505 STATE

Initiated October 11th, 1998
Probably won't get updated much :-(. But maybe I'll do some real work on it - who knows?

If you're looking for the band 808 State or Levi 501 jeans, you're in the wrong place.

For lot'sa various Sony 505 info, go to the 505 message board at:
http://www.insidetheweb.com/messageboard/mbs.cgi/mb126051
for the latest 505 questions and answers.

Sony 505G, 505GX harddrive upgrade instructions.

This details the replacement of the stock 2.1G drive with the Toshiba 4309, 4.3G unit.
Total installation time: ~15 minutes. It's really *very* simple.

NOTE: As of early Oct., this is still undergoing changes and corrections, as I put it up REAL fast.

Disclaimer: Please keep in mind that I am not responsible for any damage that you might cause to your 505.

All instructions are written EXACTLY the way that I performed them.

You are on your own when trying to format or copy your old HD contents over to the new unit, although I will give a few examples on how to perform those tasks. (Well... kinda?).

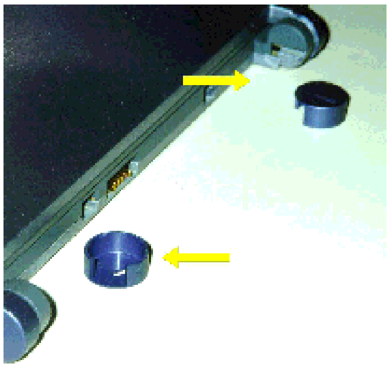
PLEASE do not email me to tell me that I'm insulting your intelligence with the simple instructions.
This is mostly for people that are not into ripping into PC's and really don't know where to start.
Also keep in mind that many people may not be native English speakers.

The drive being installed was purchased from www.buycomp.com.
It was ~$270 delivered. Go Here to buy one. You can do a search at www.shopper.com also. Use "4309" as a search string.

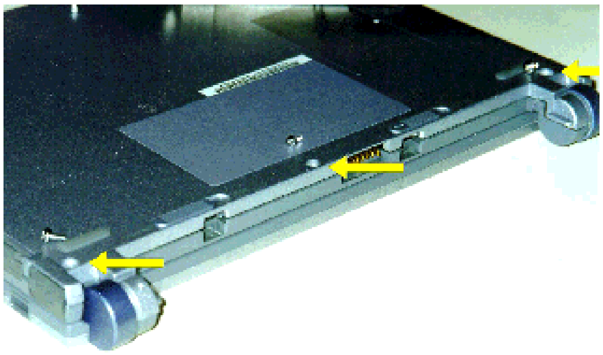
The Japanese websites at:
http://www.hanlab.ee.kagu.sut.ac.jp/~mutsumi/vaio/hdd/index-j.html and
http://wwws.sannet.ne.jp/userpage/obiwan/loadtest/19980222.htm
also detail the procedure. If you want to look at extra photos, check them out.

Here we go:

1. **You must remove the end caps located on the inside areas of the battery bay.**
   These are easily removed with a small knife or nail file.
   You just have to pry in about 2mm deep in a few spots to help dislocate the cap.
   The caps are simply held in place by a few small nibs and are not glued. They will not break easily.
   Once removed, it's time to pull the 505 apart.

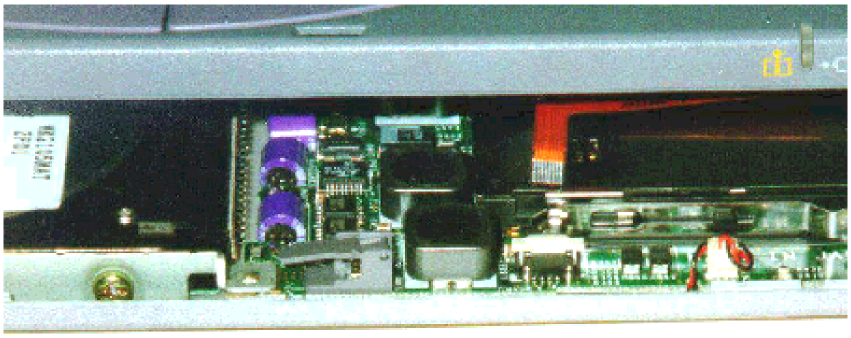
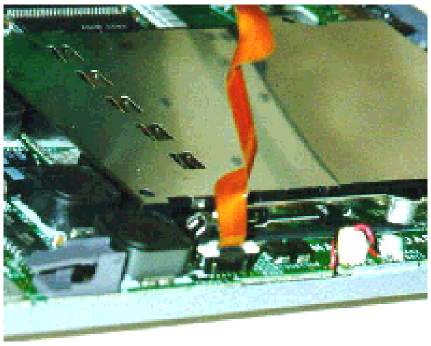
INNER PLASTIC RETAINER CAP. THEY SNAP OFF - AND ON.



