

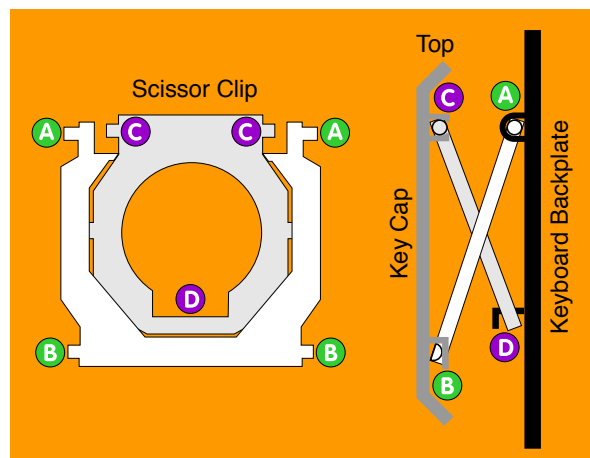
Although there are a number of keyboard variants, for illustration purposes we have used the most common type. Please note that certain keys on the keyboard vary in terms of size and orientation. For F-keys and arrow keys, the scissor clip is positioned sideways, i.e. the top in the diagram below is on the left hand side. This also applies to all keys on MacBook 13" keyboards where the scissor clips are also transverse.

The most important thing to know when removing or replacing a keycap from a laptop keyboard is how the key attaches to the keyboard which is very difficult to see when the key cap is in place. I know it's boring, but bear with us; it's worth knowing!

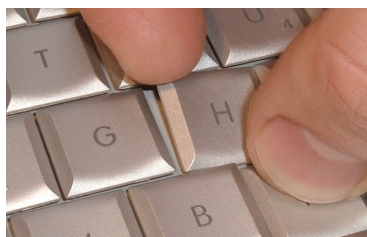
The key cap is fixed to the aluminium backplate of the keyboard with a two-part, plastic scissor clip. The diagram shows a top view of the scissor clip on the left and a side view of how the key & scissor clip fix to the keyboard backplate on the right.

The scissor clip fixes to the backplate at three points. A single tab hooks onto the bottom of the scissor clip at point D and the two lugs on the scissor clip fit into the holes on two hoops on the base plate (see A).

The key cap fixes to the scissor clip at four points. Two lugs on the scissor clip slide into hooks at the bottom of the key cap (see B) and the two lugs at the top of the scissor clip snap into a pair of very delicate pinsor clips (see C).

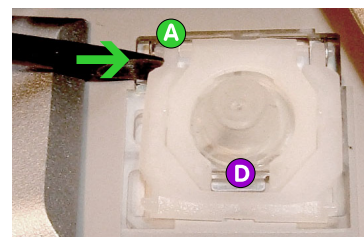


Keycap Removal



To remove the key you need to get one of the lugs (C) to pop out of its clip on the keycap. This can easily be done by gently pulling the key cap up at one of the top corners while holding down the bottom edge of the key cap.

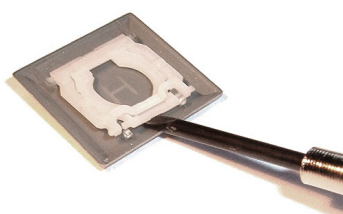
Once this is done, moving the key slightly towards the other top corner should cause the second lug C to slide out of its clip and the key should lift off.



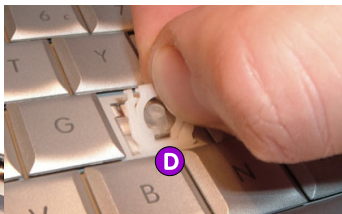
If the scissor clip is intact then there is no need to replace it. If not then it can be removed by pressing in the outside arm at the top of the scissor clip so that lug A comes out of the hoop on the base plate. A small flat blade screwdriver is best for this.

Once one side is out, the scissor clip can be rotated slightly to remove the opposite lug and then lifted away from tab D.

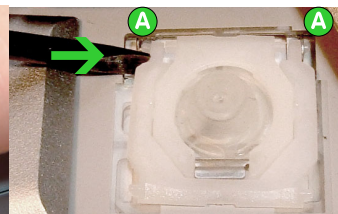
Keycap Fitting



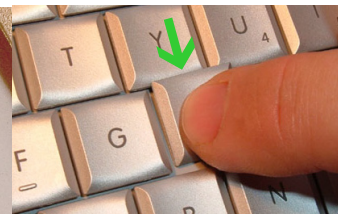
If the scissor clip is on the key cap, remove it by using a small flat blade screwdriver under to top edge to pop the two lugs, A, out of their clips on the key cap. The scissor clip can then be lifted out of the hooks at the base of the key cap.



If there is not already an intact scissor clip in place, hook the scissor clip under the metal tab D making sure it is the right way up. There is a bar running between the two lugs (A) and this should run under the scissor clip, no on top.



Insert one of the top lugs (A) into the hoop on the keyboard backplate. Then use a small flat blade screwdriver to press in the outside arm at the top of the scissor clip so the second lug (A) can be inserted into its hoop.



Slide the bottom edge of the keycap down into place so the hooks at the base of the key cap hook onto lugs B on the scissor clip (see diagram). Once they are hooked, gently press down on the top edge of the key until both sides snap into place. All done!