

DomeHub Installation Guide: iMac G4 (17-inch)

This guide covers installing DomeHub in a 17-inch (1GHz / 1.25GHz) iMac G4, replacing the original logic board with an Apple Mac Mini. The process does not require cutting, soldering, or opening the Mac Mini, and can be fully reversed to restore the iMac to its original state.

Before You Start

- Compatibility: DomeHub currently fits the 17-inch (1GHz / 1.25GHz) iMac G4 only. Confirm your model before starting.
- Screwdrivers needed: Phillips #1, and Torx T6, T9, T10, and T15. A screwdriver with these bits is included when you buy the modding kit.
- Isopropyl alcohol can help loosen the LCD cable's adhesive.
- The IDE cables are ribbon cables and are fragile, so handle them by their connectors or paper pull-tabs, never by pulling on the cable body.
- Work on a clean, static-safe surface and avoid touching board contacts directly.

Installation Steps



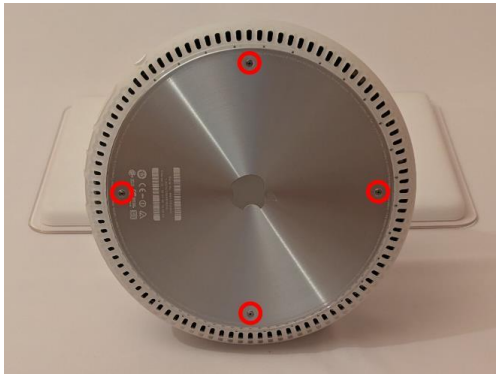
Step 1

Unplug the power cable from your iMac G4.



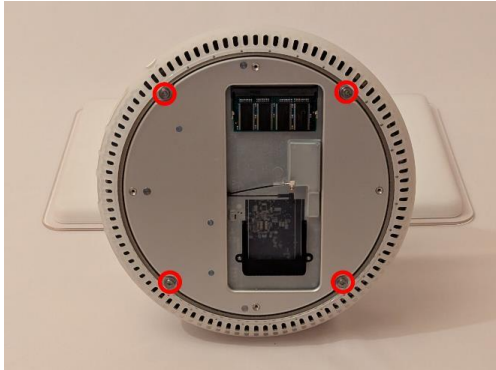
Step 2

Lay the iMac face-down with the screen facing down, and rotate the base so the ports face left.



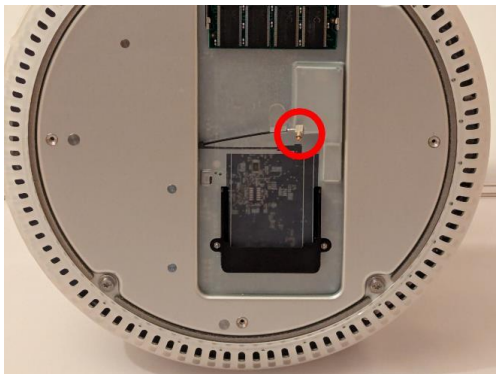
Step 3

Remove the screws securing the base cover.



Step 4

Remove the screws securing the base.



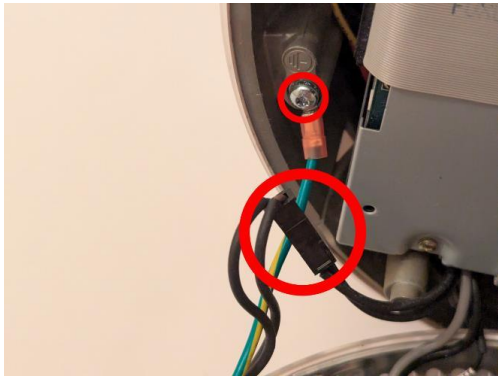
Step 5

Disconnect the AirPort card, if your iMac has one.



Step 6

Tilt the base down. Be careful not to put stress on the IDE cables, the EMI shield cable, or the PSU cable.



