Framework actually did it: I upgraded a laptop’s entire GPU in just three minutes



Today, I can confirm the system actually works. I traveled to Framework’s San Francisco offices to be the first journalist to upgrade an entire laptop graphics card, with my own hands, *in just three minutes* — including the time it took to reboot. I yanked an AMD Radeon RX 7700S video card out of the machine and plugged in a brand-new mobile Nvidia RTX 5070, with just six screws and using the pen-shaped screwdriver that comes included with the machine.

And because seeing is believing, I filmed the whole thing to show you how quick and easy it was. (Hey veteran PC builders:

this looks easier than MXM modules, right?)

I wasn’t able to test everything I would have liked to test at Framework’s offices. We couldn’t run benchmarks, only basic gameplay samples to show the card was working. (Framework claims the Nvidia card should be a 30 to 40 percent upgrade over the existing AMD one; games did run, and didn’t seem to have obvious issues at 1440p and high settings.)

Also, I wasn’t able to upgrade *quite* from scratch. I actually hauled my original Framework Laptop 16 review unit to San Francisco to see if I could turn *that* one into a new Nvidia laptop, but CEO Nirav Patel told me it would need software updates, including at least one new BIOS version, which weren’t fully ready yet. So while I did do the upgrade myself, the laptop I upgraded was one that Framework had prepped for the GPU swap.

While I was there, I also got to try Framework’s new standards-compliant 240W USB-C PD 3.1 charger, one of the very first on the market, letting the Laptop 16 (the first 240W PD 3.1 laptop!) finally play and charge at full speed. I brought my power meter and saw the Framework Laptop 16 pull over 220W while running stress tests, charging up its battery, and charging up a couple phones plugged into the laptop all at the same time. When I came back 15 or so minutes later, the new power adapter was only warm, not hot — comfortable to pick up and hold. I’ll have a video on that next week.

At $699 for only a 100W, 8GB mobile RTX 5070 worth of performance, this might be niche tech for now. (The GPU and second-gen laptop are up for preorder, shipping in December, if you are part of that niche.) But Framework’s proven the point, and I’m hoping future upgrades keep it from being niche for long.

https://www.theverge.com/report/768083/framework-actually-did-it-i-upgraded-a-laptops-entire-gpu-in-just-three-minutes