Amazon Fire HD 8 (8th Gen) Digitizer Replacement

If your glass is broken but the LCD is working,...

Written By: Justin Castle

INTRODUCTION

If your glass is broken but the LCD is working, replacing the digitizer only can be a cost saving measure to get your device working properly again. Follow this guide to get your Amazon Kindle Fire HD 8 (8th generation) tablet working again. Replacing just the glass is similar to many other tablets but the details are somewhat unique and special consideration must be made regarding the circuit board's soldered wires.
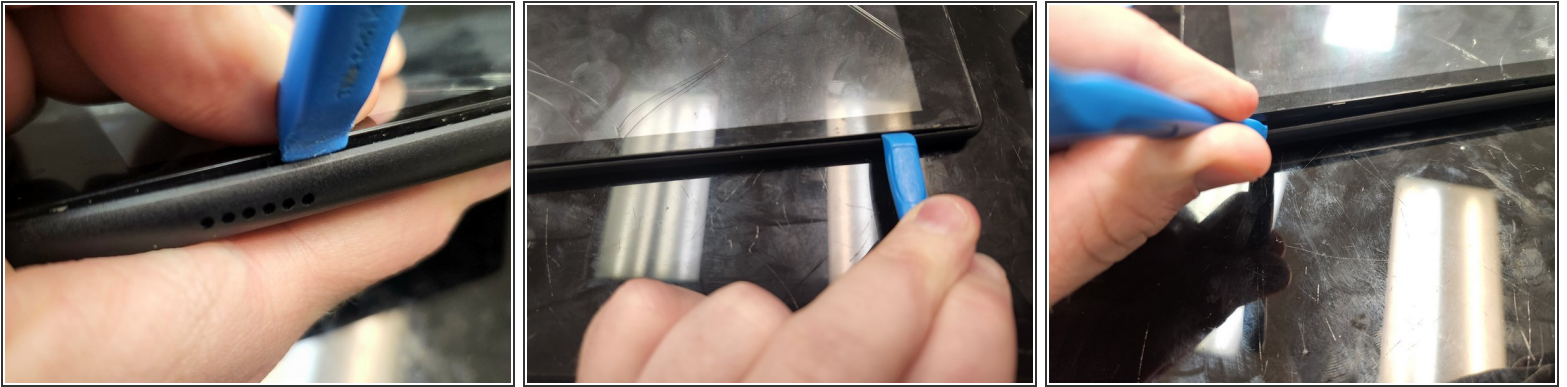
TOOLS:

- Heat Gun (1)
- iFixit Opening Tool (1)
- iFixit Opening Picks (Set of 6) (1)
- Spudger (1)
- Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)
- Suction Handle (1)

PARTS:

- Kindle Fire HD 8 (8th Gen) Digitizer (1)

This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

Step 1 — Remove the Back Cover (1)

- Starting on the left side near the top, insert your Opening Tool in the crack between the case and the bezel. Be careful not to insert into the crack between the screen glass and the bezel.
  - (i) In a pinch, a strong fingernail will do instead of the Opening Tool.

- Work your way down towards the bottom, around the corner, across the bottom to the other corner. Use an Opening Pick to prevent the tabs from snapping back together if needed.

- Once the second corner is released, the right side should fall off fairly easily. If not, work your way up like the first side.
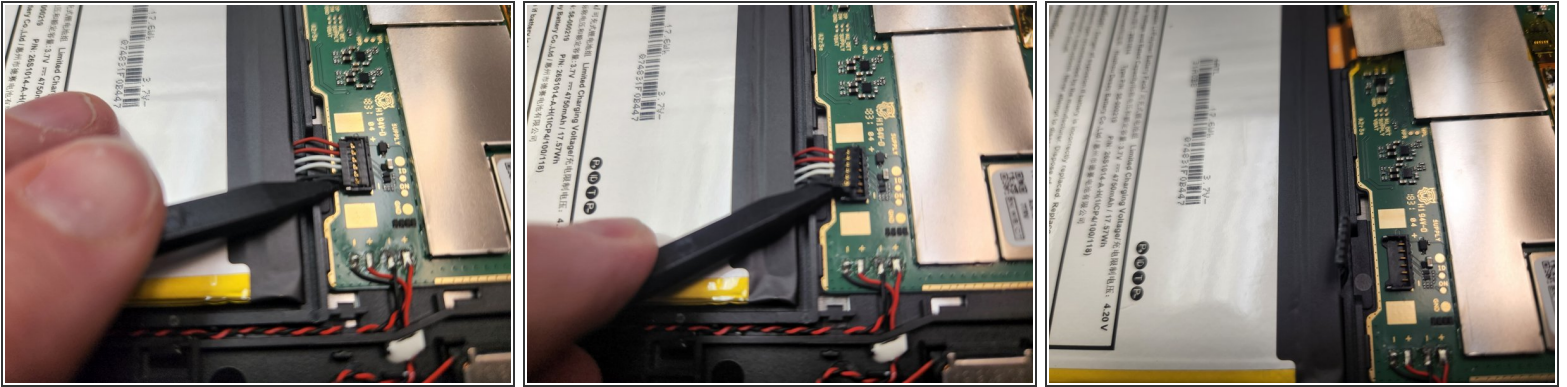
Step 2 — Remove the Back Cover (2)