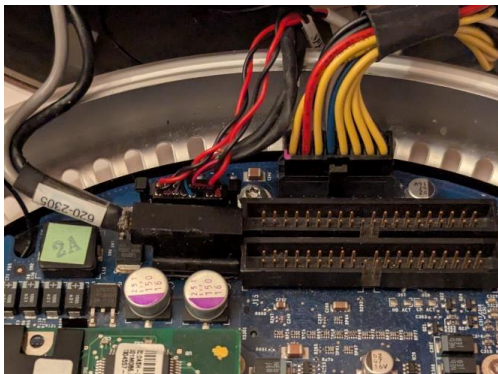
Step 7

Disconnect the ground wire and the EMI shield cable (running from the EMI shield to the PSU).



Step 8

Disconnect the IDE cables connecting the hard drive and optical drive to the logic board. Pull on the paper tabs, not the ribbon cables themselves; excess force can damage them.



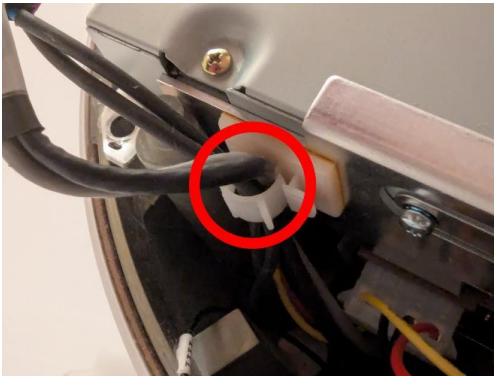
Step 9

Disconnect the LCD cable, inverter cable, and PSU cable. The LCD cable's connector is protected by an adhesive-backed cover, so removing it may take some force; isopropyl alcohol can help loosen the adhesive.



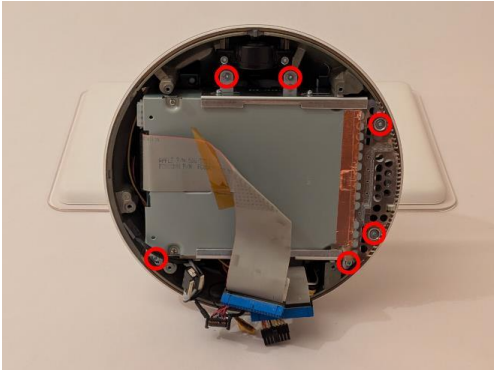
Step 10

Disconnect the AirPort card cable.



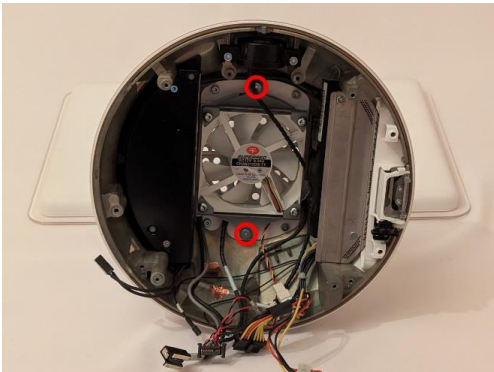
Step 11

Unclip and remove the cables held in the retaining clip mounted on the optical drive.



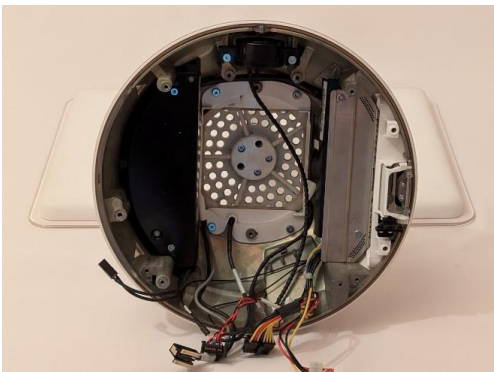
Step 12

Remove the screws securing the optical drive and hard drive, then lift the drives out. It's a tight fit, so some wiggling may be needed.



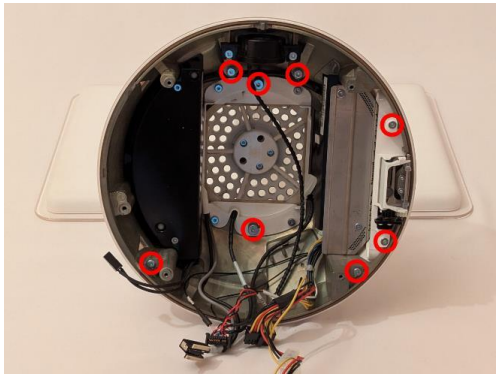
Step 13

Remove the fan by unscrewing the screws securing the fan brackets.



