

How I Enabled Handoff on Mac Pro 2008

First, the card itself. It arrives with a two step install guide, simple and useful to someone who works on the internals of Mac Pro regularly, but for a relatively new hacker, it fell short of meeting my needs for the project. The card itself is shown below, it ships with a USB cable, which is not needed for this model.



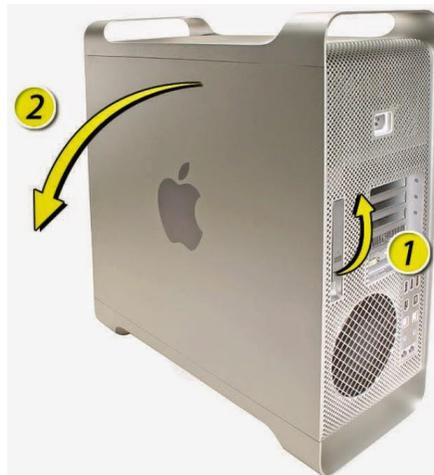
The first thing to note on these photos from the vendors website are that the card has 4 antenna connectors labeled J0 - J3. Note that [J2 is the Bluetooth antenna connector](#). If you are replacing an existing WiFi, it probably has just two connectors with a separate Bluetooth antenna connecting to the separate BT card. Never fear, Apple shipped the 2008 model Pro with all the antenna you will need, more on this when we get into the interior of the Mac.

With the help of Apple's service guide for this model, I will go through the process with snippets from the guide rather than my own pictures which would likely lack the professional touch Apple puts on their guides.

Step 1: Open your Mac and make room for your big hands.

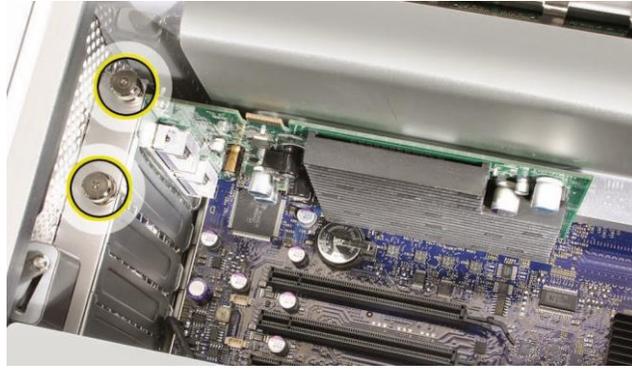
Hold the side access panel and lift the latch on the back of the computer. **Warning:** The edges of the access panel and the enclosure can be sharp. Be very careful when handling them.

Remove the access panel and place it on a flat surface covered by a soft, clean cloth. **Replacement Note:** Make sure the latch is in the up position before replacing the access panel. If the latch is down, the access panel will not seat correctly in the enclosure.

