

system76



System76
Darter Pro (darp6)
Service manual

Revision history

| Author | Date | Version | Remarks |
|---------------------|------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Aaron Honeycutt | 2019-02-21 | Initial | |
| Levi Portener | 2019-02-21 | | Measurements |
| Aaron Honeycutt | 2019-09-25 | | Update screw count |
| Thomas Zimmerman | 2019-09-26 | | Match style to Galago Pro |
| Nathaniel Warburton | 2019-11-11 | | Proof-reading/Editing |

Contents

[Revision history](#)

[Hardware overview](#)

[External overview](#)

[Ports overview](#)

[Bottom case screw sizes](#)

[Front LED overview](#)

[Hardware keyboard shortcuts](#)

[External displays](#)

[Thunderbolt 3 and eGPU](#)

[Internal component overview](#)

[User-serviceable parts and repairs](#)

[Replacing the keyboard](#)

[Steps to replace the keyboard](#)

[Photo guide for keyboard replacement](#)

[Removing the bottom cover](#)

[Steps to remove the cover](#)

[Steps to replace the cover](#)

[Photo guide for bottom cover removal/replacement](#)

[Replacing the RAM](#)

[Steps to replace the RAM](#)

[Photo guide for replacing the RAM](#)

[Replacing an M.2/NVMe SSD](#)

[Steps to replace the M.2 drive](#)

[Replacing the CPU fan](#)

[Steps to replace the CPU fan](#)

[Replacing the CPU heatsink/thermal paste](#)

[Steps to replace the CPU heatsink/thermal paste](#)

[Replacing the CMOS battery](#)

[Steps to replace the CMOS battery](#)

[Replacing the internal battery](#)

[Steps to replace the internal battery](#)

[Replacing the WiFi/Bluetooth module](#)

[Steps to replace the WiFi/Bluetooth module](#)

[BIOS utilities](#)

[Updating the BIOS](#)

[BIOS overview](#)

[Main menu](#)

[Advanced](#)

[Security](#)

[Boot](#)

[Specifications](#)

Hardware overview

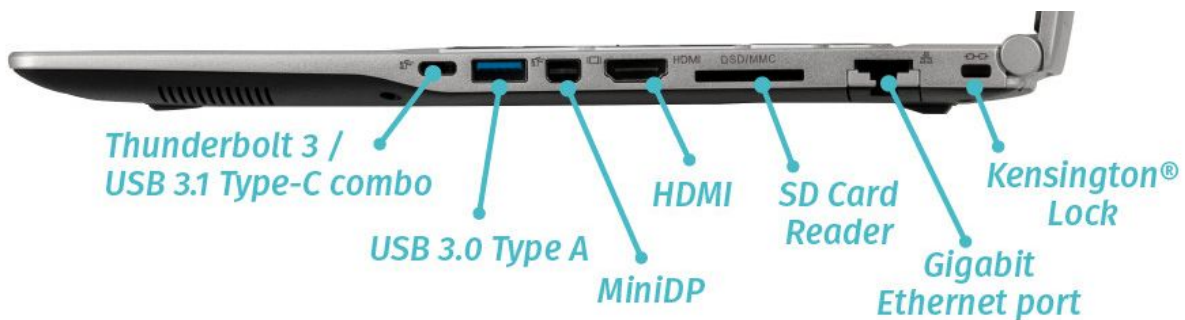
External overview

Ports overview

The Darter provides multiple connectivity options.