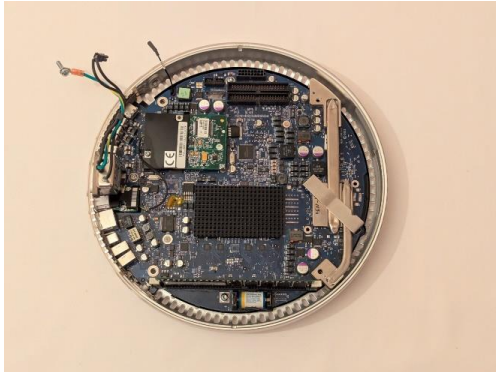
Step 14

The dome should now contain only the power supply and the speaker.



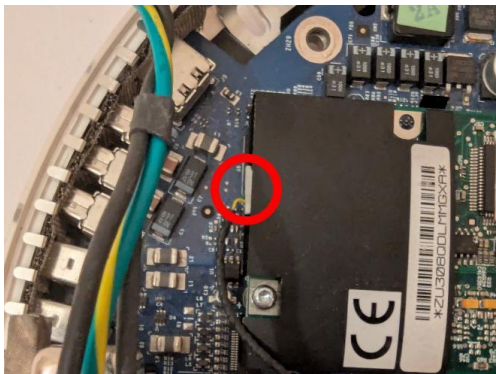
Step 15

Reinstall all the screws so you don't lose them, in case you want to revert this mod later.



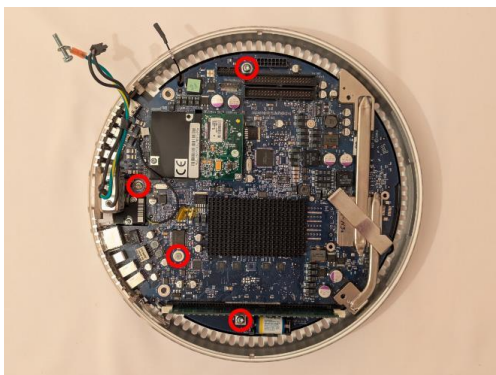
Step 16

Move on to the base of the dome, where the logic board is mounted.



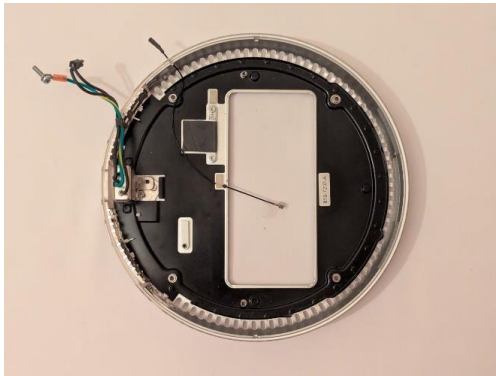
Step 17

Disconnect the cable connecting the RJ-11 board to the modem card.



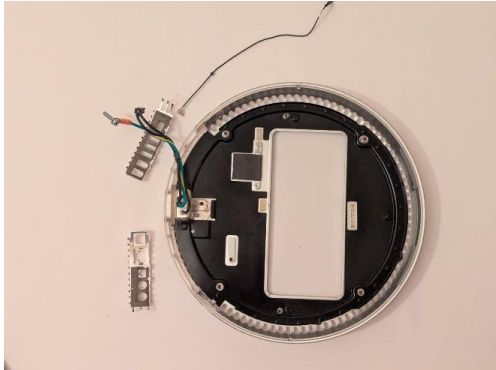
Step 18

Remove the four screws securing the logic board to the base, then remove the logic board.



