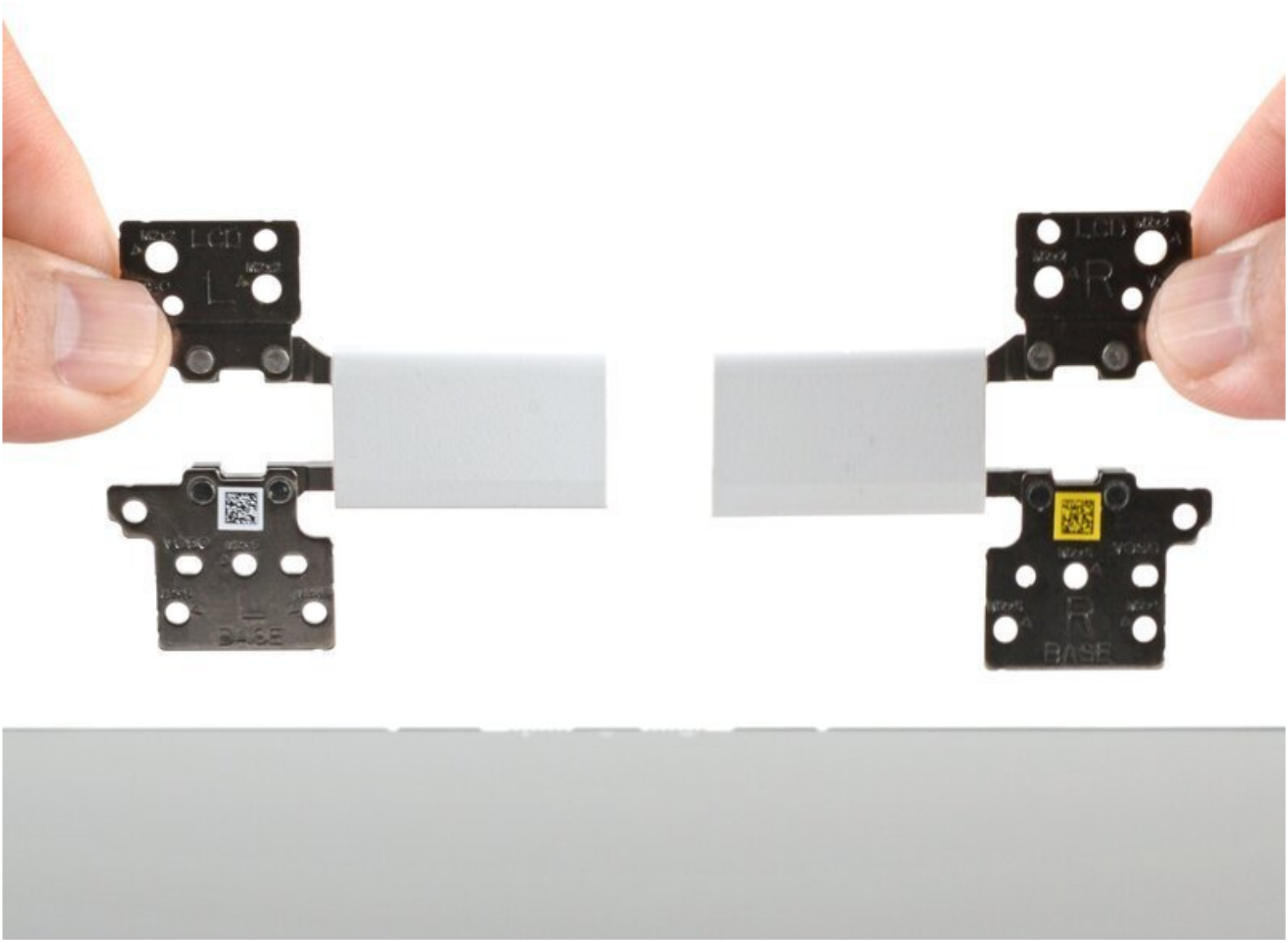
Hinges Replacement on Framework Laptop 12

Written By: Levi



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INTRODUCTION

Follow this guide to remove and replace both hinges in your Framework Laptop 12.

If you can't get your laptop screen to hold in place due to loose hinges, you may need to replace them.

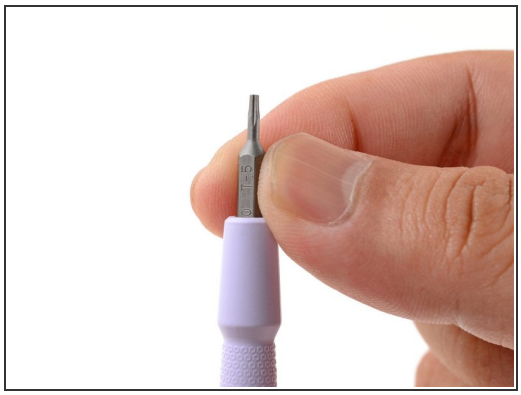
You'll encounter some component terms in this guide:

- The **Input Cover** is the part that contains the Keyboard and Touchpad.
- The **Display Cover** is the plastic bezel strip below the screen.
- The **Top Cover** is the plastic shell that houses the Display.
- The **Bottom Cover** is the plastic shell that forms the bottom half of the Laptop.

TOOLS:

- Framework Screwdriver (1)

Step 1 — Power down your Laptop

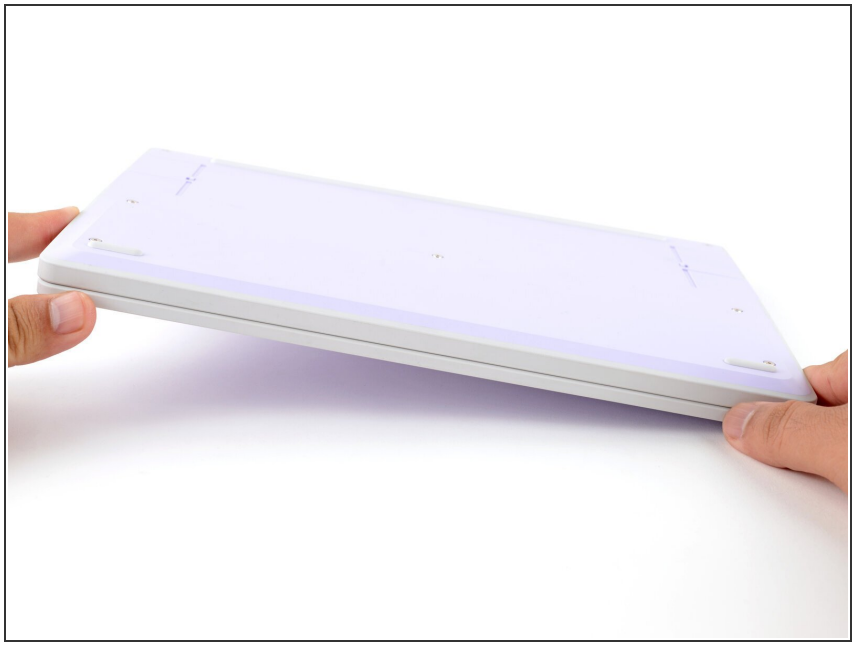


- Before you begin repairs, unplug your Laptop and **shut it down from the operating system**. This ensures that the Laptop isn't in standby/suspend mode.
  - ⓘ The indicator LEDs along the edges should be unlit. The Laptop should be silent.

ⓘ If you accidentally turn on the Laptop during repair, hold the power button down for 10 seconds to shut it down.

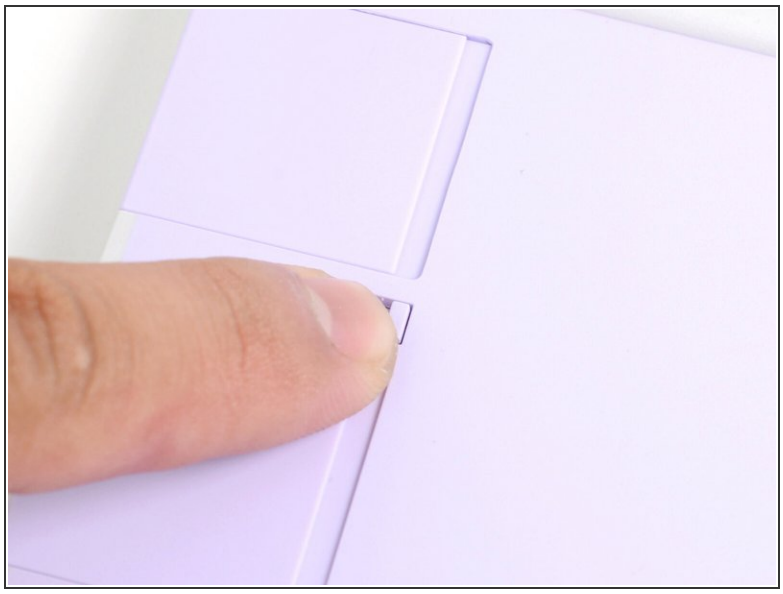
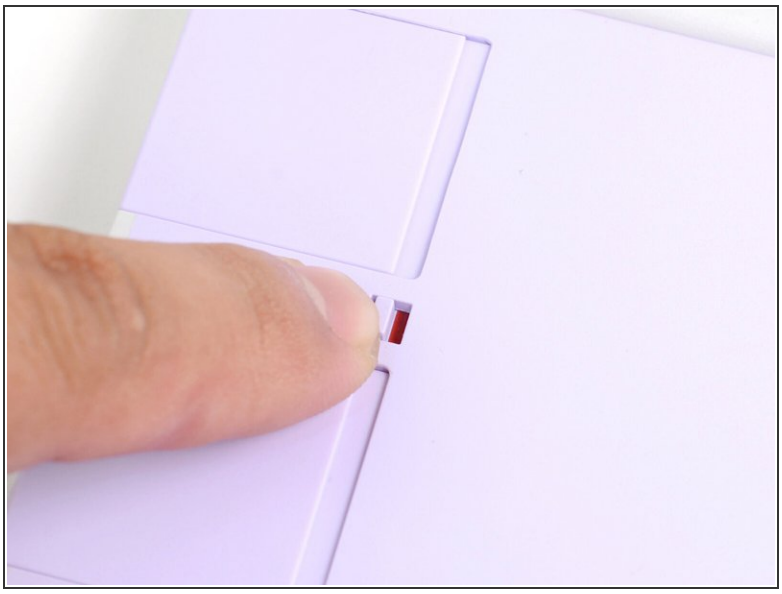
- Make sure your Framework Screwdriver has the T5 Torx bit (labeled as T-5) facing outwards. If it's not, pull the bit out and flip it.

Step 2 — Set your laptop down



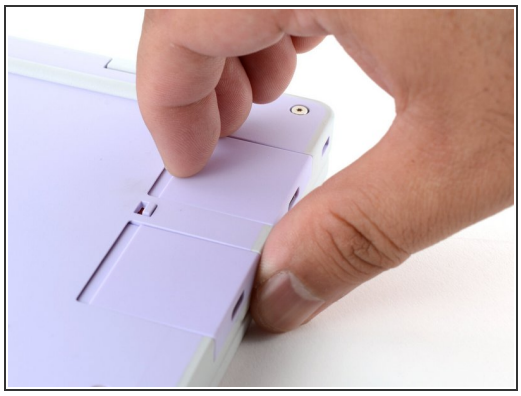
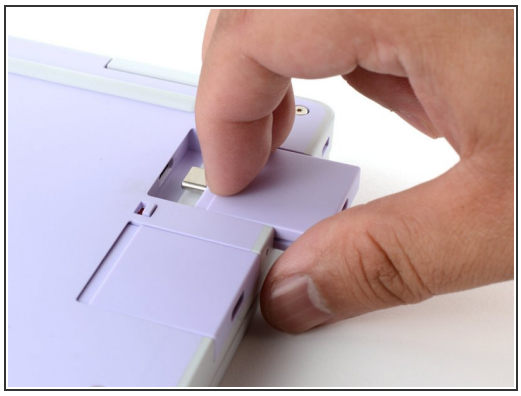
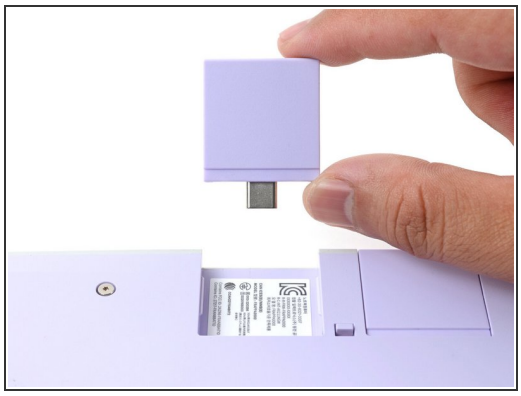
- Set your Framework Laptop face-down on a clean work surface.

Step 3 — Remove the Expansion Cards

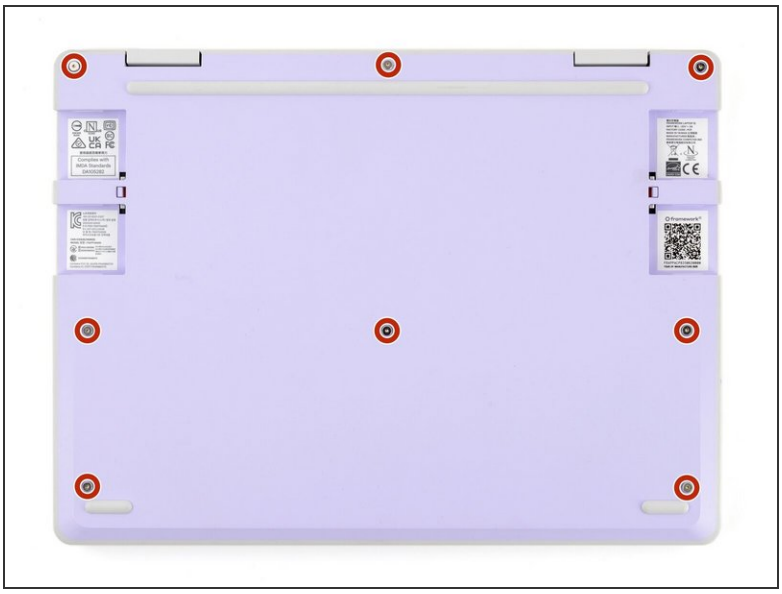
- Use your fingers to flip the two Expansion Card latches (one for each side) into the unlocked position.
  - ⓘ The latches display a red bar when they're unlocked.

Step 4

- Grip the lip of an Expansion Card with your fingers.
- Pull the Expansion Card out of its slot and remove it.
  - ⓘ If you have trouble pulling the Expansion Card out, you can also use the flat end of your Framework Screwdriver to push against the lip.
- Repeat this procedure to remove **all remaining Expansion Cards**.

Step 5 — Loosen the bottom screws



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to fully loosen the eight captive T5 Torx screws on the bottom of your laptop.
  - ⓘ Most screws in your Framework Laptop (including these) are captive—they're designed to stay in place after you loosen them.
  - ⓘ Your laptop comes with a spare set of screws in the frame above the battery. Be careful—the replacement screws aren't captive.

Step 6 — Flip your laptop over

- Flip your laptop face-up on your work surface.

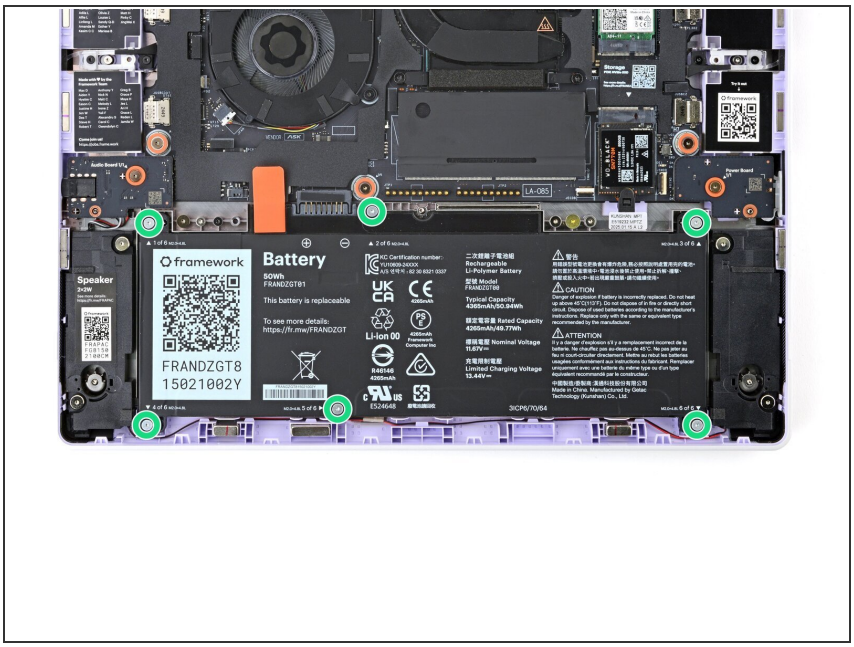
Step 7 — Open your laptop

- Open the laptop lid so that both the screen and the base lie flat on your work surface.

Step 8 — Remove the Input Cover

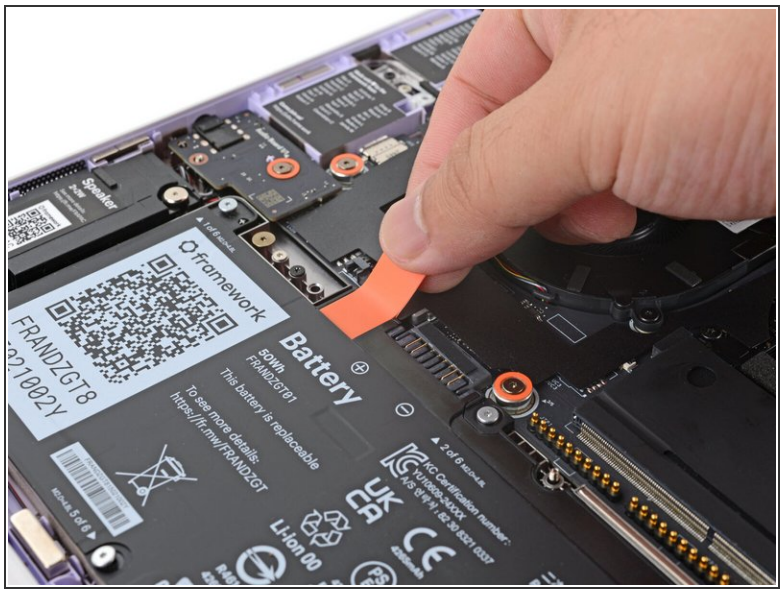
- Use your fingers to grip the Input Cover in the hinge cutouts.
- Lift upwards to swing the Input Cover up from the base of the laptop.
  - ⓘ You may feel resistance from the magnets. If the cover feels like it's snagged, check that you've fully loosened the screws on the bottom of your laptop.
- Remove the Input Cover.

Step 9 — Loosen the battery screws



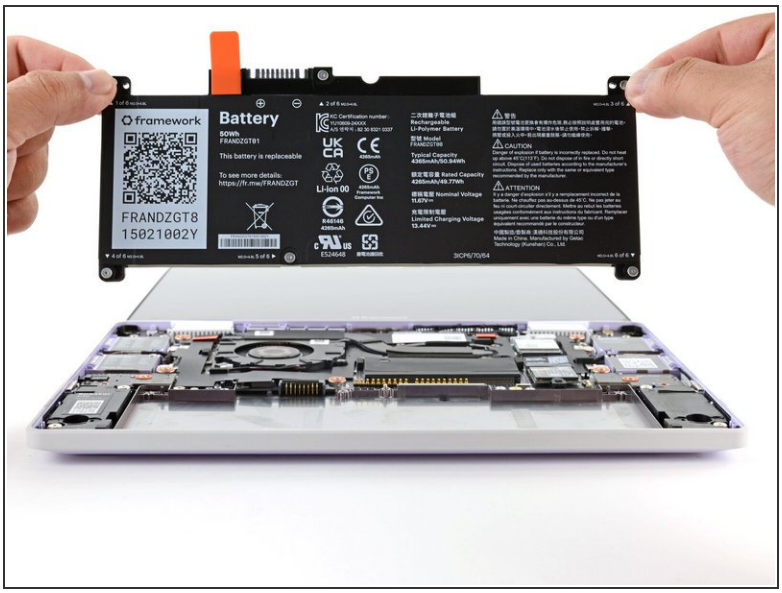
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to loosen the six captive T5 Torx screws securing the battery.

Step 10 — Disconnect the battery



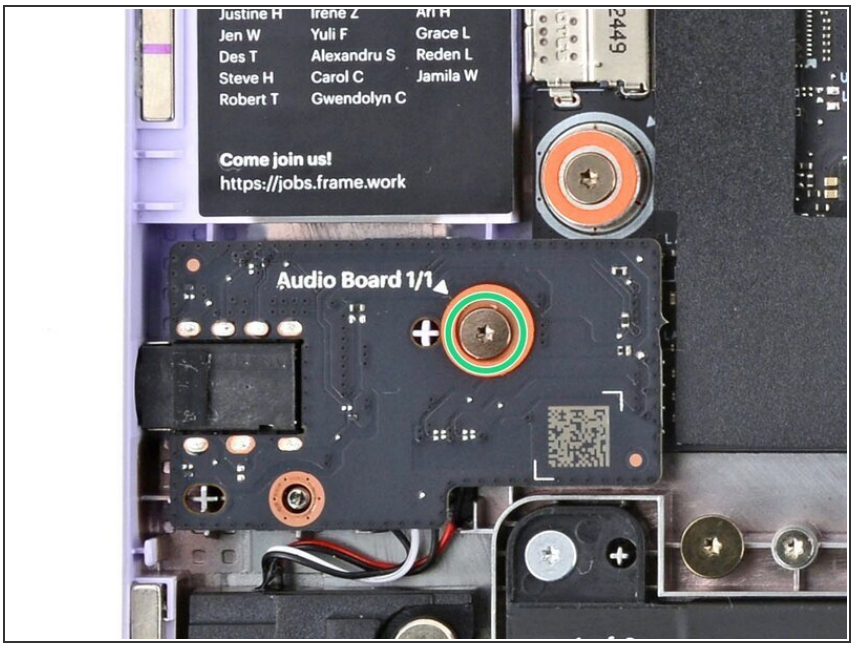
- Grab the orange battery tab with your fingers and lift straight up to disconnect the battery.
  - ⓘ The battery connector can be tight, requiring some force. If it feels like part of the battery won't come up, check that the battery screws are fully loosened.

