



Nintendo Switch OLED Model Left Joy-Con Sensor Rail Replacement

Use this guide to replace the left Joy-Con...

Written By: Alex Diaz-Kokaisl



INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to replace the left Joy-Con sensor rail in your Nintendo Switch OLED.

For your safety, discharge the battery below 25% before disassembling your Switch. This reduces the risk of fire if the battery is accidentally damaged during the repair. If your battery is swollen, [take appropriate precautions](#).

The Switch OLED uses JIS screws, but you can use a Phillips screwdriver in a pinch. Be very careful not to strip the screws. iFixit's Phillips bits are designed to be cross-compatible with JIS-style screws.

Note: When you remove the shield plate, you'll need to replace the thermal compound between the plate and the heatsink. Since normal thermal paste isn't designed to bridge large gaps, the closest replacement is K5 Pro viscous thermal paste. You will, however, need regular replacement thermal paste when replacing the heat sink.



TOOLS:

- [iFixit Opening Picks \(Set of 6\)](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Tri-point Y00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [K5-PRO Viscous Thermal Paste](#) (1)
- [ESD Safe Tweezers Blunt Nose](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)
- [Isopropyl Alcohol \(90% or Greater\)](#) (1)
- [Coffee Filters or a lint-free cloth](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Nintendo Switch OLED Left Joy-Con Sensor Rail](#) (1)

Step 1 — Release the Joy Con controller locking tabs



- ⓘ Before you begin this repair, make sure the device is completely powered off.
- Press and hold down the small round button on the back of the Joy Con controller.
- While you hold down the button, slide the controller upward.

Step 2 — Remove the Joy Con controllers



- Continue sliding the Joy Con upward until it's completely removed from the console.
- ⓘ Repeat this same process for the other Joy Con.

Step 3 — Remove the top screw



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the 2 mm-long screw securing the top of the rear case to the frame.
- i To prevent these tight screws from [stripping](#), apply firm downward force, work slowly, and try another JIS or Phillips driver if the screws won't come out.

Step 4 — Remove the bottom screws



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the two 2 mm-long screws securing the bottom of the rear case to the frame.

Step 5 — Remove the right screw



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the 3.8 mm screw securing the right Joy-Con sensor rail to the rear case.

Step 6 — Remove the left screws



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the two 3.8 mm screws securing the left Joy-Con sensor rail to the rear case.

Step 7 — Open the kickstand



- Use your finger to flip up the kickstand on the back of the device.
- ⓘ If there's a microSD card in the microSD card slot, remove it now before you continue to the next step.

Step 8 — Remove the back-side screws



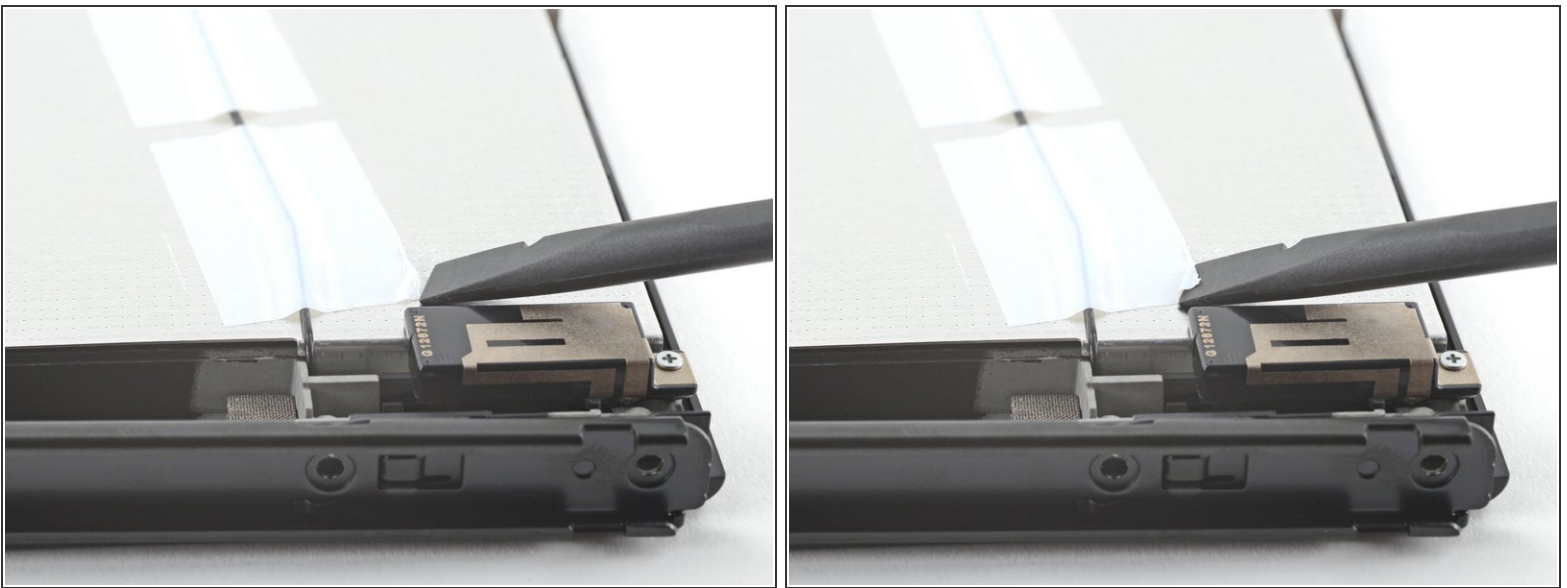
- Use a Y00 screwdriver to remove the two 4.3 mm screws securing the rear case to the frame.