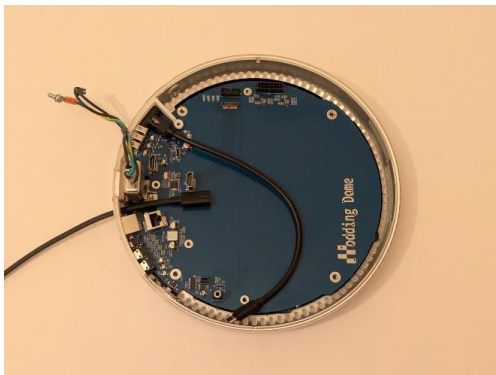
Step 19

You should now be left with the empty base, as shown.



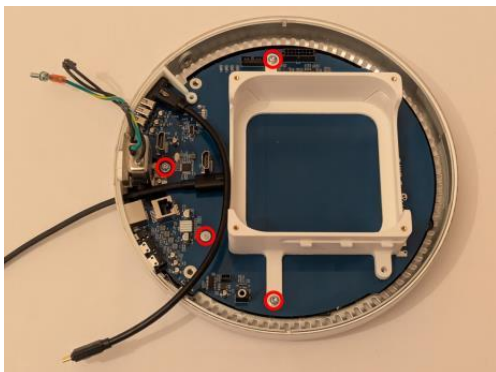
Step 20

Remove the I/O shields and the AirPort card cable from the base.



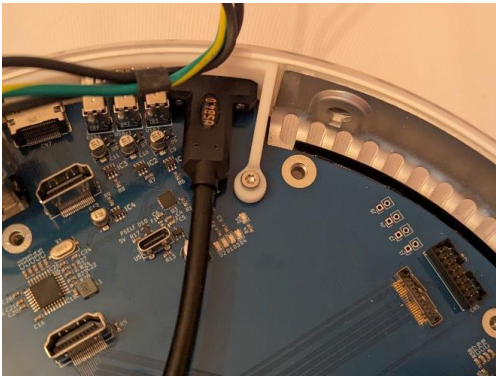
Step 21

Place the DomeHub PCB in the base along with the replacement I/O shields. Make sure the USB4 extension cable is screwed to the left I/O shield before fitting it, since its screws become inaccessible afterwards. Also make sure the Mac Mini's power cable is in place before seating the right I/O shield.



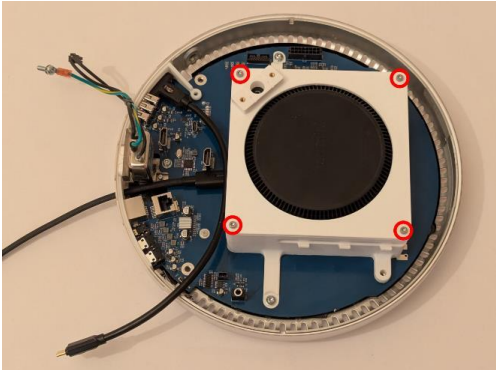
Step 22

Take the base of the Mac Mini enclosure and secure it with the four screws shown. Two of these secure the enclosure to the base; the other two secure the PCB.



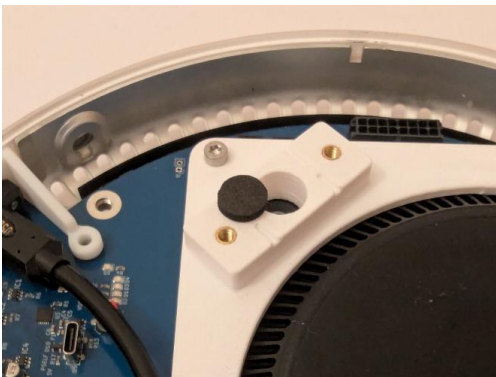
Step 23

Secure the left I/O shield to the PCB with a screw.



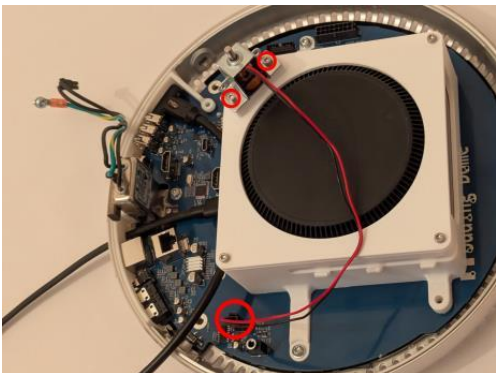
Step 24

Place your Mac Mini into the base of the enclosure and secure it by screwing on the top of the enclosure.



