



RX 480 Disassembly, cleaning and thermal paste replacement

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TOOLS:

Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)

Q-Tips (1)

Cotton Ball (1)

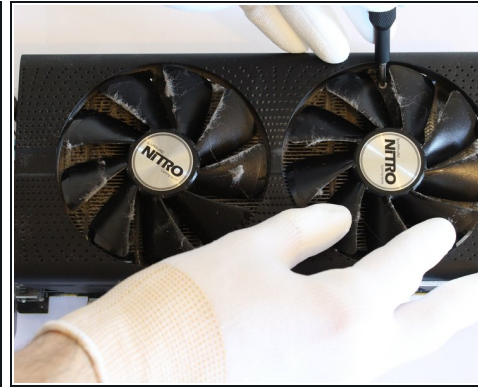
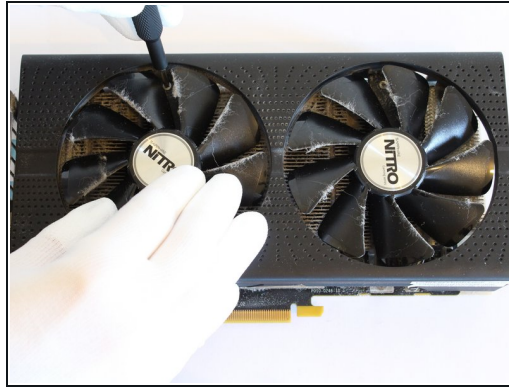
Isopropyl Alcohol 70% (1)

Step 1 — Large view of the RX480



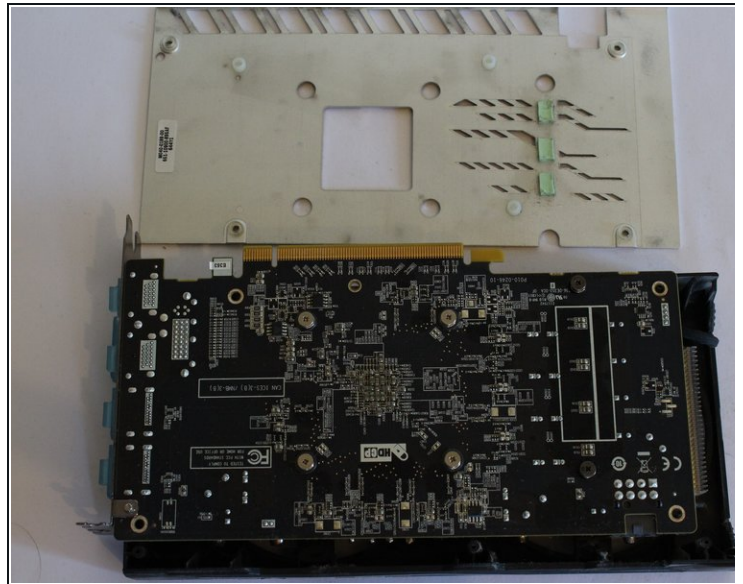
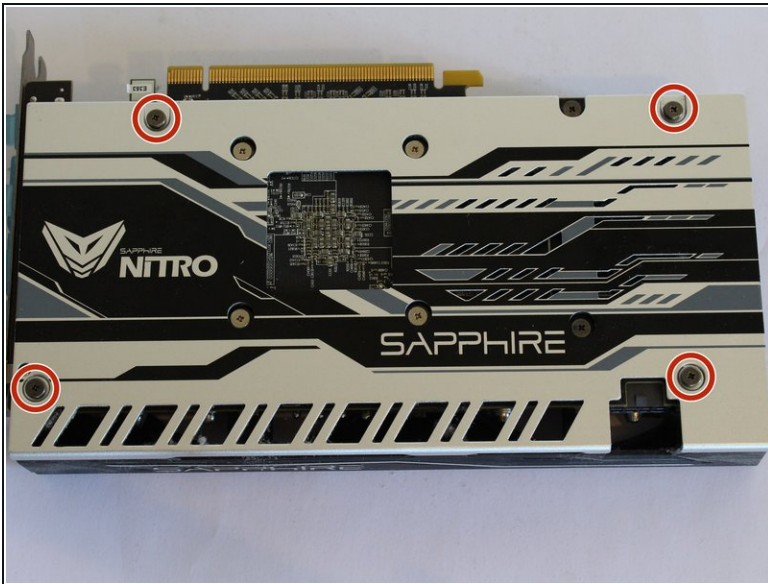
- This graphic card is really dirty, so this tutorial will show you how you can clean it and change the thermal paste
- **WARM UP THE CARD BEFORE THE TEARDOWN. IF THE CARD IS COLD THE THERMAL PADS MAY BREAK AND YOU WILL HAVE TO REPLACE THEM**
- Simply launch a game for a while or run a graphics benchmark to heat up the card.