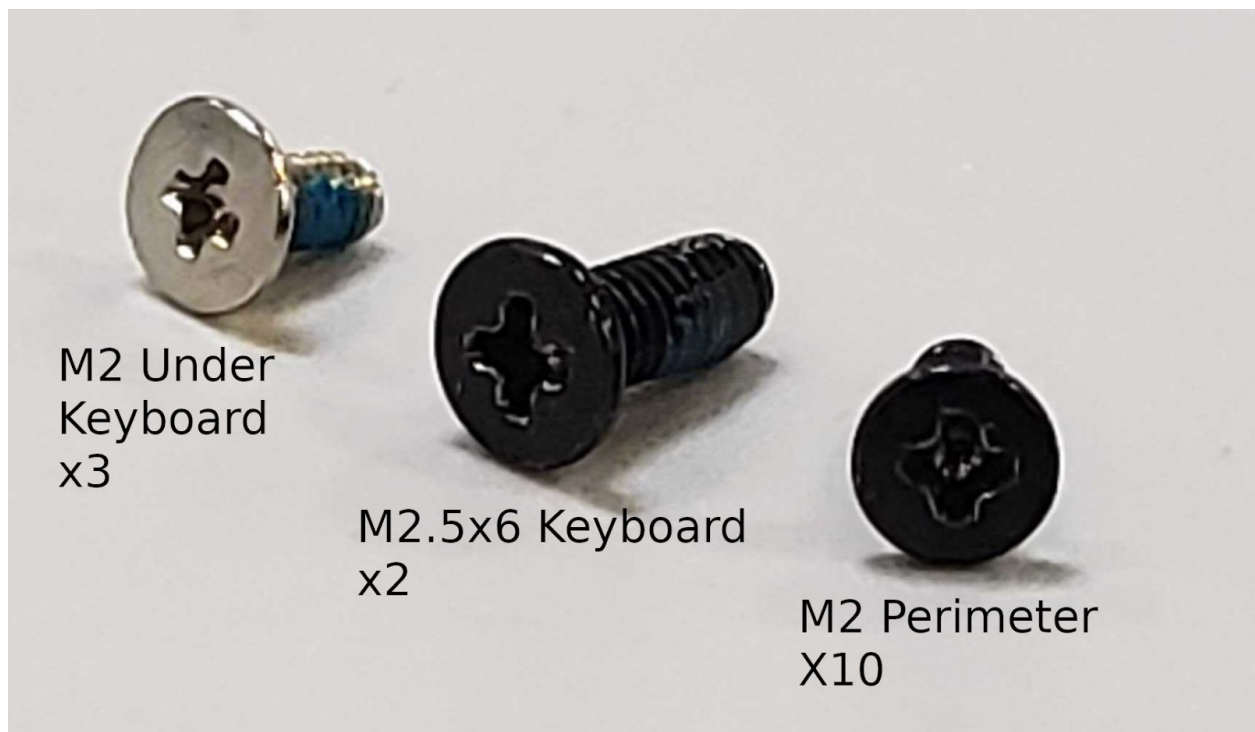
Left side overview



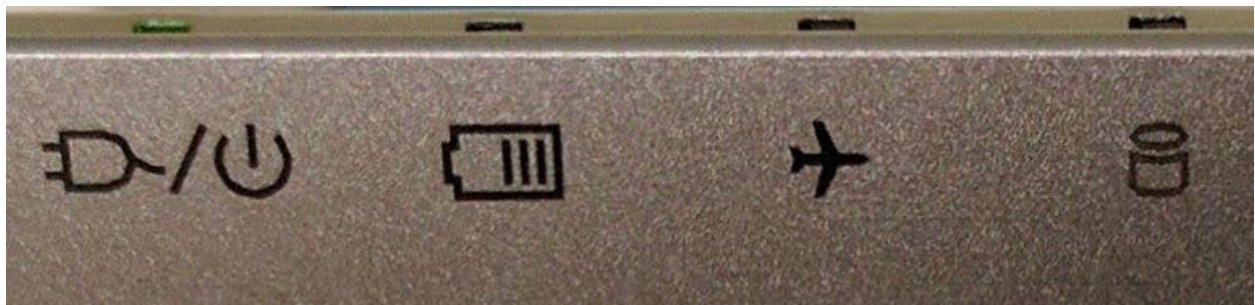
Right side overview





Bottom case screw sizes

The Darter has 3 sizes of screws for securing the bottom case.
















Front LED overview



| Icon | Color | Description |
|---|-----------------|--|
|  | Orange | DC power plugged in |
| | Green | Computer is on |
| | Blinking green | Computer is sleeping |
|  | Orange | Battery charging |
| | Green | Battery fully charged |
| | Blinking orange | Battery critically low |
|  | Green | Airplane mode is ON (WiFi/Bluetooth disabled) |
|  | Green | Hard disk activity |

Hardware keyboard shortcuts

Your Darter has several actions available using the Fn and Function keys.

| Key | Shortcut | Action |
|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
|  | Fn+F1 | Toggle trackpad |
|  | Fn+F2 | Toggle built-in LCD |
|  | Fn+F3 | Mute |
|  | Fn+* | Toggle keyboard backlight |
|  | Fn+F5 | Volume down |
|  | Fn+F6 | Volume up |
|  | Fn+F7 | Toggle displays |
|  | Fn+F8 | Brightness down |
|  | Fn+F9 | Brightness up |
|  | Fn+F10 | Toggle webcam |
|  | Fn+F11 | Toggle airplane mode |
|  | Fn+F12 | Suspend |
|  | Fn+` | Play/Pause |
| | Fn+1 | Toggle fan between max/automatic |
| | Fn+Ins | Num Lock |
| | Fn+Del | Scroll Lock |
| | Fn+/ Fn+. | Cycle Keyboard Color |
| | Fn+- | Decrease Keyboard Brightness |

| | | |
|--|------|------------------------------|
| | Fn++ | Increase Keyboard Brightness |
|--|------|------------------------------|

External displays

Aside from the standard Mini DisplayPort (MiniDP) and HDMI, the Darter also supports MiniDP over USB-C and external GPU (eGPU) support over Thunderbolt 3.

You can switch between MiniDP or USB-C, but you cannot use both simultaneously.
To switch between MiniDP and USB-C simply connect the cable to the correct port.

| Mode | Max resolution |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| MiniDP | UHD-1 (4K, 2160P) 3840x2160 @60Hz |
| HDMI | UHD-1 (4K, 2160P) 3840x2160 @30Hz |
| USB-C to DisplayPort | UHD-1 (4K, 2160P) 3840x2160 @60Hz |
| USB-C to HDMI | UHD-1 (4K, 2160P) 3840x2160 @30Hz |
| eGPU over Thunderbolt 3 | (Dependent on GPU) |