Step 9 — Remove the rear case



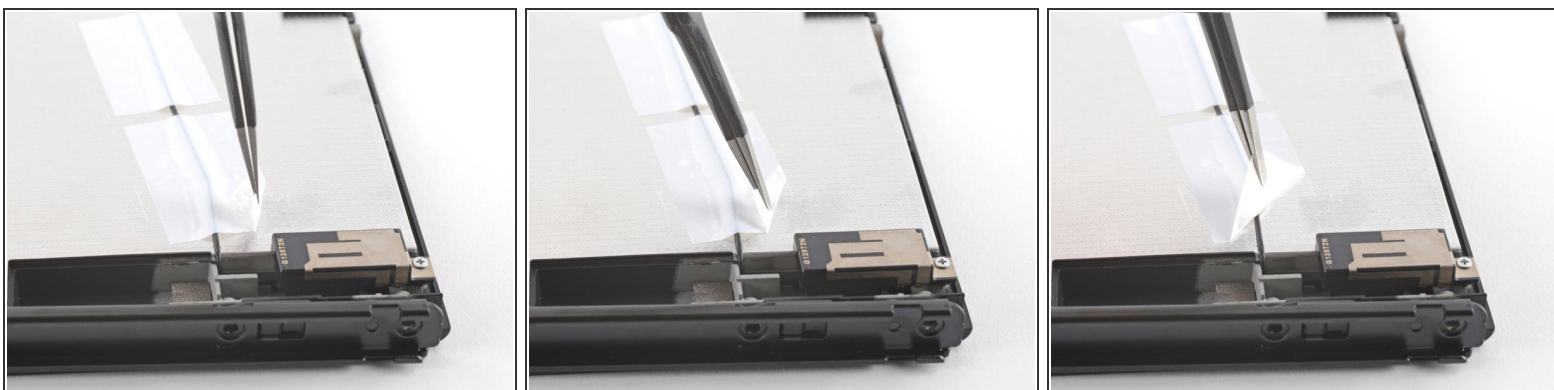
- Lift the rear case up from the top of the device and remove it.

Step 10 — Remove the shield plate's tape



- Use the flat end of a spudger to separate a corner of the tape from the shield plate.

