

GEFORCE GARAGE  
SCRATCH BUILD SERIES

## HOW TO MOD YOUR GRAPHICS CARD

FEATURING  
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HORSE STUDIOS](#)



Yeah, yeah, other components are important too, but the fact is that the videocard is the brain, the heart, and the soul of every gaming rig. So you gotta wonder why you don't see GPU mods more often. As you'll see in our tutorial, disassembling and painting a graphics card is a simple and inexpensive mod that anybody can do in an afternoon at home.

There are a couple things to be aware of before you dive in, however. Modding your graphics card may void your warranty, so stress-test your card before you begin, especially if it's fresh out of the box. It's a good excuse to spend an afternoon in *PUBG*. Or you can install [3DMark Basic Edition](#) (scroll to the bottom of the page for the link), select "Stress Tests" from the menu, and let one of the benchmarks rip.

Finally, Ron's airbrushing our GTX 1080 Ti Founders Edition, which requires special equipment, paint, and reducers. But classic "rattlecan" spray paint works too!

**LEVEL: MASTER**

**TIME: A COUPLE HOURS**

**COST: \$\$\$**

### TOOLS:

Antistatic bag  
Phillips screwdriver  
4mm socket head screwdriver  
3/32-inch hex "T" wrench  
5/64-inch hex "T" wrench

### MATERIALS:

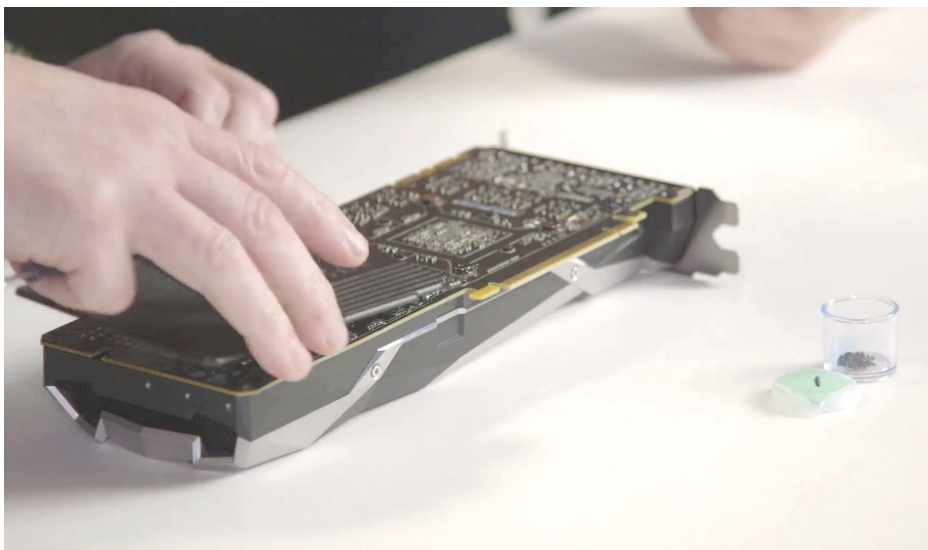
Graphics card  
Adhesion promoter  
600 grit sandpaper  
Paint  
Top coat



## STEP 1:

### Label containers for screws

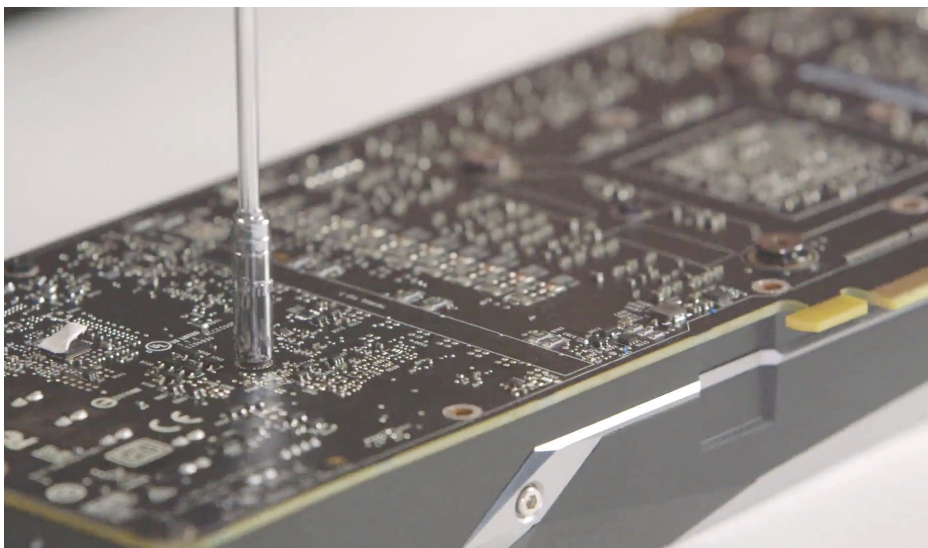
Ron has three containers for screws during disassembly: one for the backplate, one for the shroud, and another for the fan.