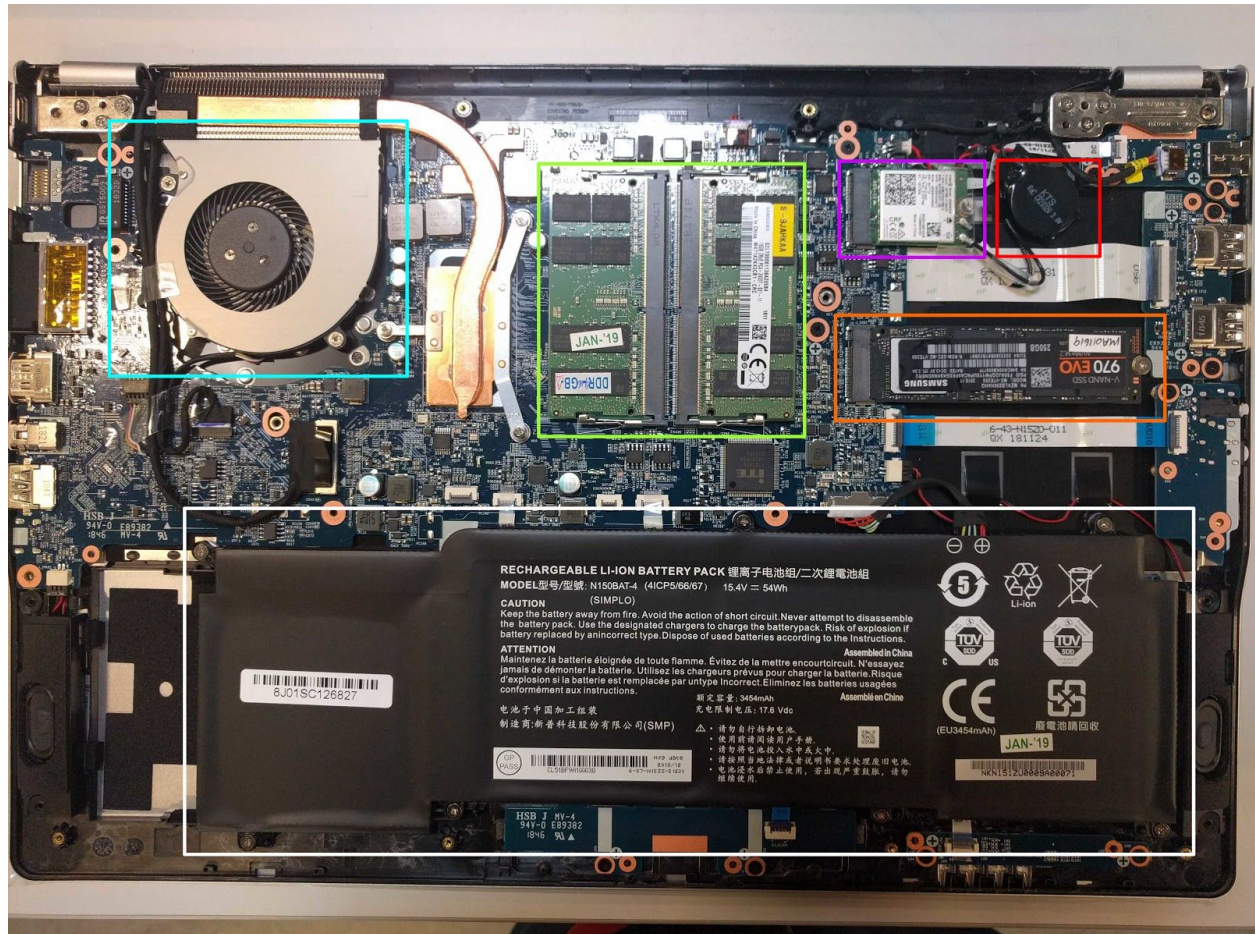
Thunderbolt 3 and eGPU

Intel Thunderbolt 3 provides a direct link to the processor over PCIe 3.0 x4 at 40Gbps, making it ideal for external GPU (eGPU) support. **To use an eGPU, Thunderbolt Security Option must be set to Legacy Mode in the BIOS.**

When using an eGPU, the device must be connected prior to powering on and only disconnected after fully powering down. eGPU devices are currently NOT hot-plug capable. Unplugging the device will not damage the Darter or the eGPU, but the system will not work properly until a reboot.

Internal component overview

Below is a color-coded diagram of the Darter's internal components.



CPU fan is highlighted in cyan

CMOS battery is highlighted in red

RAM is highlighted in green

M.2 SSD is highlighted in orange

Wireless/Bluetooth module is highlighted in purple

Battery is highlighted in white

User-serviceable parts and repairs

Many components on your Darter can be upgraded or replaced as necessary. Follow these step-by-step guides for instructions.

Replacing the keyboard

Keyboard replacement is simple and requires only a cross-head screwdriver.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 10 minutes

Difficulty: Low

Screws: 3 total

- 3 large M2, black (Keyboard M2)

Steps to replace the keyboard

Photos are provided in order below these steps.

1. Find a surface suitable for work. A desk or table works well.
2. Place something soft on the table, like a towel or anti-static mat.
3. Place the Darter lid-side-down.
4. Remove the 3 keyboard screws, indicated by the small keyboard icon.
5. Open the Darter and place it on its side.
6. Push the screwdriver into the keyboard push point until the keyboard pops out.
7. Set the Darter down, then starting from the top side, pull the keyboard loose.
8. Flip the keyboard over onto the trackpad.
9. Pull the large ribbon cable out of the connector.
10. The small ribbon cable has a latch. Gently pull the latch from both sides and remove the ribbon cable.
11. Remove the keyboard and replace it with the new one.
12. Insert the large ribbon cable into the connector.
13. Seat the small ribbon cable, then apply pressure equally to both sides of the connector to secure.
14. Flip the keyboard over and press the bottom tabs of the keyboard into the case.
15. Secure the keyboard by pressing down on the edges of the keyboard.
16. Flip the Darter over.
17. Replace the 2 screws holding the keyboard in place.
18. Boot your Darter and confirm the keyboard is operational.