- Lift the back cover off, tilting towards the top as if it was a hinge. There are no cables or wires connecting the back, but be careful around the top of the device. All the buttons and connections are on this edge and lifting this edge up could damage them.

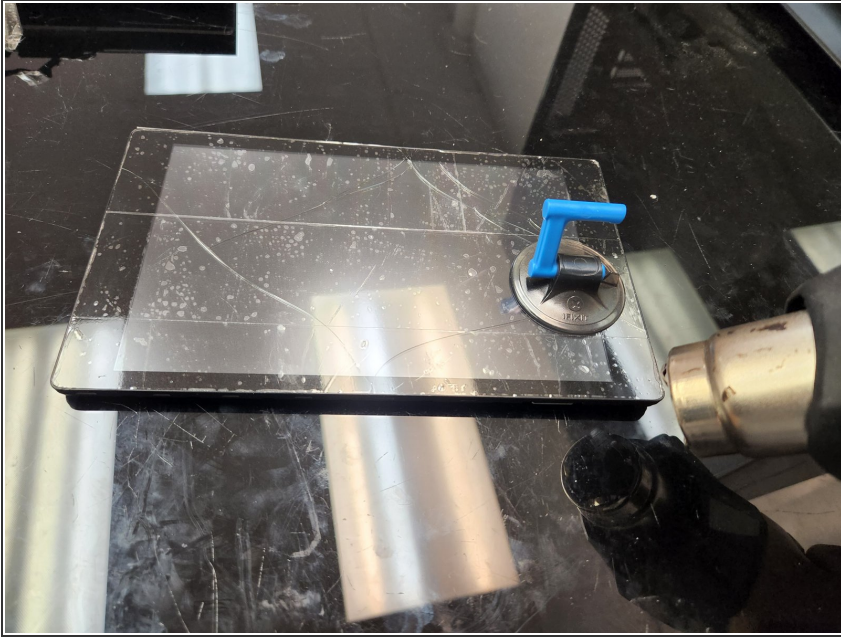This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

Step 3 — Disconnect the Battery

- Using the tip of your Spudger, release the battery connector.

- Bend the battery connector up and out of the way to ensure it will not make contact with the circuit again. The wires are stiff and will hold the connector out of the way.

Step 4 — Apply Heat to the Display

⚠ If your glass is cracked, before removing use some tape to hold it together. If it shatters or breaks further, this will prevent glass shards from causing injury.

● Using your heat gun, heat the edges of the glass to soften the adhesive. Start at the top right corner and work your around.

  ⓘ An iOpener or a heating pad will work just as well as a heat gun.

● Follow the same path as with the case, working your way down to the bottom, around the corners, and back up.

● If at any time the adhesive becomes hard, stop and apply more heat. Do not attempt to cut the adhesive if it is too hard.

⚠ Throughout the next steps, take extra care not to insert your Opening Pick too far. The LCD underneath is delicate and can be scratched even by the plastic pick as you're cutting the adhesive away.

