

Printout Howto: Fix Bad Bluetooth Reception in the Mac Pro

Background: I originally had this problem with my Mac Pro purchased in November of 2006. It appears that to this day Apple is still releasing a few Mac Pro's here and there with this mislabeling/miswiring problem. If you have great bluetooth reception, and are happy with it, don't dig around the inside of your case. This worked for me and quite a few other people, but it may not work for you. Basically: reader beware. I have heard from one person that the Bluetooth and Airport modules are considered "user serviceable" so this shouldn't void the warranty. For me, I got better airport connections, distance and speed, and before when my Apple Bluetooth Mighty Mouse and Keyboard were completely unusable one foot away, they are now fully functional from more than 20 feet away! Interesting side note: to this day, none of us have figured out what the extra wire goes to, or what it is for.

Instructions

There are going to be four wires. For me, there were two unlabeled. One was short and disconnected (wouldn't reach the Bluetooth module), and the other was longer and attached to the upper airport port. Another was labeled 3 and attached to the lower airport port, and another was ~~labeled~~ mislabeled BT and attached to the Bluetooth module. Note: Sometimes the longer unlabeled unconnected wire is hidden behind the motherboard. It considerably helps to have the hard drive trays removed. The connections snap on, sometimes they require a tiny bit of force, but be very careful, make sure everything is aligned. Also, your computer should be off during this :P

The steps I took to fix this problem were as follows:

1. Detach upper airport wire (long, unlabeled)
2. Plug in previously detached short unlabeled wire into the upper airport port.
3. Unplug wire labeled BT from the bluetooth module. Put plastic shroud on it. This wire will be unused.
4. Take longer unlabeled wire that used to be plugged into upper airport plug, and plug it into the bluetooth module.
5. Enjoy.

Diagram

(diagram on next page)

Labeled Photo

(last page)

Links

Some links you may consider following:

My original post on the fix, and on a great forum. Feel free to post if you have any questions. Photos can be found on the ninth post.

<http://www.thelocale.org/forum/viewtopic.php?pid=16038>

The original Apple Support Discussions thread.

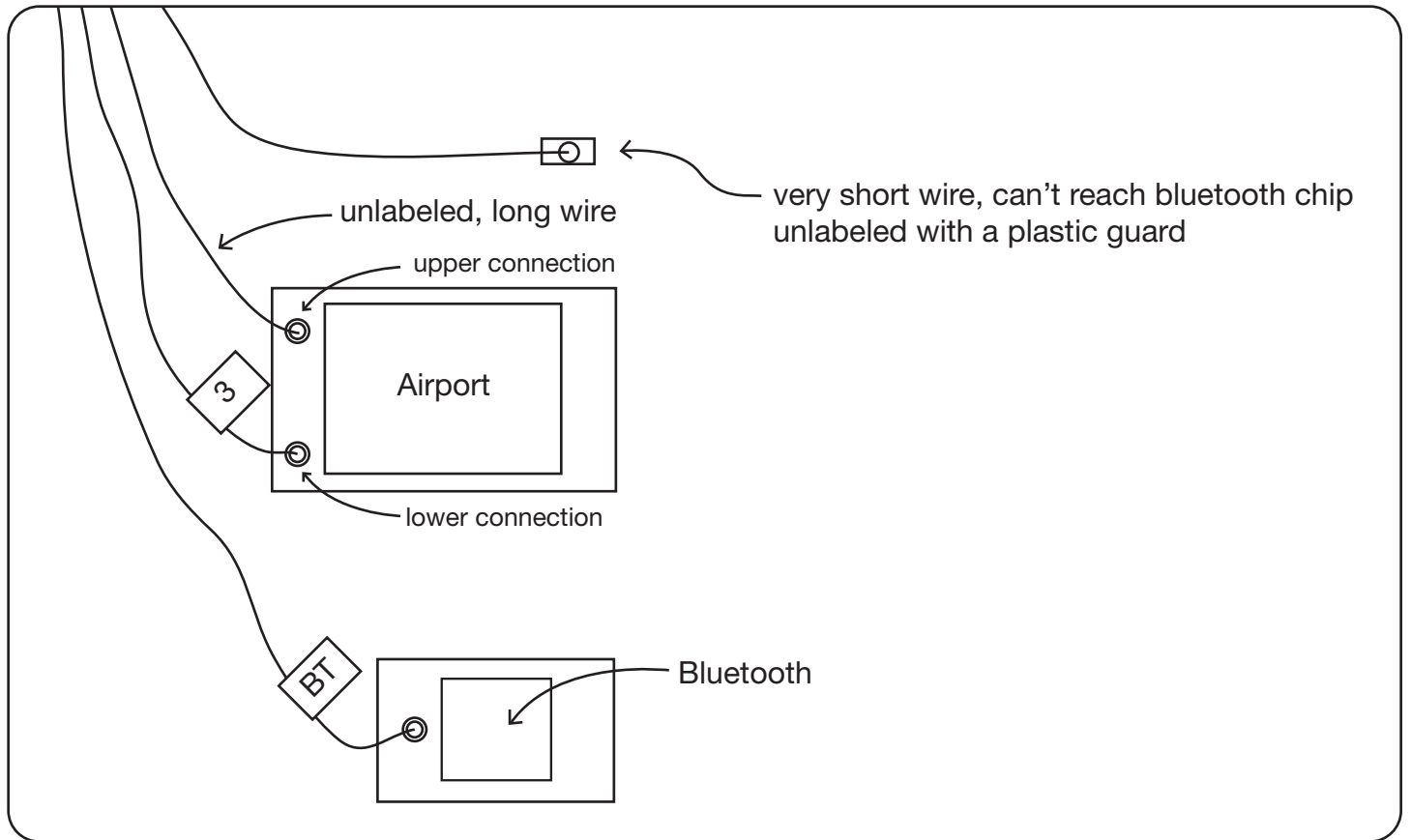
<http://discussions.apple.com/thread.jsa?threadID=633522>