Photo guide for keyboard replacement

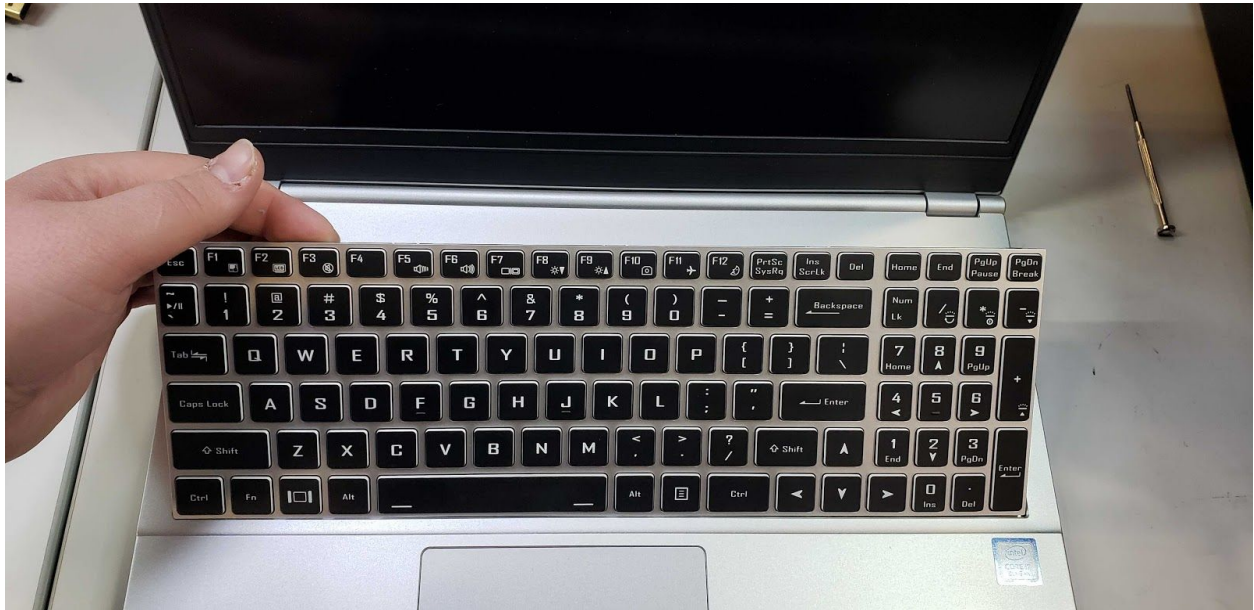
1. Darter lid-side-down. There are two keyboard screws and one is orange while the other is green indicating the keyboard push point.



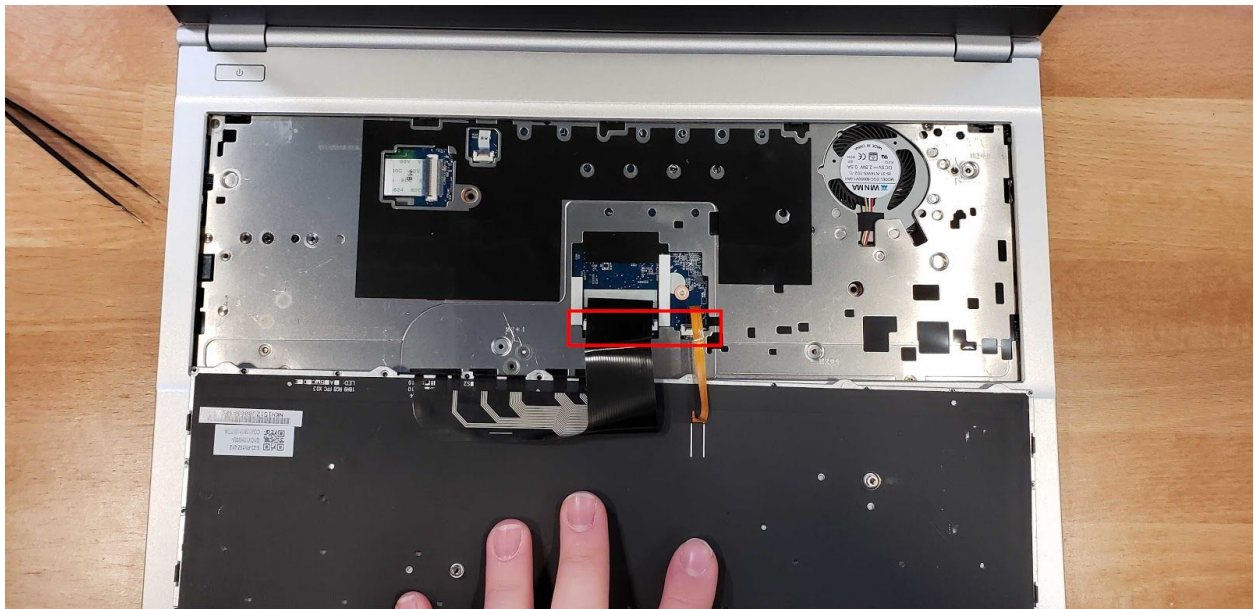
2. Darter on its side with screwdriver in keyboard push point.



3. Set the Darter down and remove the keyboard starting along the top edge.



4. Flip the keyboard over and rest it on the trackpad. Pull the large ribbon cable out of the connector. The smaller ribbon cable has a latch. Gently pull it forward to release the connector, then remove the ribbon cable.



Removing the bottom cover

Removing the cover is required to access the internal components. Prior to removing the cover, ensure the AC power is unplugged, and all peripherals (including SD cards and USB drives) are unplugged or removed from the system.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 10 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Screws: 15 total:

- 10 small M2 perimeter, black
- 2 large M2 keyboard, black
- 3 small/short M2 under keyboard, silver

Steps to remove the cover

Photos are provided in order below these steps.