Step 11 — Remove the Battery



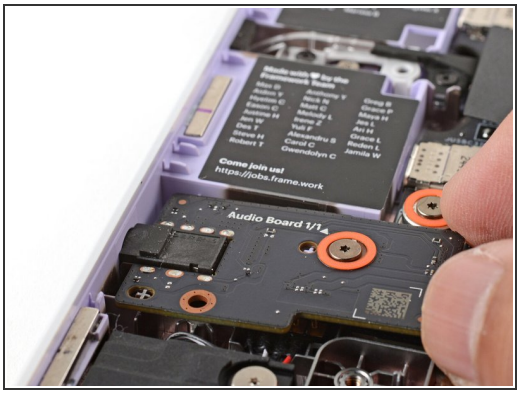
- Lift and remove the battery from the laptop.

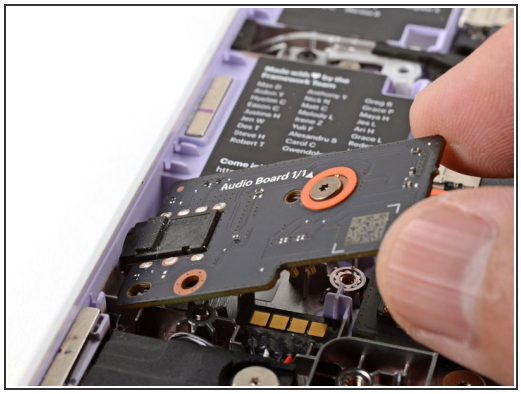
Step 12 — Loosen the Audio Board screw

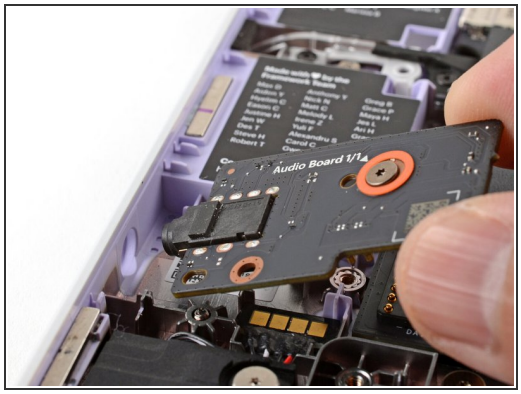


- Use your Framework Screwdriver to loosen the captive T5 Torx screw securing the Audio Board along the left edge of the laptop.

Step 13 — Remove the Audio Board

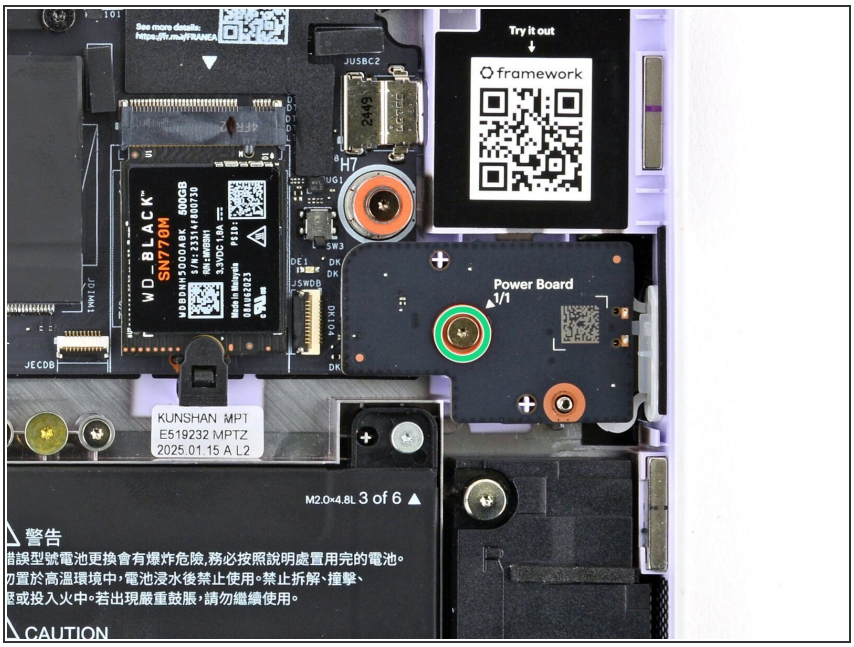






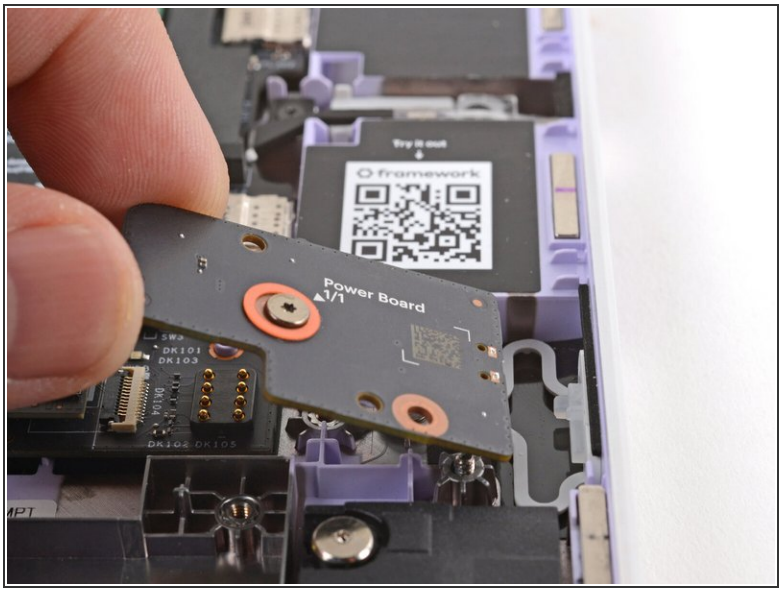
- Use your fingers to lift the right edge of the Audio Board and pull it out of its recess.
- Remove the Audio Board.

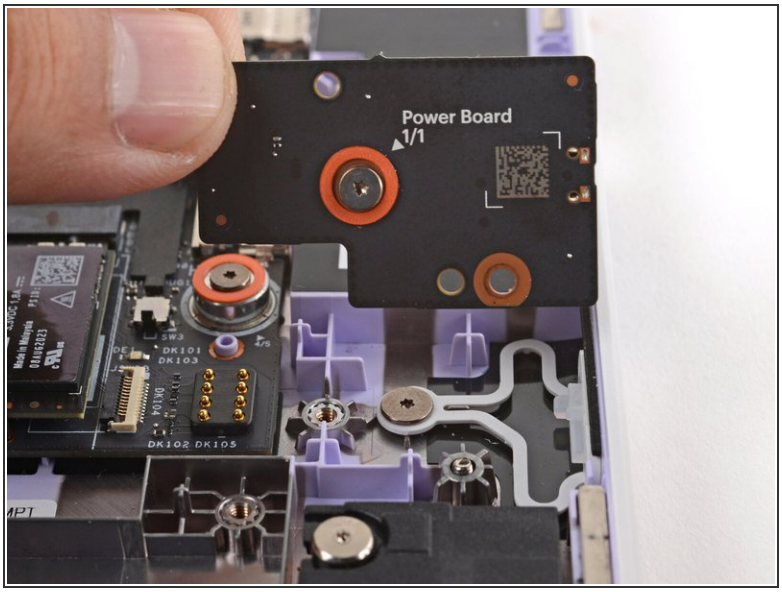
Step 14 — Loosen the Power Button Board screw



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to loosen the captive T5 Torx screw securing the Power Button Board (labeled "Power Board").

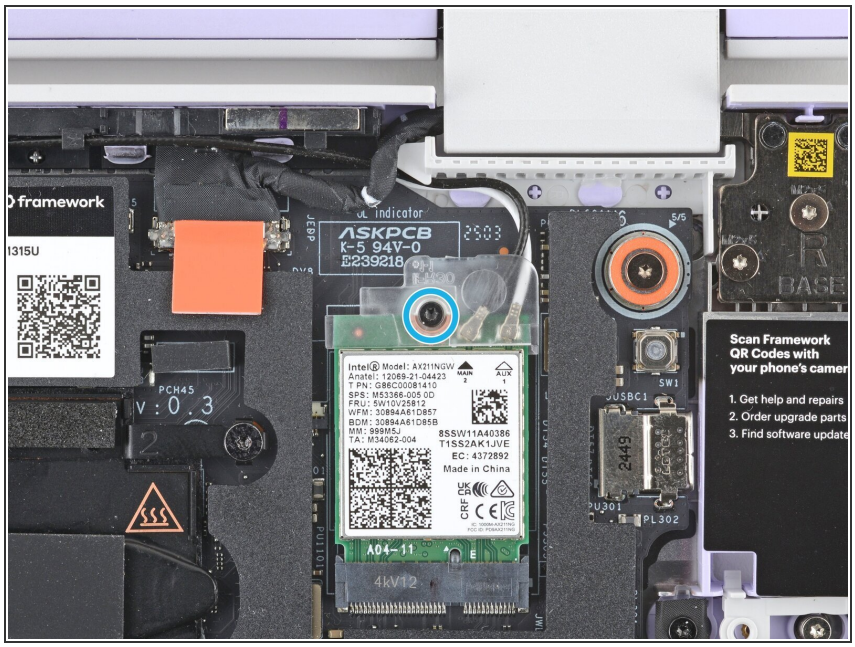
Step 15 — Remove the Power Button Board





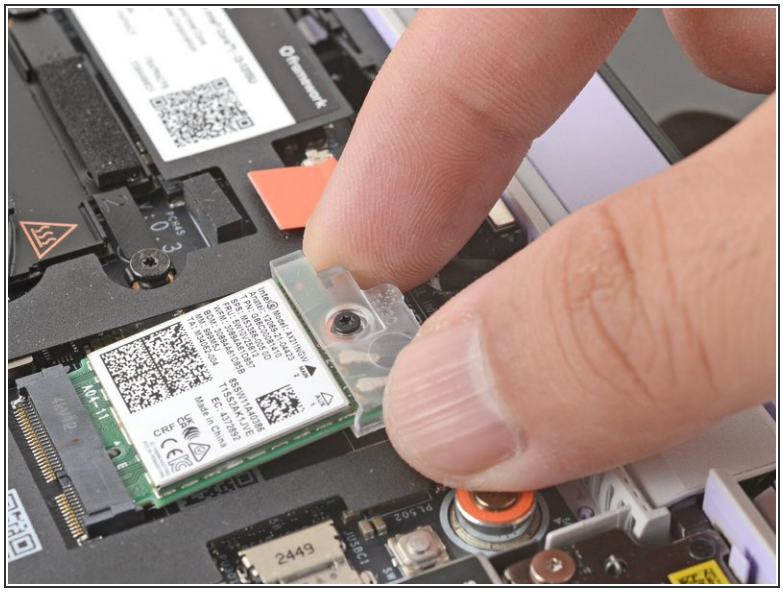
- Use your fingers to lift and remove the Power Button Board.

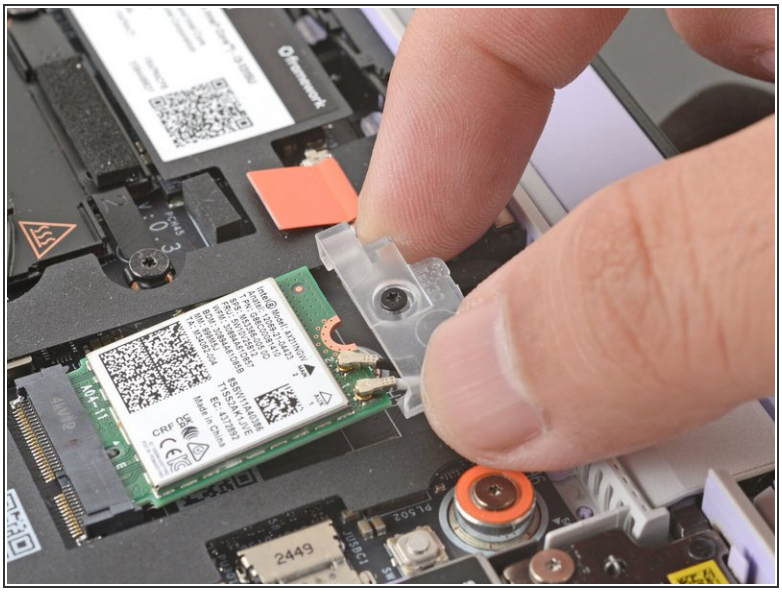
Step 16 — Loosen the Wi-Fi card screw



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to loosen the captive T5 Torx screw securing the Wi-Fi card bracket.
  - ⓘ The Wi-Fi card will pop up slightly when you unfasten the bracket.

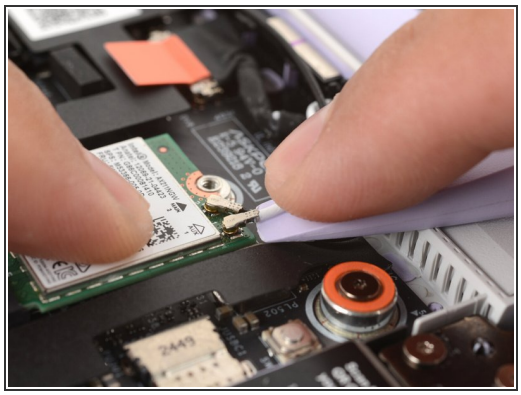
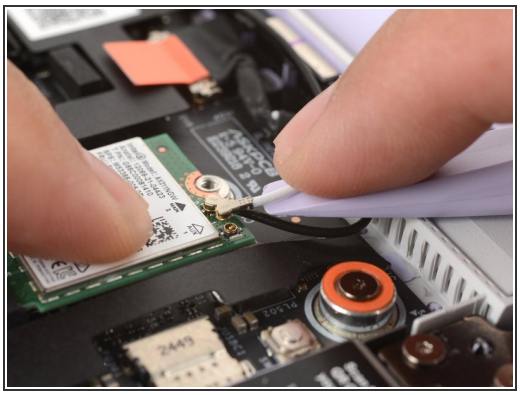
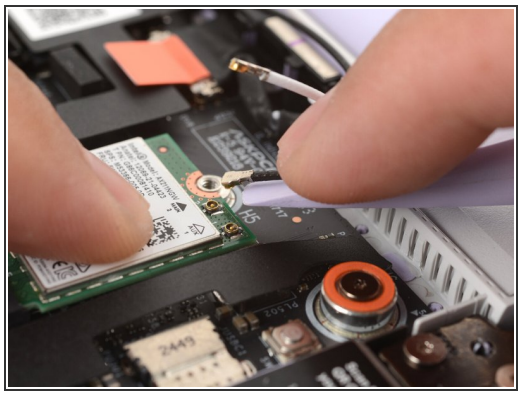
Step 17 — Remove the Wi-Fi card bracket





- Grab the Wi-Fi card bracket with your fingers and slide it off the top of the Wi-Fi card.
- Remove the bracket and store it in a safe location for reassembly.

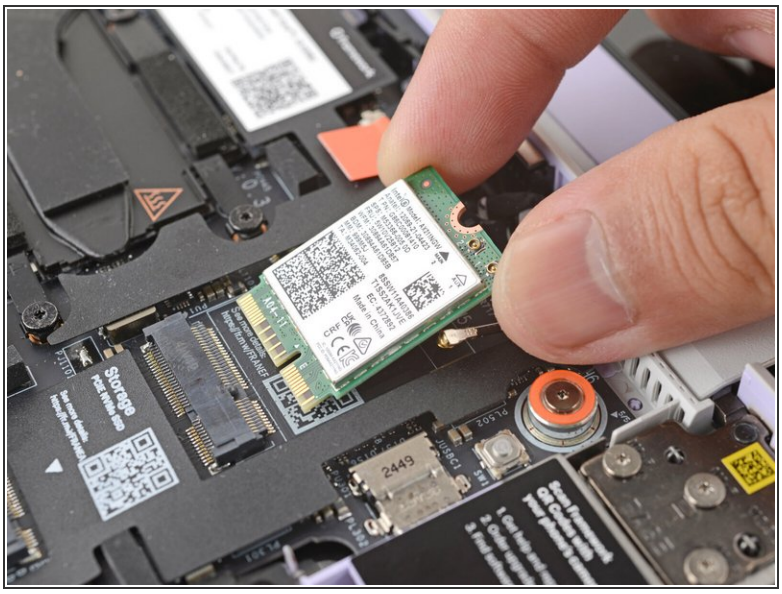
Step 18 — Disconnect the antenna cables

ⓘ The Wi-Fi card has two delicate coaxial cable connectors. Follow this step carefully to avoid damaging them.

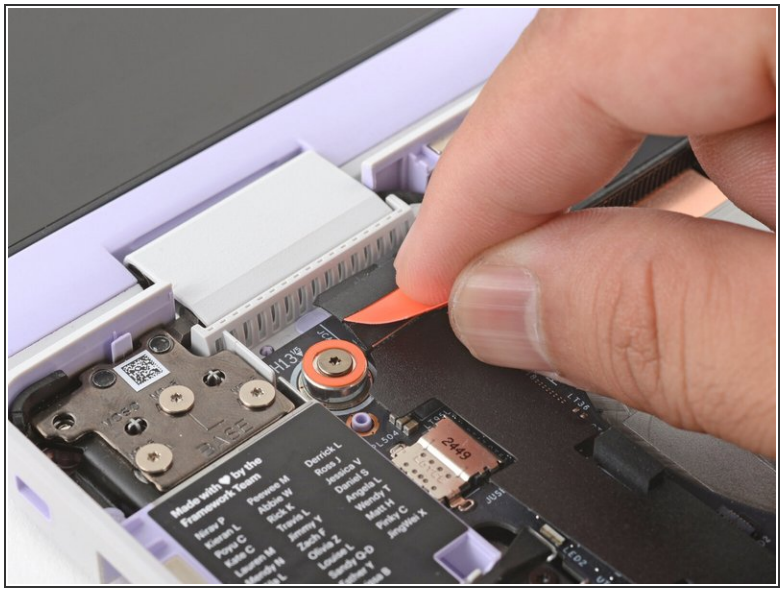
- Press and hold the Wi-Fi card down with your finger.
- Slide the flat edge of your Framework Screwdriver under the white antenna cable, as close to the metal head as possible.
- Gently lift the connector straight up to disconnect the white antenna cable.
- Repeat the procedure with the black antenna cable.

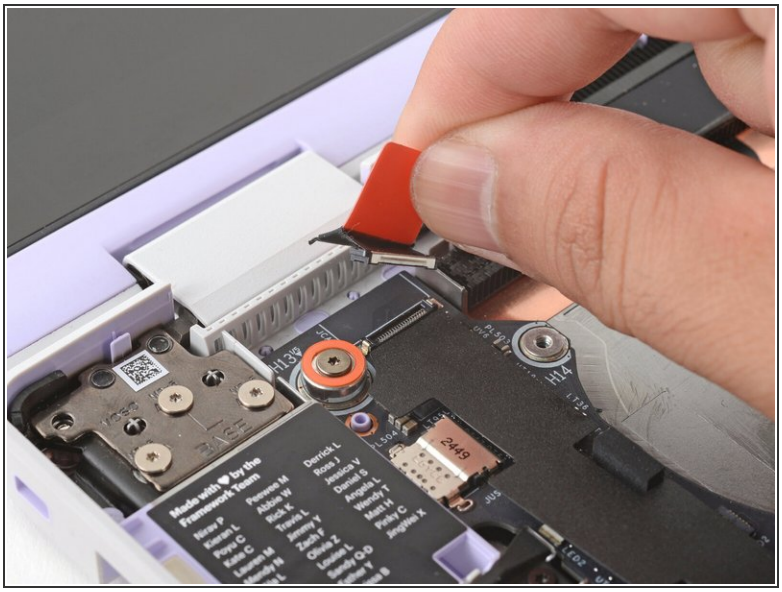
Step 19 — Remove the Wi-Fi card



- Grab the Wi-Fi card by the edges and pull it out of its socket.
- Remove the Wi-Fi card.