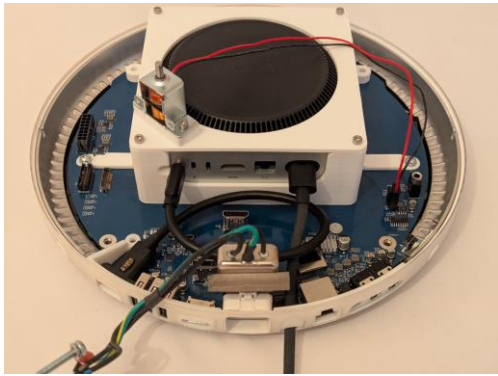
Step 25

Place the foam pad in the hole for the Mac Mini's power button.



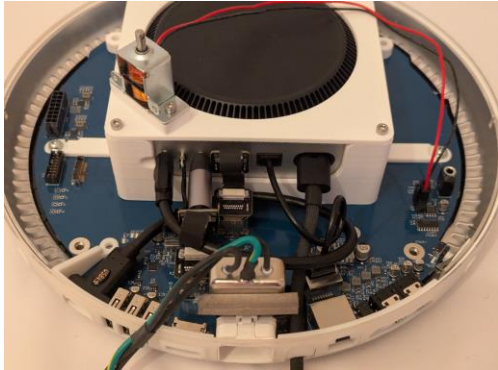
Step 26

Fasten the solenoid in place and connect it to the PCB.



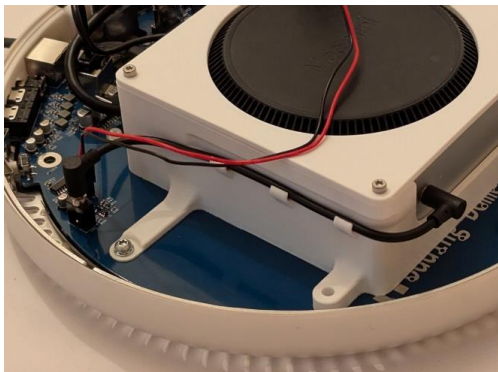
Step 27

Connect the USB4 extension cable and power cable to the Mac Mini.



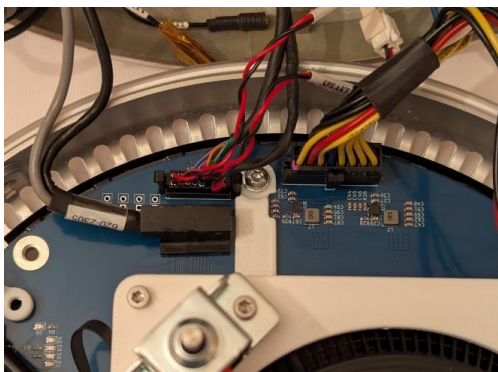
Step 28

Connect the remaining cables as shown in the picture.



Step 29

Connect the AUX cable and secure it in the holding clips on the side of the Mac Mini enclosure.



Step 30

Connect the LCD cable, inverter cable, and PSU cable.



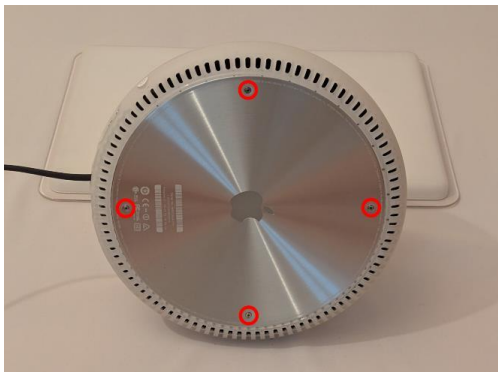
Step 31

Connect the ground wire and the EMI shield cable (running from the EMI shield to the PSU).



Step 32

Close the dome and secure it with the four screws fastening the base.



Step 33

Screw in the base cover.



Step 34

You're done!