Macrumors site and forum, always a good place to start regarding Apple/Mac questions.

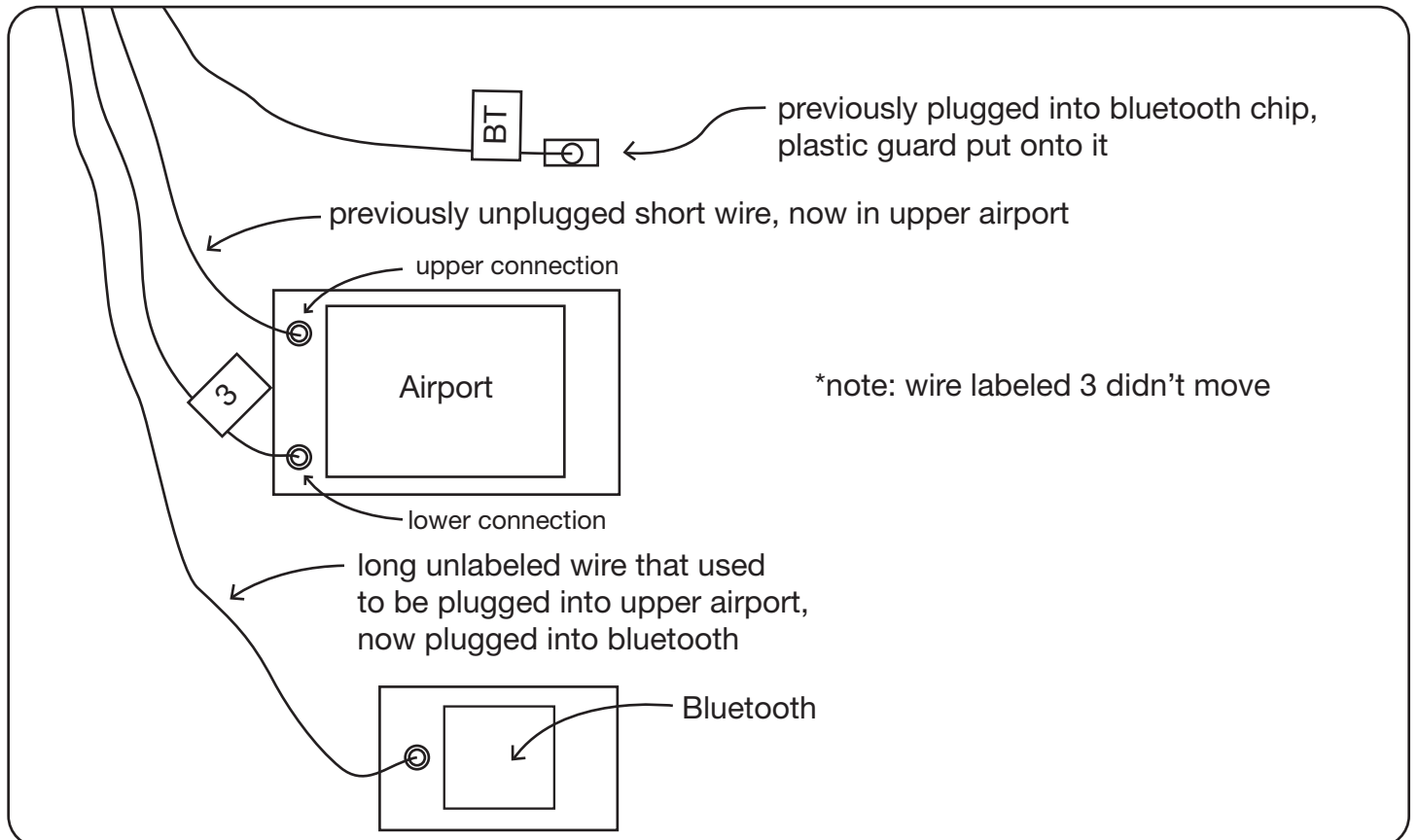
<http://www.macrumors.com>

Feel free to email me at: rectangular@gmail.com

Before:



After:



Note: This image was taken after the above mentioned fix.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Airport Module | 5. Upper Airport Connection |
| 2. Bluetooth Module | 6. Lower Airport Connection |
| 3. #2 hard drive | 7. Bluetooth Connection |
| 4. Front chassis of ATI x1900 video card | |

