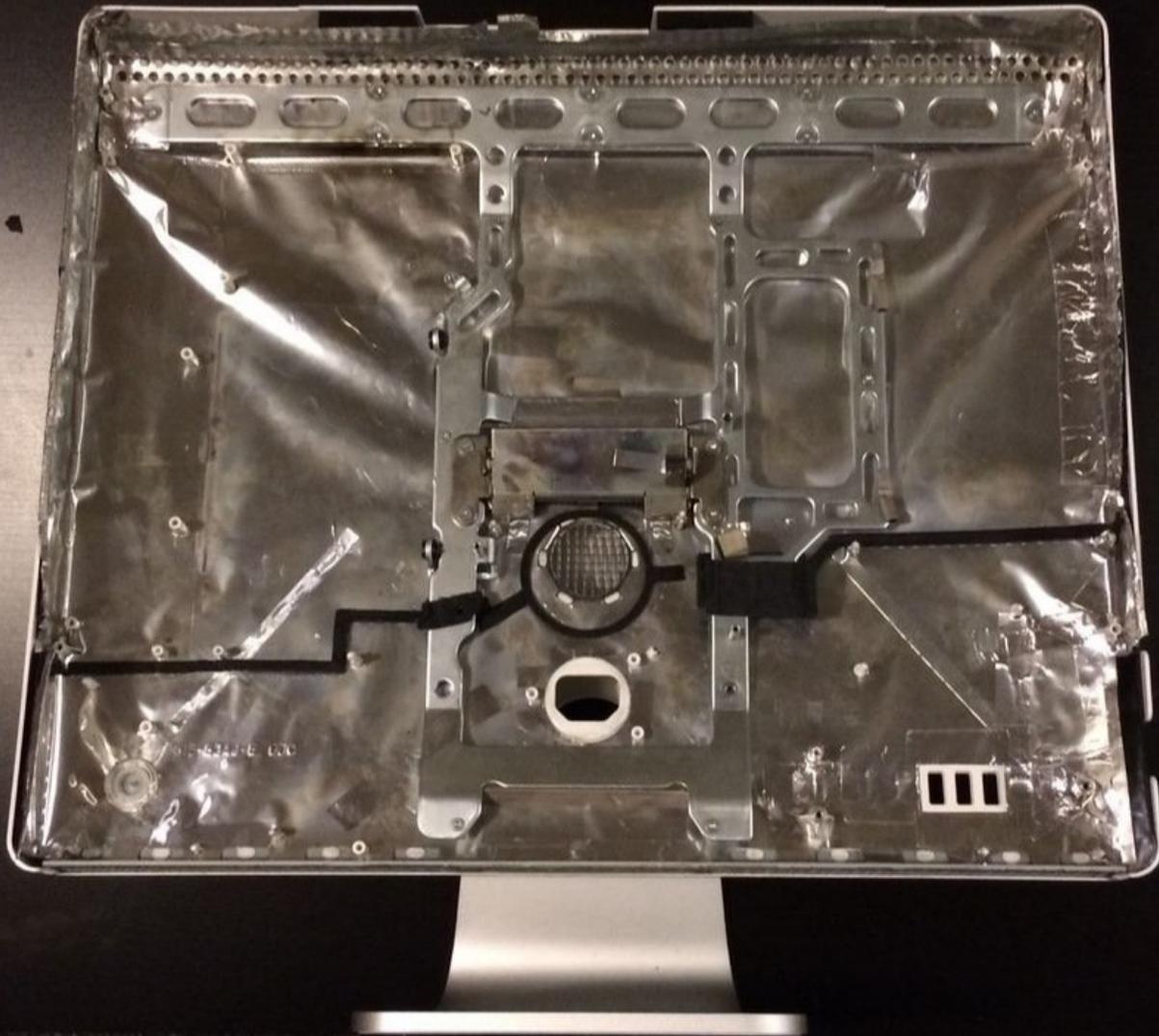




How to turn a iMac Intel into an External Monitor

I had a 2006 Intel iMac that died and instead of consigning it to the bin, I aimed to turn it into an external monitor.

