

How to take apart a desktop computer

Step 1 Organization and Do's and Don'ts

- Remove any loose jewelry
- Use cups to keep screws label each cup so you know which screw goes where.
- Don't Stack boards on top each other
- Don't Touch chips on the motherboard
- Never touch the inside of a computer when it is turned on. The only exception is if you are using a multimeter to measure the voltage output
- Never remove the cover of a power supply or monitor as they both have enough power to kill you even unplugged.

Tools Required

- ESD strap
- Flathead Screwdriver
- Phillips head crosshead screwdriver
- Tweezers Preferably insulated one
- Software including recovery DVD or CD, antivirus software on bootable CDs or a USB flash drive and diagnostic software.
- Anti-Static bags
- Anti-Static mat

There are other tools that are convenient but not required

- Can of compressed air
- Cleaning solutions and monitor wipes



Figure 1 Tool Kit

Step 2 Opening the Case Part 1

Before you begin:

- Back up any important data onto an external drive
- Power down the system and unplug it
- Unplug monitor, mouse and keyboard cables and any other peripherals or cables attached.
- Press and hold the power button for 3 seconds to completely drain power

Opening the Case Part 2

- Use plastic cups to hold screws. Label each cup showing which screws go where.



- Open Case Cover- Pull handle on the top to release cover



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p4

Step 3 Remove Expansion Card (s)

- Loosen screws (in this case they were missing)
- Take bay cover off by squeezing latch inside



Figure 2 Ports on expansion card

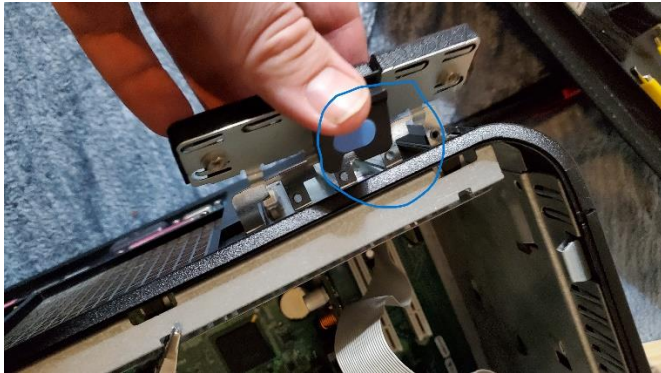


Figure 3 Clip Holding Bay Covers and expansion ports

Step 4 Removing Motherboard

- **Disconnect all power cables from the motherboard**



Figure 4 SATA Cable that was connected to hard drive and heatsink

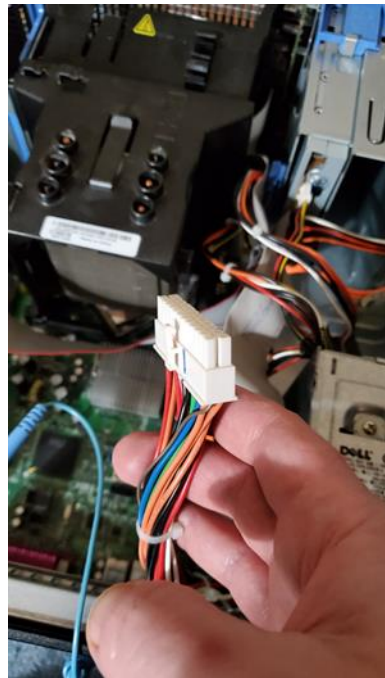


Figure 5 54 Pin P1 Connector



Figure 6 15 Pin SATA power connector



Figure 7 IDE Connector and Cable

- Remove heatsink shown in figure 4 by removing the screws

- Remove screws from motherboard and carefully ease it out of the case do not touch any of the chips or you could damage the motherboard. Place screws on the labeled cup. So you know which screws go where when it is put back together. See Figure 6.
- Remove Fan from case see Figure 5

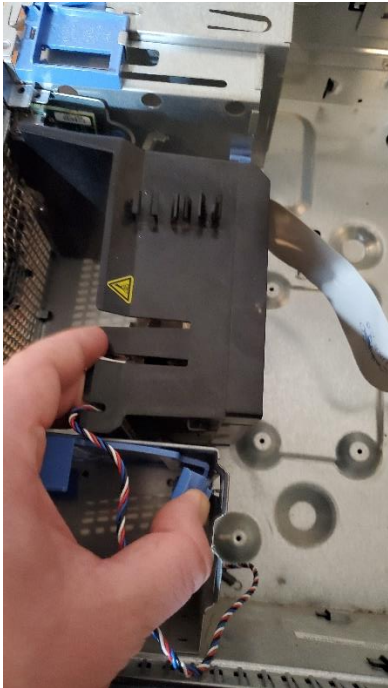


Figure 8 Press clip to remove fan from case



Figure 9 Motherboard Screws Removed

Step 5 Remove Power Supply



Figure 10 Only remove screws that are attached to case they are circled

Remove screws shown in figure 10 then gently pull the power supply out and place it on a flat surface.

Step 6 Remove Drives

- Remove optical drive first by pressing clip and remove the screws
- Next Remove the hard drive by pressing the other clip and slide the drive through the removable bay.



Figure 11 Push clips to release optical drive then remove the hard drive make



Figure 12 Full Case



Figure 13 Empty Case