Step 2 — Remove the fans



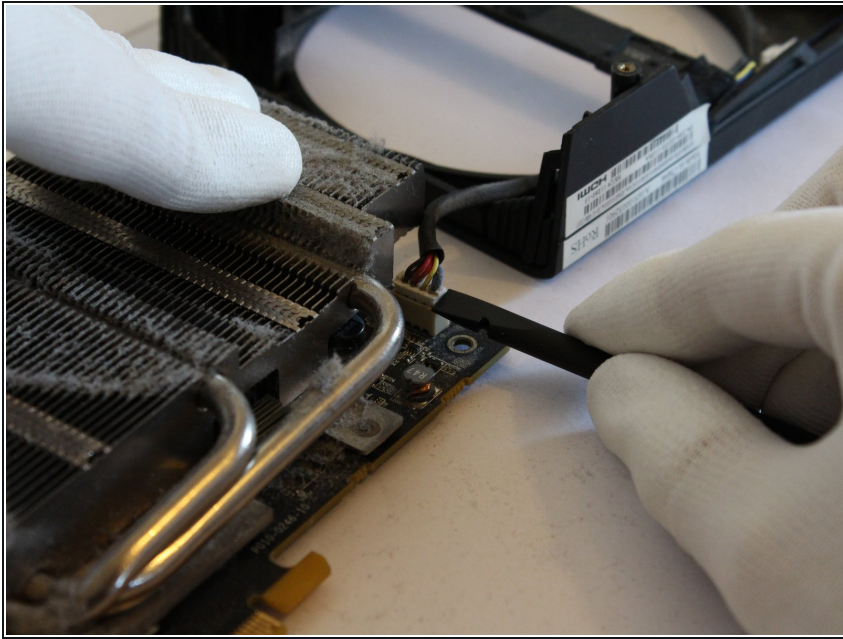
- Standard philips screw
- Once the screws are removed, simply pull the fan up, they have no cables.

Step 3 — Remove the backplate / front plate screws



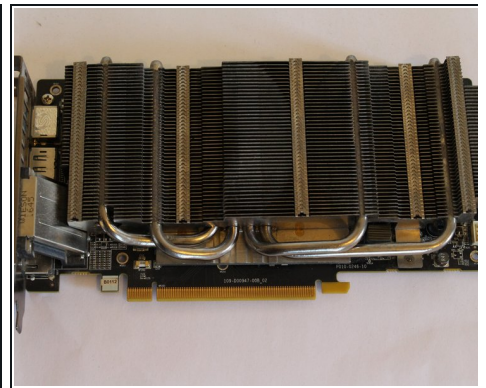
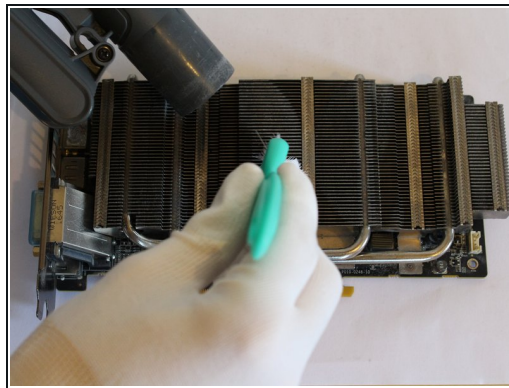
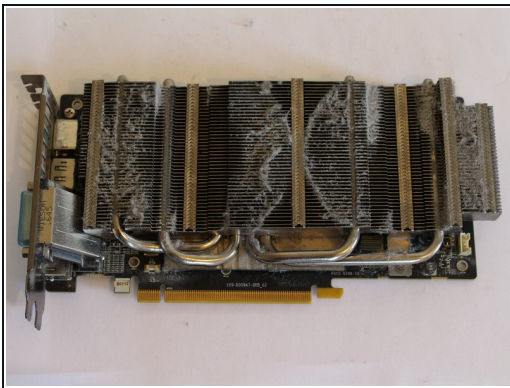
- Standard Philips screw, be careful as they are not the same length.