THERE ARE 8 SCREWS HOLDING THE 505 TOGETHER.
4 LARGE AND 4 SMALL.

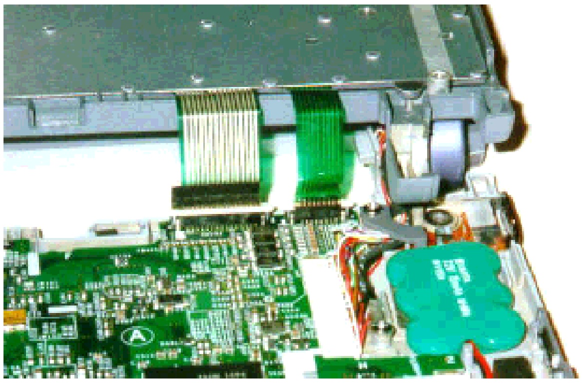
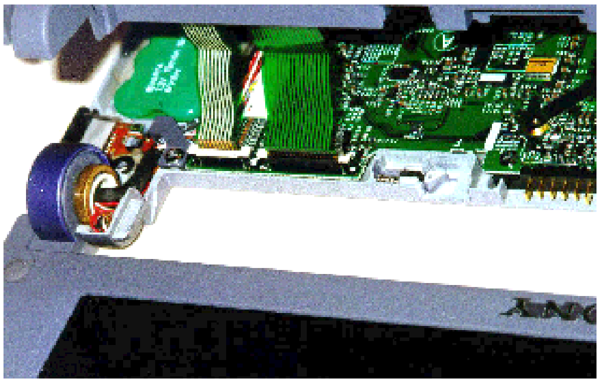
Remove *all* the screws, otherwise the 505 will not come apart.
Before you pull the 505 apart. Tape a few sheets of clean paper over the display area.
You don't want the keyboard scratching it.

3. Set the 505 down as if you were going to use it.
While holding the front lower edge of the 505, gently unlatch the lid and open it all the way until the 505 is opened flat.
Slowly lift the front portion of the palmrest plate up about 25mm (1").
There is a Versapad ribbon connector that is plugged into the mainboard, just in front of the PCMCIA carrier (right side).
You can use a knife tip, exacto tip or small flat blade screwdriver tip to gently pry up the left and right sides of the ribbon lock tab.
It only needs to go up about 2mm to allow the ribbon cable to slip out.

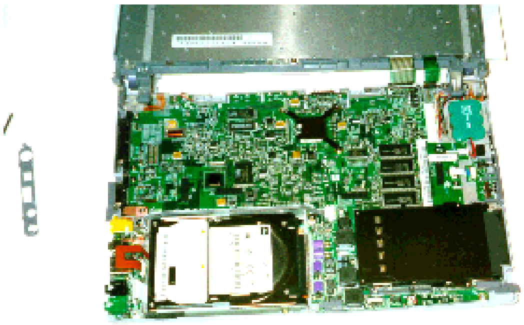
LOCATION OF VERSAPAD RIBBON CABLE.

**4. There is no need to remove the rear ribbon cables if you are careful with the keyboard/palmrest plate.
If you accidently jerk them loose (they *will* pop out rather than break), you have to carefully reinsert them and push the ribbon locks back down.**

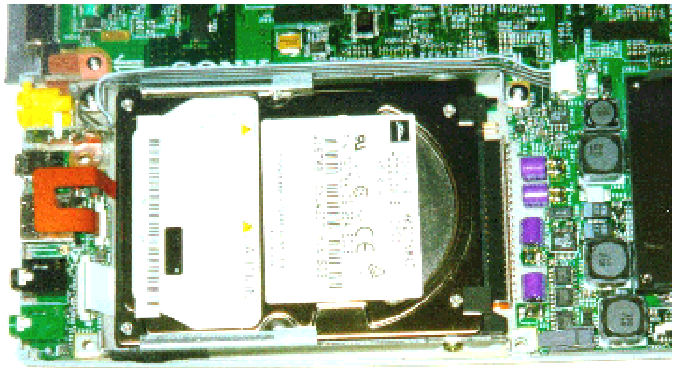
TFT DISPLAY/AUDIO AND KEYBOARD RIBBON CABLES - NEED NOT BE REMOVED.

Once you have folded the keyboard back onto the display area (make sure that the display is protected), you are ready to remove the HD.



SONY 505 LAID OPEN.

**5. Remove the first HD screw on the right.
Carefully remove the HD screw on the upper left.
There are A/C power lead wires running across the left upper screw.
Carefully lift these up about 5-8mm.**



HD MOUNTED IN CHASSIS.