Step 5 — Separate the Digitizer (1)
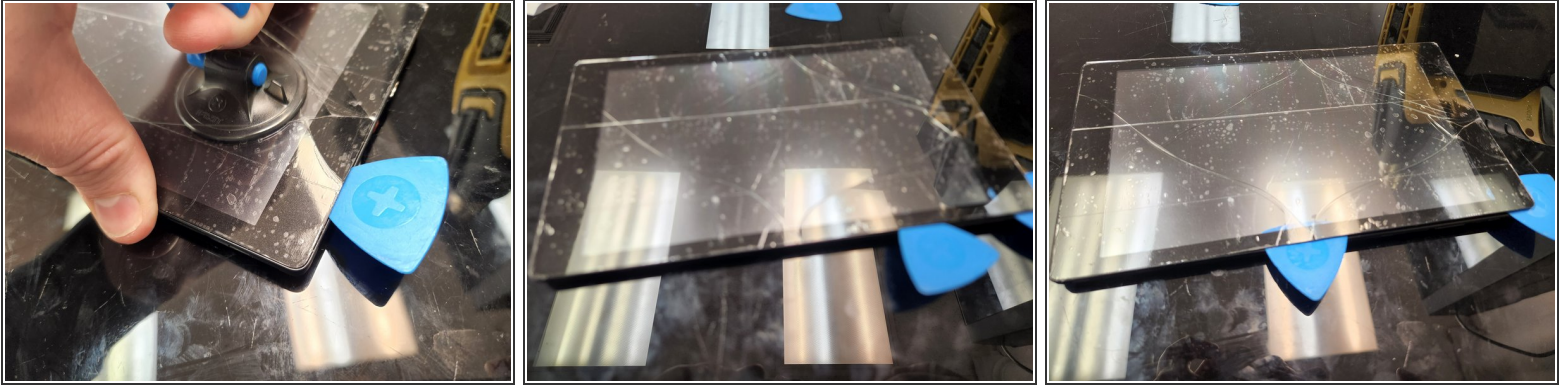
- After heating, use a Suction Handle to lift up on the glass.

- Insert an Opening Pick on the top edge near the right corner.

  ⚠ Now and throughout the next steps, take extra care not to insert your Opening Picks beyond the black border on the digitizer, or you may cause irreparable damage to the LCD.

- After ensuring the Opening Pick is inserted, remove the Suction Handle.

- Leave an Opening Pick in the top right corner to prevent the adhesive from resealing.

- Using a second opening pick, slide down the right side, cutting through the adhesive, until you reach the bottom right corner. Leave the second pick in the second corner.

This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

Step 6 — Magnets
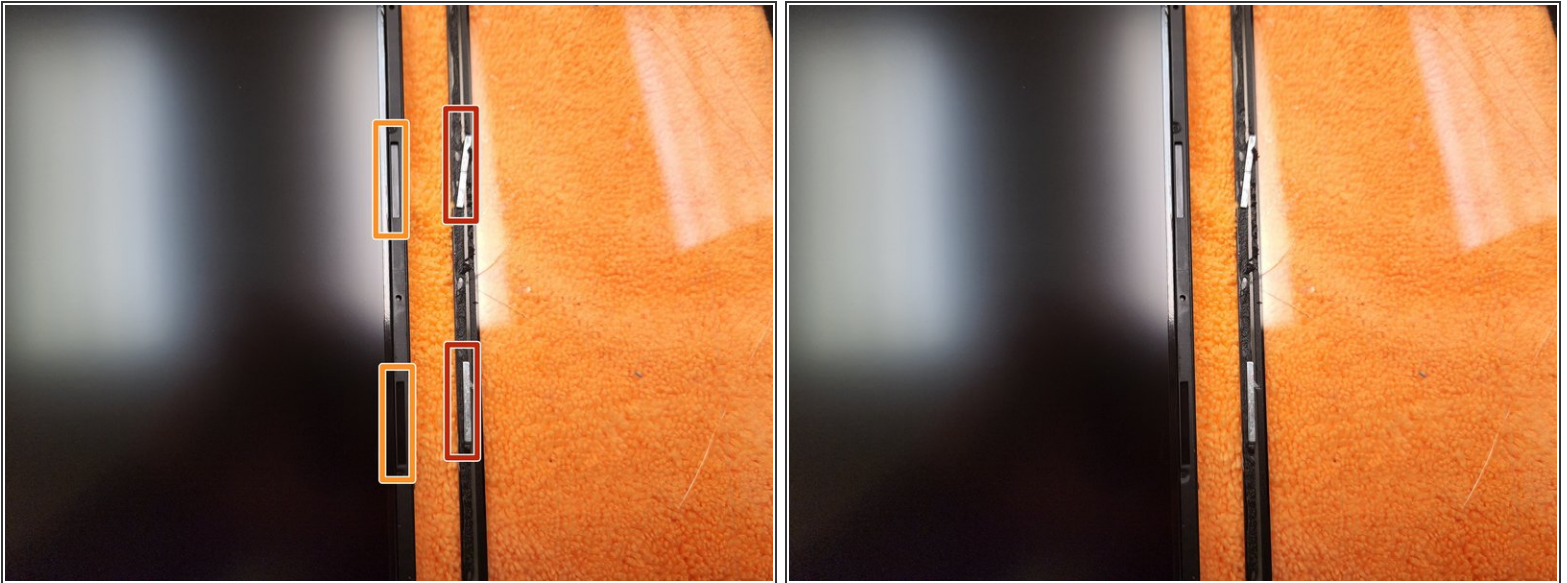
- There are four magnets, in two pairs of two, on the right side of the case.