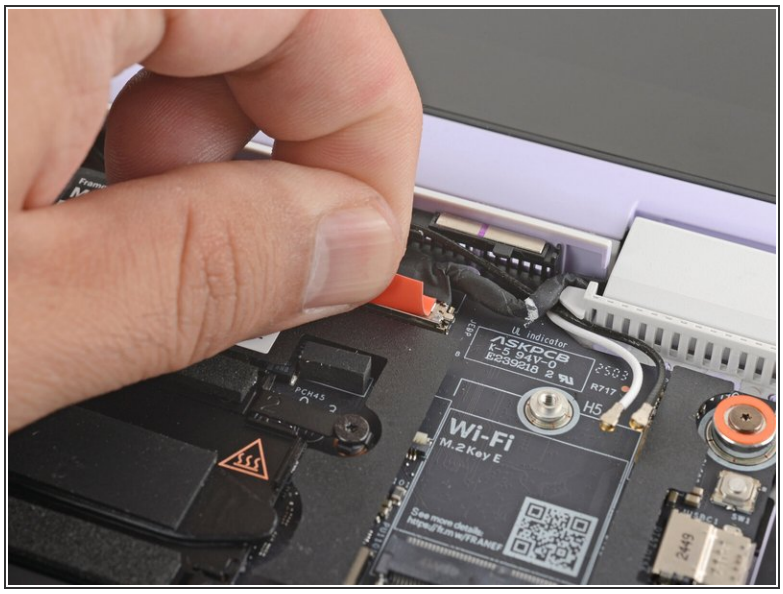
Step 20 — Disconnect the webcam cable

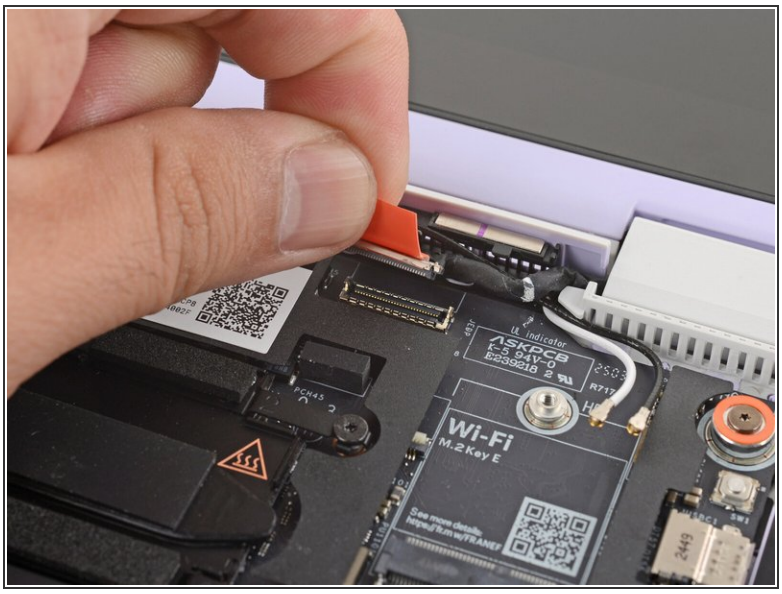




- Use your fingers to grab the orange tab on the webcam cable, located near the left hinge.
- Lift straight up to disconnect the cable.

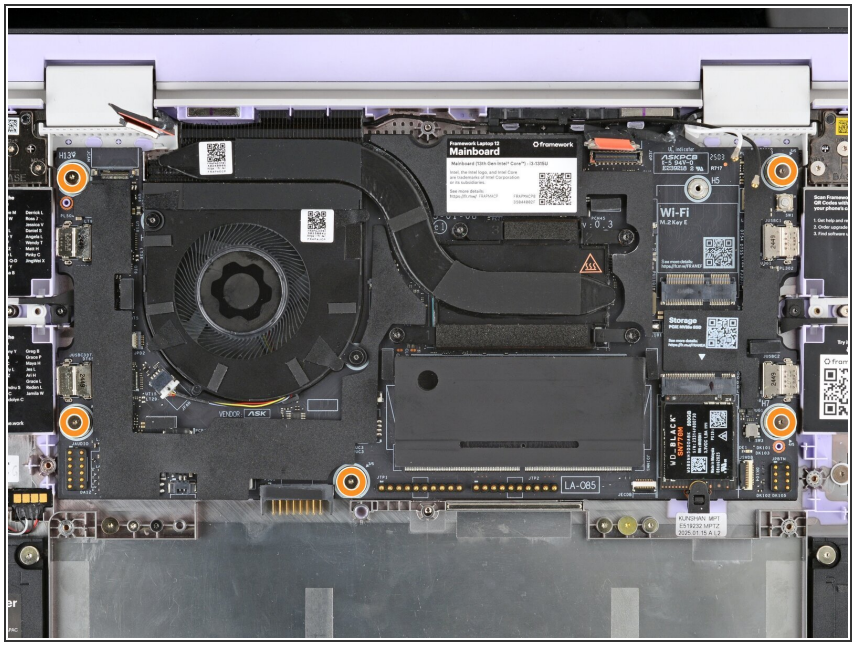
Step 21 — Disconnect the display cable





- Use your fingers to grab the orange tab on the display cable, located near the right hinge.
- Lift straight up to disconnect the cable.

Step 22 — Loosen the Mainboard screws



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to loosen the five captive T5 Torx screws securing the Mainboard.
  - ⓘ These screws are also physically marked with an orange ring on the Mainboard.

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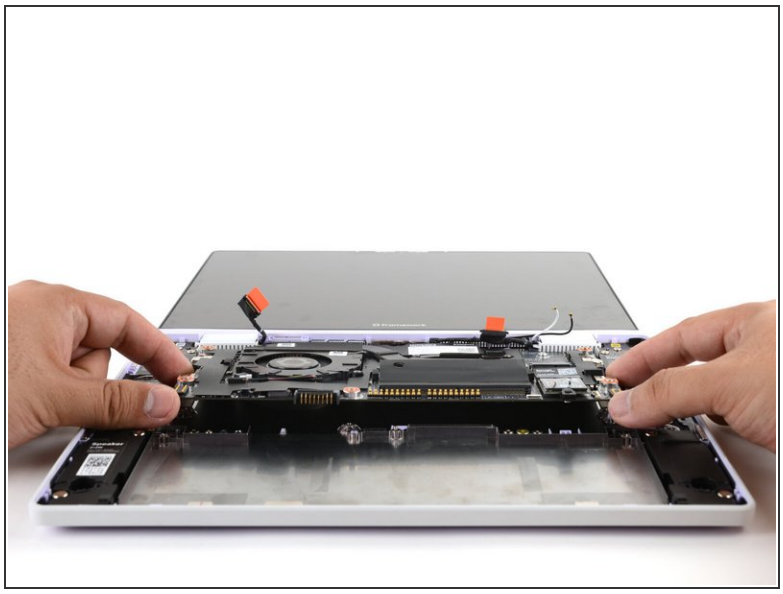
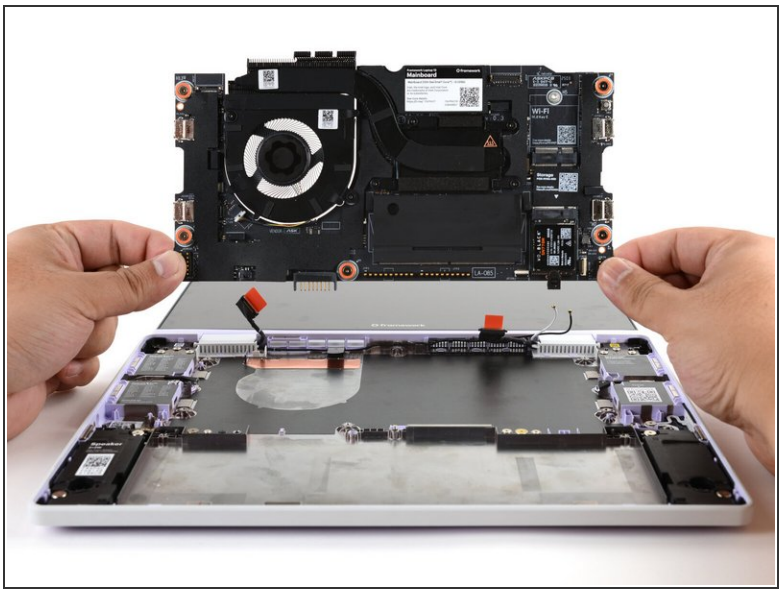
Step 23 — Remove the Mainboard

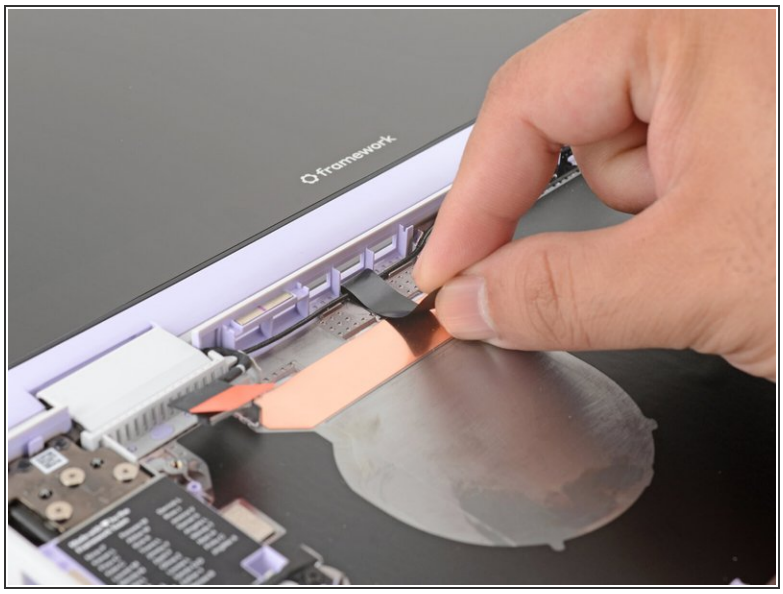


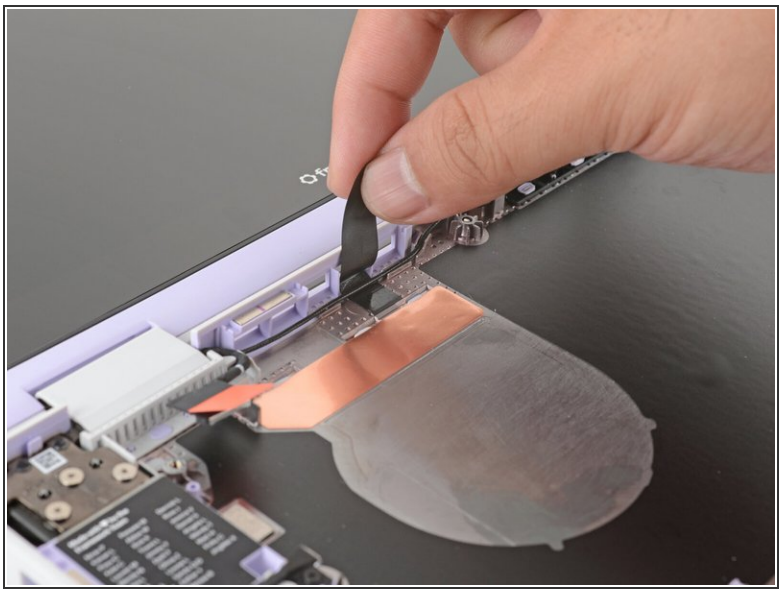


⚠ Make sure you've removed all Expansion Cards. Installed cards will hold the Mainboard in place.

- Use your fingers to grab the Mainboard by its edges.
- Lift and remove the Mainboard.

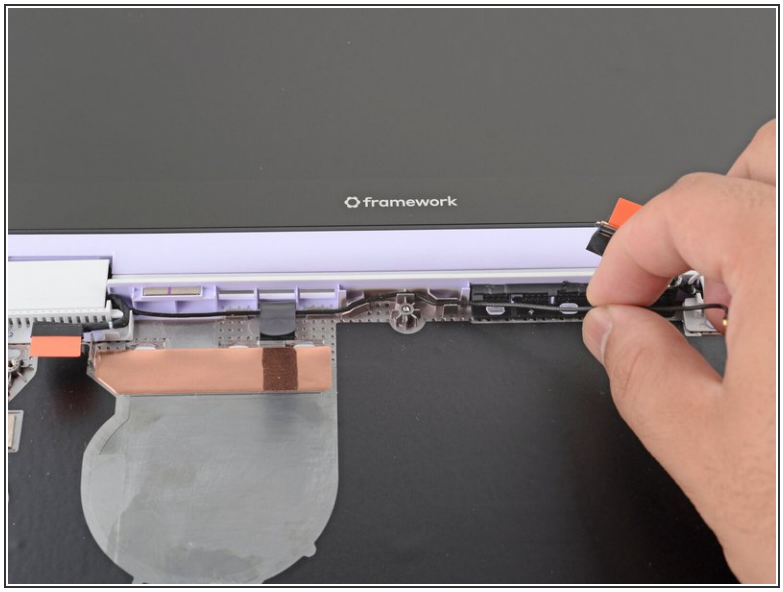
Step 24 — Unthread the antenna cable

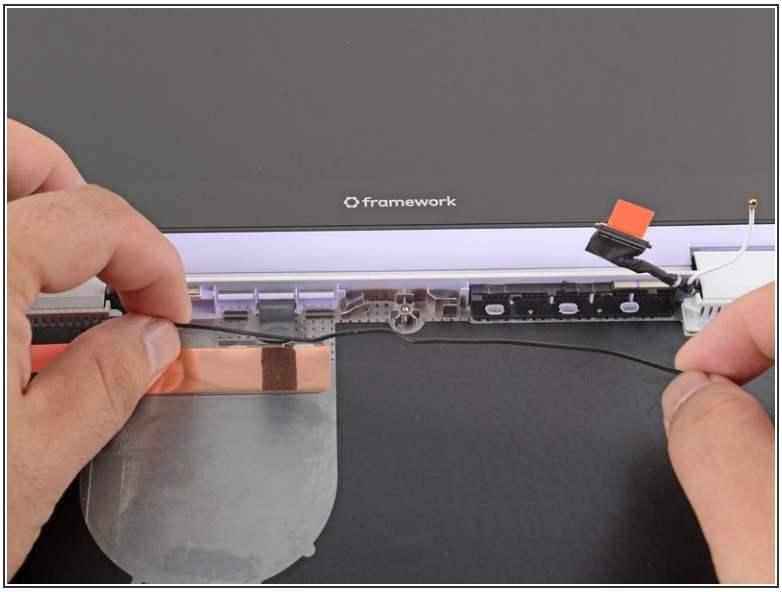




- Use your fingers to lift the black plastic loop securing the antenna cable, near the heat vents by the left hinge.

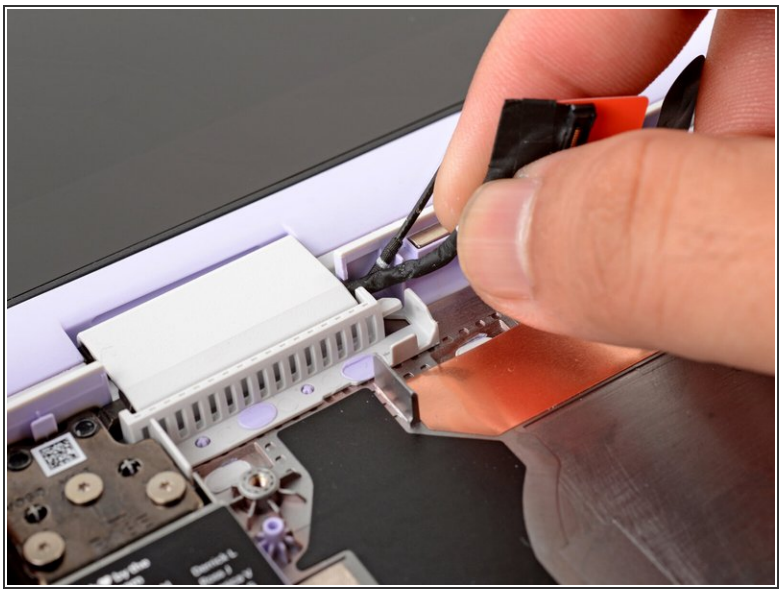
Step 25 — Guide the antenna cable out





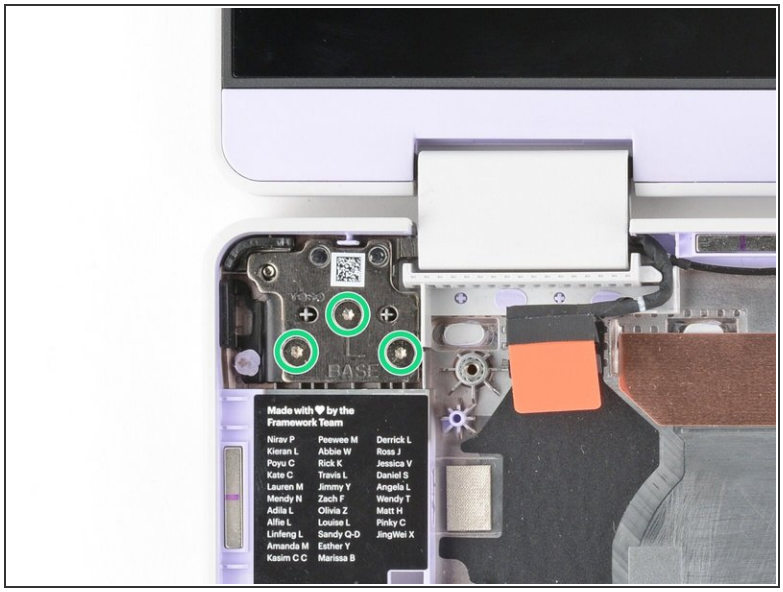
- Use your fingers to lift and guide the antenna cable out of the frame channel.

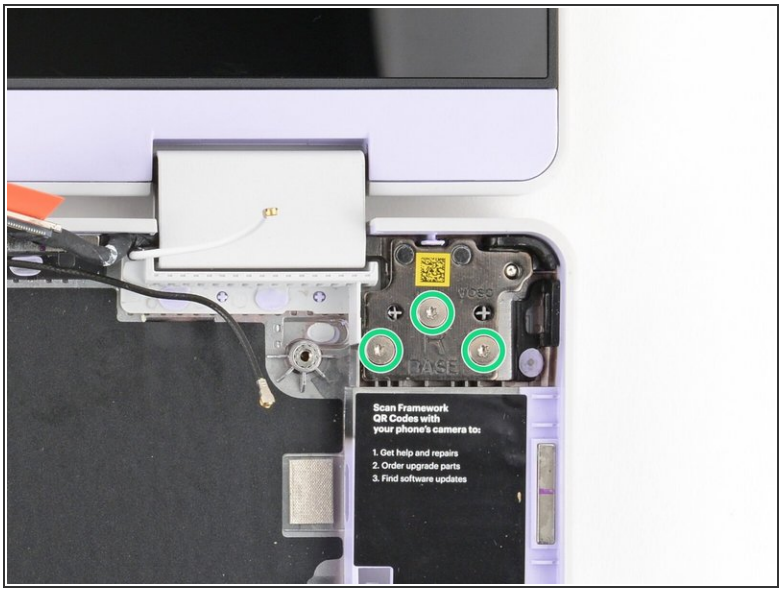
Step 26 — Unthread the webcam cable



- Use your fingers to gently lift the webcam cable out of its plastic channel.

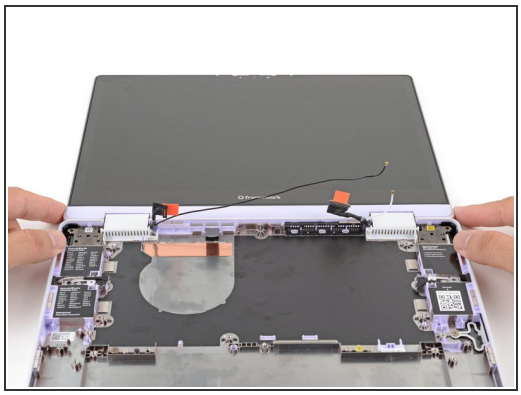
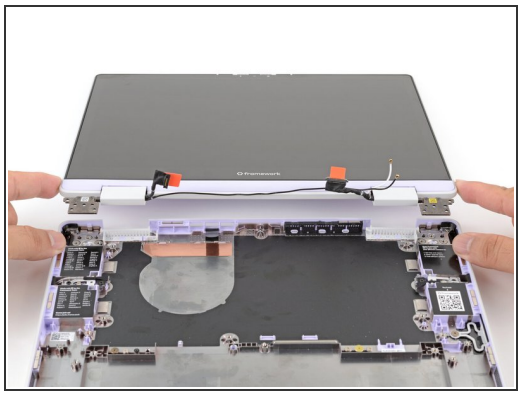
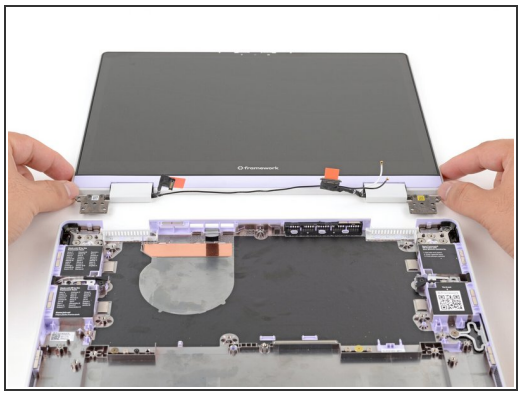
Step 27 — Disconnect the Top Cover





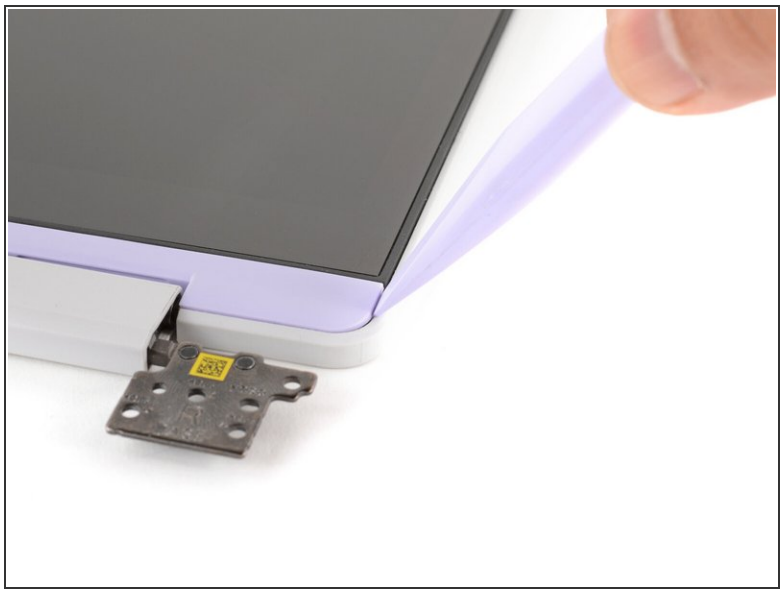
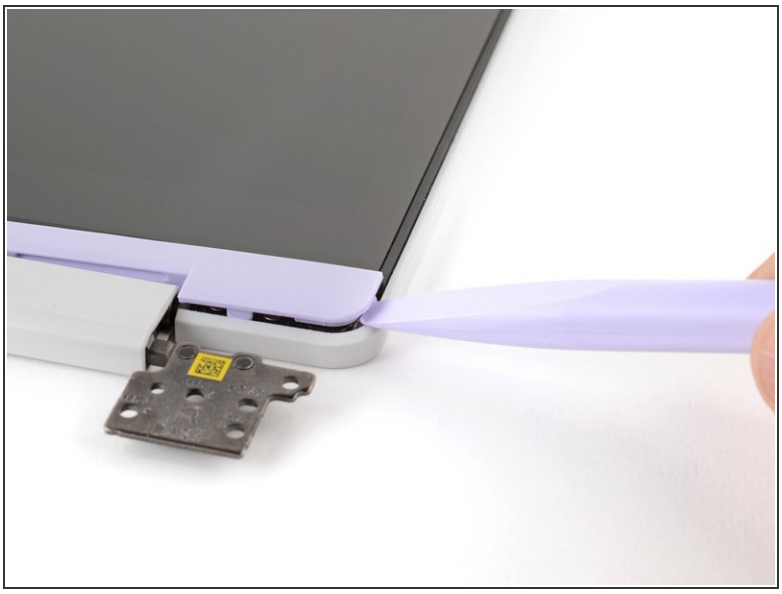
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to remove the six (three per hinge) 4.5 mm-long T5 Torx screws securing the two hinges.
  - These screws are not captive. Store them in a safe location for reassembly.