To remove the drive, remove the upper left and right mounting screws.
Lift the right (connector side) of the drive up about 15mm.
Slowly (using an EX-acto or knifeblade) pry the connector away from the drive pins at "B"
Do not lift the HD up too far as it is connected by a ribbon connector that runs beneath the HD and into the 505 mainboard.
It's a tight area to pull the connector off in, but there's just enough room to do it.
Pull the drive out the the right (only have to move it about 10mm).
When reinstalling, be careful not to pinch the wires at "A" under the rail screw or the rail tab.

6. Once you have removed the HD from the 505, you have to remove the side rails.
Leave the small strip of insulator tape on the rail. Just peel it away to get at the screw.

ISOLATOR TAPE NEED NOT BE REMOVED.

Reuse the 2 small isolator pads that are stuck to the top of the drive.
They contact the base of the Versapad touchpad and provide support to it.

7. To install the new HD is just a reversal of the removal process.
Keep in mind to watch for the A/C power lead wires at the upper left of the drive when replacing the screw in that area.
The Periphereal port plate on the left side of the 505 may be reattached *after* the 505 has been screwed back together.
Be very careful when closing the 505 as the base likes to move when there's no screws holding everything together.
I suggest replacing the large screws first. Don't lose any screws.
A few are required to contact internal ground pads and provide case grounding for the 505.

YAY! IT BOOTED THE FIRST TIME!

Getting all your old info to your new drive:

(please, if someone has detailed instructions that work, let me post them here!)

Well, if you're going for a new HD, there's 2 ways of reinstalling your software/system.

1. You've got a Sony VAIO CD-Rom and you're simply going to format the new drive and use the 505 System Recovery CD and start from scratch. One partition on the new drive will ahve to be about 2Gig however, as the Sony recovery program will bomb out if there's not enough room for a full recover.

2. You want to load your old system in it's entirety, back onto the new HD.

The first option is fairly easy. You have a Sony CD-Rom and you use escape/F2 to get into BIOS and select the CD-Rom boot option. Off you go.

The second is for the person who *really* doesn't want to start from scratch and reload all his software.

I would detail how I did it, but it's hard without a program like Drive Image. I did have Partition magic which made it easy. I also had a $9, 3.5" to 2.5" IDE adapter which allowed me to hook the new and old drives to my main desktop PC to format and partition the new drive and copy the contents of the old drive. Drive Image allows you to transfer a bootable system.

Another way is to back up your old drive, reinstall *Win98* from scratch (and I don't care what anyone says, Jim H. proved that by properly setting up Win'98 and getting rid of all the crap, '98 runs great. I tried Wintune tests on both OS's on my Libretto and there was almost no diff), copy the old drive image from your backup source onto a different partition on the 4.3G, then reboot into DOS and copy your old drive image over the new Win98 one. A pain, and you have to do it right because of the weird long filenames truncation that DOS does sometimes while copying, but it works. I did it a few times quite some time ago, so I don't remember exactly what the heck I did. Sorry.

I really think that it's best for the newbie to simply start from scratch with the Recovery CD and re-install all the programs and data. Less agravating.

Didn’t pop for the Sony VAIO CD-Rom? They got ya there, huh? *_*
Hint: You really need to invest in a CDRom. Even if you’re networking
files and doing installs off a desktop CD, the CDRom is *very* handy.
Sony *really* should hand these out with each 505. But they’re tightwad ripoffs. ~_^

Lots of places have the unit for ~$230. Some other IDE units work (as detailed
on the 505 message board), the SCSI CD-Rom’s do not seem to work.
Thank you Sony. :-p

Auto/Air Adapters

This is an Extended Systems E-710 Auto/Air adapter for the Fujitsu Monte Carlo and Milan.

It’s a 5 - 24V unit that has a Sony style tip/ring power connector.
About $80. Just use www.shopper.com and do a search for "E-710" or "auto/air adapter"
It works great with the 505. BTW, where’s Sony’s Auto/Air adapter?
Probably where the rest of their cool periphs for the 505 are. In Japan.

A/C Power Supplys

This is the Fujisu A/C power supply for the Fujitsu Monte Carlo and Milan,
It's a 16V unit that has a Sony style tip/ring Connector.
Tired of waiting for Sony to get extra A/C power supply's in stock? *Everyone* has these.
About $40 delivered from http://st4.yahoo.com/repc/ibmcompatible4.html
I have 2 of these. They work fine.

IDE HD adapters

2.5" to 3.5" IDE adapter at: http://st4.yahoo.com/repc/25to35hardri.html
About $10. Comes with rails so you can use your old drive in your desktop box.

LIBRETTO 50CT overclocked to 100MHz, 3.2G HD

I USED TO USE ONE OF THESE BEFORE I GOT THE 505. IT ROCKS!
(Actually I still use it - *very* inconspicuous at work)

Cool Libretto info at: http://www.cerfnet.com/~adorable/libretto.html

Dat’s it for now. I’d really like to add more, but my time, and Sony 505 info, are limited. :-(