- When removing the old digitizer, it is highly likely these magnets (red) will stick to the adhesive on the old digitizer and be removed.

- Make sure to remove them from the old digitizer and replace them into the frame (orange) before putting the new digitizer on the device.
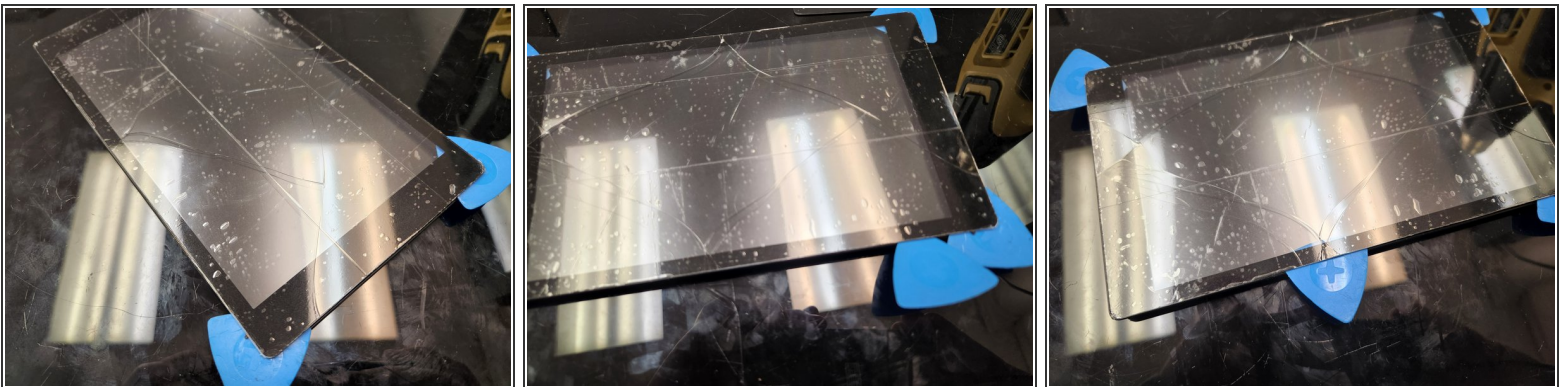
Step 7 — Separate the Digitizer (2)
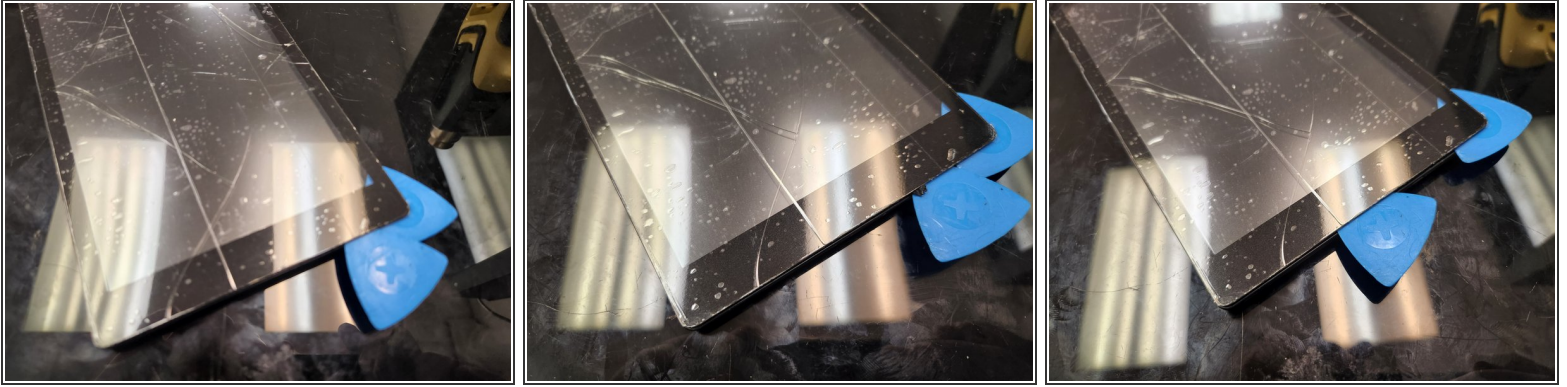
- In the same manner as before, use a new opening pick to separate the bottom of the display going from right to left.