Step 28 — Separate the Top Cover and Bottom Cover

- Use your fingers to lift the hinges over the Bottom Cover lip.
- Separate the Top Cover from the Bottom Cover.

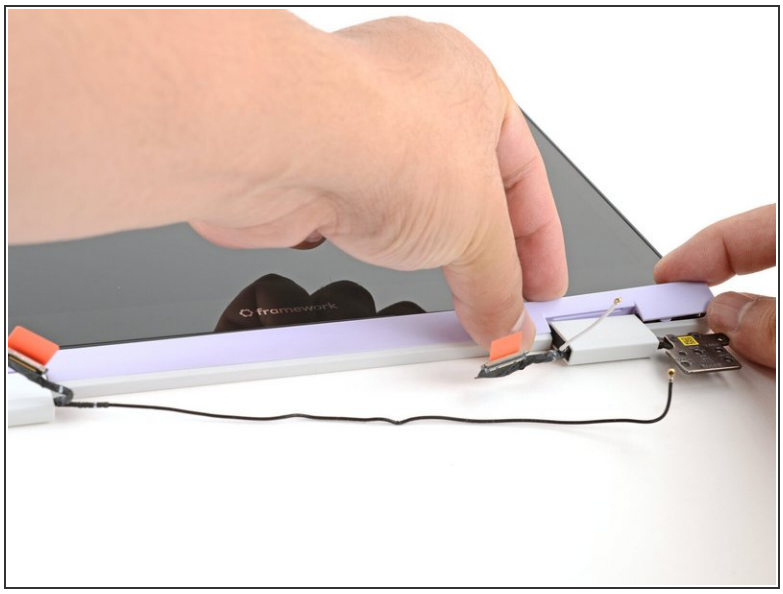
Step 29 — Remove the Display Cover

ⓘ The Display Cover is held in place with magnets along its top edge and clips along its remaining edges.

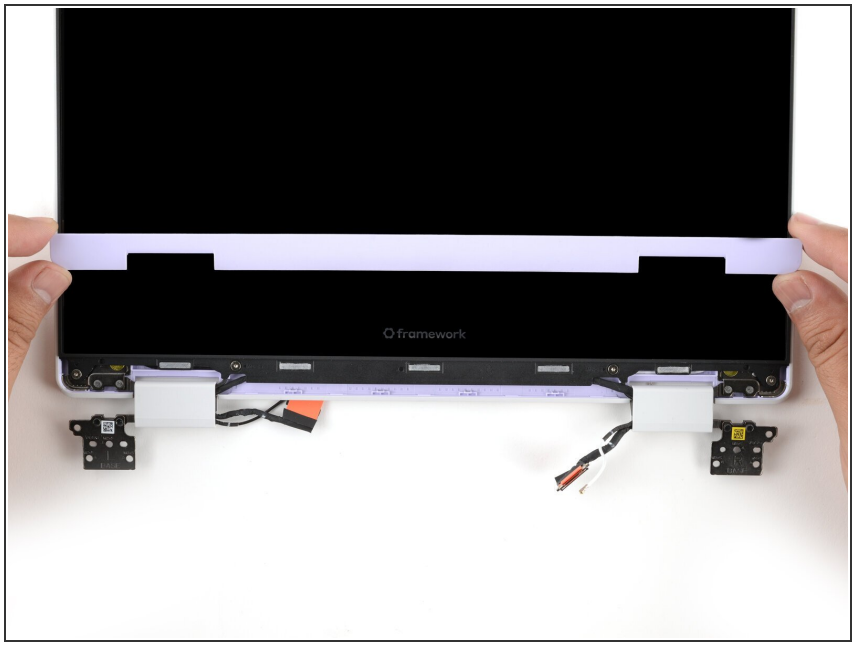
- Use the flat end of your Framework Screwdriver to pry up the right edge of the Display Cover.

Step 30



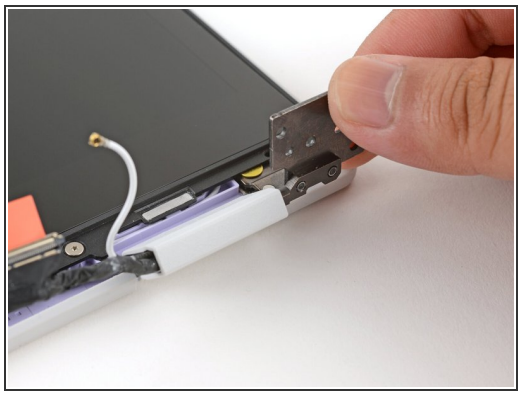
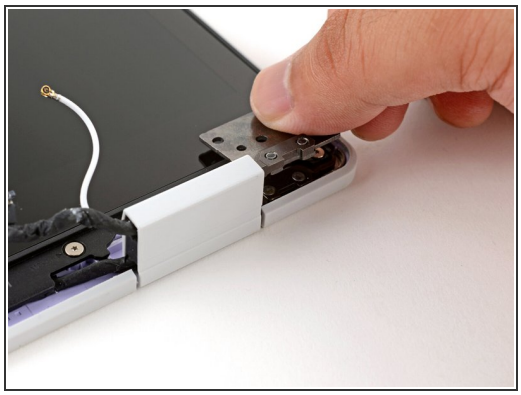
- Slide your fingers under the top edge of the Display Cover to release it from the laptop.

Step 31 — Remove the Display Cover



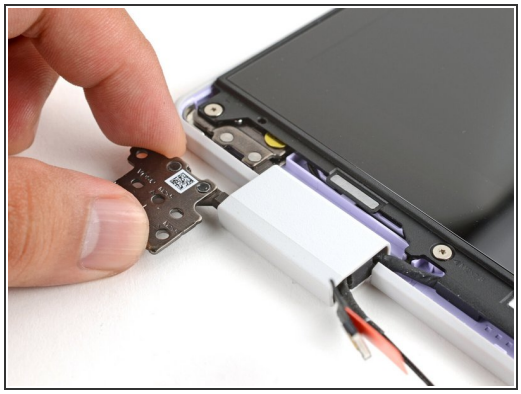
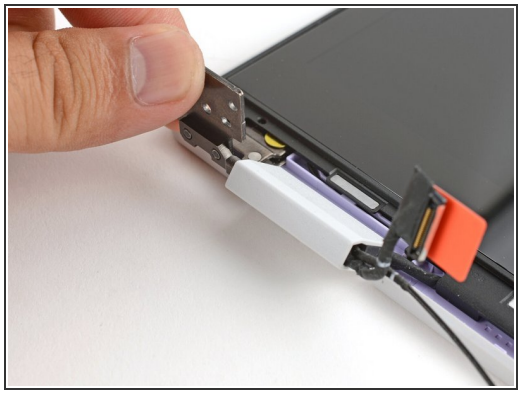
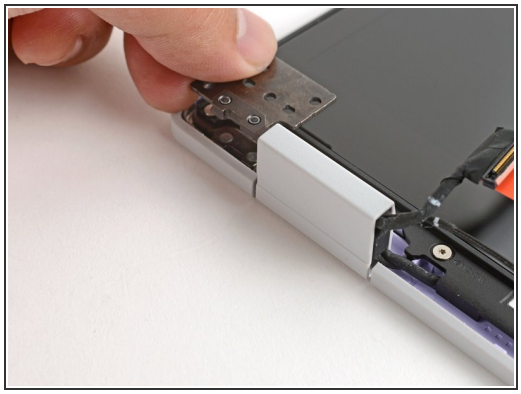
- Remove the Display Cover.

Step 32 — Bend the hinges up

- Use your fingers to twist the right hinge plate until it's flipped on top of the display.
  - ⓘ The stiff hinge can be difficult to twist. Wear some work gloves, or use a cloth to help get a better grip.

Step 33

- Twist the left hinge plate until it's flipped on top of the display.

Step 34 — Release the cables from the hinges

- Use your fingers to grab the two cables coming out of the left hinge.
- Pull gently to pop out the black cable clip and release the cables.
- Store the cable clip for reassembly.

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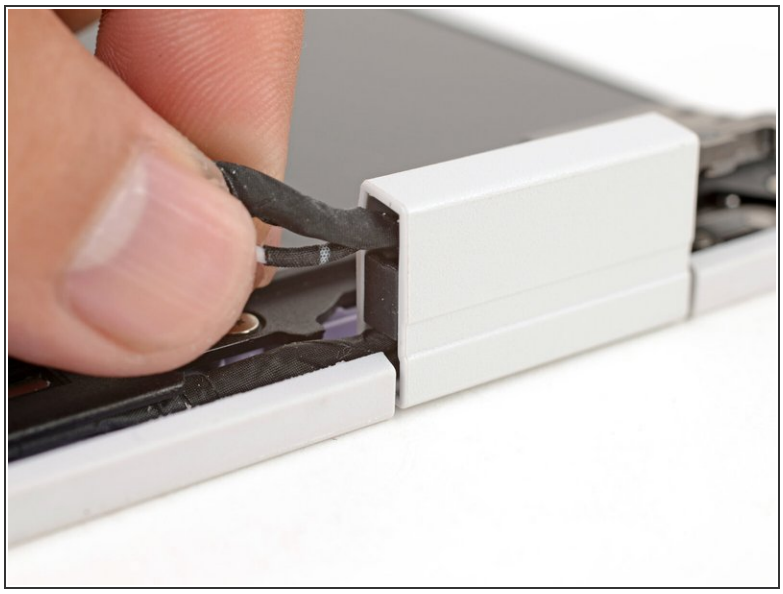
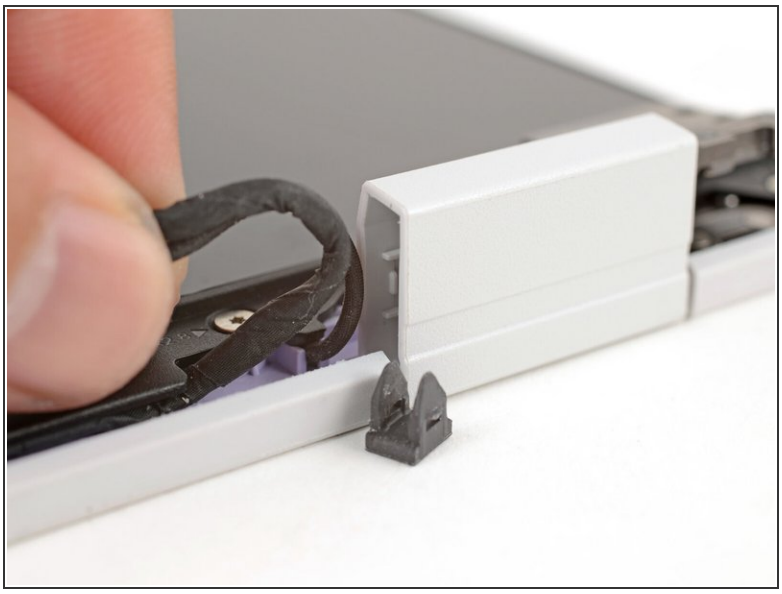
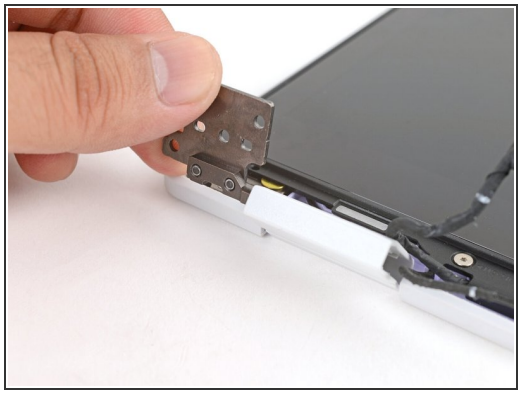
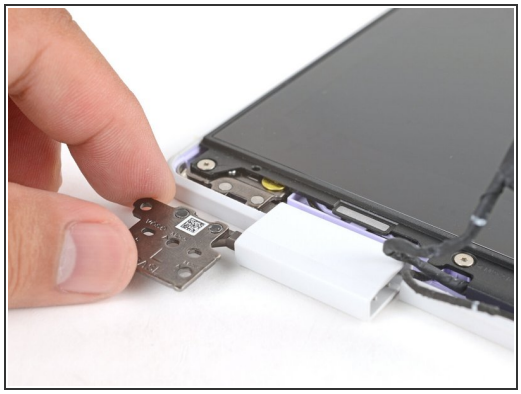
Step 35

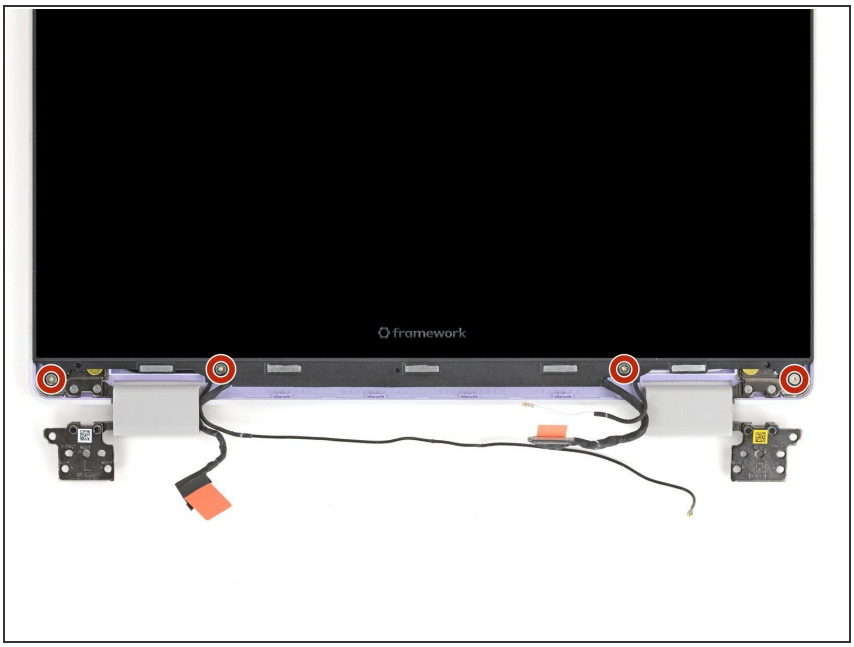
- Repeat the procedure on the right hinge to release the cables.
- Store the cable clip for reassembly.

Step 36 — Twist the hinge plates down

- Use your fingers to twist both hinge plates back down so they lay flat on your work surface.

Step 37 — Remove the display screws

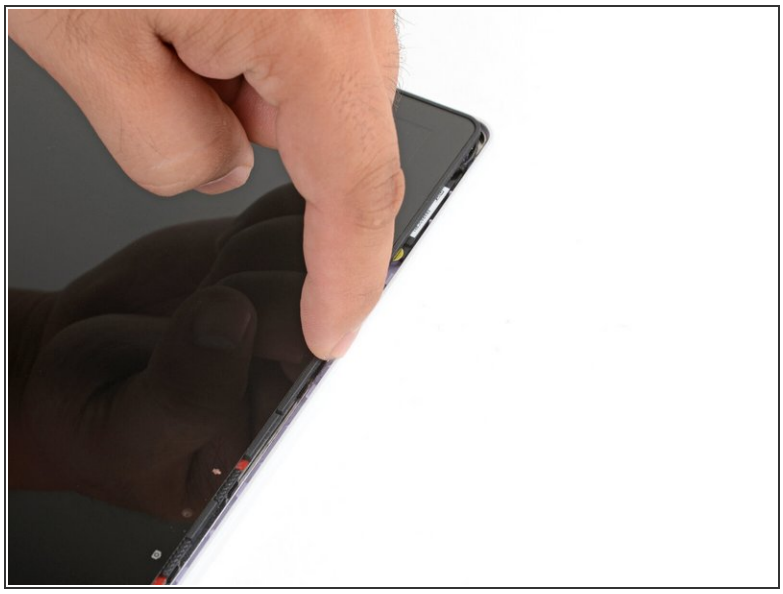


- Use your Framework Screwdriver to remove the four 3.3 mm-long T5 Torx screws securing the display to the Top Cover.
  - These screws are not captive. Store them in a safe location for reassembly.

Step 38 — Slide the display down

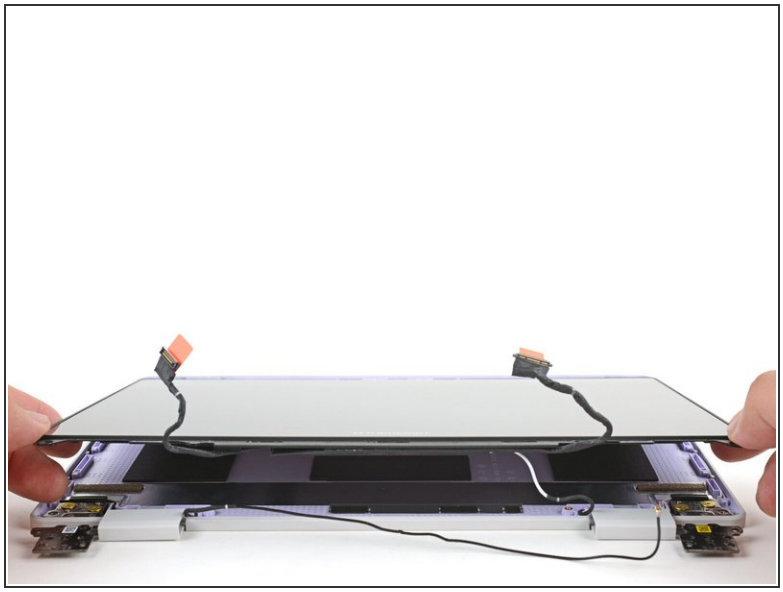
- Use your fingers to hold the bottom edge of the Top Cover in place.
- Insert the bit end of your Framework Screwdriver into the small hole on the display, below the Framework logo.
- Slide the display down towards the hinge edge to release the tabs holding the top edge of the display in place.

Step 39 — Lift the display



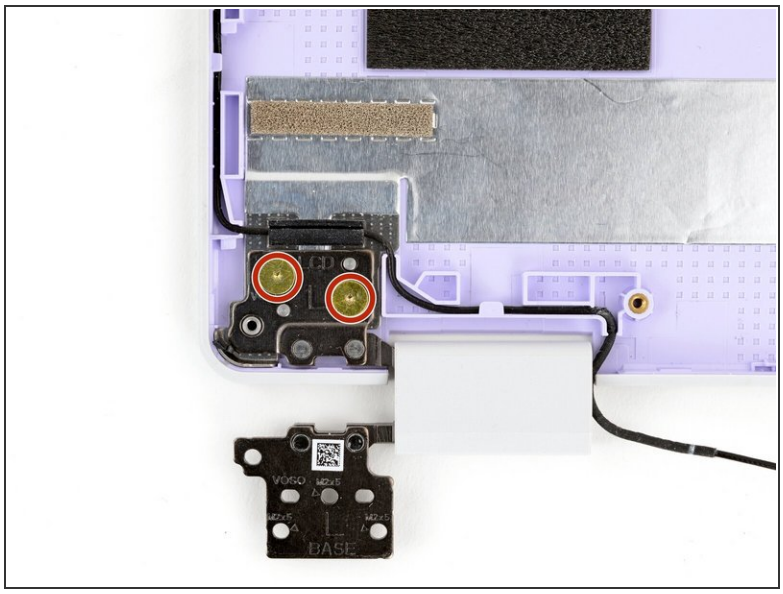
- Use your fingers to lift the top edge of the display from the Top Cover.

