



MacBook Air 13" Early 2017 SSD Replacement

Use this guide to upgrade or replace the...

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to upgrade or replace the solid-state drive in a MacBook Air 13" Early 2017. This MacBook Air uses a [proprietary storage drive connector](#), and is therefore **not compatible** with common M.2 drives without the use of an adapter.

Before you perform this repair, if at all possible, [back up your existing SSD](#). Then, either familiarize yourself with [internet recovery](#) or [create a bootable external drive](#) so you'll be ready to install macOS onto your new drive and migrate your data to the new SSD.

Finally, we strongly recommend installing macOS 10.13 High Sierra (or a later macOS) before replacing the original SSD from your MacBook Air. Most new SSDs require updated storage drivers not found in versions of macOS prior to High Sierra.



TOOLS:

- [P5 Pentalobe Screwdriver Retina MacBook Pro and Air](#) (1)
- [T5 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [MacBook Air 13" Early 2017 Blade SSD Upgrade Bundle](#) (1)
- [OWC Aura Pro X2 SSD](#) (1)

Step 1 — Lower Case



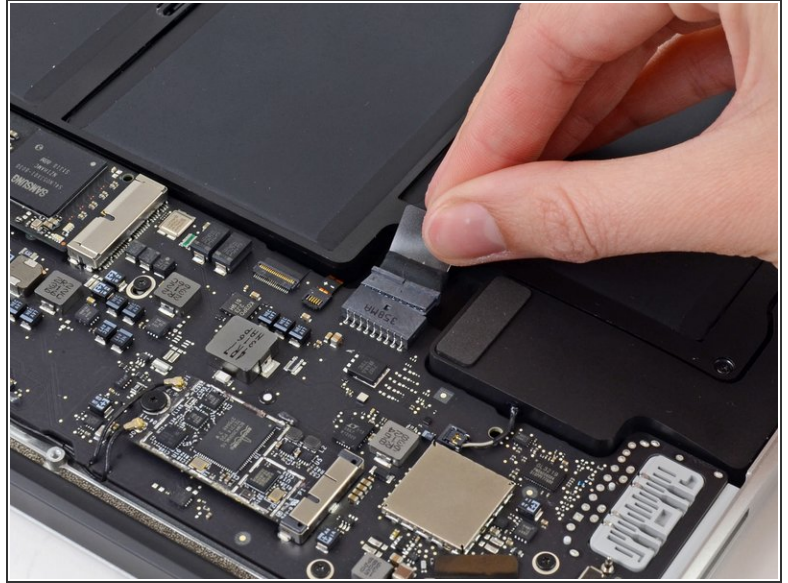
- **i** Before proceeding, power down your MacBook. Close the display and lay it on a soft surface, top-side down.
- Use a [P5 Pentalobe](#) driver to remove ten screws securing the lower case, of the following lengths:
 - Two 9 mm screws
 - Eight 2.6 mm screws



Step 2



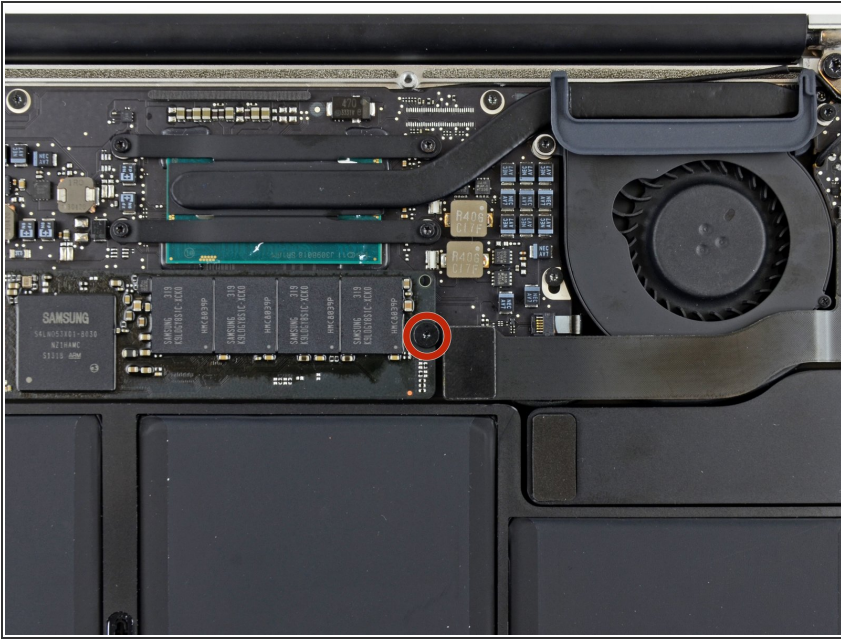
- Wedge your fingers between the display and the lower case and pull upward to pop the lower case off the Air.
- Remove the lower case and set it aside.

