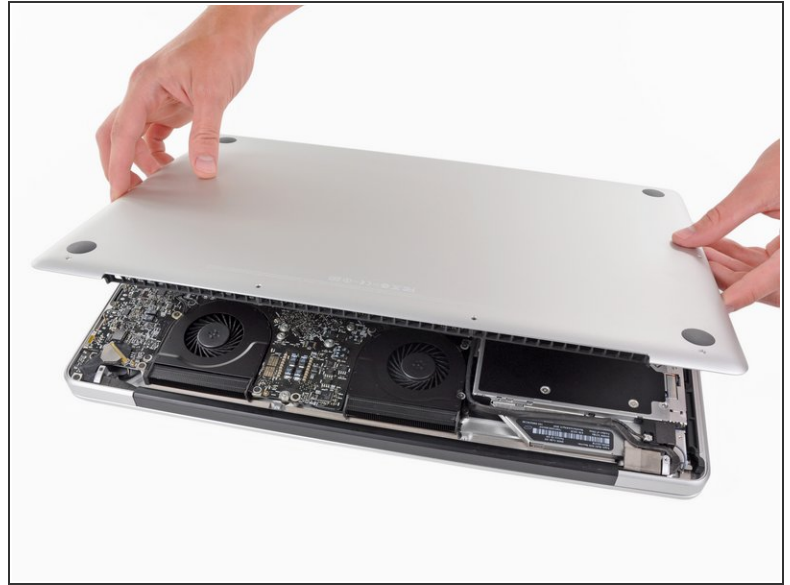
- Phillips #00 Screwdriver (1)
- Spudger (1)

PARTS:

- MacBook Pro 17" Unibody (Early 2009 to Mid 2010) Hard Drive Cable (1)
- MacBook Pro 17" Unibody (Early 2011) Hard Drive Cable (1)

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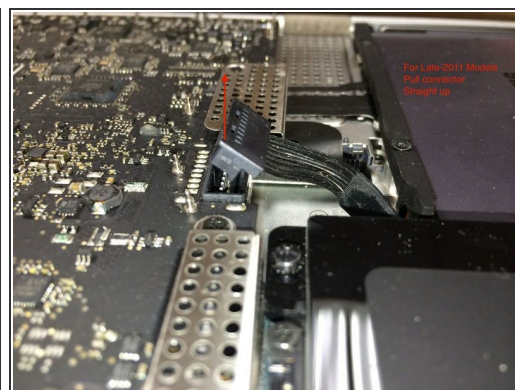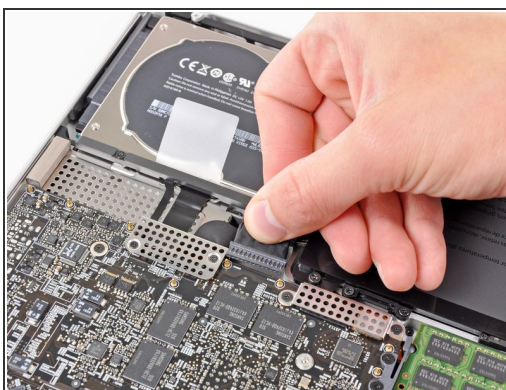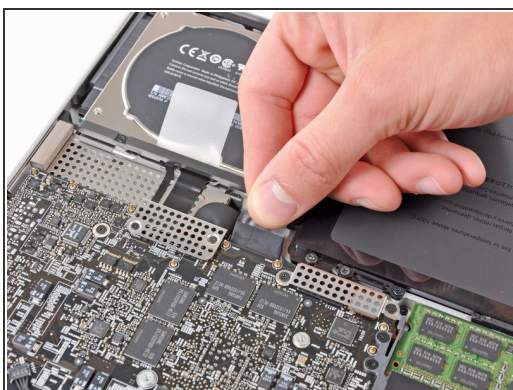
Step 1 — Lower Case

- Remove the following ten screws securing the lower case to the upper case:
  - Three 13.5 mm Phillips screws.
  - Seven 3 mm Phillips screws.

Step 2

- Wedge your fingers between the lower case and the vent, and lift upward to release the two clips holding the lower case to the upper case.