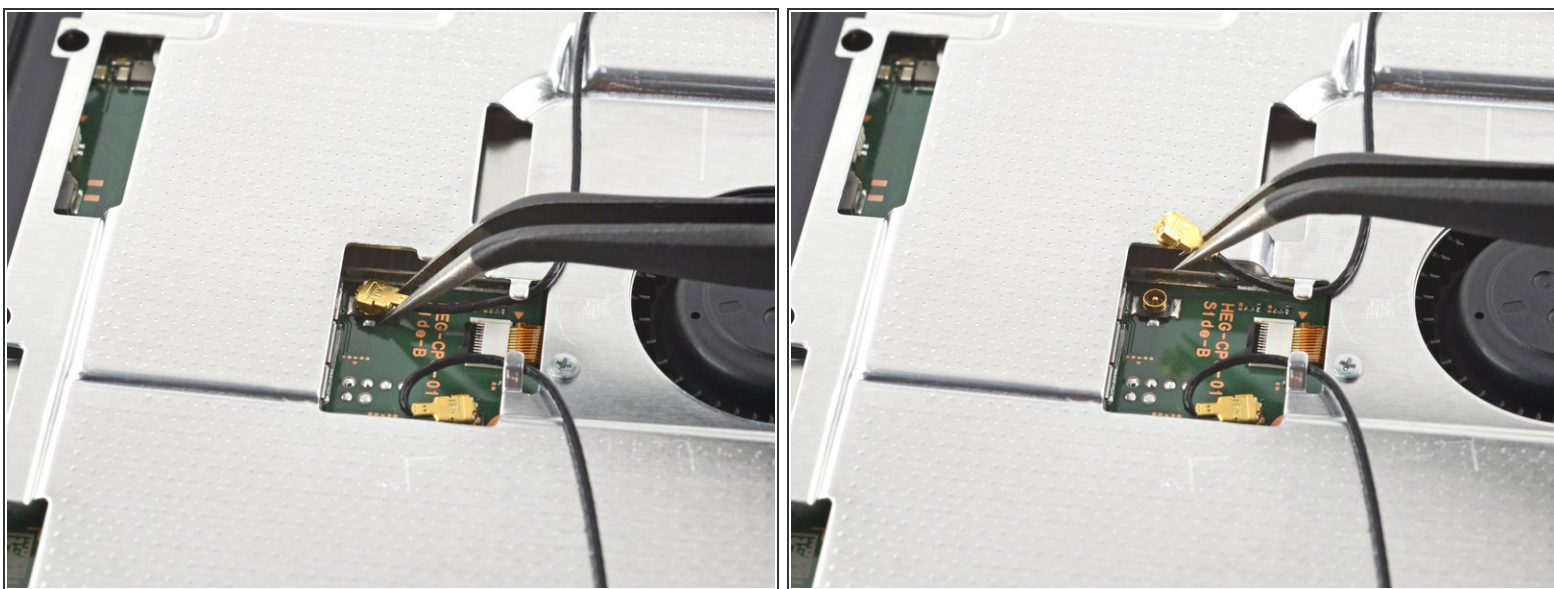
Step 11



- Use tweezers, or your fingers, to peel back and remove the tape.

☑ Store the tape in a clean space for reinstallation.

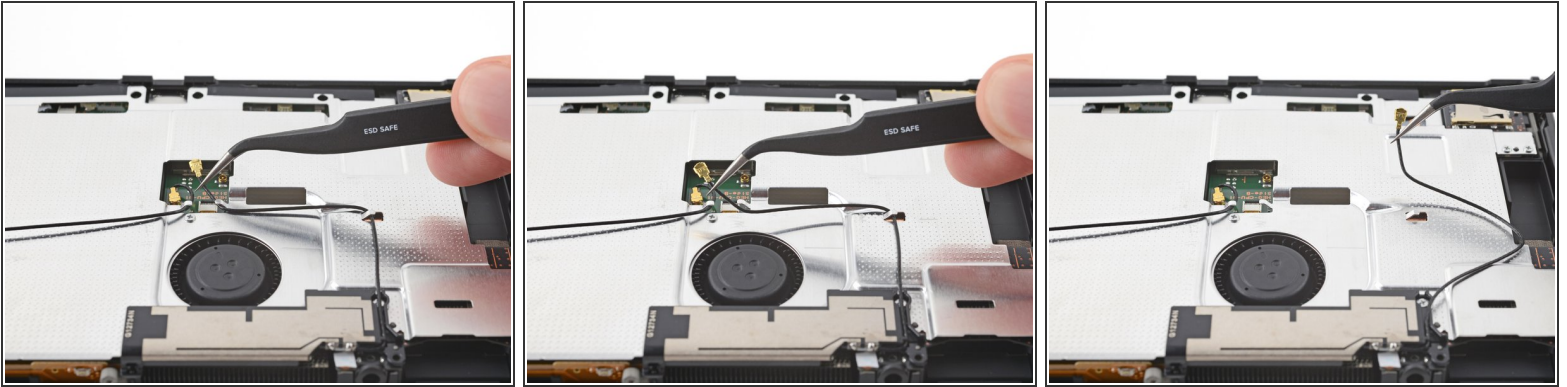
Step 12 — Disconnect the primary Wi-Fi antenna



- Use tweezers, or your fingers, to pull up and disconnect the primary Wi-Fi antenna's coaxial cable.