1. Find a surface suitable for work. A desk or table works well.
2. Place something soft on the table, like a towel or anti-static mat.
3. Place the Darter lid-side-down.
4. Remove the 10 'perimeter' screws.
5. Remove the 2 keyboard screws, indicated by the small keyboard icon.
6. Open the Darter and place it on its side.
7. Push the screwdriver into the keyboard push point until the keyboard pops out.
8. Set the Darter down.
9. Starting from the top side, pull the keyboard loose.
10. Flip the keyboard over onto the trackpad.
11. Remove the 3 silver screws holding the bottom case in place.
12. Partially replace the keyboard, but don't snap it into place.
13. Close the lid and flip the Darter lid-side-down again.
14. The bottom cover will lift off, starting from the front corners working to the back near the hinges.

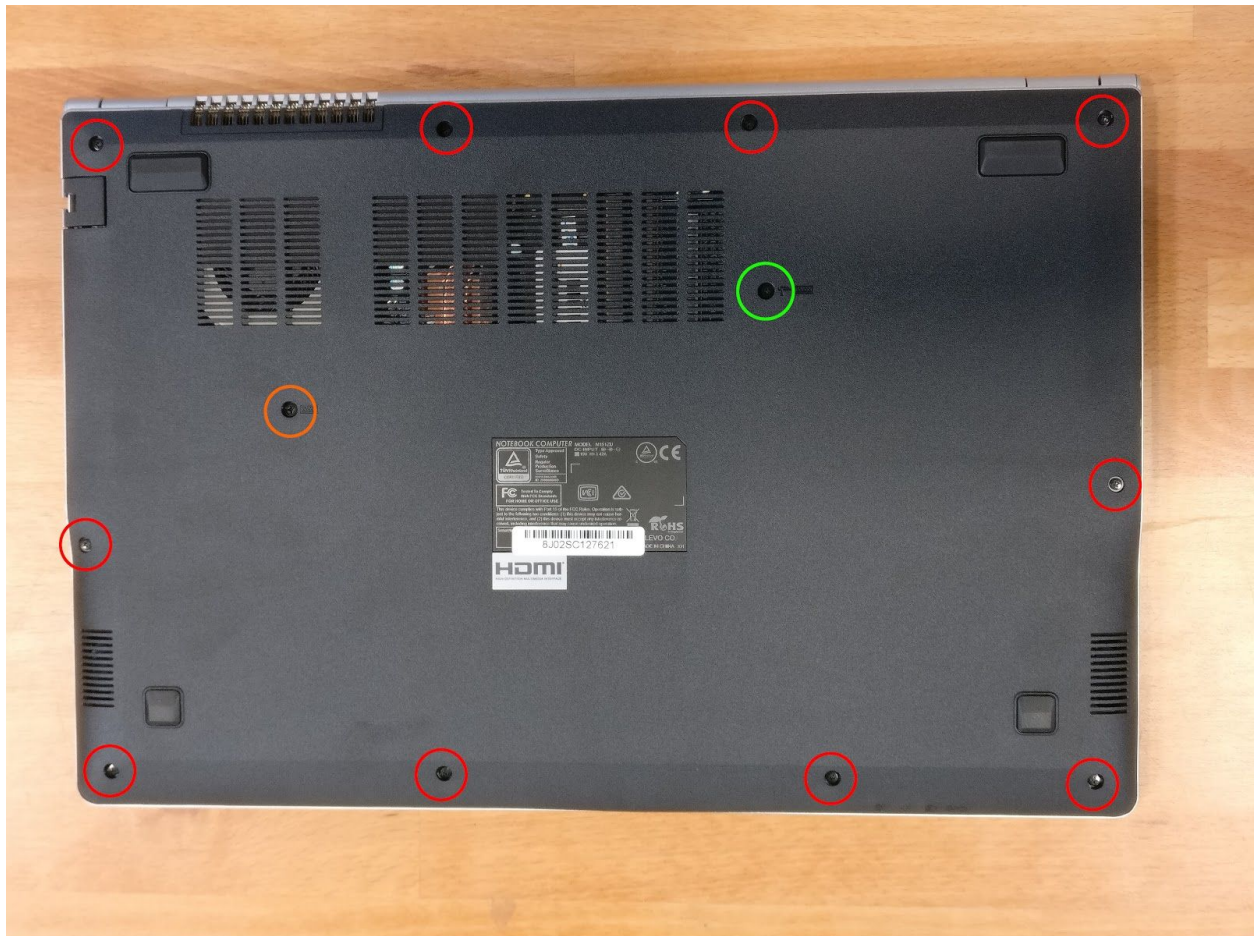
Steps to replace the cover

1. Align the bottom cover to the case towards the back and hinges.
2. Set the bottom cover along the edges and confirm the bottom cover is seated.
3. Replace the 10 perimeter screws.
4. Flip the Darter and replace the 3 silver screws from under the keyboard.

5. Replace the keyboard by inserting the tabs into the bottom edge near the trackpad and press around the edges of the keyboard to ensure it is fully snapped into place.
6. Flip the Darter and replace the 2 keyboard screws.