## STEP 2:

### Remove the backplate

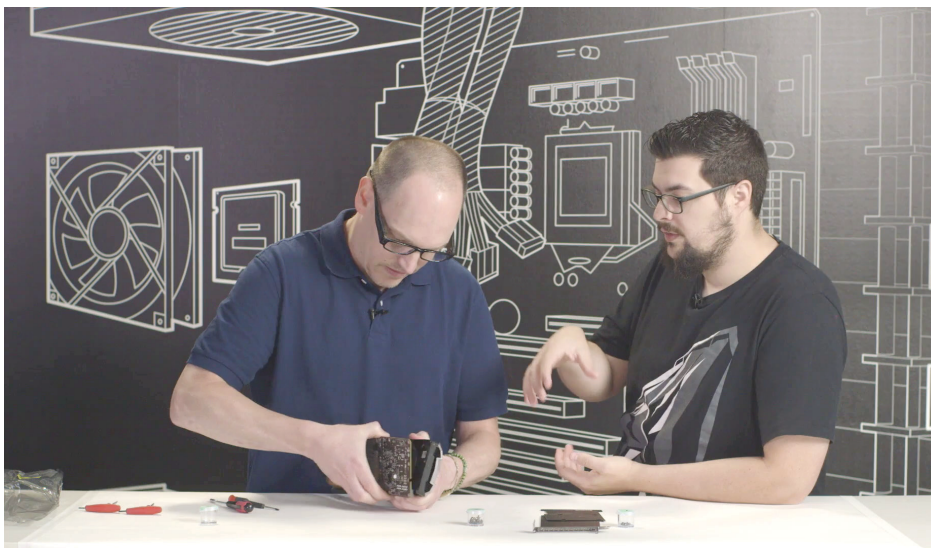
Remove the backplate and metal bracket with the Phillips screwdriver and set them aside. Place the screws in container 1.



## STEP 3:

### Remove the interior screws

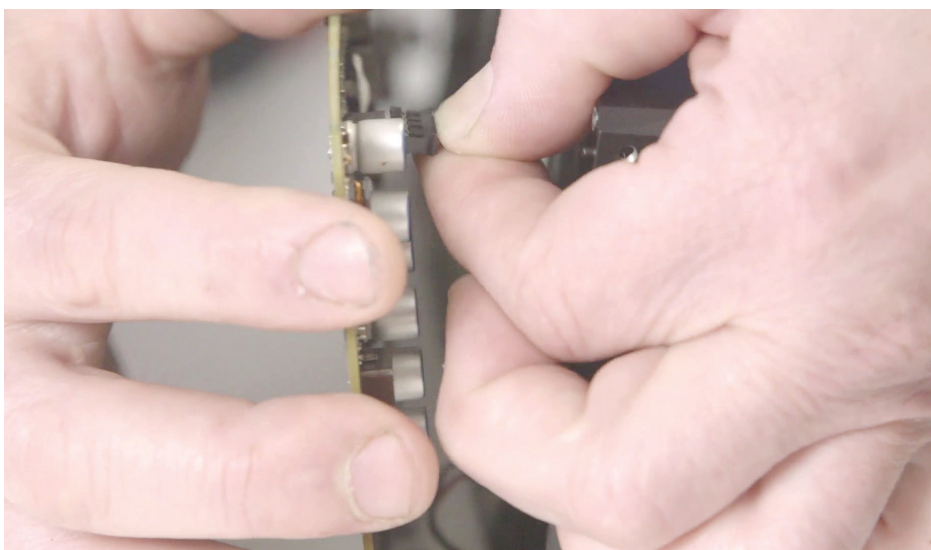
Use the 4mm hex wrench to remove the screws from the interior of card and put them in container 2. Don't pull off the first PCB yet!



## STEP 4:

### Remove the first PCB

Pry off the PCB by very gently wiggling it. Don't yank it—there are power connectors beneath that need to be disconnected.



## STEP 5:

### Disconnect the power connectors

The fan and LED power connectors are fragile, so work them loose gently. Put the PCB in the card's antistatic bag.



## STEP 6:

### Remove the next layer of screws

You'll need to very gently remove the thermal pads and set them aside to get at some of these screws. Put these screws in container 3.

