

Tecra 8100 Disassembly
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Disclaimer: By following this tutorial, you agree to release PaulTech from all liability that may result as a direct or indirect result of doing maintenance on your own laptop and/or computer. This includes, but is not limited to, data loss, shock or death, and loss of operation of the computer.

Doing your own work on your laptop is a complicated task that can be accomplished if you follow a few simple rules:

1. **Always unplug your laptop & always remove the battery.** This will keep you from getting shocked or killed!
2. Never force plastic parts to come loose. If you have to force the part – it usually means you are doing it wrong.
3. Always tape the screws to the part you removed them from. This keeps the screws organized – because, believe me, you will forget where they went.
4. Never keep working on the computer if you become completely frustrated – walk away. Otherwise, you will be tempted to force parts, throw the computer, and destroy your work. Open windows always become very tempting when working on this stuff!

Now, having said all that, doing your own work can be really fun and rewarding. I am showing you my Tecra, but the steps for other laptops are similar. What you find is that the outside skin of laptops are usually secured by screws and tabs. Be careful when prying the skin apart – forcing it will break tabs. So, take a deep breath and let's dive in.

My Tecra 8100's power jack was acting up and I suspected that the solder joints on it had become bad. I was right.



Here's my piece of junk Tecra and my micro screwdriver set. These are great for work on laptops with all their various super small screws.



Here I am removing all the components that I can before I get started disassembly. This behemoth is the Tecra battery.



Good bye CD Rom.



Here are the screws you need to remove from this side of the laptop. I apologize if I missed any in the pic. You will be able to tell pretty quickly if I did. Also, notice the different letter-number labels on each screw hole. This tells you the size of the screw that goes there. It's best to tape each individual screw next to the hole that it goes into.



Yep, keep on removing.



Keep going, you're getting there. Remember to tape those screws.



This one is easy to miss, don't forget it. This is the access door to the hard drive.



Here I am removing the modem card.



Here tis the memory! By the way, Tecras are prone to memory slot failure. If your Tecra just stops booting one day, this is a good guess. Symptoms include: powers on, but the screen doesn't light up (not even the Toshiba red logo), and the fan kicks up. The best thing to try is removing one memory stick at a time and rebooting. Sometimes it can also be the actual memory stick. To test, just switch memory sticks when you get a positive on the "bad" memory slot. If the "bad" memory slot moves, then your memory is bad, not the slot.



Remove the memory by pushing the two plastic tabs out, away from the memory stick. Remove the memory stick. Remember when replacing the stick, that the memory slides into the slot at an angle.



Here I am removing the hard drive, using the plastic tab to pull. It pulls straight out. Make sure you don't drop the hard drive – they're sensitive!



This screw is easy to miss.



These are easy to miss too. They're behind the modem.



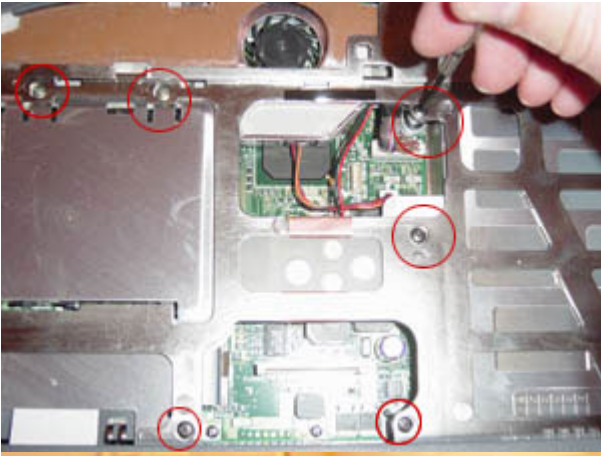
Now, flip that laptop over and pry the access panel off of the top. Slide a screwdriver underneath and gently pry it up. Be gentle!



Again, an easy to miss screw. This holds the keyboard in place.