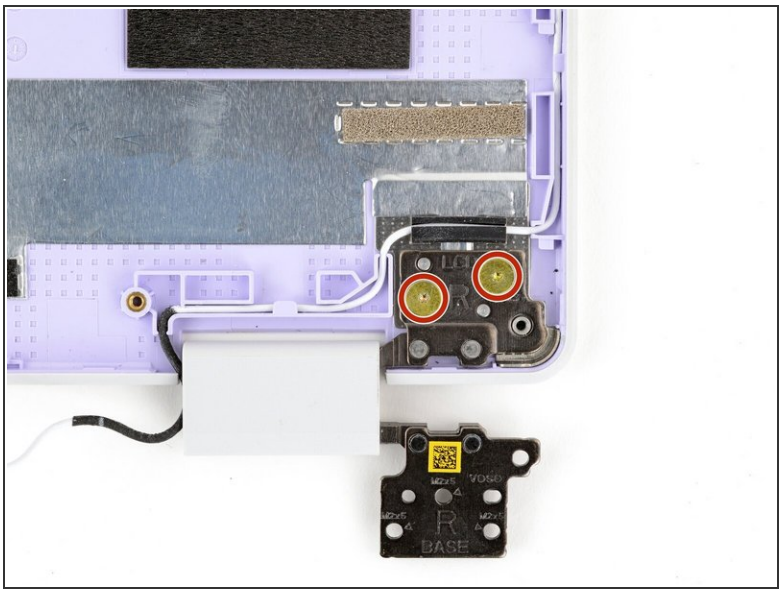
Step 40 — Remove the display



- Lift and remove the display from the Top Cover.

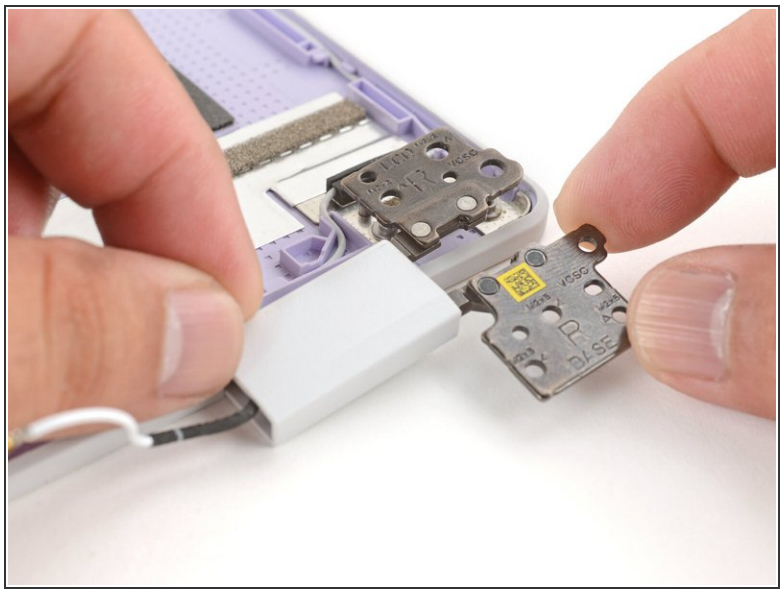
Step 41 — Remove the hinge screws

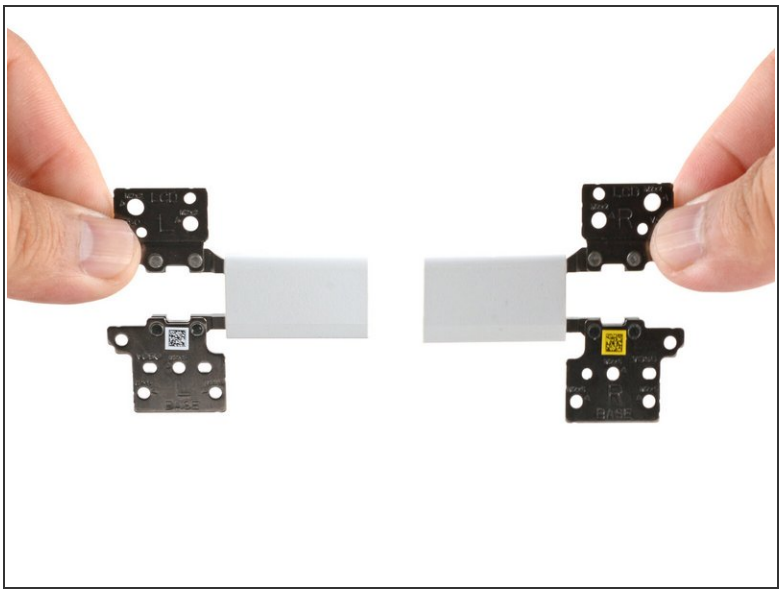




- Use your Framework Screwdriver to remove the four (two per hinge) 2.5 mm-long T5 Torx screws securing the two hinges to the Top Cover.
  - ⓘ These screws are not captive. Store them in a safe location for reassembly.

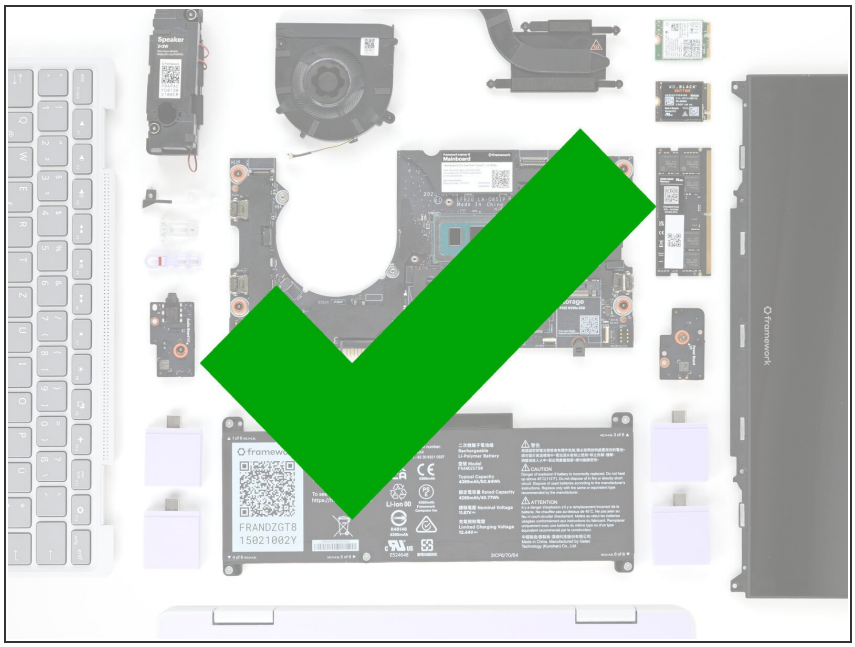
Step 42 — Remove the hinges





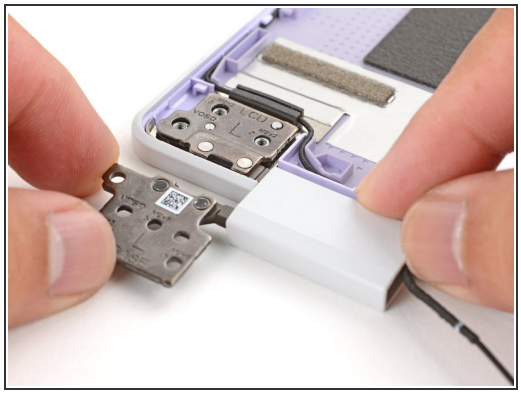
- Lift and remove both hinges from the Top Cover.

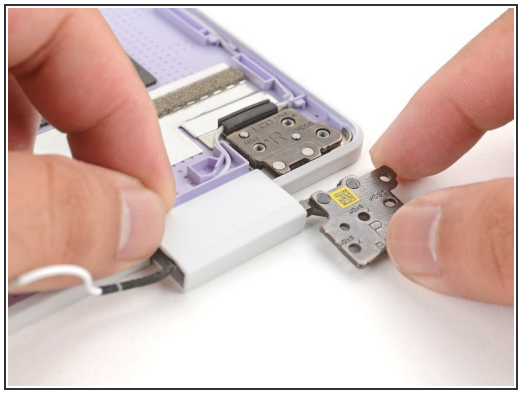
Step 43 — Disassembly complete

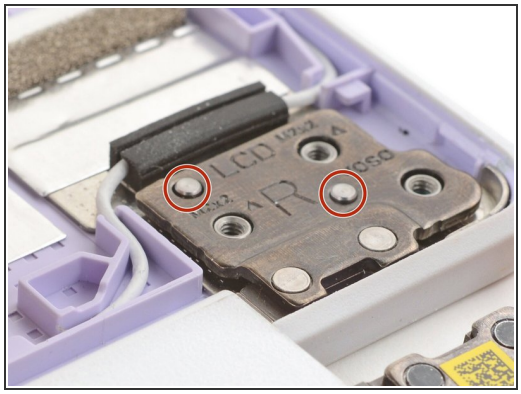


Congratulations on completing disassembly! **The remaining steps will show how to reassemble your Framework Laptop.**

Step 44 — Install the hinges

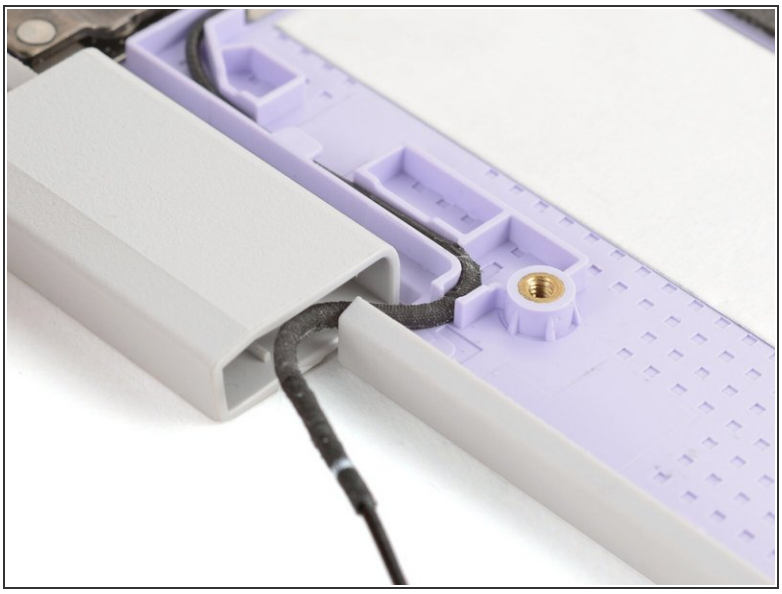


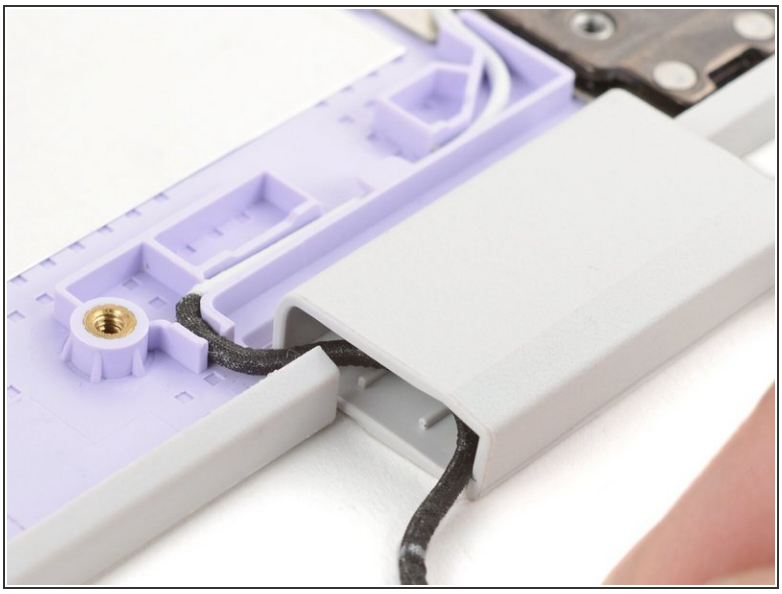




- Lay both hinges in place in the Top Cover.
  - Use the alignment pins to help position each hinge in place.

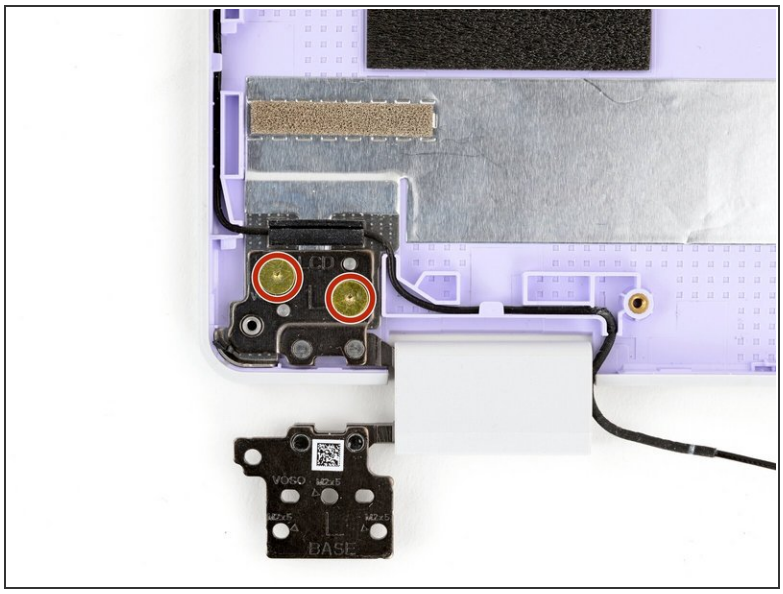
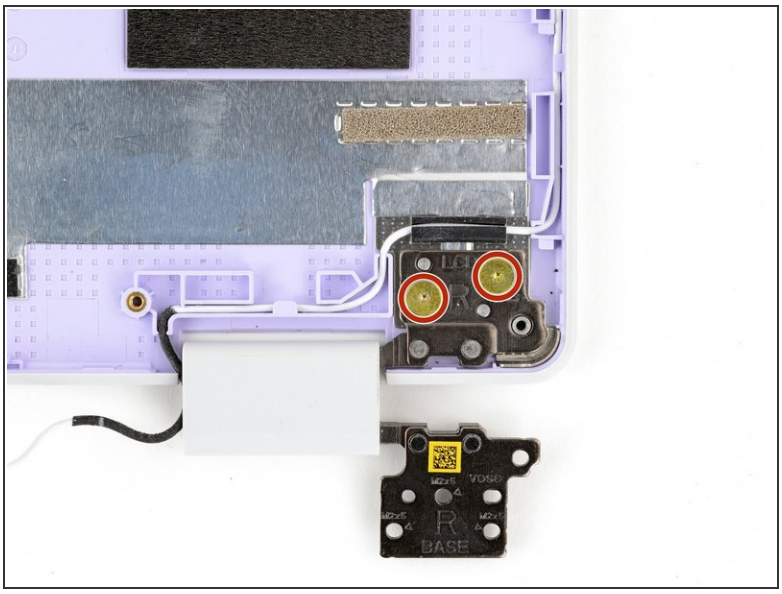
Step 45 — Check antenna cable routing





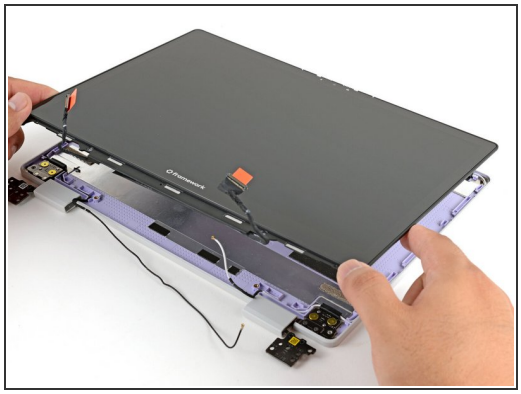
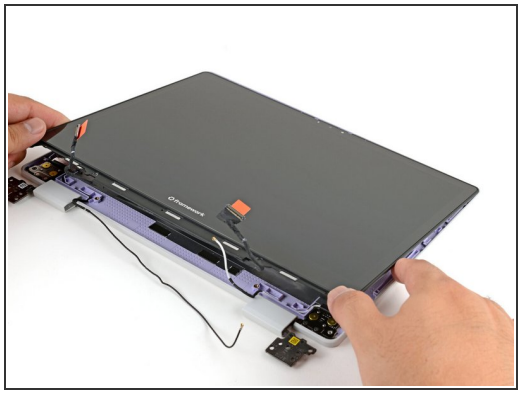
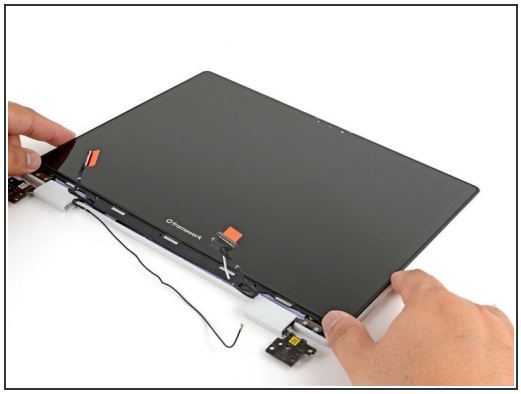
- Make sure both antenna cables are properly routed in the Top Cover and tucked into the hinges, as shown in the images.

Step 46 — Secure the hinges

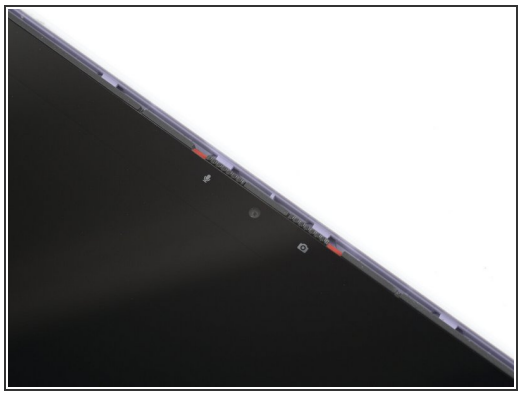
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to install the four 2.5 mm-long T5 Torx screws to secure the two hinges to the Top Cover.
  - ⚠ Make sure to install these screws in the marked locations. There are additional screw holes on the hinges that are not for these screws.
  - ⚠ Make sure you don't accidentally install the silver lower hinge screws here. These screws should be gold colored.

Step 47 — Install the display

- Lay the display in place in the Top Cover, such that the top edge of the display is slightly below the top edge of the Top Cover.

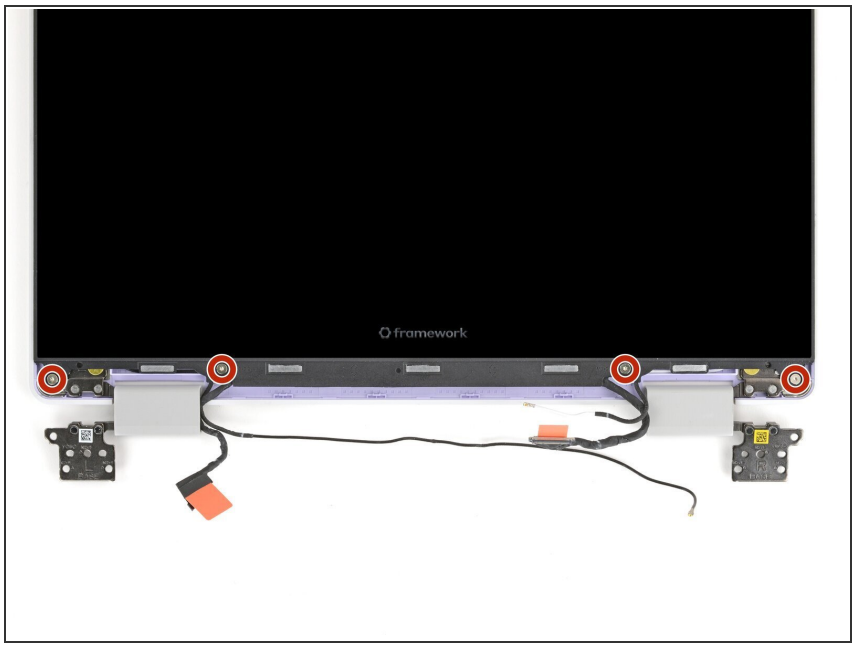
Step 48 — Slide the display in place



- Use your fingers to slide the display upwards to latch the tabs on the top edge of the display.

ⓘ The top edge shouldn't have any gaps when the display's in place.

