Acer Predator 17.3" Repairability Assessment

Repairability Assessment for the Acer Predator 17.3" gaming laptop performed on January 30, 2017.

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INTRODUCTION

Acer's Predator 17.3" is a high-end gaming laptop with a hefty spec sheet and an equally hefty price tag. Luckily, it has a modular design and is easy to disassemble, earning an 8 on our repairability scale.

TOOLS:

- Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)
- Spudger (1)
- Tweezers (1)
Step 1 — Acer Predator 17.3" Repairability Assessment

- Reference packaging shot.

Step 2

- Device reference shots.
Step 3

- A single latch secures the optical drive—no tools are required to remove it.
- Two screws release the cover for the hard drive, M.2 SSD, and two of the four RAM slots.
- The hard drive is secured by a rubber casing that uses friction to hold it in place.
- One screw secures the SSD.

Step 4

- Twenty Phillips screws and a lot of clips secure the rear case to the computer. Removing it takes some patience, but gives unfettered access to the internals.
- Internal view of the computer.
Step 5

- The battery is secured by six Phillips screws. A spudger can be used to disconnect the battery.
- The wireless card is secured by one Phillips screw and slides into a PCI slot.
- Two screws secure each primary speaker, and their cables route to a single connector on the motherboard.

Step 6

- Beneath this piece of tape, a standard CMOS battery can be pried out with a spudger.
- Seven Phillips screws secure the trackpad and button assembly.
- Layout shot of the removed CMOS battery and trackpad.
Step 7

- The subwoofer is modular and lifts out after detangling a few cables. The three screws securing it were among the twenty removed from the bottom case.

- The heat sink screw positions are numbered for correct/even pressure during installation.

- Fans are simply taped to the heat sink, and can be removed individually or as an assembly.

Step 8

- The display hinge screws must be removed and the hinges flipped up to free the motherboard or I/O board (both of which are also secured by additional screws).

- One display cable connector is hidden on the underside of the motherboard, but we discovered later that it's easy to access with the hinge trim cover removed.

- Besides the motherboard and I/O board, there are breakout boards for the power button, macro buttons, trackpad, and SSD.

- The power button board lies beneath the motherboard—modular, but troublesome to access.
Step 9

- Factory installed RAM is on the underside of the motherboard, and requires a bit of disassembly to access.

- The front and back motherboard and I/O board shots.

Step 10

- Prying up the clips around the perimeter of the display hinge cover frees it from the chassis.

- Now the display assembly comes free.

- Disassembling the display involves using a pick to separate clips and a small amount of adhesive.
Step 11

- Four screws secure the display; once they're free, it lifts out easily.

- The web cam and accessory boards are lightly adhered in place along the top bezel.
Step 12

The Acer Predator 17.3" earns an 8 out of 10 on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):

- A single latch releases the optical drive—no tools required.
- A single panel gives access to the SSD, HDD, and two RAM slots.
- Phillips screws are used throughout, with minimal use of glue.
- Removing the bottom case takes a little patience, but gives access to the battery, wi-fi card, CMOS battery, touchpad, speakers, and fans.
- The keyboard is not readily serviceable.
- Manufacturer does not provide user-accessible repair documentation.