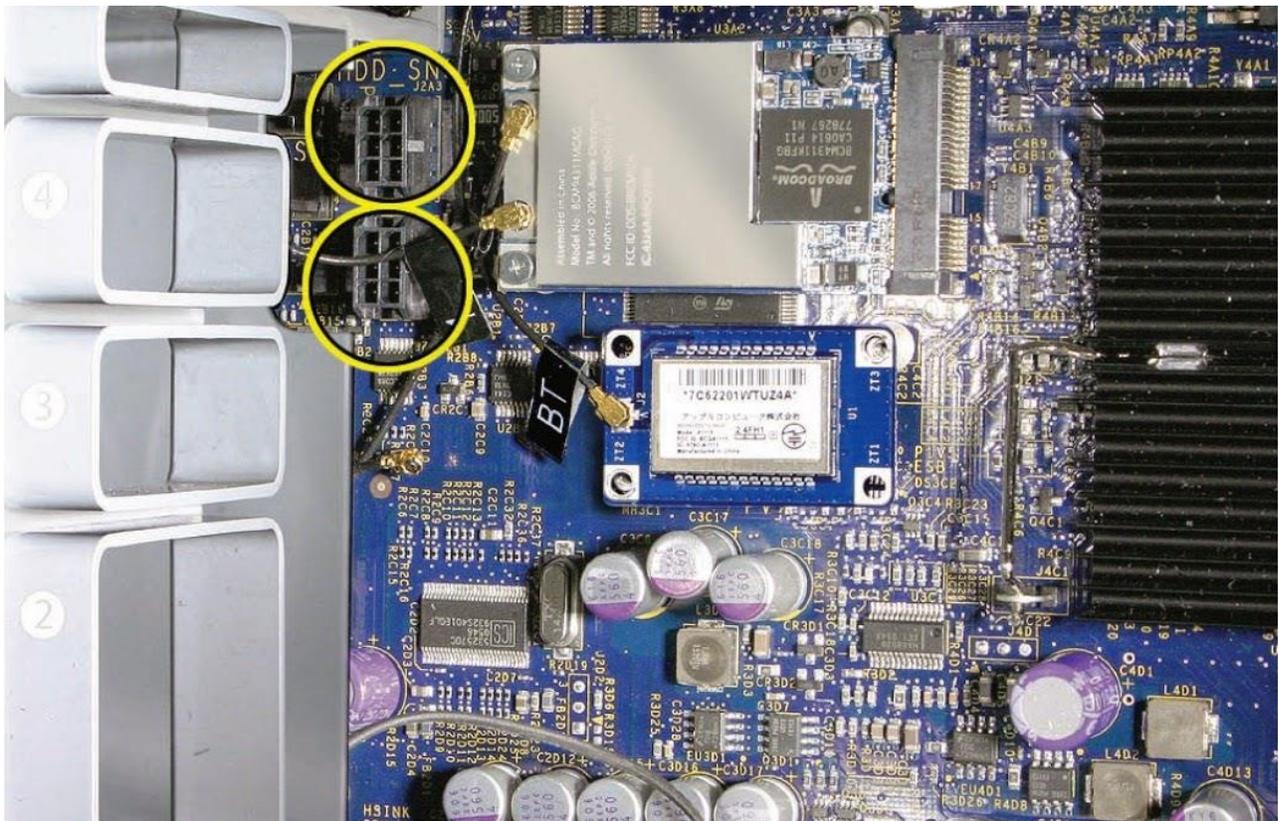


Step 2: Remove the Graphics Card





If your GPU has auxiliary power, remove the power cable from the Logic Board. The following shot highlights the one (or two) power connector locations if your GPU is using Aux power, it will have cables plugging in to one or both of these logic board connectors. Note, the old WiFi and Bluetooth cards are immediately to the right, the BT label on the antenna gives you an indication of which is which!



Step 3: Remove Hard Drives

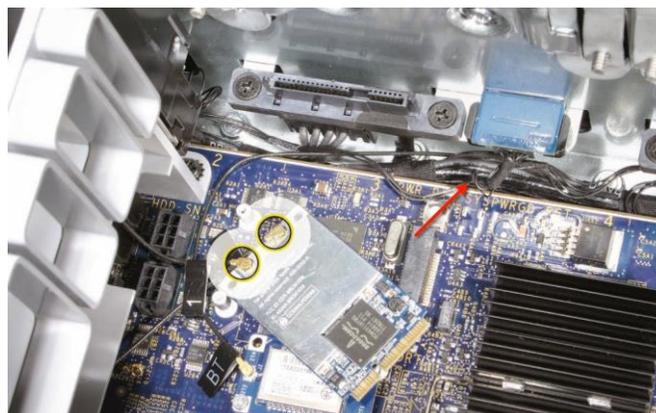
Remove the Hard Drives, or Hard Drive carriers, [at least numbers 1 and 2](#). This will give you room to work, and access to the antenna cables if they are tucked under the logic board.



Step 3: Remove Existing Bluetooth and WiFi Cards



Carefully remove the antenna cables. Gently pry and lift straight up from the post on the card. Note, if your Mac does not currently have a WiFi card the unused antenna will be tucked under the logic board somewhere near where the red arrow is pointing. I went a step further and removed the Case Cooling Fan assembly (large white plastic assembly at the left of the following photo). This may not be necessary, but if you need to do this, simply follow the directions in the Guide referenced at the end of this article.



Step 4: Install the new Combo WiFi/Bluetooth Card

Carefully attach the antenna cables. In my case, all cables were labeled with a 1-3 and BT label, I attached 1 to J0, 2 to J1, **BT to J2**, and 3 to J3.

Insert the new card into the old WiFi slot, and use one screw from the old card(s) to secure the new card to the logic board. Note: You will have left over screws!