- Leave the pick in the bottom left corner and insert a new pick to slice through the adhesive on the left hand side.

- 📌 If at any time the adhesive is too hard, stop and apply more heat.

Step 8 — Separate the Digitizer (3)

- Slice the adhesive on the left side, working your way up from the bottom corner.

- When you reach the top left corner, leave the Opening Pick there to prevent the adhesive from resealing.

  - ⓘ You should now have 4 opening picks, one in each corner, holding the display separate from the frame, and only adhesive on the top edge.

- 📌 If at any time the adhesive is too hard, stop and apply more heat.

Step 9 — Digitizer Cautions
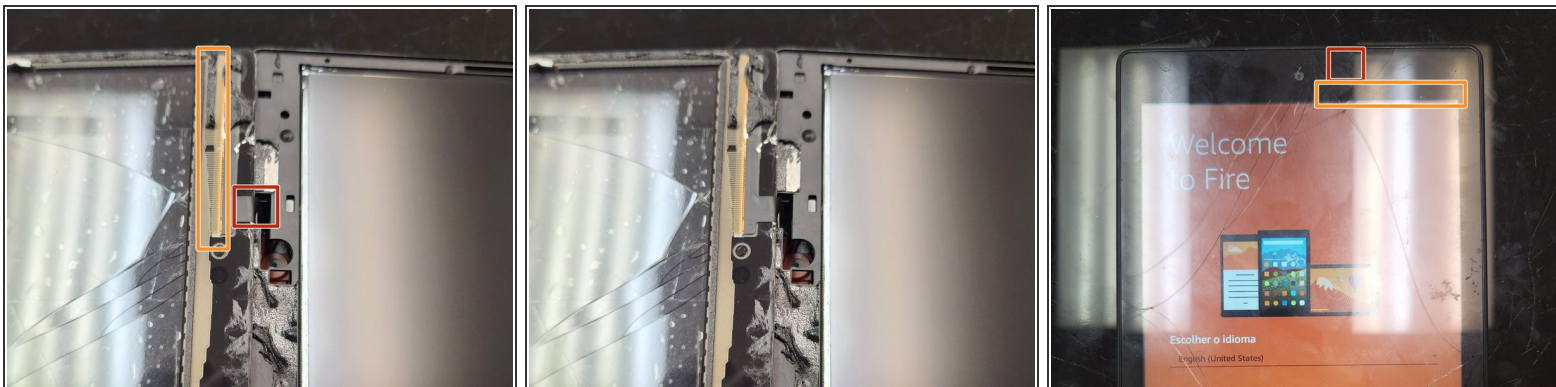
- Note the placement of the ribbon cable (red).

- Note the area where the digitizer leads connect to the ribbon cable (orange).

  - (i) The third photo shows where these are from the outside, so you know where to take extra care before you get the digitizer off.

Step 10 — Separate the Digitizer (4)

- Taking extra care around the caution areas mentioned in the previous step, use a final opening pick to slice through the adhesive on the top edge.

- Once the adhesive is cut through, lift the digitizer from the bottom edge, keeping the top edge connected.

- Avoid straining the ribbon cable, as it is delicate and can cause issues on the motherboard.

- Extend the digitizer to a 180 degree angle and flip the device over.
  ⚠ Make sure you have a microfiber or other soft cloth down, to prevent scratches or scuffs to the LCD screen.