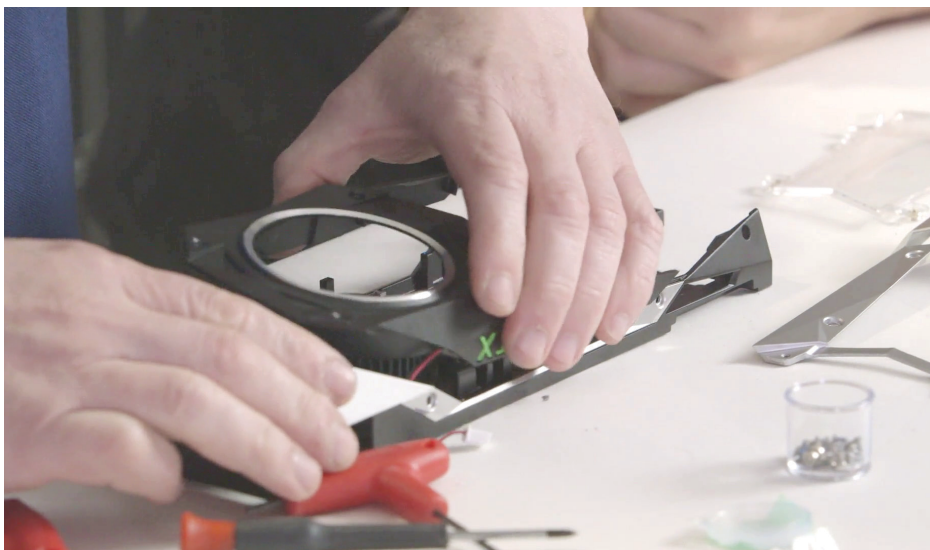




## STEP 7:

### Remove the fan

The fan is usually connected by three screws, which go in container 3.



## STEP 8:

### Remove the shroud

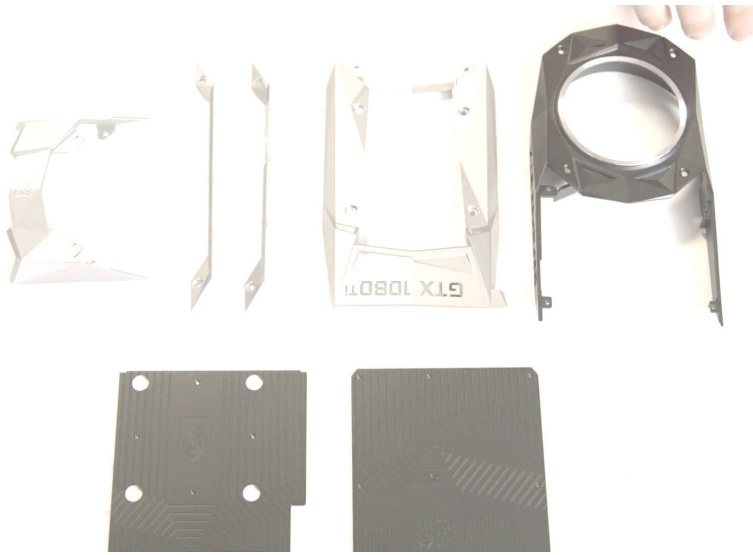
Use the 3/32-inch and Phillips screwdrivers to remove the screws from the shroud and fan, gently prying apart the assembly as you go.



## STEP 9:

### Remove the trim

After the shroud has been lifted and the fan removed, remove the plastic or metal trim as well.



## STEP 10:

### Lay out parts to be painted

We're going to be painting the silver pieces that comprise the shroud, the black assembly that covers the fan, and the two backplates.

## STEP 11:

### Prep for wet sanding

Leave a piece of 600 grit sandpaper to soak in water for about 20 minutes. This is just enough time to walk the dog.

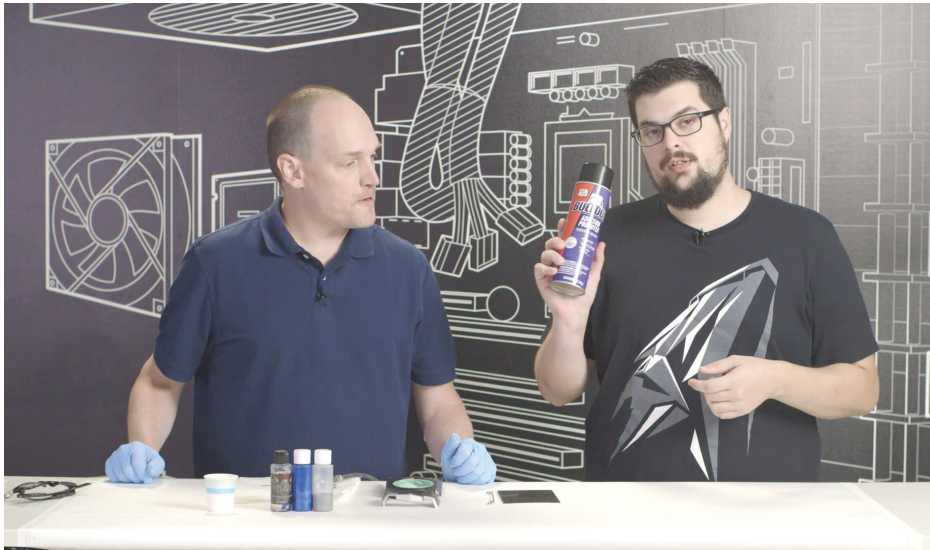
## STEP 12:

### Sand the surface

Lightly sand the surfaces to be painted. No need to scrub or completely eliminate all the prior coloring. Rinse and dry.