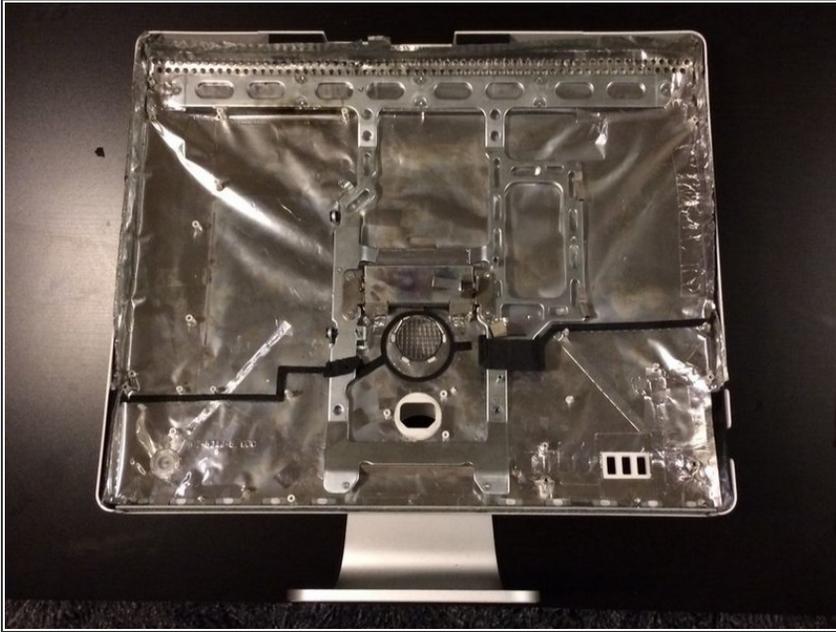
Written By: Michael



INTRODUCTION

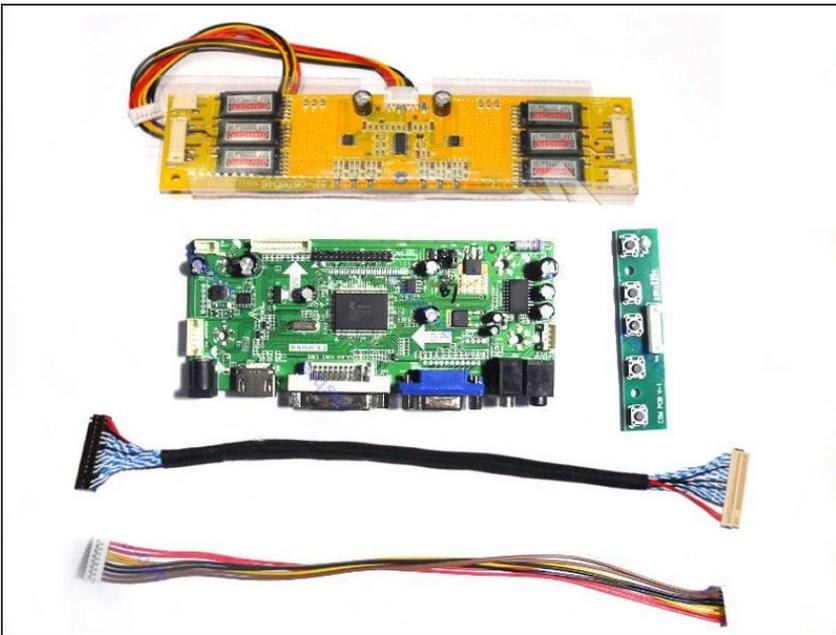
I had a 2006 Intel iMac that died (logic board / graphics card failure) and instead of consigning it to the bin, I aimed to turn it both an external monitor for my screen-less 2009 MacBook Pro (LCD driver failure, failing battery) and any HDMI device I wanted. I had seen this done with G5 iMacs, but never with Intel ones, which use different display types, so decided to have a go!

Step 1 — Gut the iMac



- Firstly, I completely gutted the iMac, safely keeping the LCD screen to one side. I also repaired any torn EMI shielding and shielded all holes, with the exception of the power in, vent above this. (I also left the 3x USB ports free to fit a USB hub, but this didn't work great, so ended up being removed).

Step 2 — Find a LCD display driver board

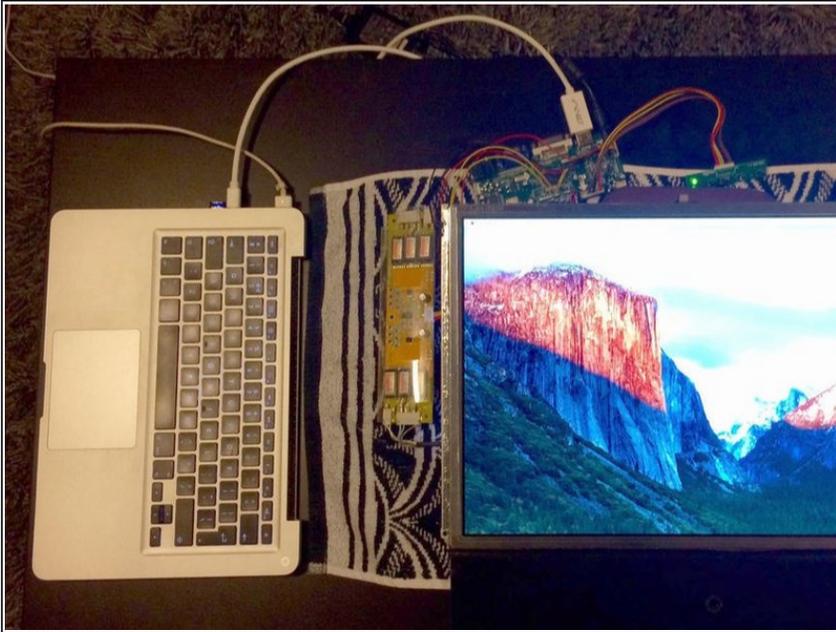


- I next found out that my screen was a Samsung LTM201M1-L01 and after scouring eBay with this model number, I managed to find a display driver for this screen from eBay - just search for your screen model number

- My LCD driver board has VGA, DVI and HDMI in and is powered by a 12V 4A external PSU - the eBay

seller also sold PSUs, but I had one kicking about from another LCD screen.

Step 3 — Test driver board



- Before assembling it all, it is worth testing the driver board works fine - I had some issues with the Mini Display port to HDMI cable I bought, so returned this and bought a 1M Mini Display port to DVI cable instead which worked fine.
- I also bought a 1M white HDMI cable to have as an extra input cable for everything else and a 0.5 Metre 2.1mm DC Barrel Extension Cable, to allow me to connect and disconnect the PSU from outside the case.

Step 5 — Complete!



- I then reassembled the iMac, attaching the screen, repairing EMI tape then putting the front on! It now works perfectly with the Mini DisplayPort output of my screen-less MacBook Pro and I have an available HDMI cable to attach any other device.
- The only thing that was not changeable was the CCFL brightness, but using Shades preference pane solves this satisfactorily for me.