Step 49 — Install the display screws

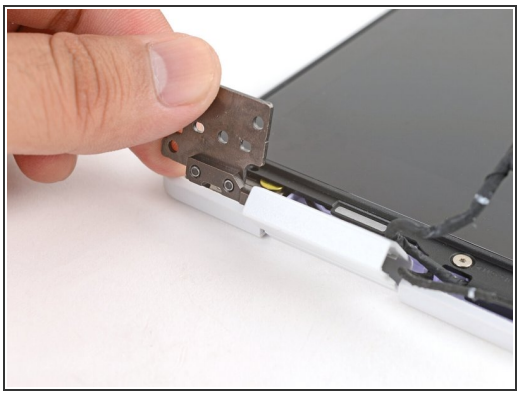


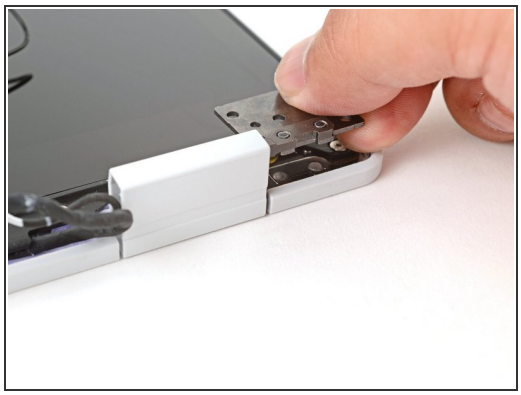
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to install the four 3.3 mm-long T5 Torx screws to secure the display to the Top Cover.

⚠ Make sure you don't accidentally install the 4.5 mm-long hinge screws here. They look identical, but the hinge screws are longer.

ⓘ **Tighten the screws until they're snug.** Don't over-tighten them, or you may damage the screw tabs.

Step 50 — Bend the Hinges up





- Use your fingers to twist both hinge plates so they're flipped over the display.

Step 51 — Insert the cables into the hinges

- Place the cable clip around the right hinge cables, where they were bent from being inserted into the hinge.
- Use your fingers to press the clip into the hinge to secure the cables.

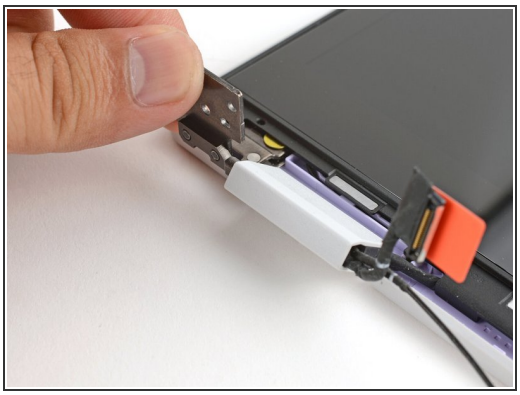
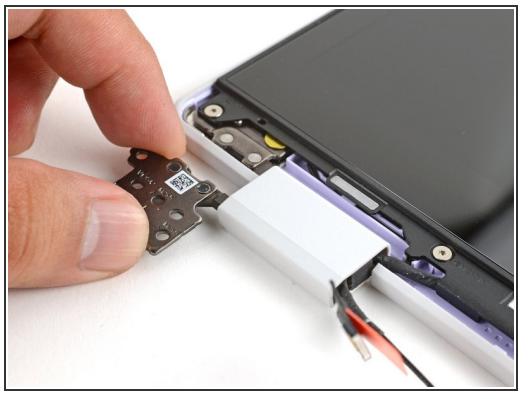
Step 52

- Repeat the procedure on the left hinge to secure the left cables.

Step 53 — Secure Cable Clips

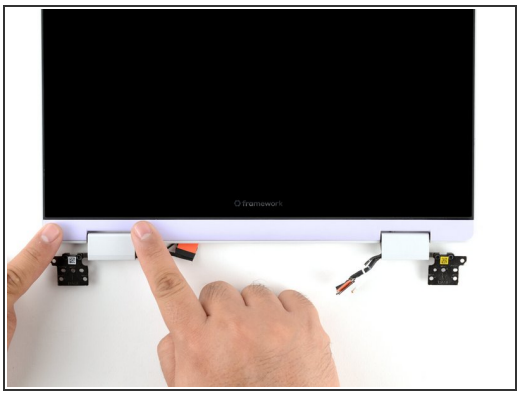
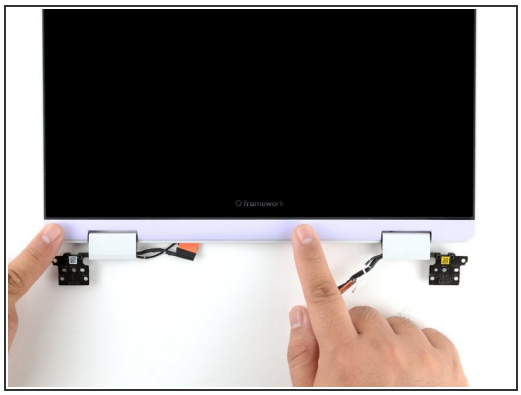
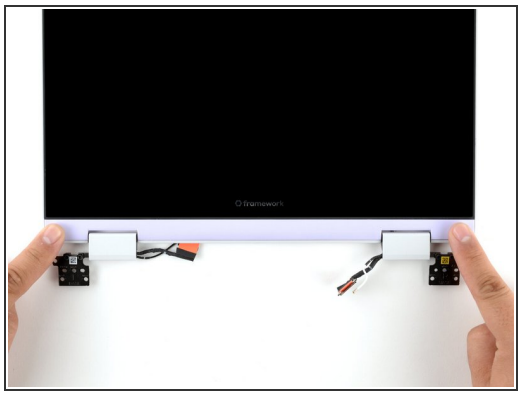
- Make sure both cable clips are fully inserted into the hinges, so that they won't be snagged when the hinges pivot.

Step 54 — Bend the Hinges down

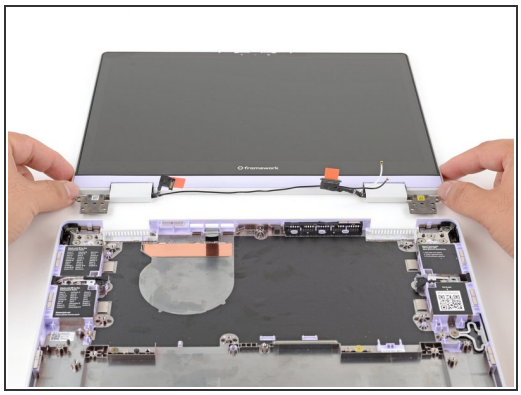
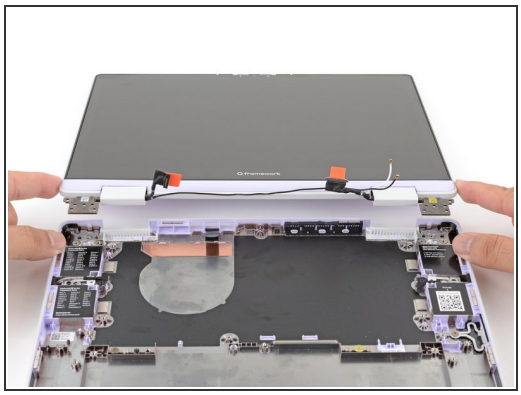
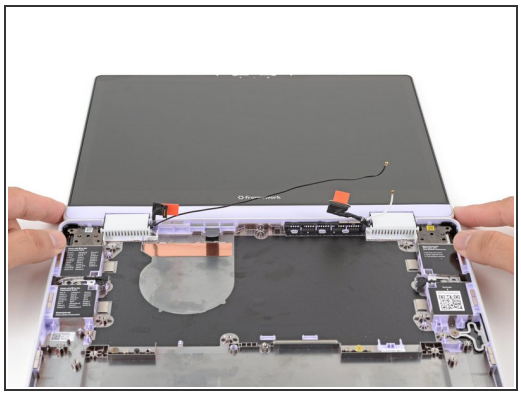
- Use your fingers to twist both hinge plates so that they lay flat on your work surface.

Step 55 — Install the Display Cover

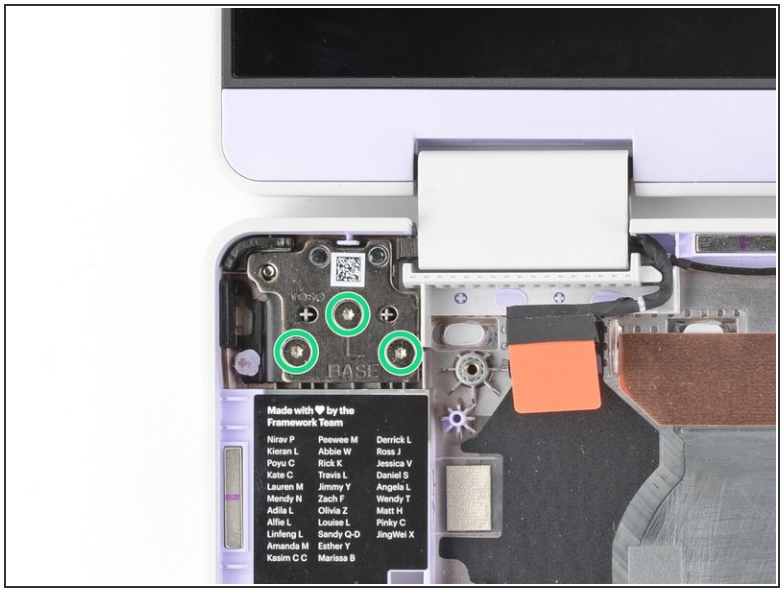
- Lay the Display Cover in place below the display.
- Use your finger to press along the length of the Display Cover to snap it onto the laptop.

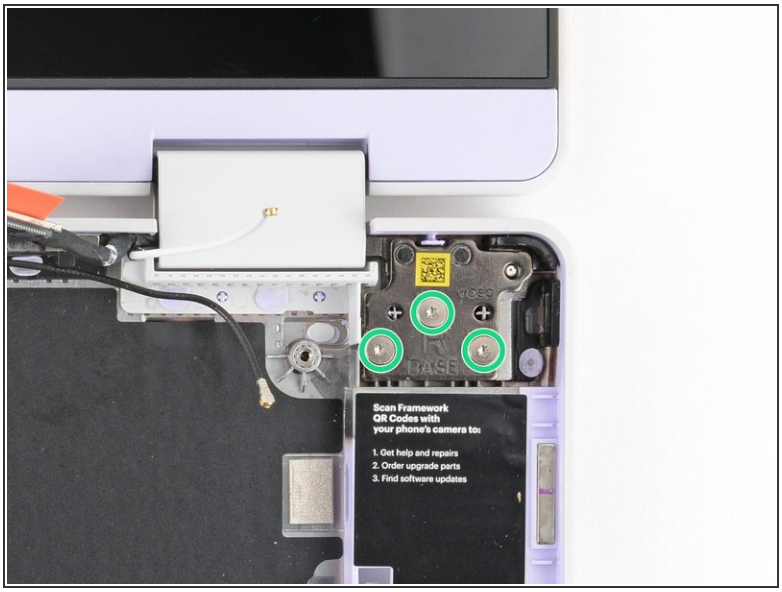
Step 56 — Reconnect the Top Cover

- Use your fingers to lift the Top Cover hinges over the Bottom Cover lip.
- Lay the hinges in place in the Bottom Cover.
  - ⓘ Use the plastic alignment pins to align each hinge in place.

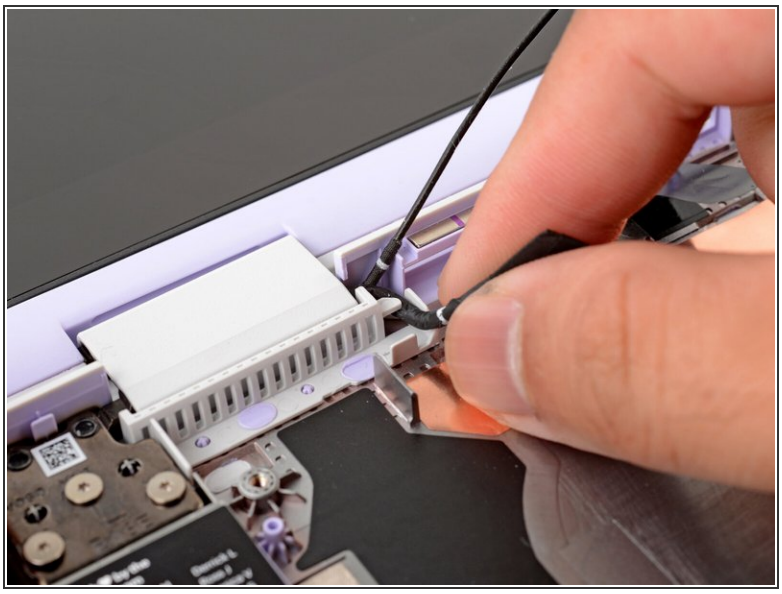
Step 57 — Secure Hinge Screws





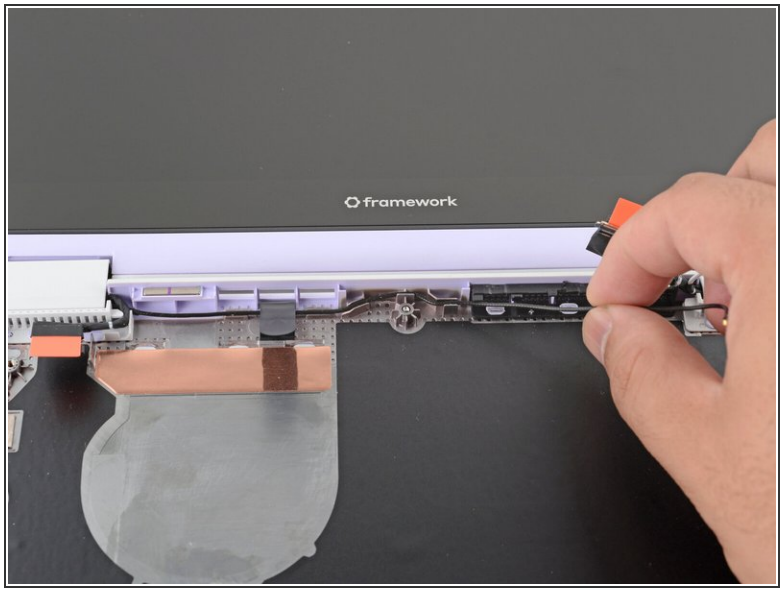
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to install the six 4.5 mm-long T5 Torx screws securing the two hinges.

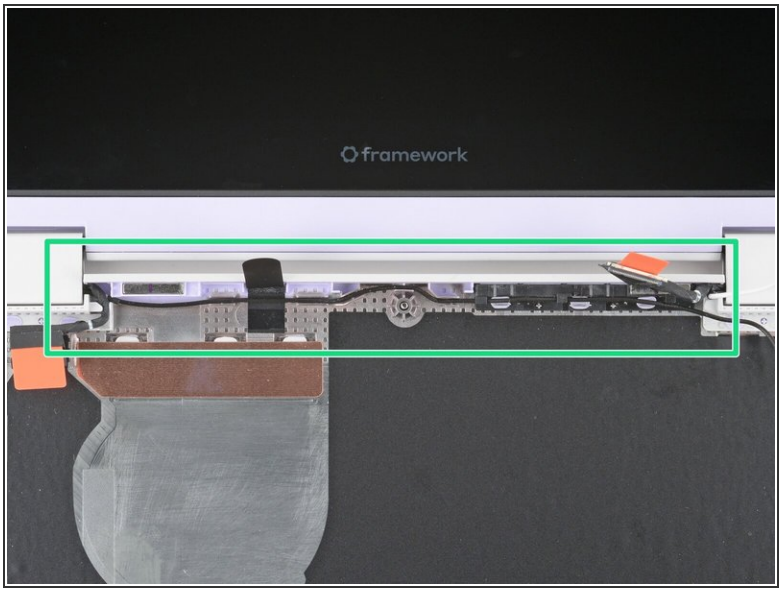
Step 58



- Use your fingers to gently press the webcam cable into its plastic channel.

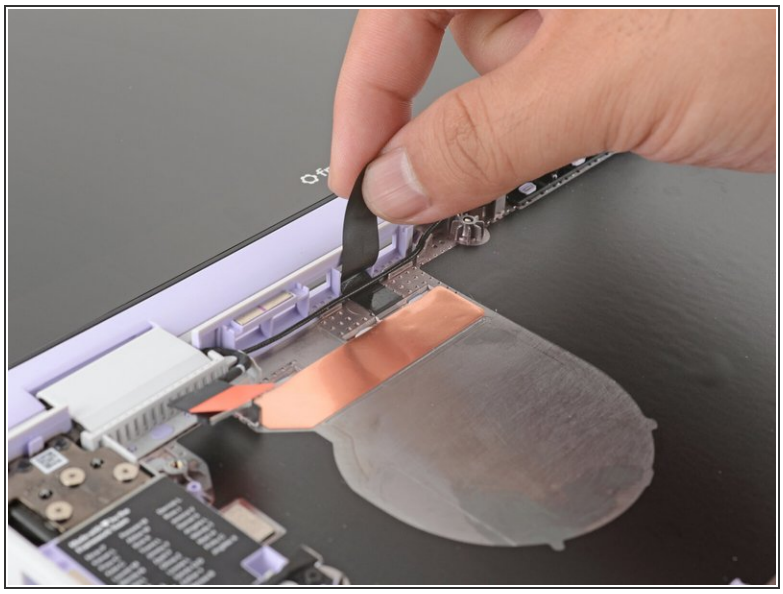
Step 59 — Route Antenna Cable

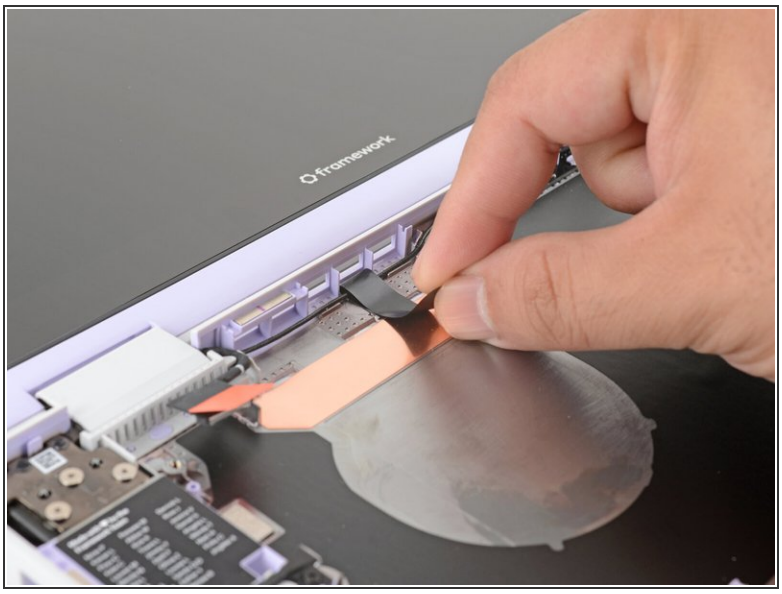




- Use your fingers and your Framework Screwdriver to carefully press and guide the black antenna cable back into its channel.
  - Zoom in on the second image to see how the antenna cable sits in its channel.

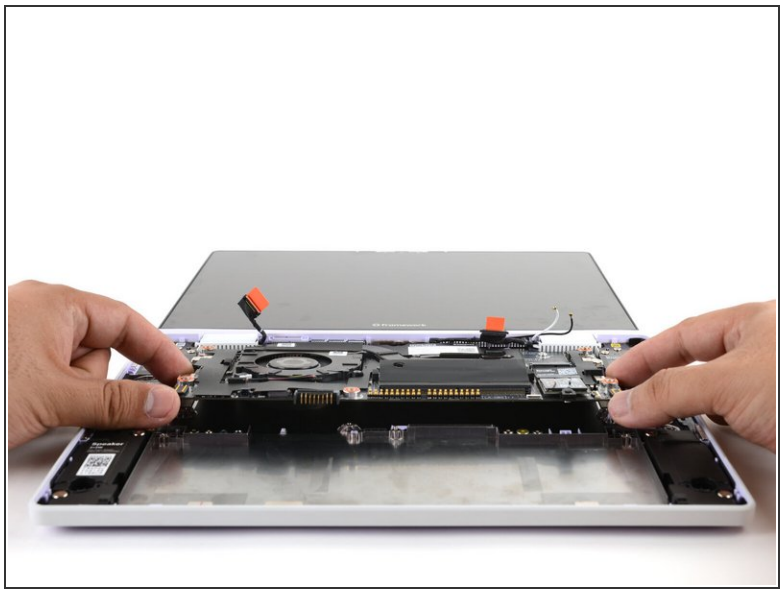
Step 60 — Secure Antenna Cable

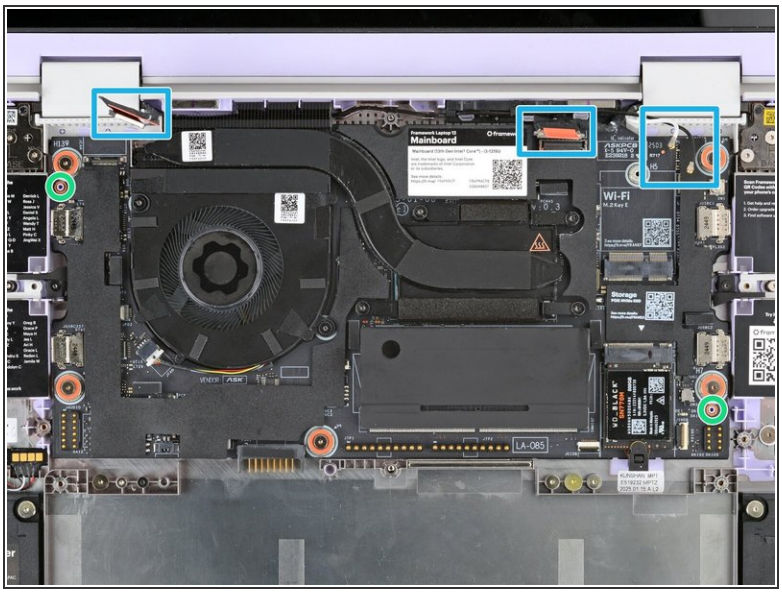




- Press the black loop over the antenna cable and onto the Bottom Cover. If it doesn't stick, use a bit of thin double-sided tape to hold it down.