Photo guide for bottom cover removal/replacement

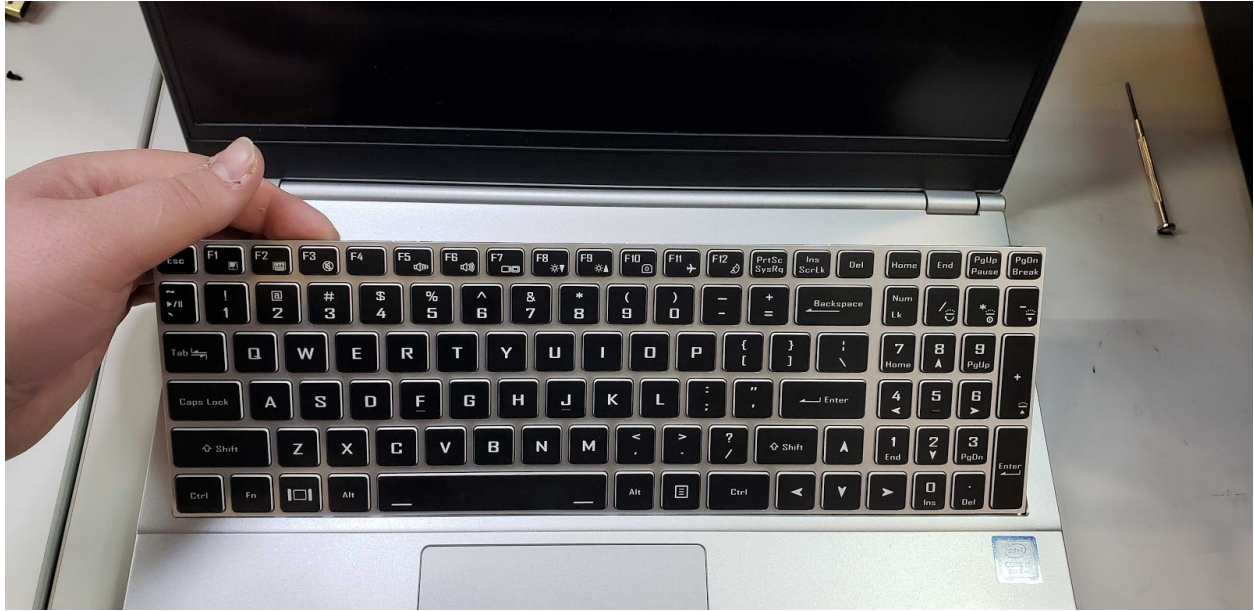
1. Darter lid-side-down. There are two keyboard screws and one is orange while the other is green indicating the keyboard push point.



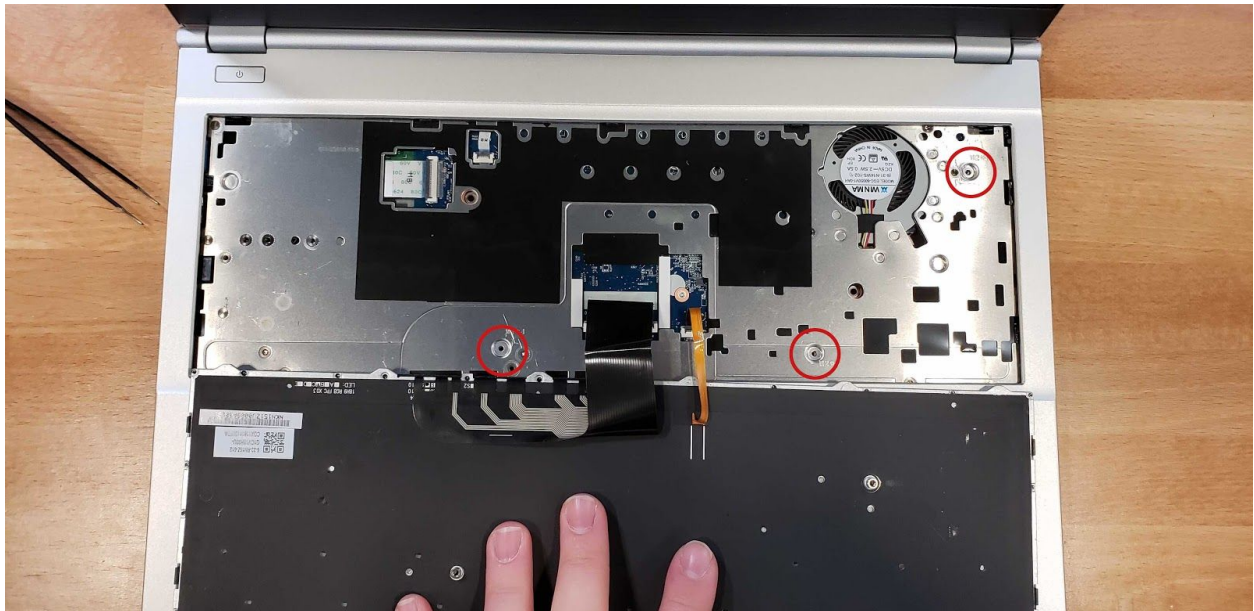
2. Darter on its side with screwdriver in keyboard push point. Push until the keyboard has popped out. This requires a solid amount of force.



3. Once the corner of the keyboard has popped, pull along the top edge of the keyboard to unseat it entirely.



4. Flip over the keyboard and remove the 3 silver screws. Their location is highlighted in blue. (Note: In this photo, the screws have already been removed.)