Step 4 — Remove the plastic panel



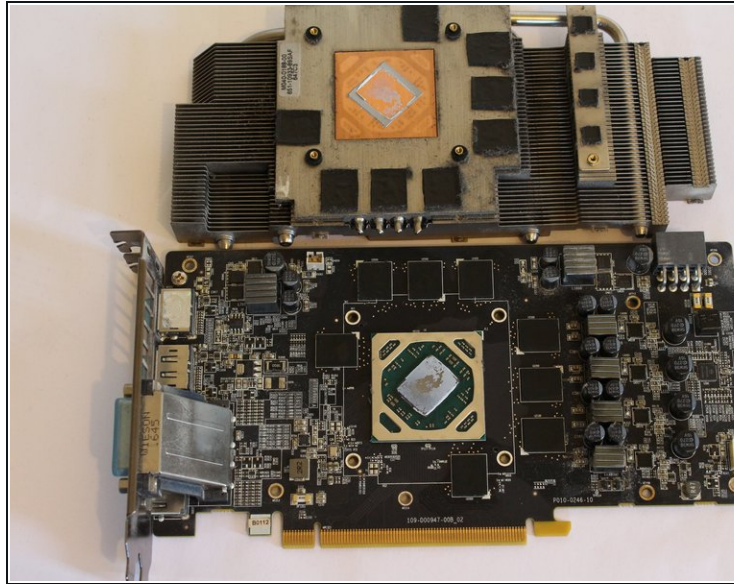
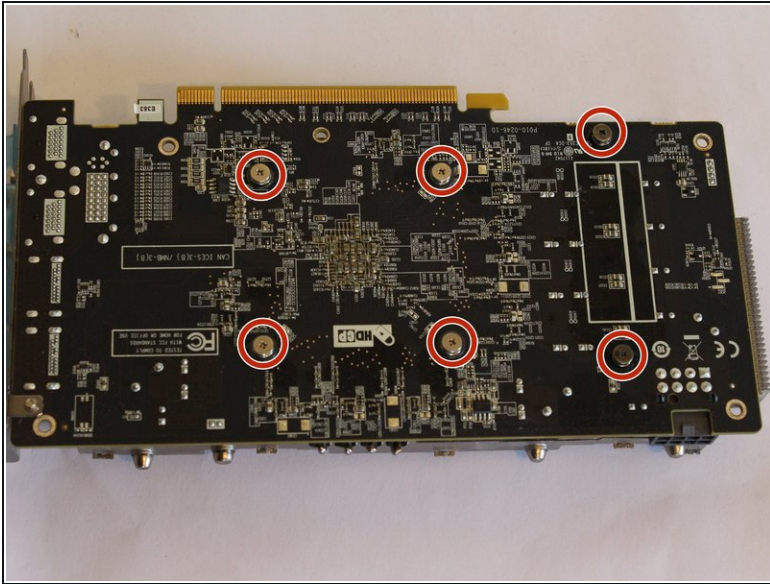
- Be very gentle, you don't want to break the fan power system. You can use your nails if you're not getting it out with a tool, some twist left/right make the job **DO NOT PULL FROM THE CABLE ITSELF!**