This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

Step 11 — Disconnect the Digitizer (1)
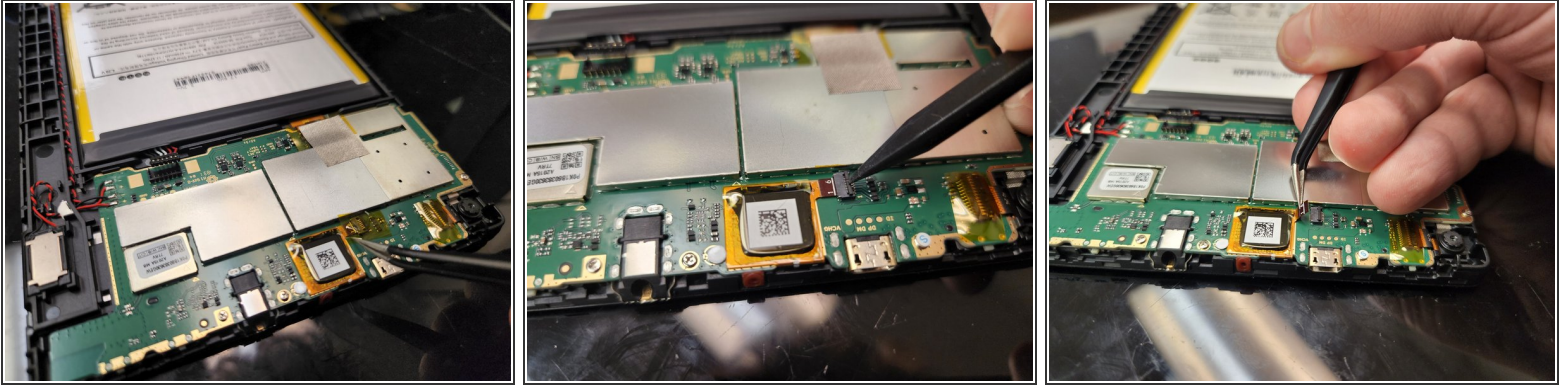
- Remove the tape holding the ribbon connector down.

- Using the tip of your spudger, lift the locking clip of the connector to release the ribbon cable.

- Using your tweezers, remove the ribbon cable from the connector.

Step 12 — Disconnect the Digitizer (2)
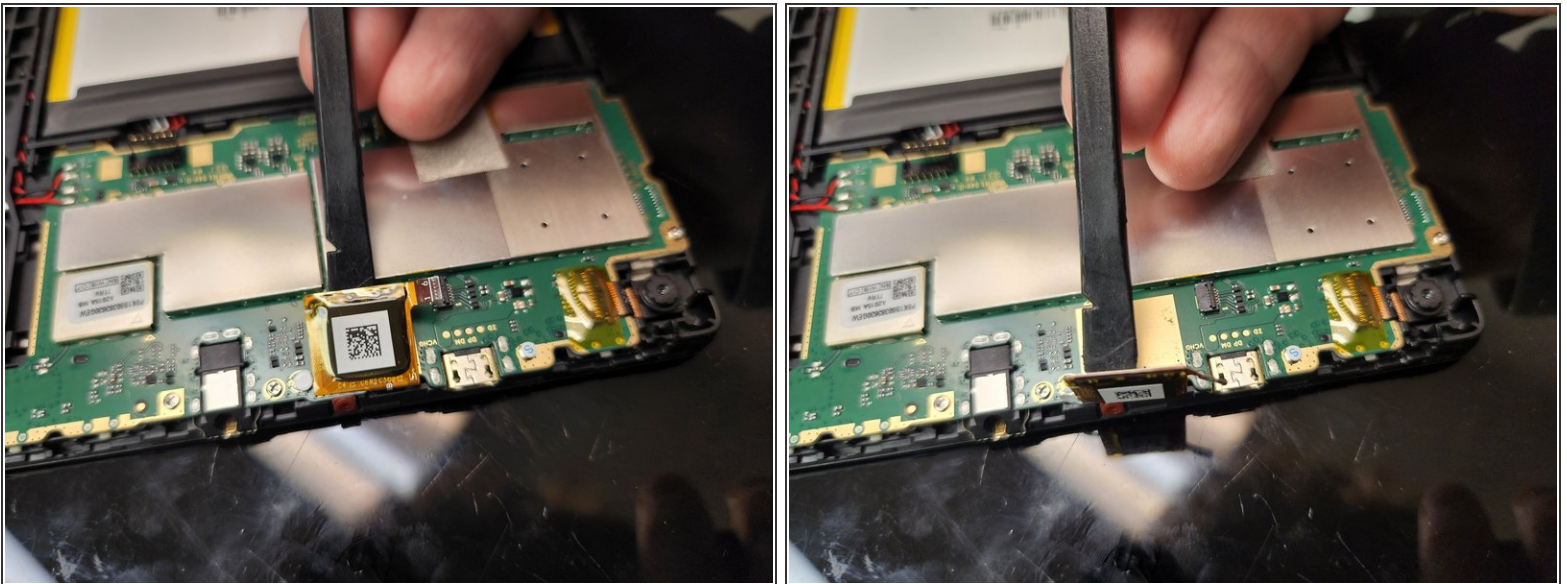
- Using the flat end of your spudger, pry up the connector.

