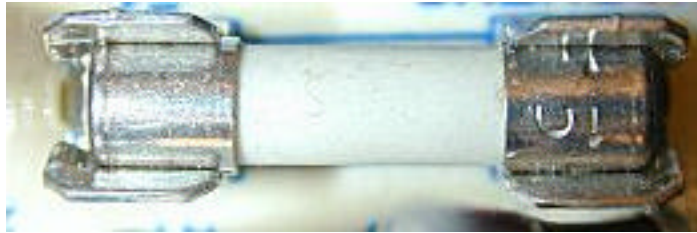


## How Fuses Work

- **Fuse:** A fuse is a device designed to protect other components from accidental damage due to excessive current flowing through them. Each type of fuse is designed for a specific amount of current. As long as the current in the circuit is kept below this value, the fuse passes the current with little opposition. If the current rises above the rating of the fuse--due to a malfunction of some sort or an accidental short-circuit--the fuse will "blow" and disconnect the circuit. Fuses are the "heroes" of the electronics world, literally burning up or melting from the high current, causing a physical gap in the circuit and saving other devices from the high current. They can then be replaced when the problem condition has been corrected. All fuses are rated in amps for the amount of current they can tolerate before blowing; they are also rated for the maximum voltage they can tolerate. *Always replace a blown fuse only with another of the same current and voltage rating.*



A fuse, sitting in its fuse holder,  
from the interior of a PC power supply.