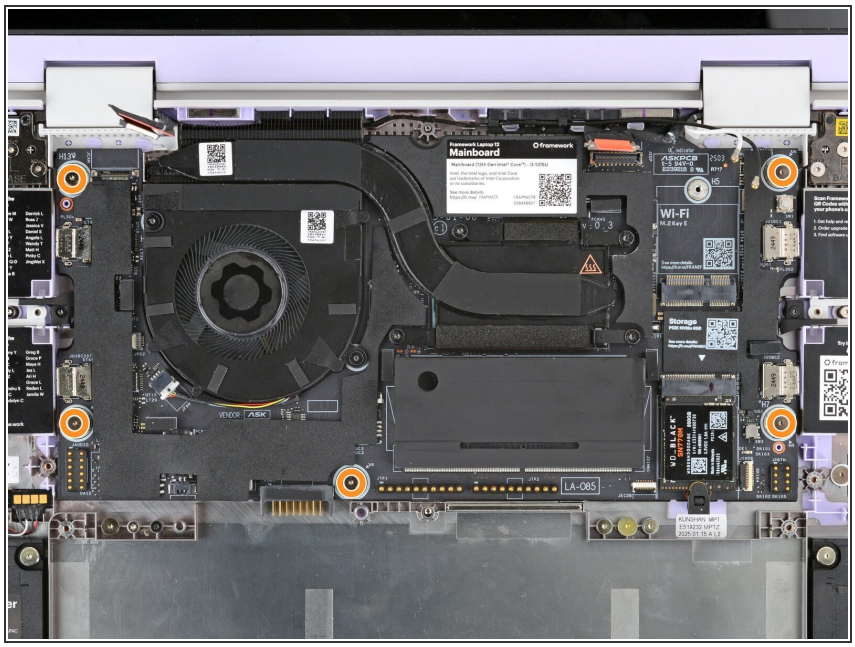
Step 61 — Install the Mainboard





- Carefully lay the Mainboard in the laptop.
  - Use the two alignment pins to help align the Mainboard to the laptop.
  - Be careful not to trap the webcam, display, and antenna cables under the Mainboard as you set it in place.

Step 62 — Screw in Mainboard Screws



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the five captive T5 Torx screws to secure the Mainboard.

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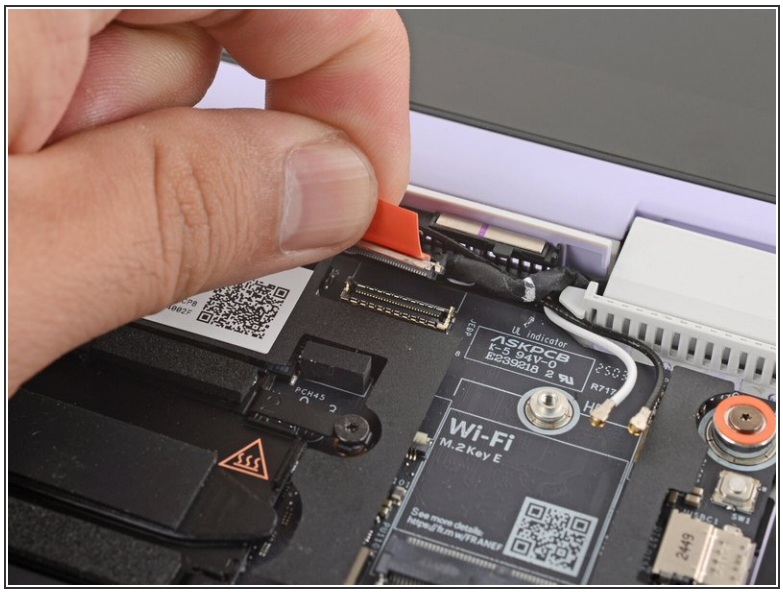
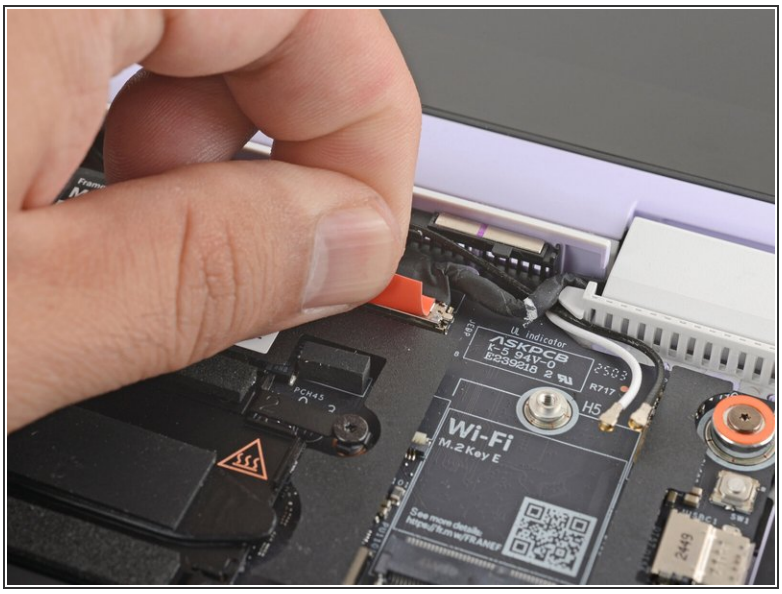
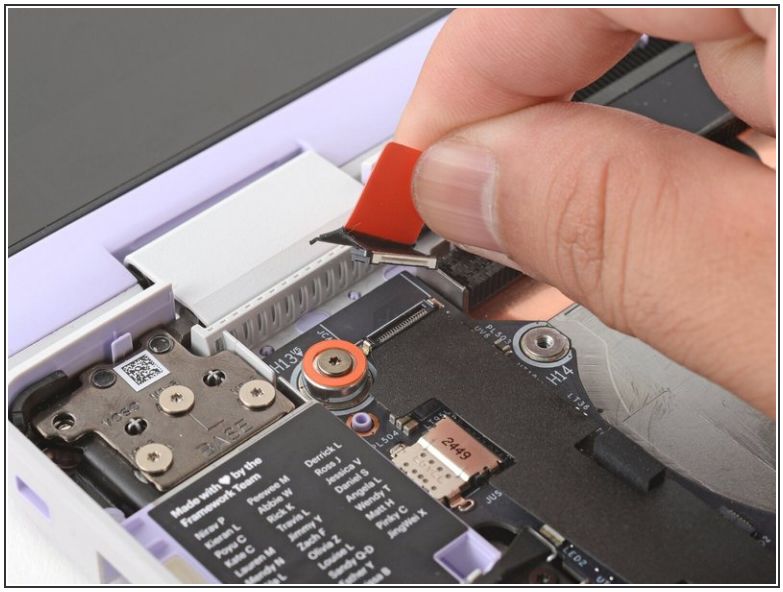
Step 63 — Connect Display cable to Mainboard

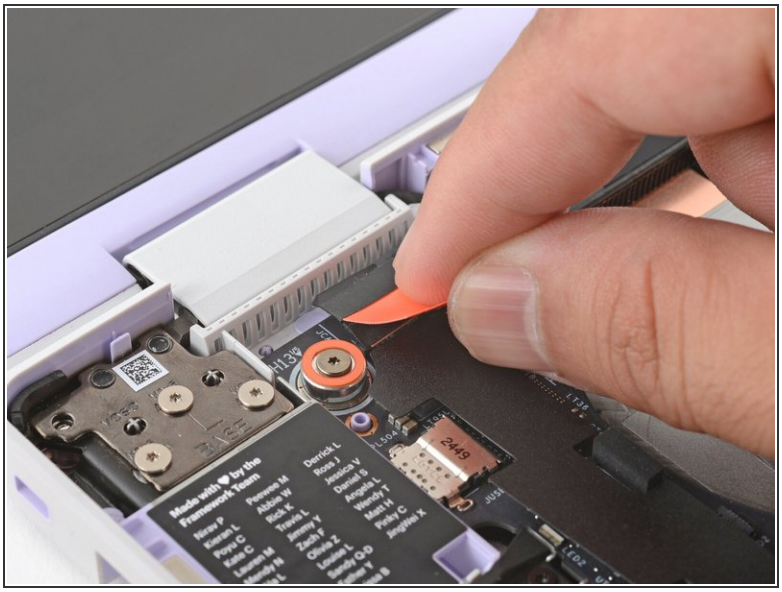




- Use your fingers to grab the orange tab on the display cable, located near the right hinge.
- Align and press the display cable straight down onto its connector.

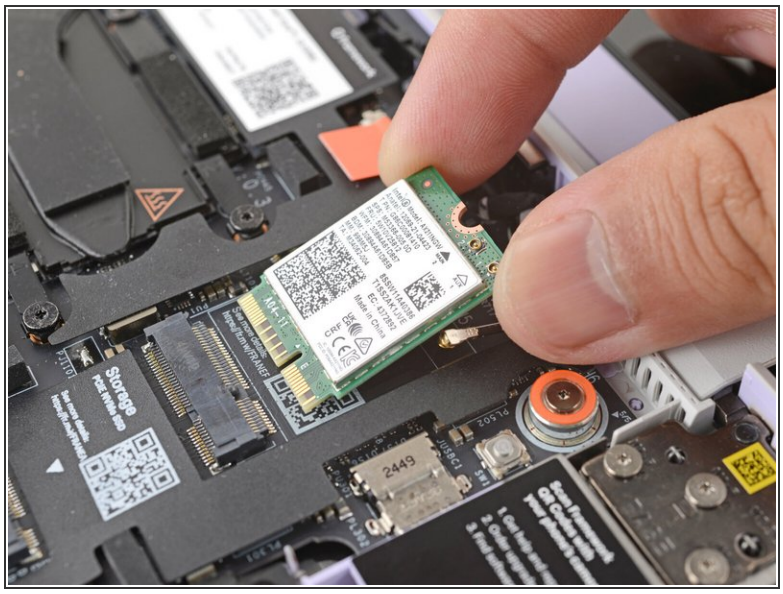
Step 64 — Connect Webcam cable to Mainboard





- Use your fingers to grab the orange tab on the webcam cable, located near the left hinge.
- Align and press the webcam cable straight down onto its connector.

Step 65 — Install the Wi-Fi card

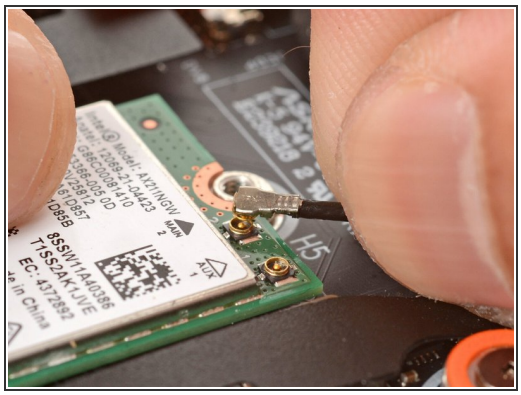
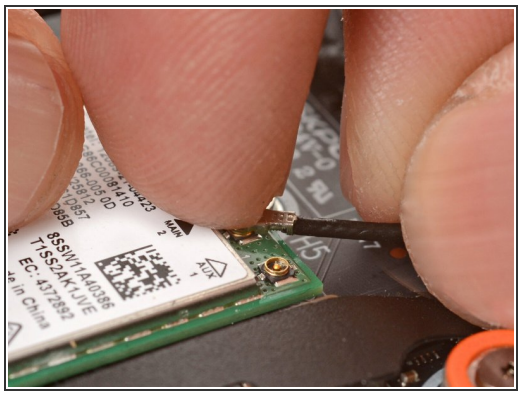
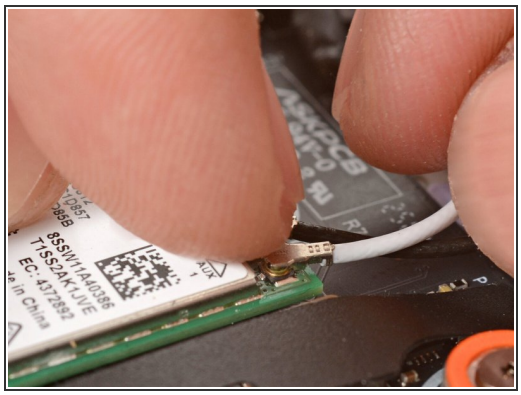


⚠ Hold the Wi-Fi card by its edges. Don't touch the gold contacts with your fingers. If you do, wipe the contacts with a clean, lint-free cloth to remove any finger oils.

- Align the Wi-Fi card's gold contacts and notch with the socket on the Mainboard.
- Insert the Wi-Fi card into the socket at a shallow angle. The gold contacts should mostly be covered by the socket.

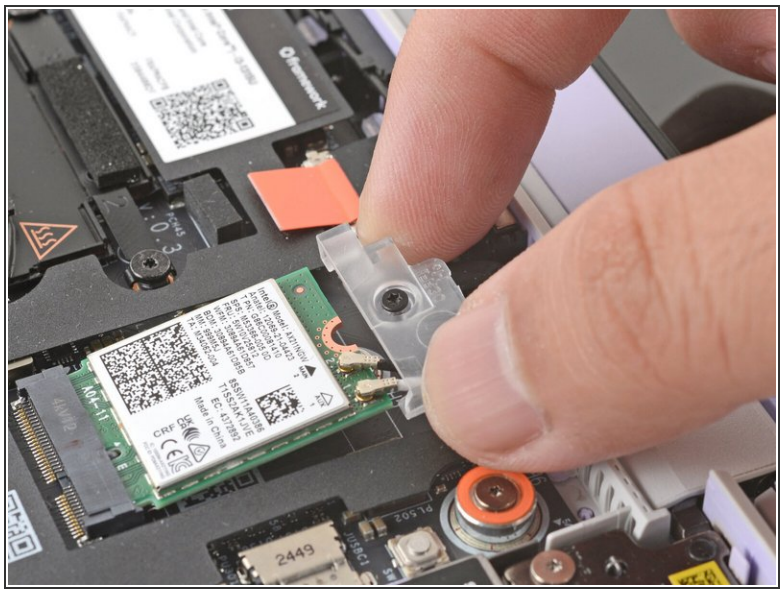
ⓘ The Wi-Fi card fits into the socket in one orientation. If it doesn't fit, try flipping the module.

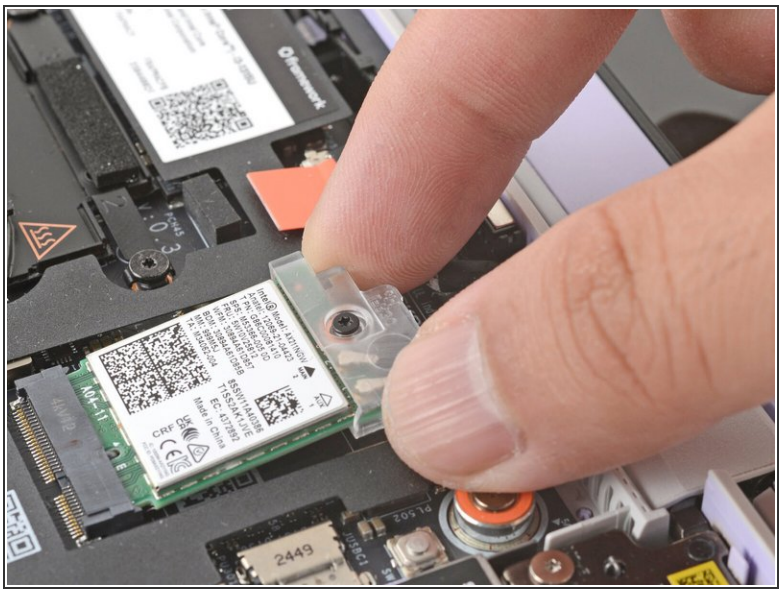
Step 66

- Hold the Wi-Fi card down with your finger.
- Position the black antenna cable connector over the left Wi-Fi card's coaxial socket.
  - ⓘ Tweezers can help position the connector.
- Use your finger to press the connector into place. You should feel a faint click, and the cable will stay attached to the socket by itself.
  - ⚠ These connectors are very delicate! If the connector doesn't feel like it's clicking in place, reposition the connector and try again.
- Repeat the procedure with the white antenna cable.

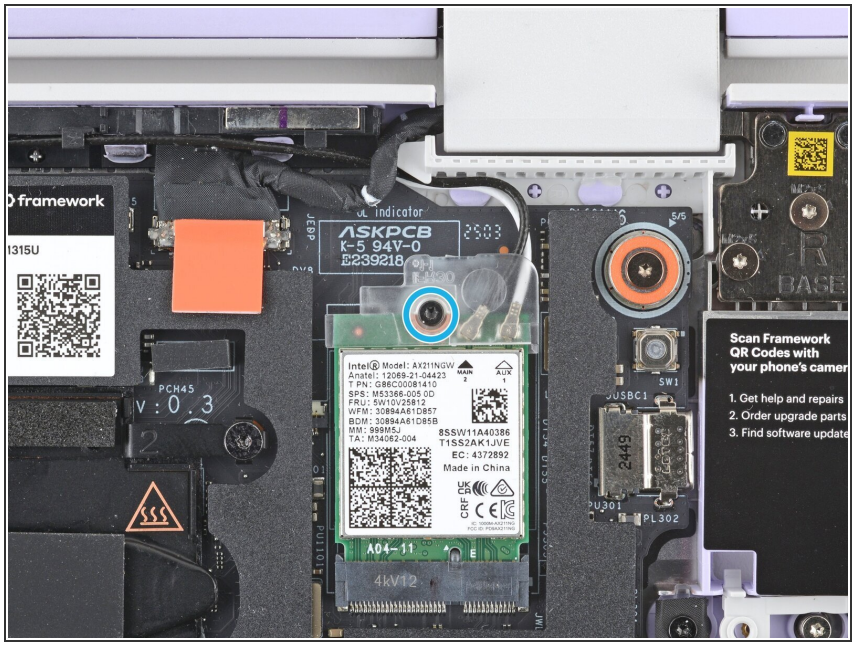
Step 67





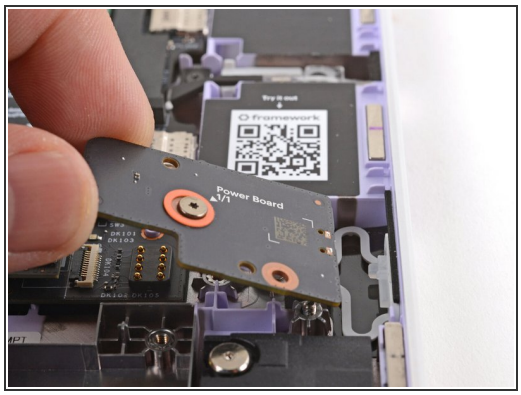
- Slide the Wi-Fi bracket over the top edge of the Wi-Fi card.

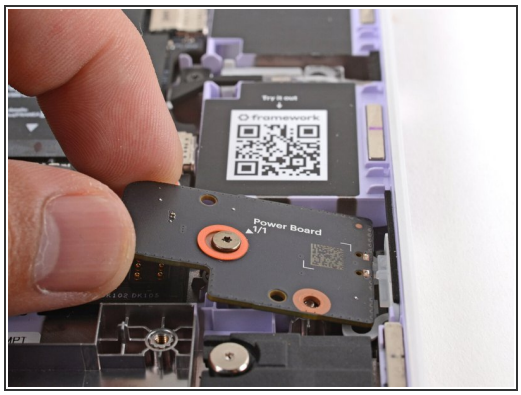
Step 68

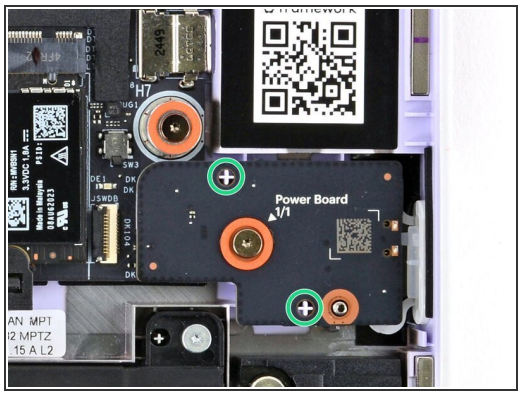


- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the captive T5 Torx screw to secure the Wi-Fi card.