- Lift the connector until it is vertical, but be careful not to lift too high as you can strain the ribbon cable and possibly break it.

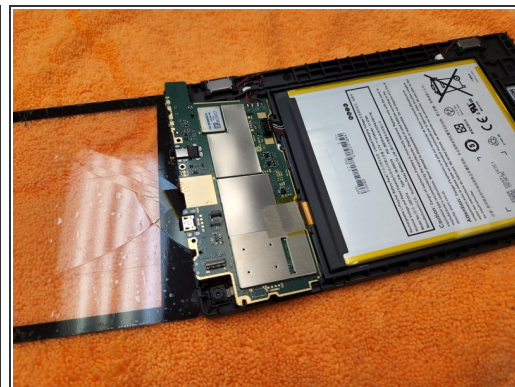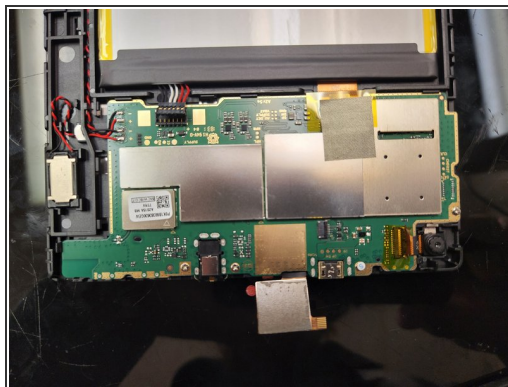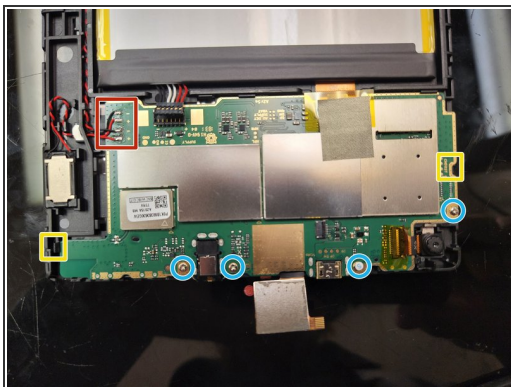This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

Step 13 — Disconnect the Camera

- Remove the tape holding the ribbon connector down.

- Using the tip of your spudger, lift the locking clip of the connector to release the ribbon cable.

- Using your tweezers, remove the ribbon cable from the connector.

www.iFixit.com

Step 14 — Circuit Board

- Remove the four screws (blue). The screws are identical and interchangeable, so you don't need to keep track of which screw went where.

  ⚠ Note that one screw is covered with a sticker. Don't miss this one or you may crack the circuit board.

- Release the two locking clips (yellow). The clips are holding the board down on the corners and it cannot be released easily without pulling back on them.

- ⓘ The board only needs to be lifted enough to let the digitizer connector through, it does not need to be removed completely.

- Take note of the speaker wires (red). They are soldered onto the board and special care should be taken to ensure they are not broken or otherwise disconnected.

