

Taking down my Computer:

This article is designed to help you take down your computer to bring it in for service, and to hook it back up correctly when you take it home. There are only a few different kinds of cords and connectors that hook up to your computer so you will see, it is really easy to unhook it and then put it all back together.

First, let me share a little secret with you about getting everything connected back just the way it's supposed to be. Before You take anything apart, take a digital picture of the front and the back of the computer. This will give you an easy to follow guide to put everything back the way it was. That is easy. But, incase your camera isn't handy, or you can't print a picture from your computer, here are some helpful hints.

Lets identify each kind of cord and connector that goes to the computer.

Power Cord:

This is a universal (that means it will work with any computer) cord that goes from your power outlet to the back of the computer. It can only go in one way and is a very sturdy cord. It looks like this on each end

Computer Power Cord



It should be snug in the wall socket, and have a firm grip inside the receptacle on the computer. Here is the receptacle and here is the cord plugged into it.



USB”

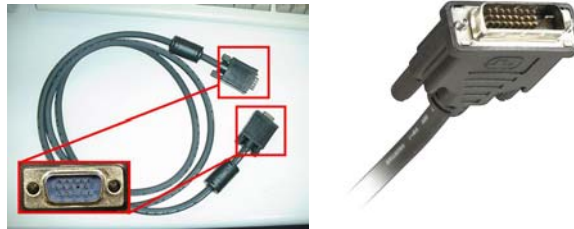
Next is USB or universal serial bus cables. These come in a few different varieties, but with some pictures, we can identify all of them. Here is a great thing about USB plugs... You can plug them into ANY USB port on your computer. That's right. If your printer uses a USB cable, it does not matter what port it came out of. You can plug it in anywhere it fits and it will do exactly what it is supposed to do. So lets look at a few different types of USB and know that we can plug them in anywhere. Also, almost all

devices are USB now! That makes things really easy. Keyboards, Mice, MP3 players, Printers, Scanners, Web Cams. They can all come in USB, and often do now, so knowing how to identify the USB type will make your computer user life much easier.



Video:

There are two types of video connections that are used on computers today. They are D-SUB and DVI. I will show you a picture of each and what the port looks like they plug into. With that information you will be able to hook up your monitor easily. That's right, These two ports are what goes between your computer, and the monitor. You will have a cord that comes from the monitor or screen that will have one of these two type plugs. Pick which you have and look for the corresponding port. Screw it down and you are set.



PS/2:

Okay, now we get a little trickier. A PS/2 plug is a small round ring with 5 pins and a plastic insert inside. Like this:



There are only two devices that use PS/2 plugs, Mice and Keyboards. If you have this type of plug on the end of your mouse or keyboard, then you need to pay attention. If you have USB like above, don't worry, plug it in where ever you want. PS/2 is usually labeled on the back of the computer with a picture of a keyboard and a picture of a mouse. The pictures are usually terrible so you have to use a bit of imagination. But if you look. You will see them. The keyboard goes in the keyboard hole, and the mouse in the mouse hole.

Parallel Port:

This is a port that is used less and less these days. It is an old standard for printer cables. It is easy to find, because it is a big wide connector on the back of the computer. It is hard to miss. This is a picture. Most printers now days are USB, so again, plug away, it doesn't matter where. If you have a parallel cord though, you have to plug it in here and screw the thumb screws down to ensure a good connection.



Audio:

This is the hardest thing to find the right hole for. Audio is a small headphone type jack that comes from your speakers. It is usually green but there are usually a bunch of places for it to fit in on the back of your computer. This is the most common thing people call about when they get their computer home. The sound doesn't work, because they have the cord in the wrong spot. So, look at this picture of a sound port and we will talk about some printing around it that will give you a clue.



This is the one I mess up the most too. The labeling is usually lousy and its so small you can barely see it anyway. What I do, if it is possible is to hook the whole computer up without the sound cord put in. Start the computer, and start an MP3 or CD playing in the computer. Then try the different ports until I hear sound! I know, that's cheating, but sometimes I can't tell either!.

So, I hope these pictures of the ports and how their plugs get stuck into them helps. Remember, I will always be happy to take a picture of your computer when I finish fixing it and draw an arrow to what goes where. I want it to be easy, and fun.