  - ⊡ During reassembly, carefully align the lower case and then press it firmly until both clips engage.
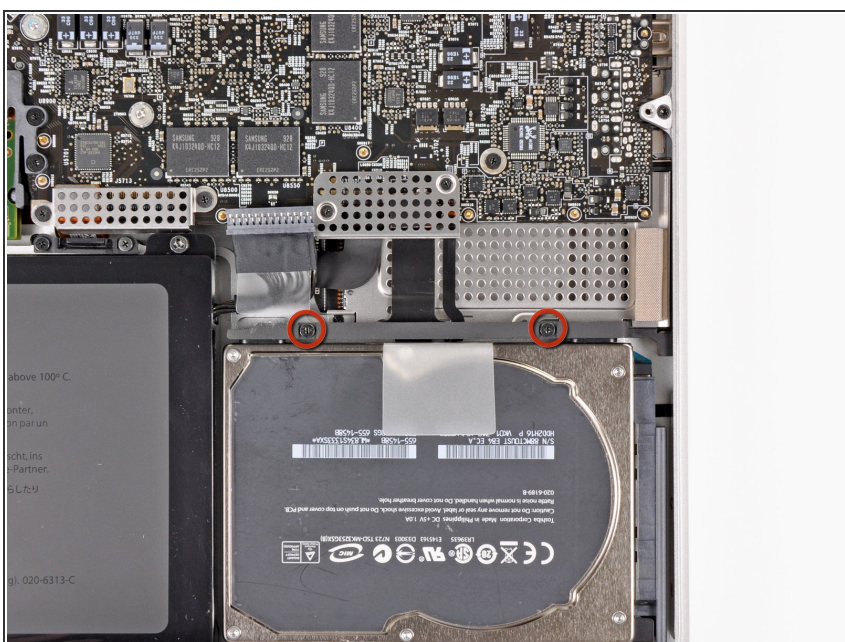
- Remove the lower case.

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Step 3 — Battery

⚠️ Whenever working near the logic board, it is always wise to first disconnect the battery to avoid short circuits.

● If present, grab the plastic tab attached to the battery connector and pull it toward the front edge of the device. For Late-2011 models the battery connector will not have a tab and is simply a plug that inserts straight down into the motherboard--to remove pry the plug straight up.

ⓘ If the plastic tab is missing, use a spudger to pry the connector up from its socket.

📌 Pull the tab parallel to the face of the logic board.

Step 4 — Hard Drive

● Remove the two Phillips screws securing the hard drive bracket to the upper case.

ⓘ These screws are captive to the hard drive bracket.

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Step 5

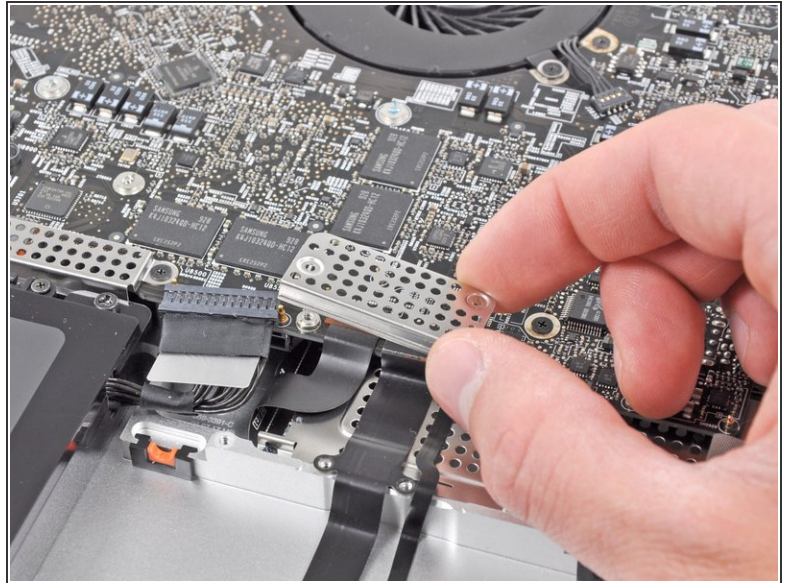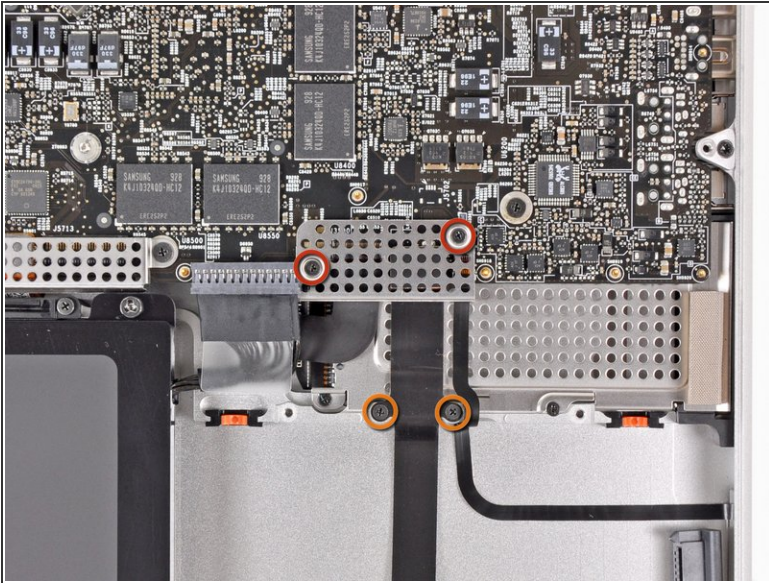- Remove the hard drive bracket from the upper case.