Step 5: Re-Install the Graphics Card and Hard Drives and Replace the Side Cover

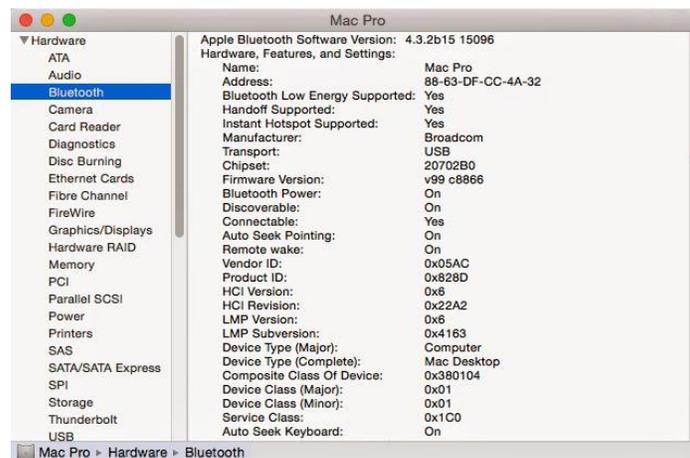
Simply reverse the steps 1, 2 and 3 above.

Step 6: Boot it up

The Mac should instantly recognize the new hardware. If you previously had WiFi enabled on the Mac, it should instantly connect to the WiFi. If not, simply go through the normal steps to join a WiFi network.

If you were using BT devices, they will need to be paired again. This means you will need a USB keyboard to initially login if you were using a BT keyboard before the operation.

If you are curious, go to System Profiler to verify the Bluetooth is updated (**Apple Menu > About This Mac > Overview > System Report**). Verify Low Energy and Handoff are supported, and LMP version is 0x6:



Step 7: Download and Install Continuity Activation Tool

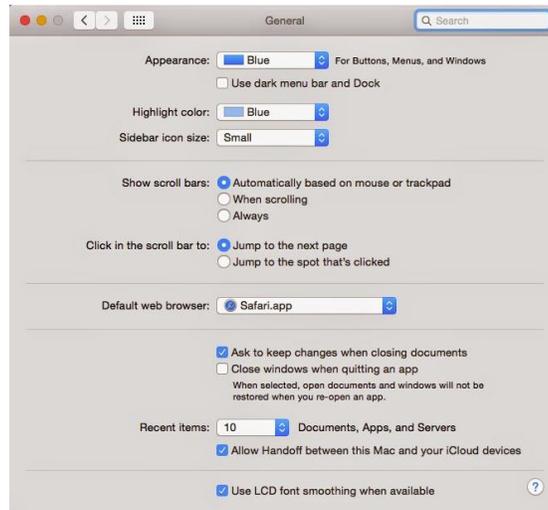
The Mac now needs some Software doctoring to enable the Continuity features. I would guess, re-installing the OS might take care of this, but that is only speculation. A simpler way is to use dokterdok's Continuity Activation Tool available for download from GitHub: <https://github.com/dokterdok/Continuity-Activation-Tool/>

The Activation tool is pretty self-explanatory. After downloading and unzipping the file, launch the Activation tool app. Be patient, some steps may take some time. Follow the onscreen directions. Some steps may take upwards of 5 minutes to complete, do not cut it short, just be patient and let it run it's course.

When it is completed, reboot your Mac.

Step 8: Activate Handoff Features

The Mac Handoff Activation is pretty straightforward. In **System Preferences > General**, enable Handoff as shown below:

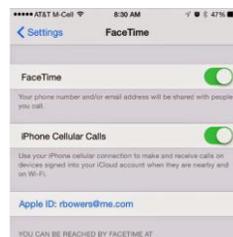


Now, log out of iCloud, then log back in. Remember, Continuity features are tied to your iCloud account, and the process of logging in on a device with continuity features enabled seems to be the key. Be patient.

On your supported iOS devices, enable Handoff in **Settings > General > Handoff and Suggested Apps**. Be sure these devices are logged in to the same iCloud account, and on the same WiFi.



For Messages & Calls to work on your Mac, go to **Settings > FaceTime** and enable iPhone Cellular Calls.



Again, DO NOT attempt to Pair your iOS device with the Mac.