

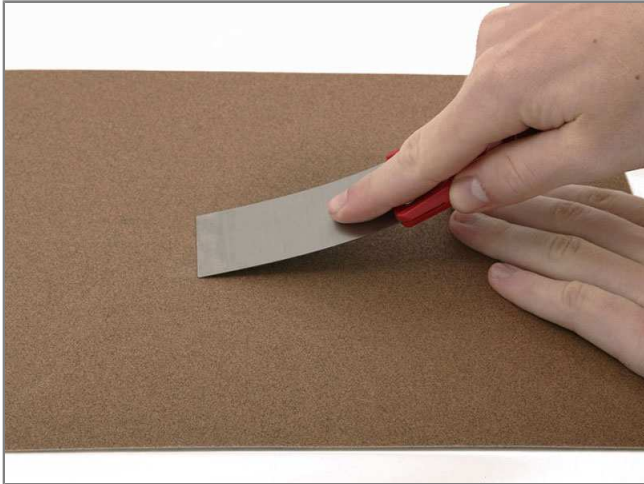


Installing Mac mini (PowerPC) Storage Interface Board

Tools used in this guide

- [1.5" Thin Putty Knife](#) (1)
- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)

This board connects the optical drive and hard drive to the logic board.



Step 1 - Upper Case

- You can skip this step if you bought your [putty knife from iFixit](#). Putty knives purchased from iFixit come with pre-ground edges.
- You'll need a putty knife in order to open the case. A 1.5 inch thin putty knife will work well, but you'll want to grind the edge down. Rub the putty knife's short edge back and forth on a sheet of all purpose rough grit sandpaper (100 grit will work fine) until it attains a beveled edge.



Step 2

- Place the mini upside down on a cloth and turn it so that the apple leaf faces you.
- Insert the putty knife into the seam between silver outer case and the white plastic. If you have trouble, you can insert the putty knife at an angle or grind the knife's edge down further. Push the blade down until you meet firm resistance (roughly 3/8 of an inch).



Step 3

- Pull directly back on the putty knife until the white plastics pops up. Don't worry about bending the putty knife too far or breaking the plastic tabs. Just continue to pull back on the putty knife until the case pops free.
- Repeat this procedure on the other side.



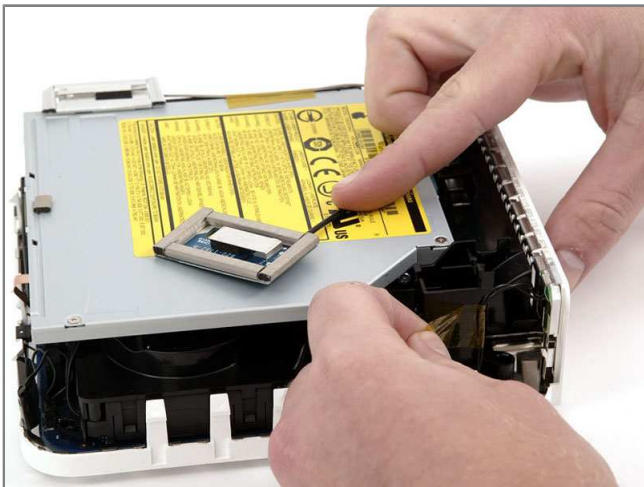
Step 4

- Grasp the white lower case beneath the vent and rotate it up and away from you, pulling it free of the upper case.



Step 5 - Mass Storage Unit

- If your mini does not have Airport installed, then skip this step.
- Grasp the Airport antenna board and lift it off of the two plastic posts holding it in place. You may need to push back the black plastic tab jutting through the lower left corner of the board.



Step 6

- Remove the yellow tape securing the power button cable to the black plastic framework.



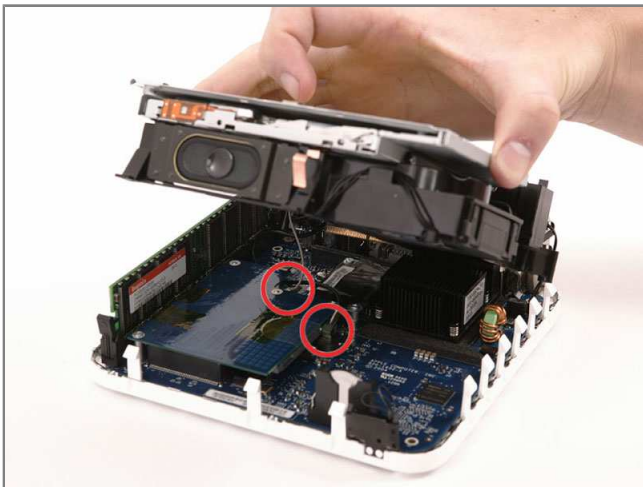
Step 7

- Remove the three black Phillips screws securing the plastic framework to the logic board and lower case.