Step 5 — Clean the radiator



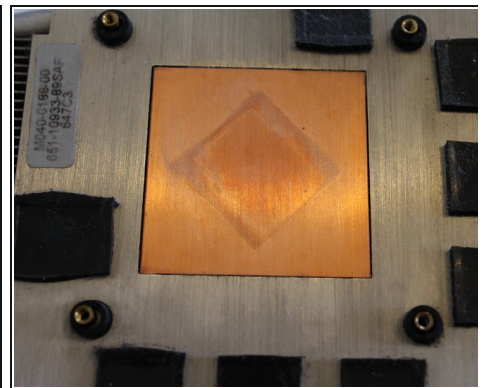
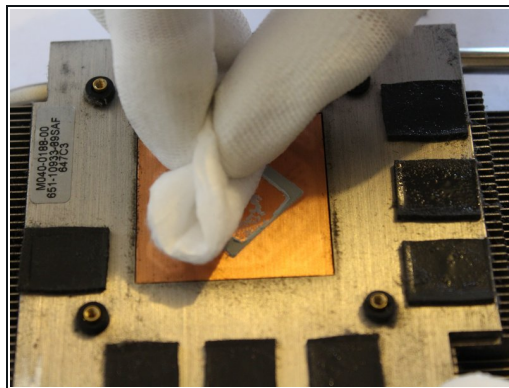
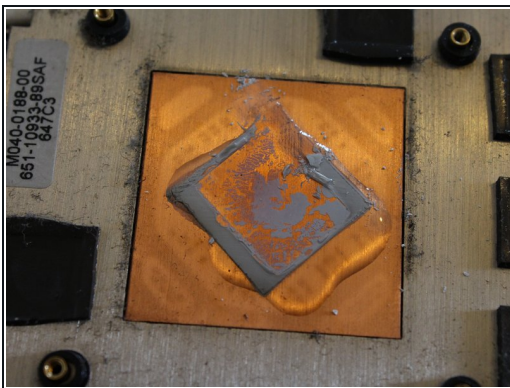
- I personally clean the radiator using my vacuum cleaner, but you can just use a brush if you want.

Step 6 — Remove the radiator



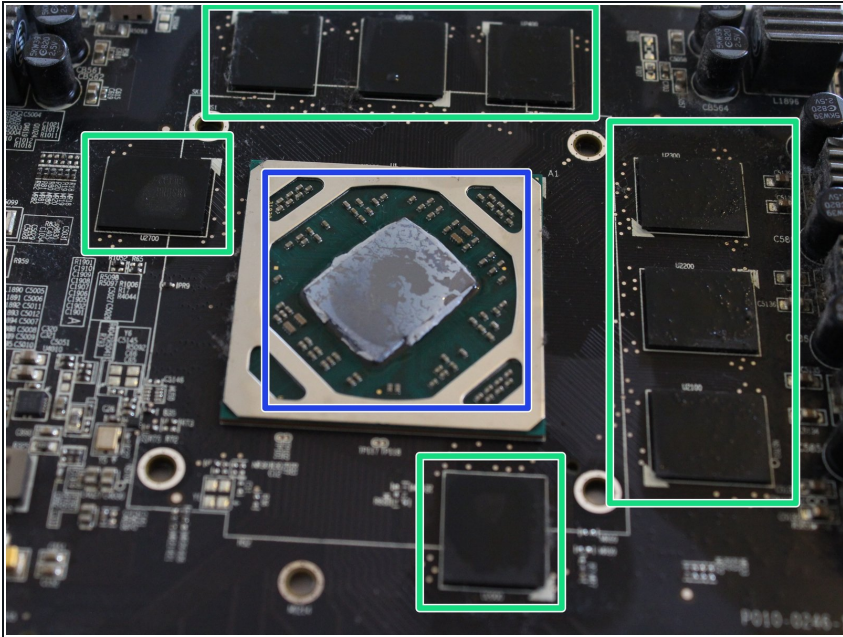
- Standard philips screw.
- The radiator can feel "glued" to the card, don't hesitate to use a bit of muscle to separate them.