Step 69 — Install the Power Button Board

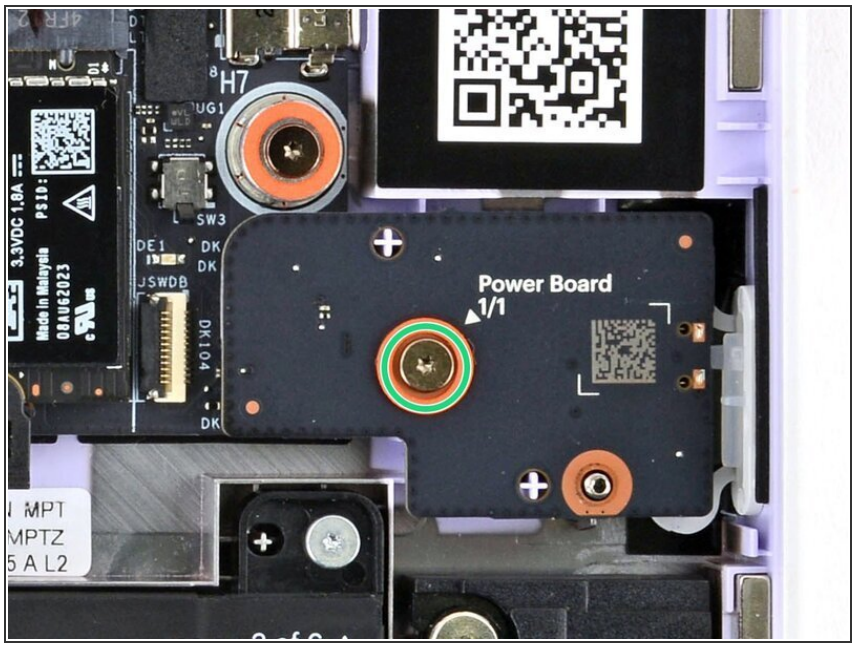






- Use your fingers to lay the Power Button Board in place.
- Use the two plastic pins on the laptop to align the Power Button Board.

Step 70



- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the captive T5 Torx screw to secure the Power Button Board.
  - ⓘ Tighten the screw until it's snug. Don't over-tighten it, or you may strip the screw.

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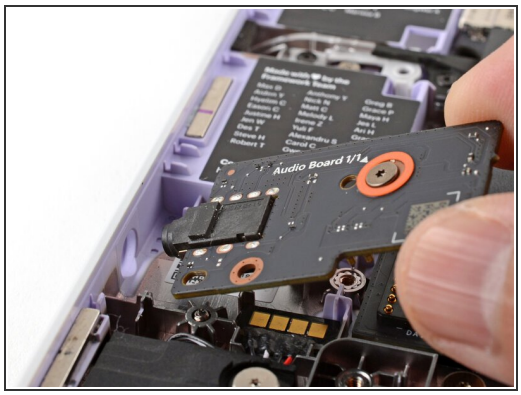
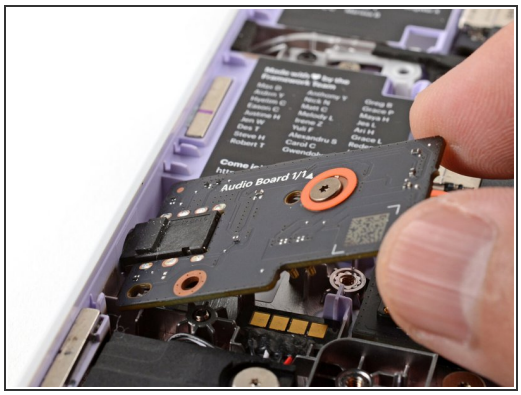
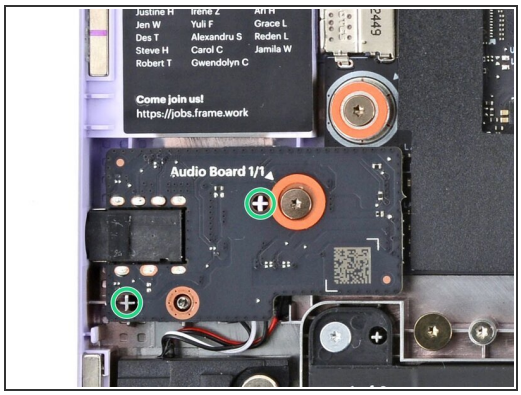
Step 71 — Install the Audio Board

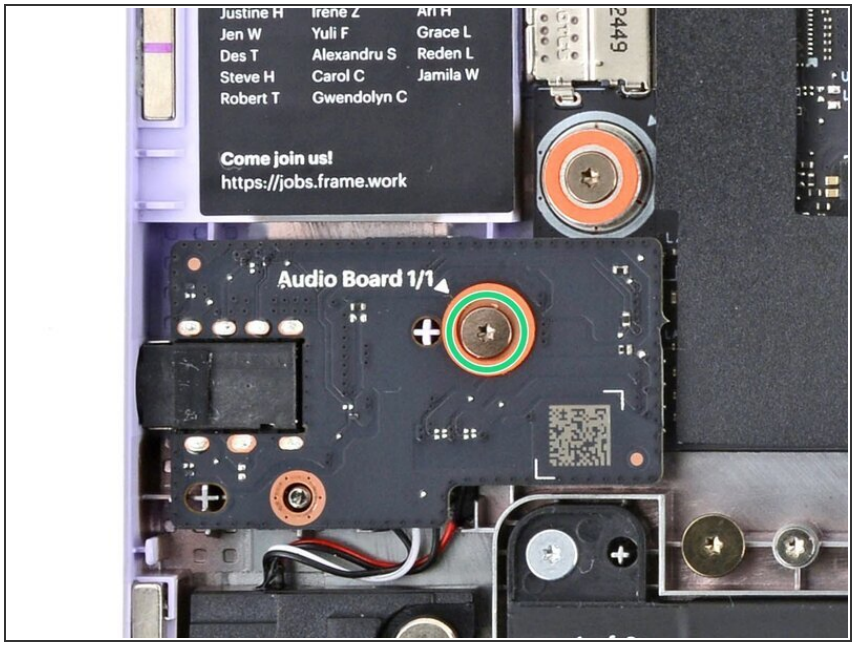






- Insert the Audio Board into the laptop at an angle to help align the headphone jack.
  - Use the two plastic alignment pins on the laptop to help with final alignment.

Step 72

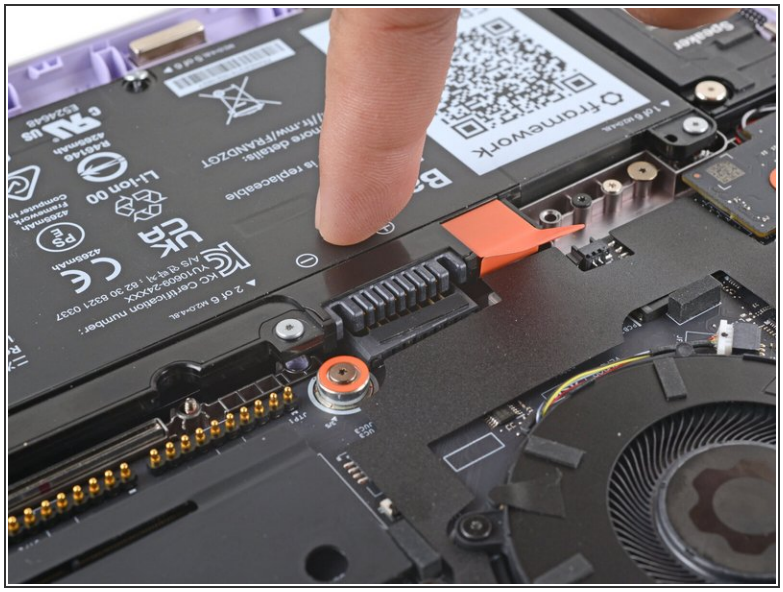


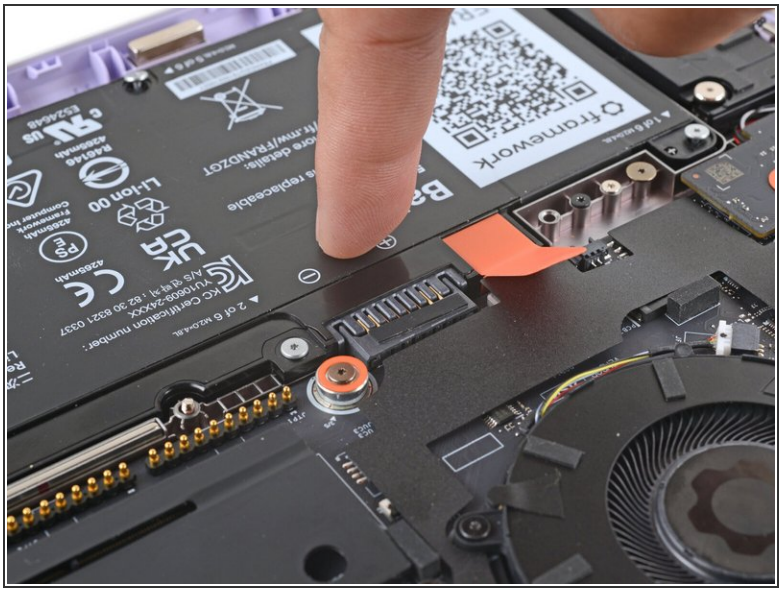
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the captive T5 Torx screw to secure the Audio Board.
  - ⓘ Tighten the screw until it's snug. Don't over-tighten it, or you may strip the screw.

Step 73 — Install the Battery

- Lay the battery in its recess in the laptop.

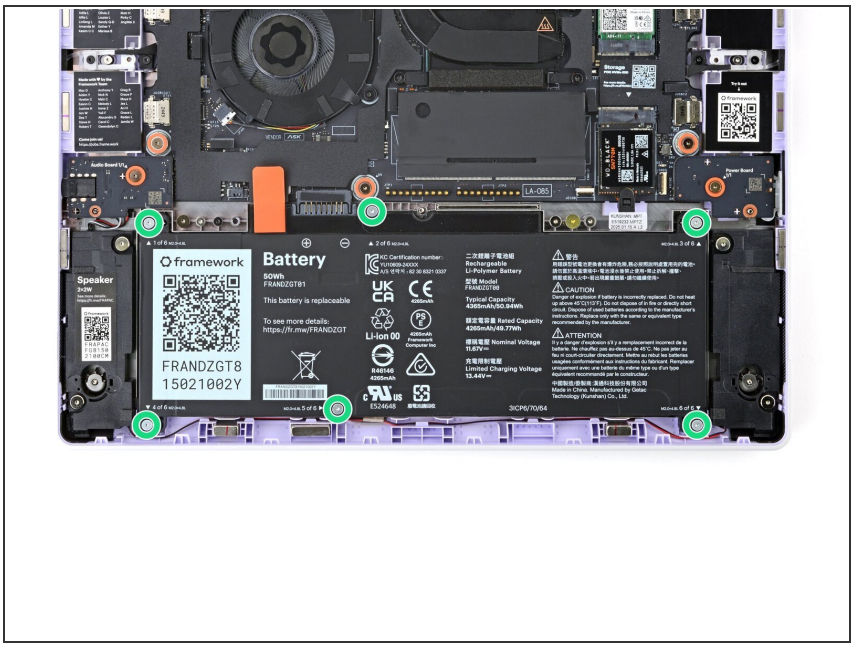
Step 74





- Use your finger to push the battery down near its connector to reconnect it.

Step 75

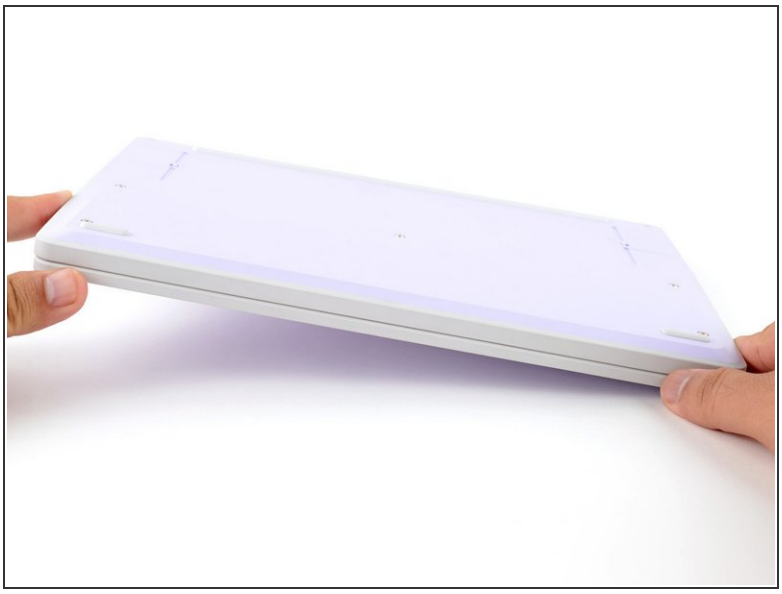


- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the six captive T5 Torx screws to secure the battery.
  - ⓘ Tighten the screws until they're snug. Don't over-tighten them, or you may strip the screws.

Step 76 — Install the Input Cover

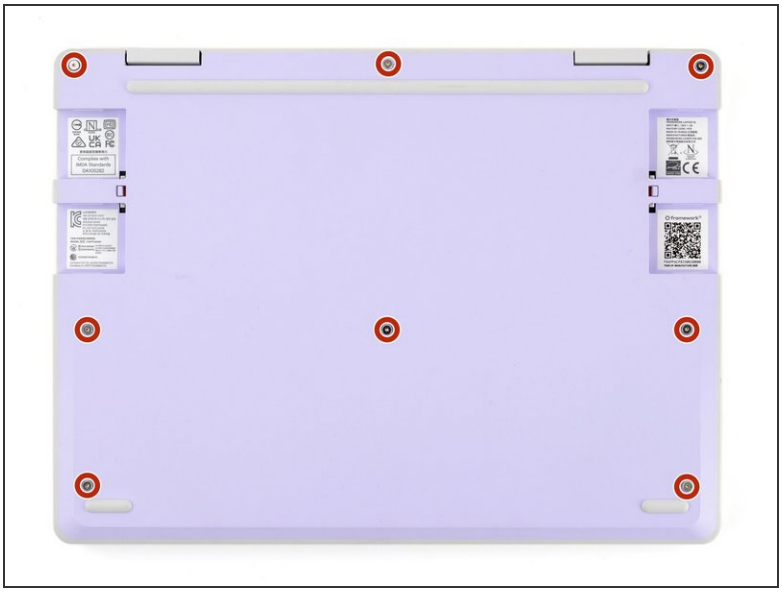
- Angle the bottom edge of the Input Cover towards the base of the Laptop.
- Align and insert the bottom edge of the Input Cover into the base of the Laptop.
  - ⓘ Make sure the slots along the bottom edge of the Input Cover slide into the tabs in the base.
- Lower the Input Cover's top edge onto the laptop until the magnets snap it in place.
  - ⓘ Make sure the Input Cover sits neatly within the laptop frame and no corners are popping up.

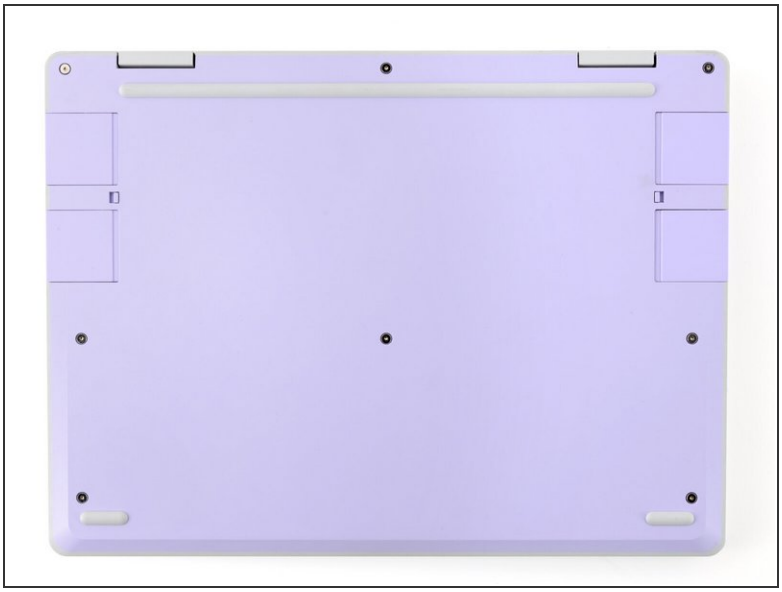
Step 77 — Close and flip your Laptop



- Close the Laptop lid.
- Flip your Laptop face-down on a clean work surface.

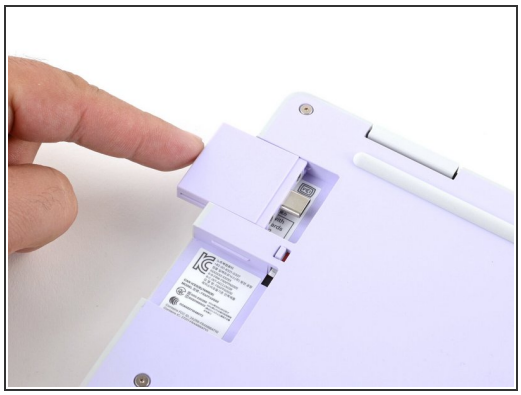
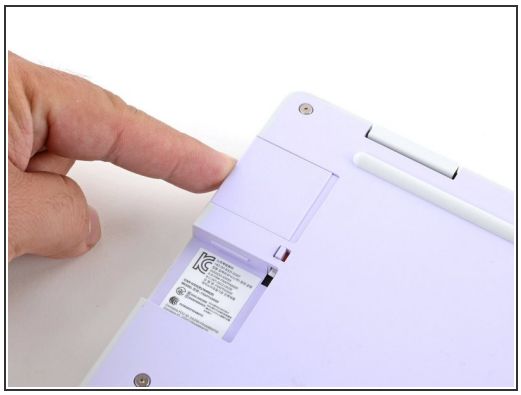
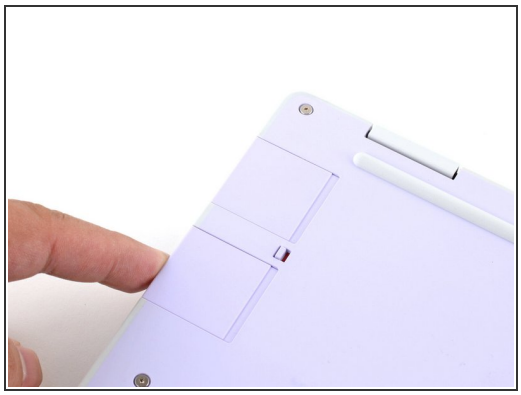
Step 78 — Tighten the bottom screws





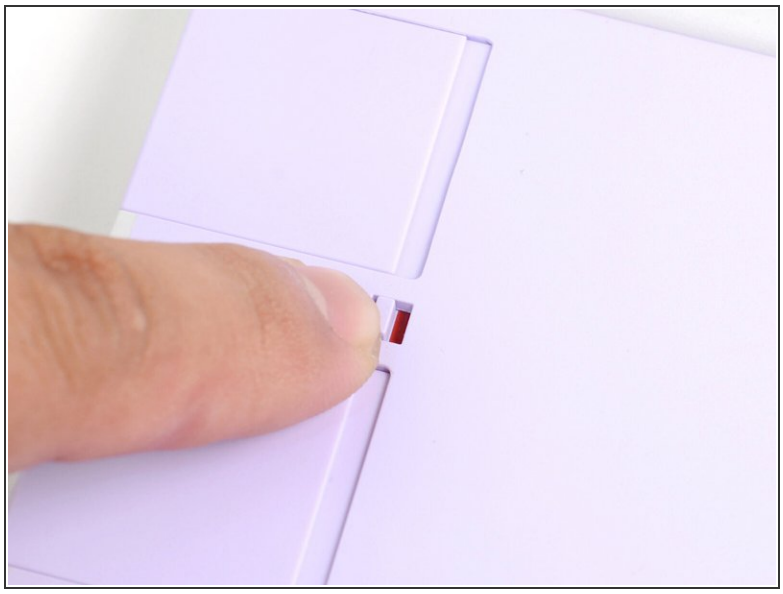
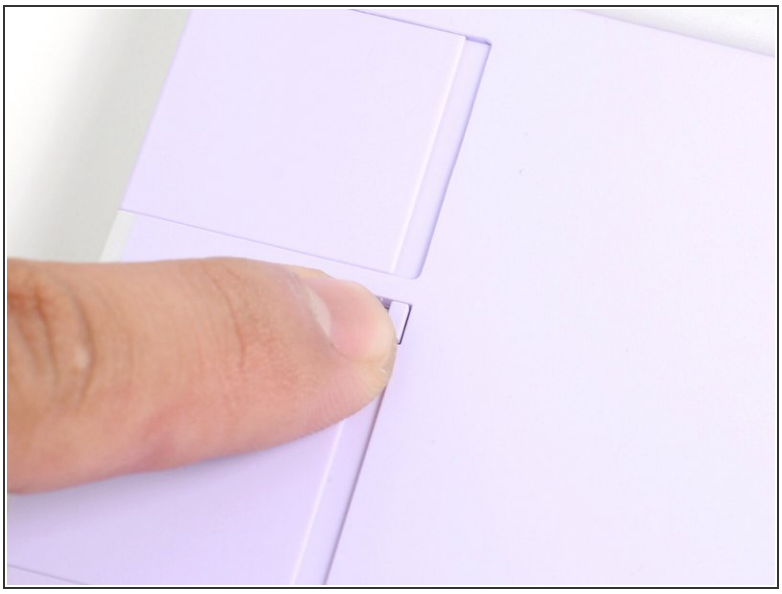
- Use your Framework Screwdriver to tighten the eight captive T5 Torx screws on the bottom of your Laptop.
  - ⓘ Tighten the screws until they're snug. Don't over-tighten them, or you may strip the screws.

Step 79 — Install the Expansion Cards

- Slide each Expansion Card into its Expansion Card slot.

Step 80 — Lock the Expansion Card slots

ⓘ If there's a red bar showing under either Expansion Card latch, use your finger to flip the latch and lock the Expansion Card into its slot.

ⓘ Locking the Expansion Card slots helps keep the cards in place when you unplug cables from them.

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You finished fixing your Framework Laptop!

Take your e-waste to an R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler.

If you need help, contact Framework support.

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