Step 8

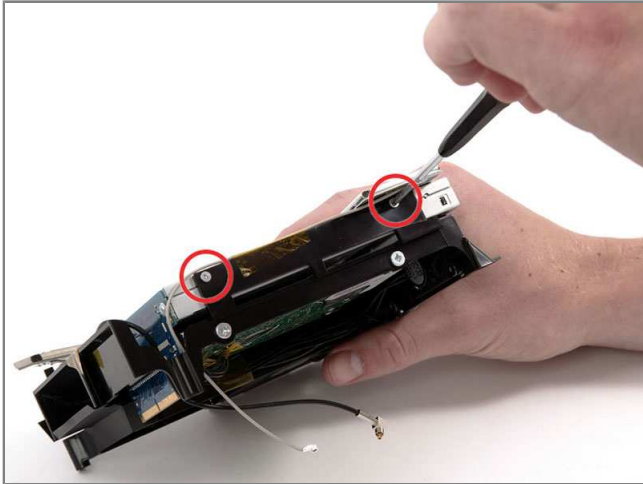
- Grasp the optical drive and mass storage unit in one hand and lift up enough so that you can see beneath it.



Step 9

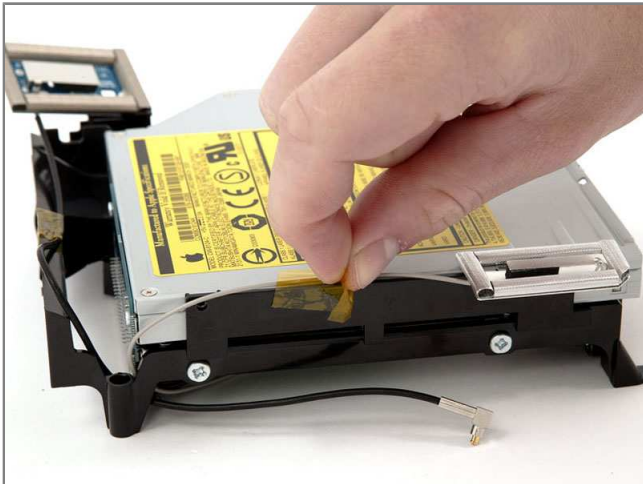
- If your mini has neither an Airport card nor a Bluetooth board, you can simply lift the optical drive up and away. Otherwise, you need to disconnect the Airport and/or Bluetooth antenna cables first.
- With your free hand, pull the Bluetooth cable up from Bluetooth board and unplug the Airport antenna cable from the right of the Airport card. Caution: both of these connections are very small. When re-assembling unit after repair, you may want to remove the two screws holding the airport card to the assembly and lift the card up and out to re-attach the cables.





Step 10 - Storage Interface Board

- Remove the four silver Phillips screws attaching the optical drive to the black plastic framework (two on each side).



Step 11

- If your mini does not have a Bluetooth board, you may skip the following step.
- Remove the yellow tape securing the Bluetooth antenna cable to the black plastic framework.
- Lift the silver Bluetooth antenna board out of its slot.



Step 12

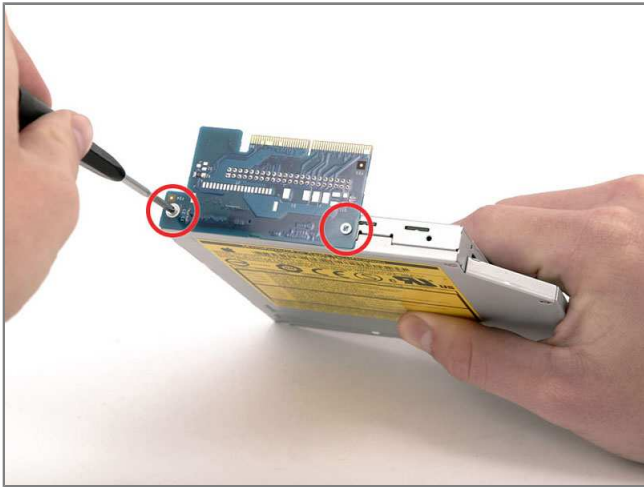
- The cables you're about to remove are very fragile - do not pull directly on the wires. Instead, try to pry up the connector directly, using your fingernails or a small flathead screwdriver if necessary.
- Flip the mass storage assembly over and disconnect the speaker and fan cables from the interface board.





Step 13

- Flip the mass storage assembly back over. Grasp either side of the plastic framework and push the optical drive away from you with your thumbs on either side of the bezel until you hear it pop free.
- Lift the optical drive and attached interface board up from the assembly.



Step 14

- Remove the two silver Phillips screws connecting the interface board to the optical drive.



Step 15

- Grasp either side of the interface board and wiggle it free of the optical drive.

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

This document was last generated on Dec 14, 2010.