5. Set the keyboard mostly in place, close the lid, and flip the Darter lid-side-down.

6. Starting near the front corner, lift the bottom cover off the Darter.

Replacing the RAM

RAM acts as temporary storage for your computer. More RAM generally provides better performance. If you've purchased new RAM, need to replace your RAM, or are reseating your RAM, follow these steps.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 15 minutes

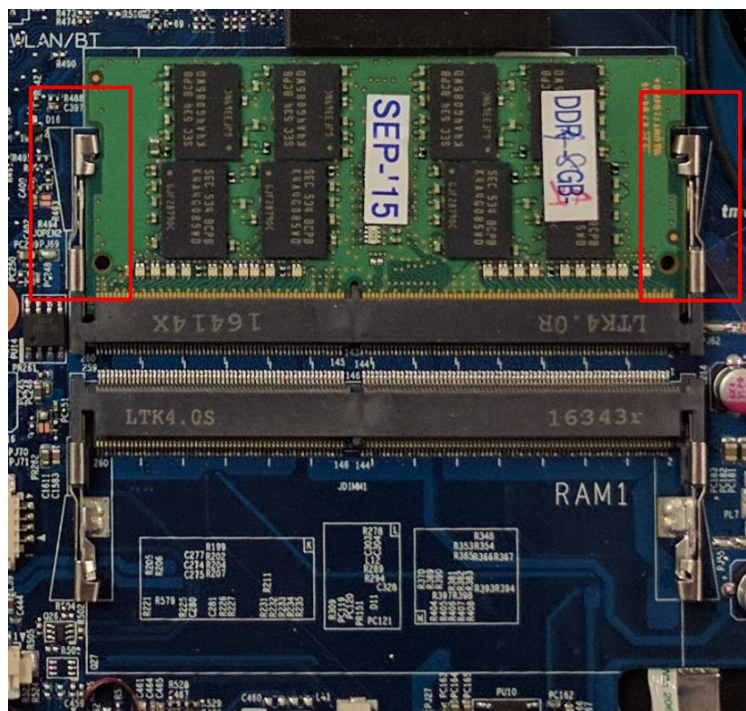
Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the RAM

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Press the small tabs on both sides of the RAM simultaneously.
3. Remove the RAM from the slot.
4. Insert the new RAM (or reseat the existing RAM) by placing it in the keyed slot and pressing down on the RAM until it clicks into place.

Photo guide for replacing the RAM

1. Press the tabs indicated in red to release the RAM from the slot.



Replacing an M.2/NVMe SSD

M.2 SSDs offer, at minimum, SATA3 speeds and performance in a package about the size of a stick of gum. NVMe M.2 SSDs offer even higher performance. The Darter supports one M.2 SSD, size 2280, either M.2 SATA or NVMe M.2 PCIe Generation 3.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the M.2 drive

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Locate the M.2 drive (or drive slot).
3. Unscrew the retainer screw opposite the M.2 slot.
4. Remove the existing M.2 drive by pulling it out of the slot.
5. Insert the new M.2 drive into the slot and hold it in place.
6. Replace the retainer screw.

Replacing the CPU fan

If the CPU fan becomes noisy and cleaning it out doesn't fix the issue, you may need a new CPU fan. Contact Support to start a warranty claim or parts purchase.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the CPU fan

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Locate the CPU fan.
3. Unplug the CPU fan from the motherboard.
4. Remove the 2 screws holding the CPU fan in place.
5. Remove the CPU fan.
6. Insert the new CPU fan.
7. Replace the 2 screws.
8. Plug the new CPU fan into the motherboard.

Replacing the CPU heatsink/thermal paste

In rare cases, or after several years, it may be necessary to apply new thermal paste between the CPU and the heatsink. Thermal paste helps facilitate effective heat transfer between the CPU and the cooling equipment. These instructions can also be used in the unlikely event your heatsink needs replacing.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: High

Steps to replace the CPU heatsink/thermal paste

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Locate the CPU heatsink screws.
3. Remove the screws, starting with #3, then #2, and lastly #1.
4. Carefully remove the heatsink from the case.
5. Using a paper towel, remove the existing thermal paste. You may also use a small amount of rubbing alcohol to remove excess or difficult-to-remove paste.
6. After cleaning the CPU and heatsink, apply a small line of thermal paste directly onto the CPU core.
7. Carefully replace the heatsink.
8. Replace the screws, starting with #1, then #2, and lastly #3. Do not fully tighten #1 and #2 until #3 is in place, then fully tighten all screws.

Replacing the CMOS battery

The CMOS battery supplies power to the Darter's CMOS chip. Changes you make to the BIOS and the computer's hardware clock are stored on the CMOS. If your Darter doesn't boot, you can reset the CMOS to force a low-level hardware reset. If your clock is constantly resetting, it's likely your CMOS battery needs replacing.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the CMOS battery

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Locate the CMOS battery. There is a red and black wire connecting the battery to a white connector.
3. Unplug the white connector for 1 minute, then reseal the connector.
4. Power up the Darter. The system may power itself off and on after initial boot, this is normal.
5. Press Enter at the CMOS/BIOS reset message prompts.
6. If you are booted into the BIOS, press F4 to load defaults, then F10 to save and resume normal boot.

Replacing the internal battery

The battery provides primary power whenever the system is unplugged.

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the internal battery

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Unplug the white connector above the battery.
3. Remove the 7 screws holding the battery in place.
4. Remove and replace the battery.
5. Replace the 7 screws and plug in the battery.

Replacing the WiFi/Bluetooth module

Your Darter's WiFi and Bluetooth are both handled with the same module. It is a standard M.2 2230 slot with PCIe & USB Interfaces (A Key).

Tools required: Cross-head (Phillips) screwdriver

Time estimate: 5 minutes

Difficulty: Medium

Steps to replace the WiFi/Bluetooth module

1. Follow the steps above to remove the cover.
2. Locate the wireless module.
3. Gently remove the two antennas by pulling them up and away from the wireless module.
4. Remove the retaining screw opposite the M.2 slot.
5. Remove the wireless module from the slot.
6. Insert the new wireless module.
7. Replace the retaining screw.
8. Attach the two antennas by aligning the circular fitting and pressing onto the wireless card. The connector will snap into place. **Use caution when attaching the connectors, the pins can bend, break, or snap.**

BIOS utilities

When starting your Darter, it takes a few seconds to conduct a quick check of the components. As it proceeds, it will notify you if anything is wrong. Any issues that prevent the system from booting will be displayed and you will be prompted to enter the Setup. If no problems are detected, your Darter will load systemd-boot/GRUB and then Ubuntu/Pop!_OS.