Step 7 — Clean the radiator



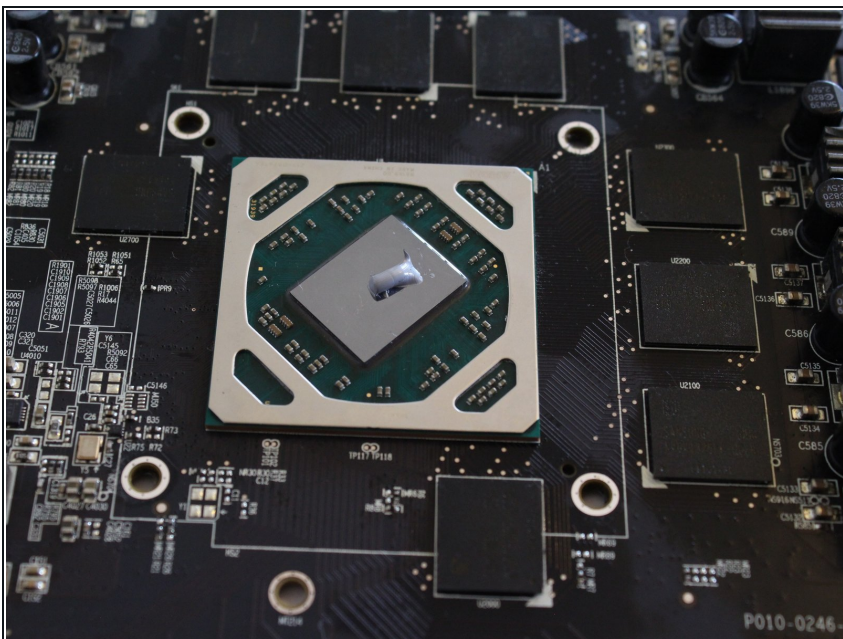
- Put some 70-90% alcohol, wait a bit for the thermal paste to get wet, then clean with a piece of makeup cotton, repeat until you get a proper result like in the third pic.

Step 8 — Clean the GPU



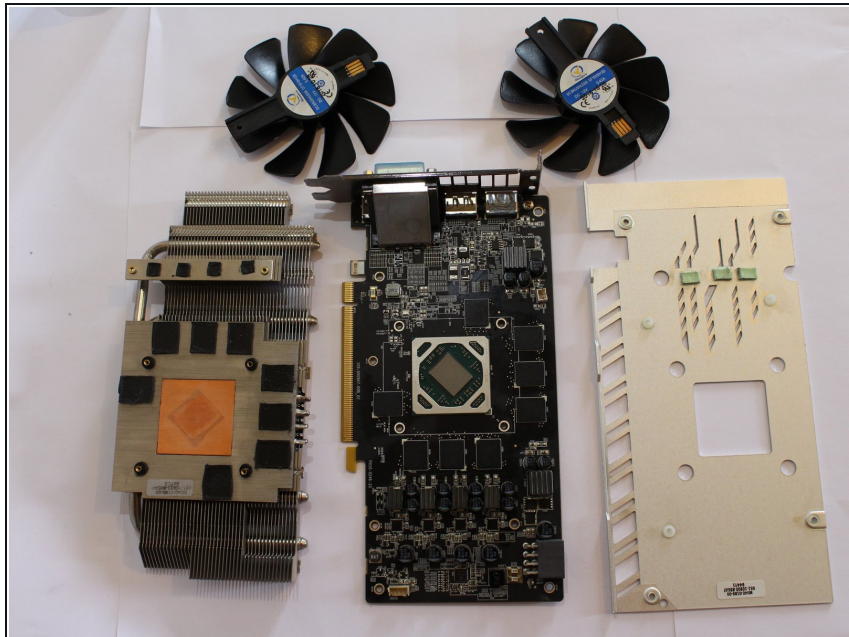
- Clean with a Q-tip filled with alcohol
- Put some alcohol on the gray chip, wait for the paste to get wet and clean with cotton.
- Don't worry, alcohol is non conductive and will not damage your card.

Step 9 — Apply fresh thermal paste



- Do not hesitate to apply a bit more than me.

Step 10 — All the components before remounting



- You're done! Time to reassemble.

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