Step 15 — Remove the Old Digitizer
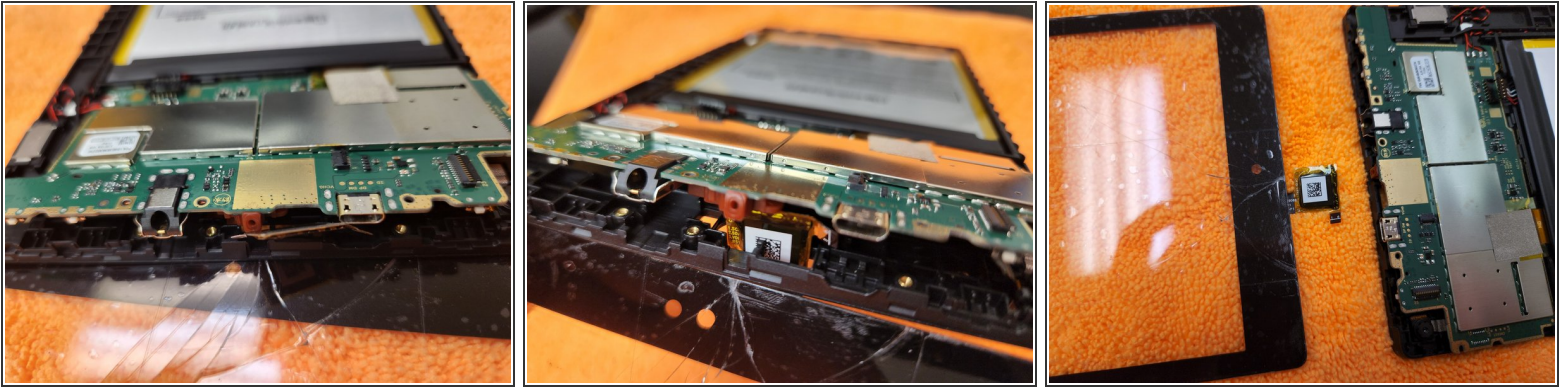
- With the adhesive cut and the motherboard released, lift it up and gently work the digitizer connector out of the hole.

- You will have to work backwards and slide the digitizer back under the device to maneuver the ribbon connector through the hole in the frame.

- When the connector is through the hole, pull the entire digitizer out. If you continue pushing through, the hard corners on the connector can scratch the LCD underneath.

Step 16 — Clean Off the Adhesive
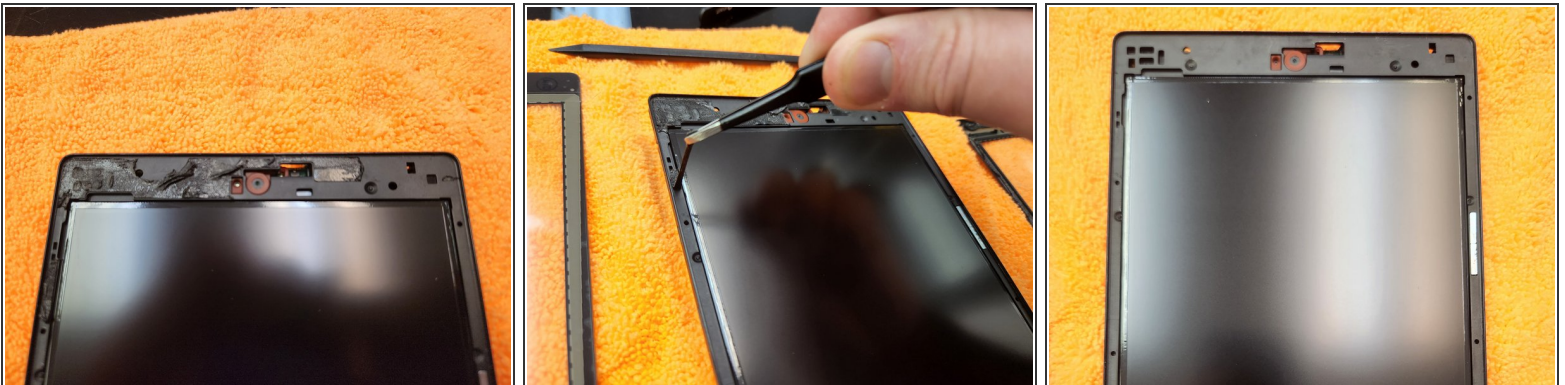
- With the digitizer completely removed, flip the device back over and clean off the old adhesive.

- Most of it will stick to itself and can be pulled off, though some residue may remain.

- Using a cotton swab and 90%+ isopropyl alcohol, clean the frame to ensure it is free of residue and debris and will be ready for the replacement digitizer.

This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).

www.iFixit.com

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

This document was generated on 2022-11-25 03:37:46 PM (MST).