

HP Stream 13 Disassembly for Upgrading the PCIe mini SSD

This is a guide on how to take apart your HP Stream 13 laptop and give it a new wifi card or SSD.

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INTRODUCTION

32 GB for a laptop is not much. Contrary to popular belief, upgrading this laptop's SSD is not actually that difficult- it does however mean that you give up your internal WiFi card. As an owner of this laptop, I've fought the Windows 8 and 10 WiFi drivers and was glad to have it gone. My current setup includes a 250GB SSD and an external WiFi card. This guide is designed to help you get ready to do the same!

I will get around to refining it some more if more people are interested in the process.

TOOLS:

- Philips extra long screw driver (1)
- Small Needle Nose Pliers (1)

Used for getting into small places

Step 1 — Starting out



 Make sure that you take your laptop apart in an area that has lots of light and are discharged. Touch something to ground yourself **before** starting! Electrostatic damage can fry your motherboard.

Step 2 — Flip laptop over



 Flip your laptop over. There are four pads that you need to remove to access the screws. Remove the center pad first as shown in the picture.

Step 3



• Beneath each pad is a screw. Make sure you remove all of the pads.

Step 4 — Use a screwdriver to remove the keyboard assembly



• There will be a total of 3 cables to unplug. Flip each ZIF upward to unplug.

Step 5 — Bottom of Keyboard



Insert wisdom here.

Step 6 — Identify the wifi/bluetooth mPCle card.



 The WiFi/Bluetooth mPCIe card is located to the right of the motherboard, highlighted with the arrow.

Step 7 — Close up of the WiFi and WWAN ports



• You'll notice that there is a large gap for the WWAN card and no M.2 connection. It is possible to extend the mPCIe card and remove the WiFi card completely. Another option might be to purchase a board with an M.2 WWAN card and swap it out with an SSD. Unfortunately these are quite rare.

Step 8 — USB / WWAN Board



• A close up of the USB WWAN Board.

Step 9 — mPCle Card



 As stated before, you can swap this card out with a *half-width* PCIe SSD found on Amazon or other electronics retailers.

Step 10 — Replace thermal paste



 A common issue might be heat dissipation, so it's good practice to remove the stock thermal paste and replace it with better quality. I also recommend adding heat pads to the bottom of the copper heatsink where the RAM chips sit.

Step 11 — Put it all back together.



• Follow the steps in reverse to put your HP Stream back the way you found it!

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