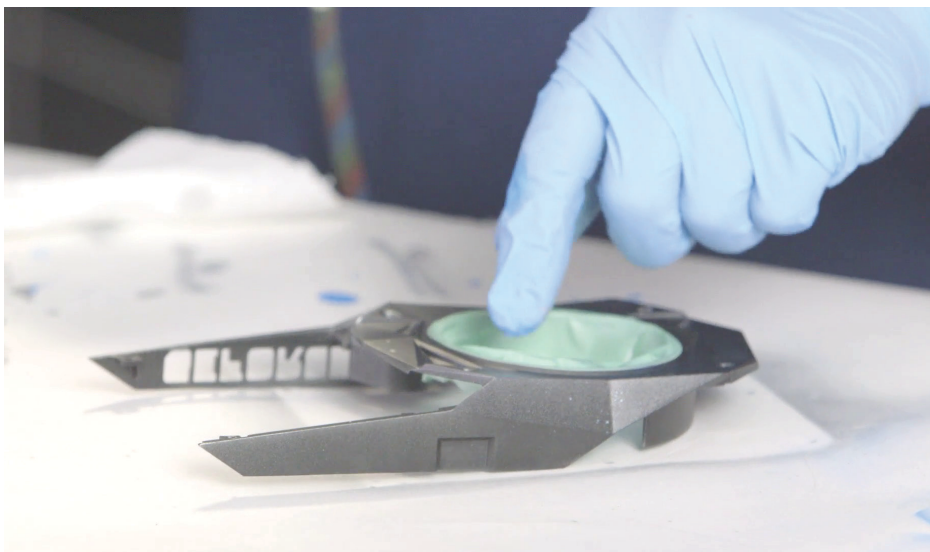




## STEP 13:

### Apply adhesion promoter

Spray the pieces you'll be painting with adhesion promoter according to the manufacturer's instructions. Allow to fully dry.



## STEP 14:

### Mask if necessary

If there are any areas you want to leave unpainted, now's the time to cover them with masking tape (cut to shape if necessary).



## STEP 15:

### Paint!

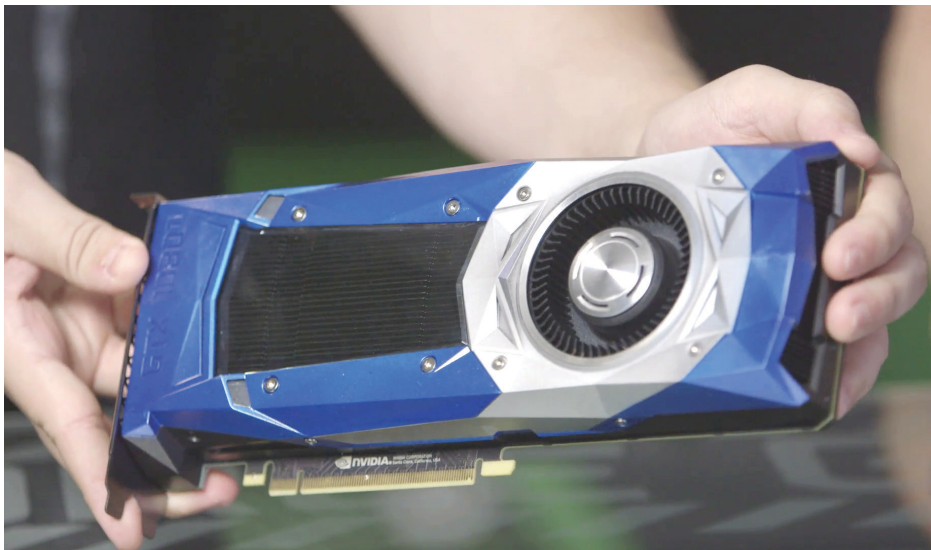
The first coat should be very light, followed by additional coats until you get the desired effect. You don't want paint to get blotchy or run.



## STEP 16:

### Apply top coat

Following the manufacturer's instructions, protect your paint job with a layer of top/clear coat (or multiple layers if desired) and allow to fully dry.



## STEP 17:

### Modders reassemble!

Allowing plenty of time for the pieces to dry, reassemble your GPU. You'll be very glad you sorted those screws earlier.

GeForce Garage: Scratch Build Series

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



**TOSHIBA**