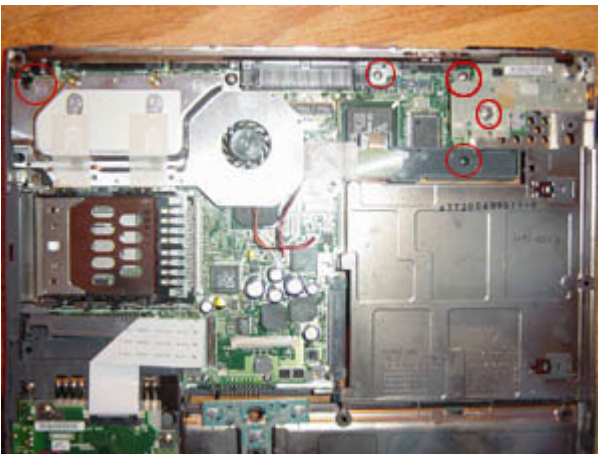


Lifting the keyboard up reveals the flexible circuit cable attaching to the motherboard underneath. To remove the cable, push up on white plastic tabs. This will release the thin cable.

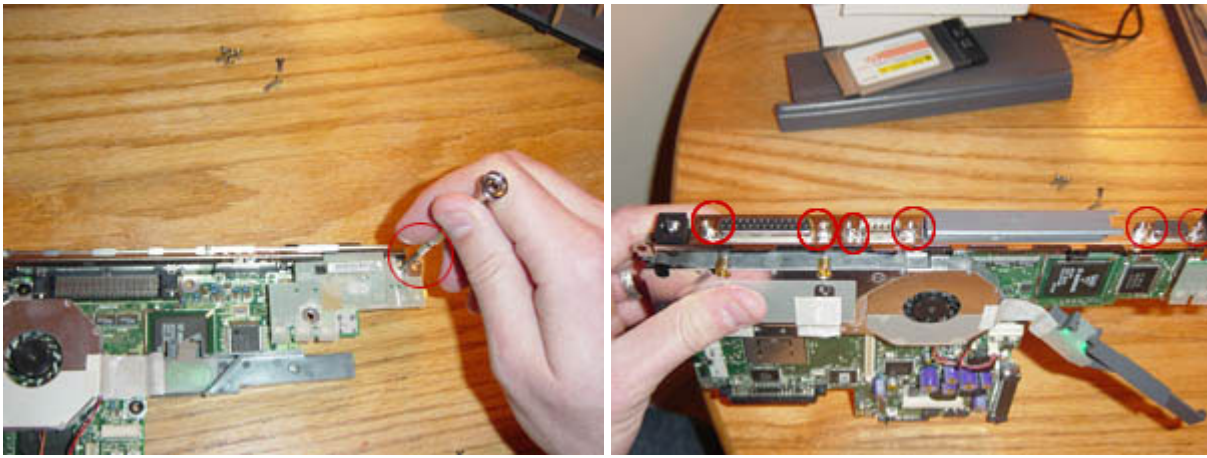




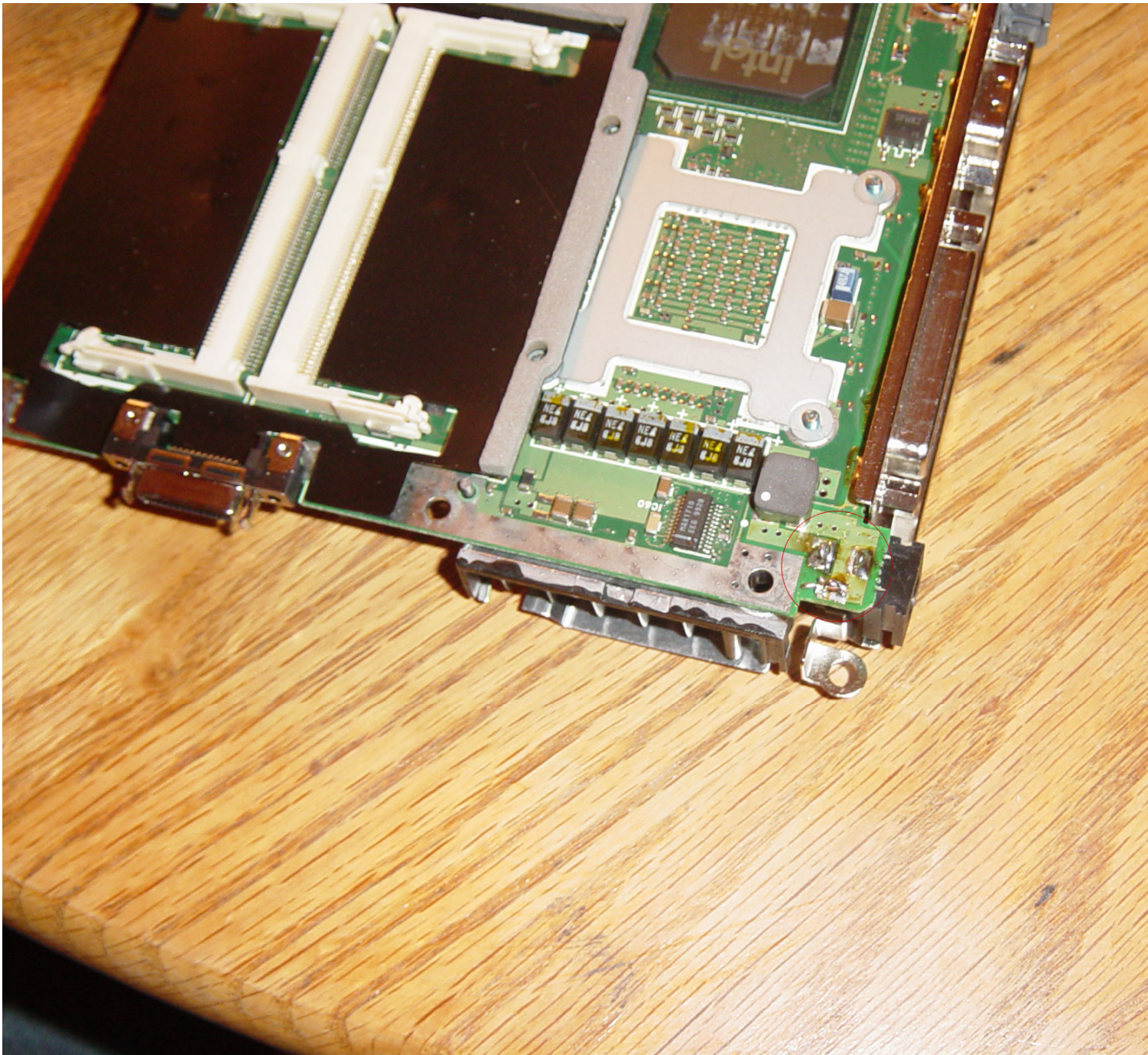
Here are the screws you need to remove to release the upper case, including the lcd screen, from the bottom. Make sure you remove that power cable. There are some tabs on the bottom front, where the battery used to be. Use a screwdriver to carefully dislodge these. I think there are 3 of them. Be careful when lifting this part – it's flimsy! Ahhhh, the guts of the laptop.



Here are the screws you need to remove to loosen the motherboard from the bottom skin.



Here is the screw that holds the back metal piece on. This is the “hinge.” Also, these are the bolts you have to remove to get rid of that metal casing on the back of the board.



Here is higher resolution picture of the solder joints for the power jack, in case you wanted to know. This was after I had resoldered it. The easiest way to do this job is to get some desoldering braid from radio shack or some electronics store. Get some solder and a soldering gun. Remove the old solder using the braid and remove the jack. Resolder it. Search the web for tutorials – they’re out there. As you can see, I’m an amateur.

I hope that helps some folks. Feel free to pass this tutorial on to anyone who wants it. And remember to check back at PaulTech – we do frequent product giveaways and are compiling lots of tutorials.

Also, feel free to email me at the address at the top if you are having problems not discussed here. Or heck, just to say hi.