Step 3 — Battery Connector



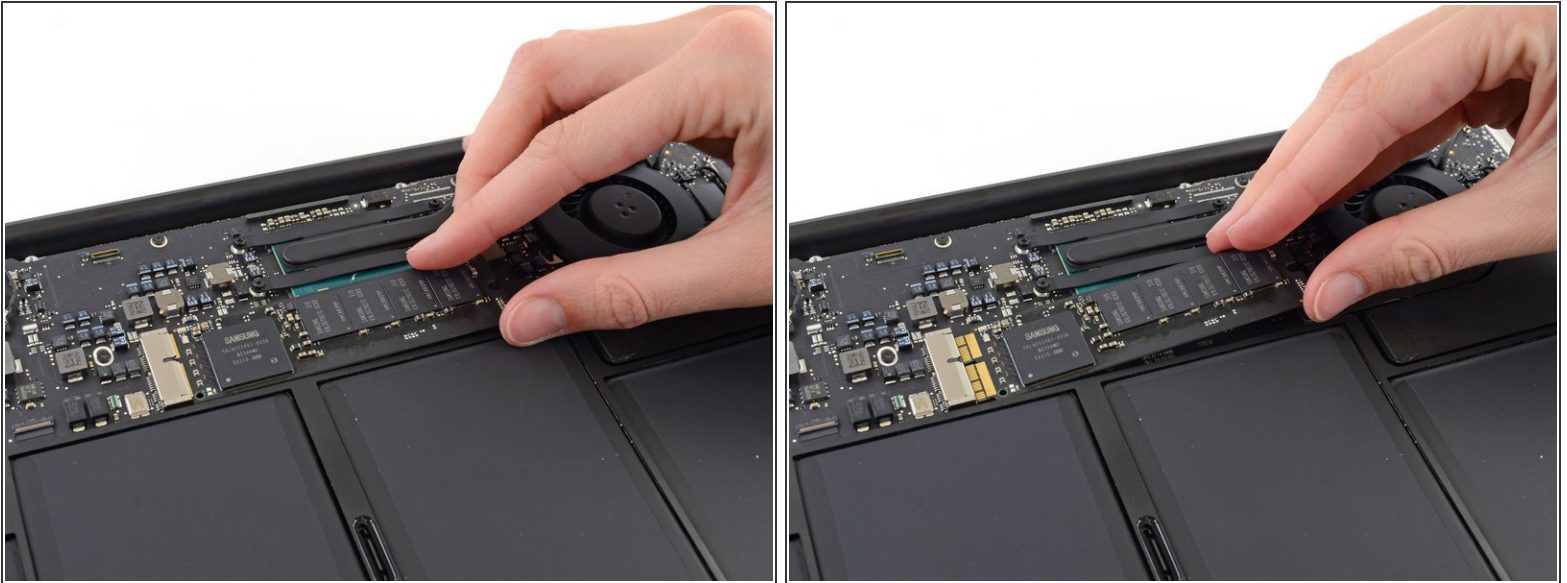
-  To ensure that everything is de-energized and won't turn on while you're working, it is recommended that you disconnect the battery.
- Grab the clear plastic pull tab attached to the battery connector and pull it parallel to the board toward the front edge of the Air.
-  Do not lift upward on the connector as you disconnect it or you risk damage to the connector socket.

Step 4 — Solid-State Drive



- Remove the single 2.9 mm T5 Torx screw securing the SSD to the logic board.

Step 5



- Gently lift the end of the SSD about half an inch and pull it straight out of its socket on the logic board.
 - ⚠ Don't lift the SSD more than half an inch—doing so may damage the SSD or its socket on the logic board.
- ☑ When reinstalling the SSD, be sure it is properly seated before reinstalling its retaining screw.

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

Take your e-waste to an [R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler](#).

Repair didn't go as planned? Try some [basic troubleshooting](#), or ask our [Answers community](#) for help.