For accessing Open Firmware with Coreboot:

Hold the Esc key during boot.

Updating the BIOS

BIOS updates and instructions are sent out as needed. System76 will notify you if a BIOS update is available for your Darter. The source code for the Open Firmware with Coreboot is [here](#).

BIOS overview

The Setup/BIOS utility allows you to make low-level changes to your Darter. It's not recommended to make changes unless the settings are provided by Support, or if you understand what you're changing.

Main menu

| Option | Description |
|-------------------|---|
| Boot Default | Boots the default device |
| One Time Boot | Select a device from which to boot (only for this session). E.g: booting from a flash drive (live disk), or from a different internal drive. |
| Change Boot Order | Specify the order of the drives from which Darter tries to boot. For example 1st SSD/HDD, 2nd flash drive (live disk), or vice-versa. These changes can be saved unlike the One Time Boot option. |

QEMU Standard PC (Q35 + ICH9, 2009)

Model: pc-q35-4.0

Version: 2019-10-31_cca6ad0

Boot Default

One Time Boot

Change Boot Order

Boot the default entry

↑ ↓ =Move Highlight

Enter=Select Entry

Esc=Exit

One Time Boot

| Option | Description |
|---------------|--|
| One Time Boot | Select which device for the system to boot from. |

One Time Boot

EFI DVD/CDROM

Device Path : PciRoot(0x0)/Pci(0x1F,0x2)/Sata(0x2,0xFFFF,0x0)

↑ ↓ =Move Highlight

Enter=Select Entry

Esc=Exit

Change Boot Order

| Option | Description |
|-------------------|--|
| Change Boot order | Commit Changes and reboot the machine or Discard Changes and reboot the machine. |

Change Boot Order

Change Boot Order

EFI DVD/CDROM

Commit Changes and Exit

Discard Changes and Exit

Change Boot Order

↑ ↓ =Move Highlight

F9=Reset to Defaults
Enter=Select Entry

F10=Save
Esc=Exit

Specifications

| Component | Specification |
|------------|---|
| Processors | Intel® Core™ i7-10510U (4.9GHz) 1.8 up to 4.9 GHz - 8MB Cache – 4 Cores – 8 Threads Intel® Core™ i5-10210U (4.2GHz) 1.6 up to 4.2 GHz - 6MB Cache – 4 Cores – 8 Threads |
| Display | 15.6" 1920x1080 Full HD Backlit display IPS Matte |
| Memory | Dual Channel DDR4 Two 260 Pin SO-DIMM Sockets Supporting DDR4 2666 MHz Memory Modules (real operational frequency depends on the FSB of the processor) Memory Expandable up to 64GB Compatible with 8GB or 16GB Modules |
| Graphics | Intel® UHD Graphics 620 Dynamic Frequency Intel Dynamic Video Memory Technology |
| Storage | One M.2 SSD 2280, SATA/PCIe Gen3 x4 Interface |
| Audio | High Definition Audio Interface |

| | |
|--|--|
| | Built-In Stereo Microphone 2 Stereo Built-In Speakers |
|--|--|

| Component | Specification |
|---------------------|---|
| Touchpad & Keyboard | ClickPad with Multi-Gesture and Scrolling Functionality A4 Size Isolated Keyboard |
| Webcam | 720p HD Video Camera Module with USB interface |
| Interfaces | Two USB 3.0 (USB 3.1 Gen 1) Port (Type-A) One USB 3.0 (USB 3.1 Gen 1/Thunderbolt 3) Port (Type-C) One USB 2.0 Port (Type-A) One HDMI-Out (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) Port (with HDCP) One Mini DisplayPort One Microphone-In Jack One RJ-45 LAN Jack One DC-In Jack One Combo Jack |
| Card reader | Embedded Multi-In-1 Card Reader - MMC/ RS MMC - SD/ Mini SD / SDHC/ SDXC |
| M.2 Slots | Two M.2 Card Slots: Slot 1 for M.2 2230 WLAN Combo Module with PCIe & USB Interfaces (A Key) Slot 2 for SSD M.2 2280 Card with SATA / PCIe Gen 3 x4 Interface (M Key) |
| Network | Built-In 10/100/1000Mb Base-TX Ethernet LAN |

| | |
|--|---|
| | Intel® Dual Band Wireless-AC 9560 (2*2 802.11 a/c) WLAN + Bluetooth M.2 2230 Combo Module (867Mbps) |
|--|---|

| Component | Specification |
|---------------------|---|
| Power and battery | Full Range AC/DC Adapter AC input 100 - 240V, 50 - 60Hz, DC Output 19V, 3.42A (65 Watts) Embedded Smart Lithium Ion Battery Pack 54.5WH |
| Security | Security (Kensington® Type) Lock Slot |
| Operating System | Ubuntu / Pop!_OS |
| Indicators | LED Indicators - Power/Suspend, Battery, HDD, Airplane Mode, Camera |
| Environmental | Temperature Operating: 5°C - 35°C Non-operating: -20°C - 60°C Relative humidity Operating: 20% - 80% Non-operating: 10% - 90% |
| Dimensions & Weight | Height x Width x Depth 0.78" x 14.19" x 9.63" 3.6lbs, 1.6kg base weight, varies with configuration. |