Step 6

- Use the hard drive's pull tab to lift it out of the upper case.

⚠️ Don't try to completely remove the hard drive just yet! Its cable is still connected.
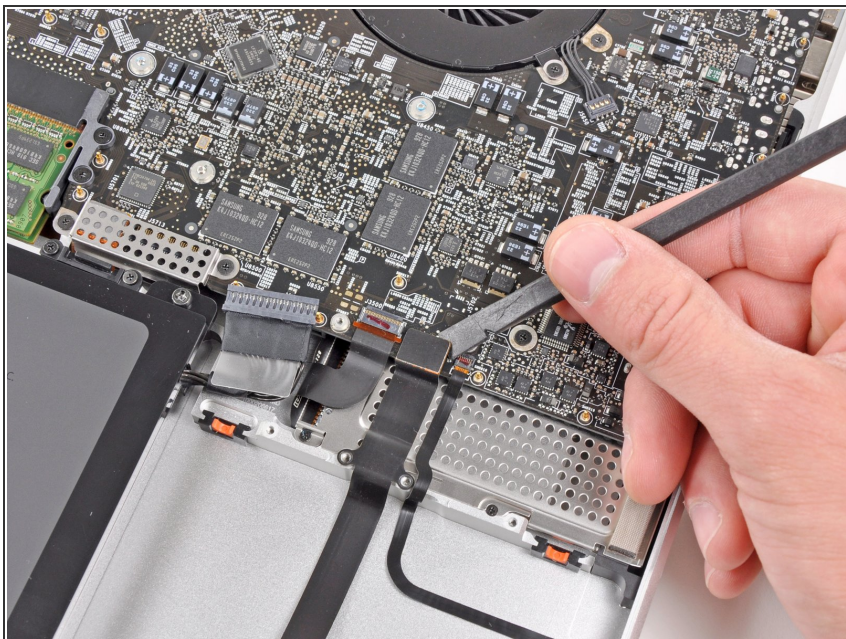
Step 7

- Pull the hard drive connector away from the body of the hard drive.

- Remove the hard drive from your MacBook Pro.

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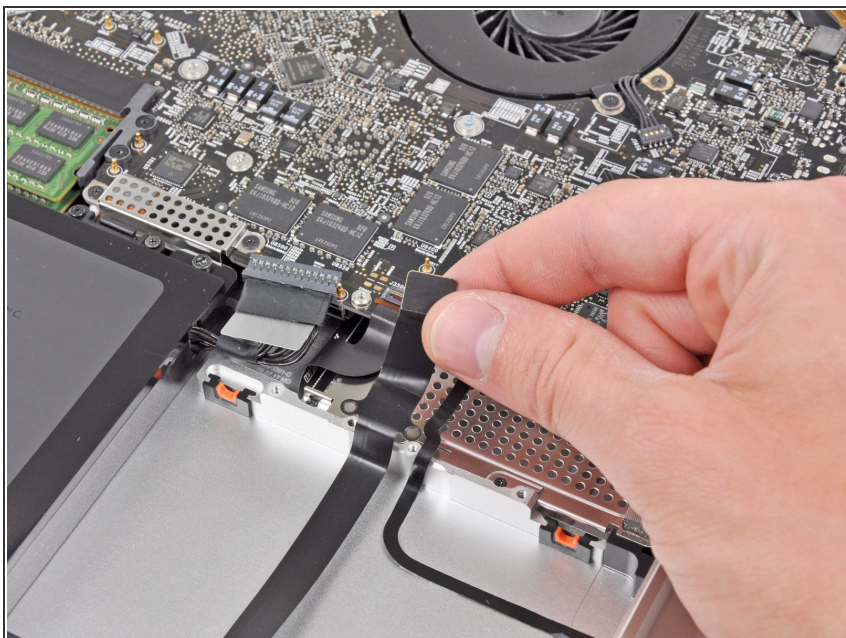
Step 8 — Hard Drive Cable

- Remove the following four screws securing the hard drive cable assembly to the upper case:
  - Two 1.6 mm Phillips screws securing the shield that covers the hard drive cable connector.
  - Two 2.2 mm Phillips screws securing the hard drive cable connector to the upper case.
- Remove the shield from the logic board.

Step 9

- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the hard drive connector up and out of its socket on the logic board.

Step 10

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

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

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