

Disassembly instructions for Seagate 1 TB Expansion External Drive (9SE2A4-571 or 9SF2A4-500)

(Written by Felix; <http://skeena.net>)

Other useful info about this drive:

Power supply for the Seagate 1 TB Expansion External Drive, 9SF2A4-500 ST310005EXA101-RK is 12V DC, 2 amps, positive in the middle. (This should be printed on the casing, but isn't.)

The drive inside the enclosure is a Seagate Barracuda 7200.12, model ST31000528AS.

Disassembly

The black 1 TB “Expansion External Drive” is very similar to the “Seagate Free Agent Desk 1TB” – someone else wrote instructions for that drive, here:

<http://fiddlings.wordpress.com/2009/08/05/disassembling-a-seagate-free-agent-desk-1tb/> .

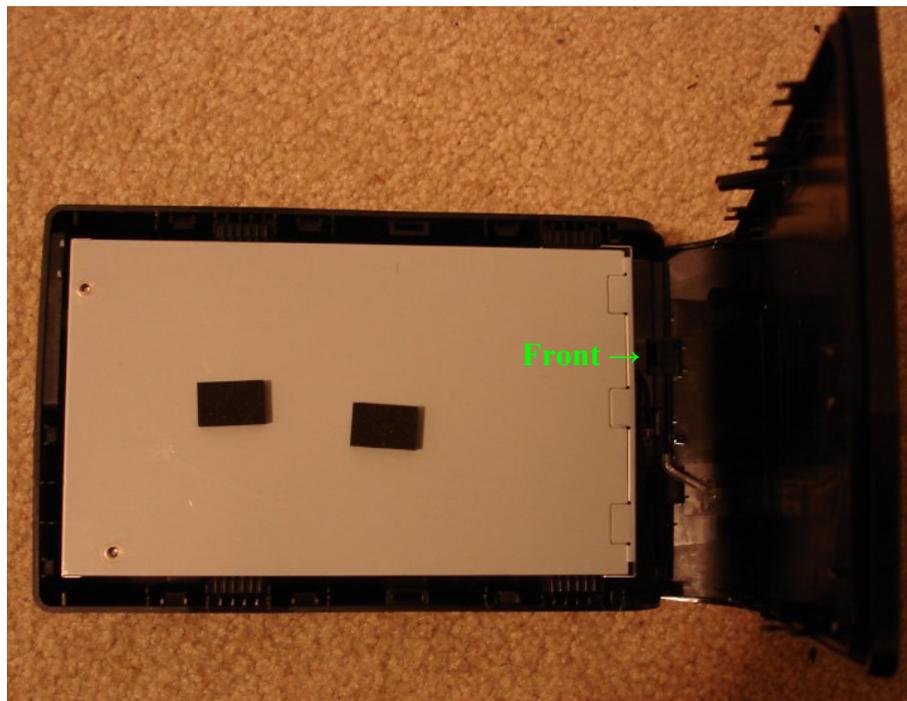
I’m not sure if it is possible to disassemble this drive without breaking anything. The hooks that hold the little plastic snaps are quite deep, and I found that all but one of the snaps broke before I could deform the lower casing enough to release it. The snaps themselves are thin and fragile.

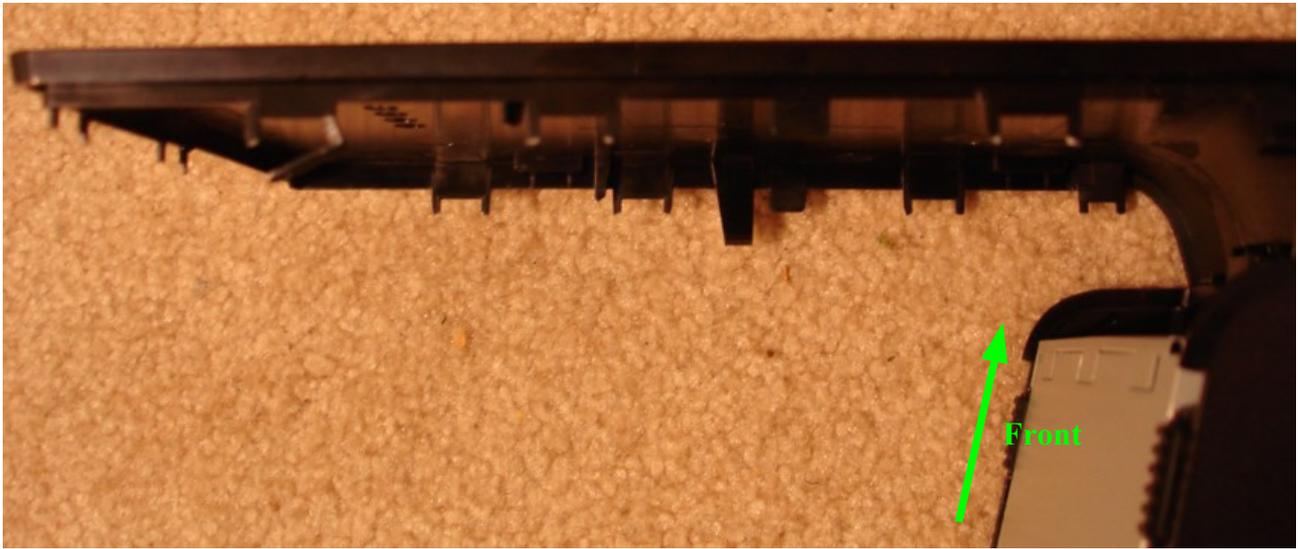
Fortunately, the actual metal drive housing inside is completely enclosed, so there is little danger of hitting the drive or the USB interface board while you’re removing the plastic cover. The plastic enclosure also looks perfectly fine without being completely snapped in place, and nothing important gets loose with the snaps broken.

This will probably make your drive un-returnable, though.

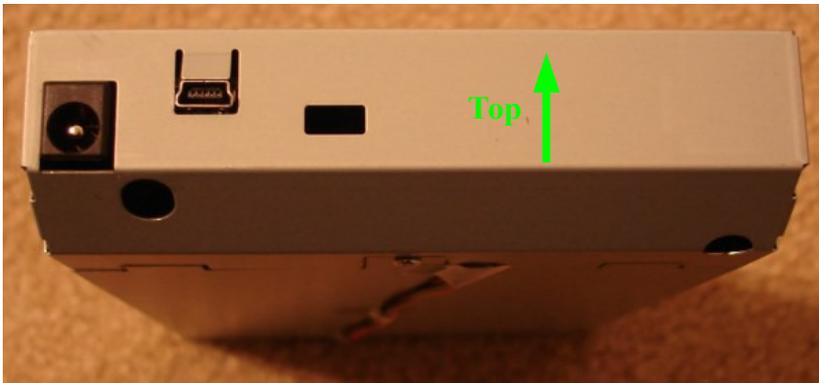
Steps:

Release or destroy all of the little plastic snaps holding the shiny plastic bit onto the lower plastic bit. Here is where all of the snaps are located (four along each side, two at the back, and two under the front lip – as you can see, I broke all of mine):





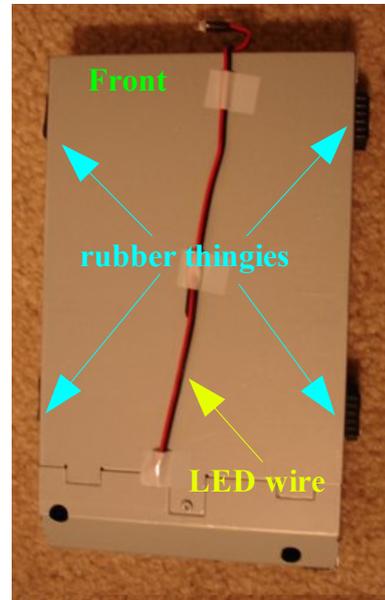
Once you have access to the metal drive enclosure, you can just lift it out – it floats on four square rubber things that hold it from the sides. Here is what the enclosure looks like:



(Back)

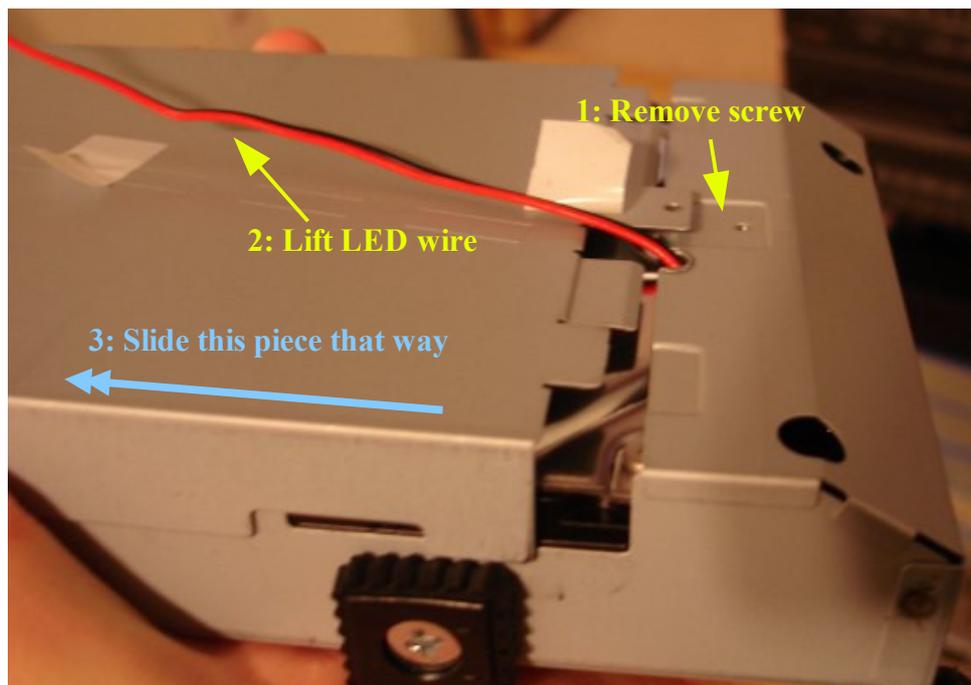


(Side)



(Underside)

To open the enclosure, remove the little screw on the bottom, lift the LED wire up (i.e. detach all the white tape), and then gently slide the cover apart:



(Note that the drive is upside-down in this picture – not that it matters.)

To be pedantic, the *drive* itself is right-side up – it sits in the plastic enclosure label side down.)

Now you can remove the four main screws (the ones with the rubber thingies), which releases the drive. Pull it straight along its lengthwise direction, **very gently**, as the SATA connector is part of the housing/USB interface board. You can press the drive against the the housing as you slide it; this also helps when putting it back in.

Note: if sliding the drive off of its SATA connector like that gives you the willies, you can also unscrew the USB interface board from the housing (there are two screws). You have to be careful when doing that too, though, so it's really a matter of preference.

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