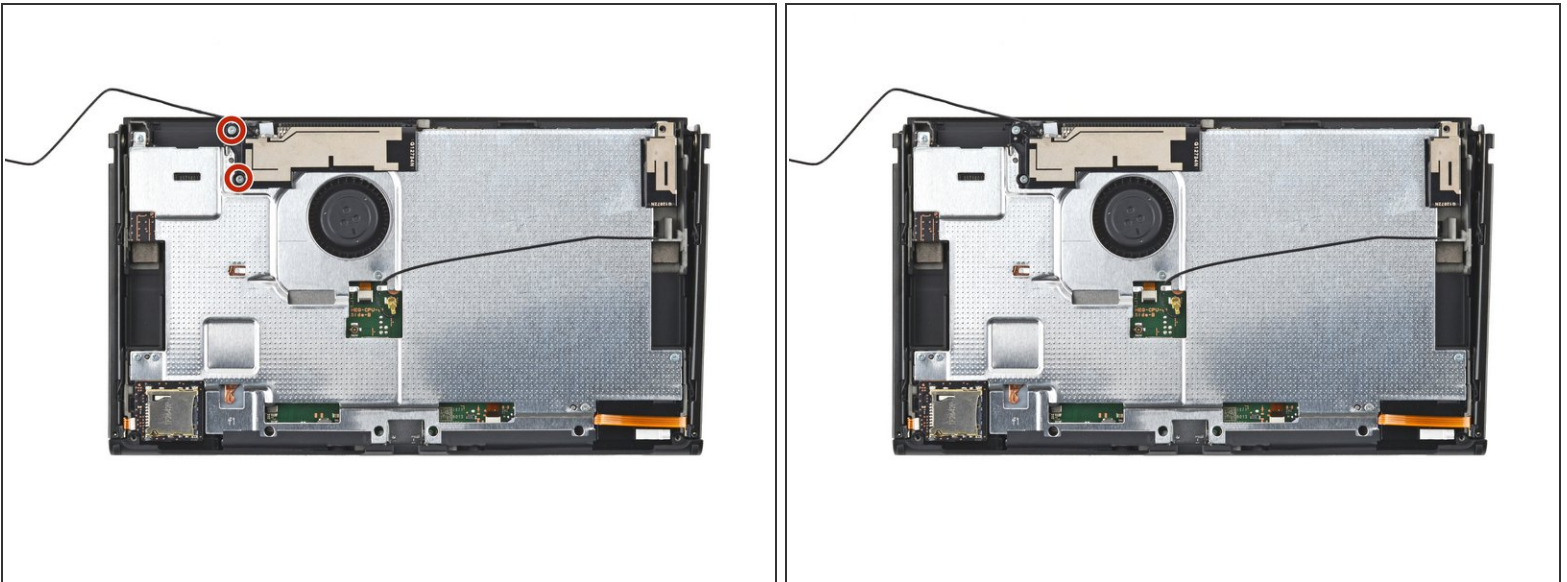
☑ During reassembly, these can be tricky to reconnect. One at a time, hold each connector in place over its socket and press down with the flat end of a spudger. The connector should snap into place.

Step 13 — Reroute the primary antenna's coaxial cable



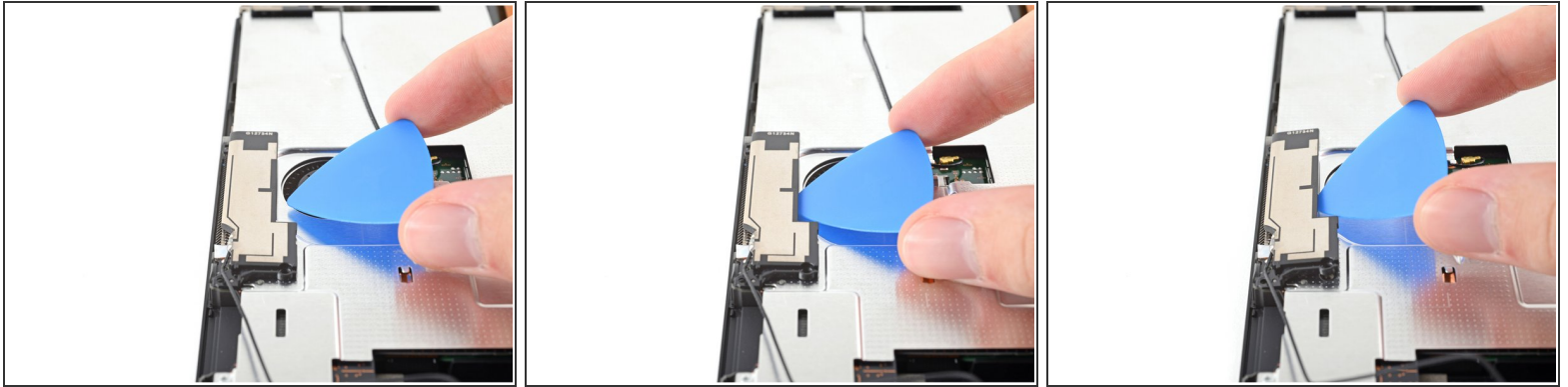
- Use tweezers, or your fingers, to reroute the primary antenna's coaxial cable out of its slots in the shield plate.

Step 14 — Unfasten the primary Wi-Fi antenna



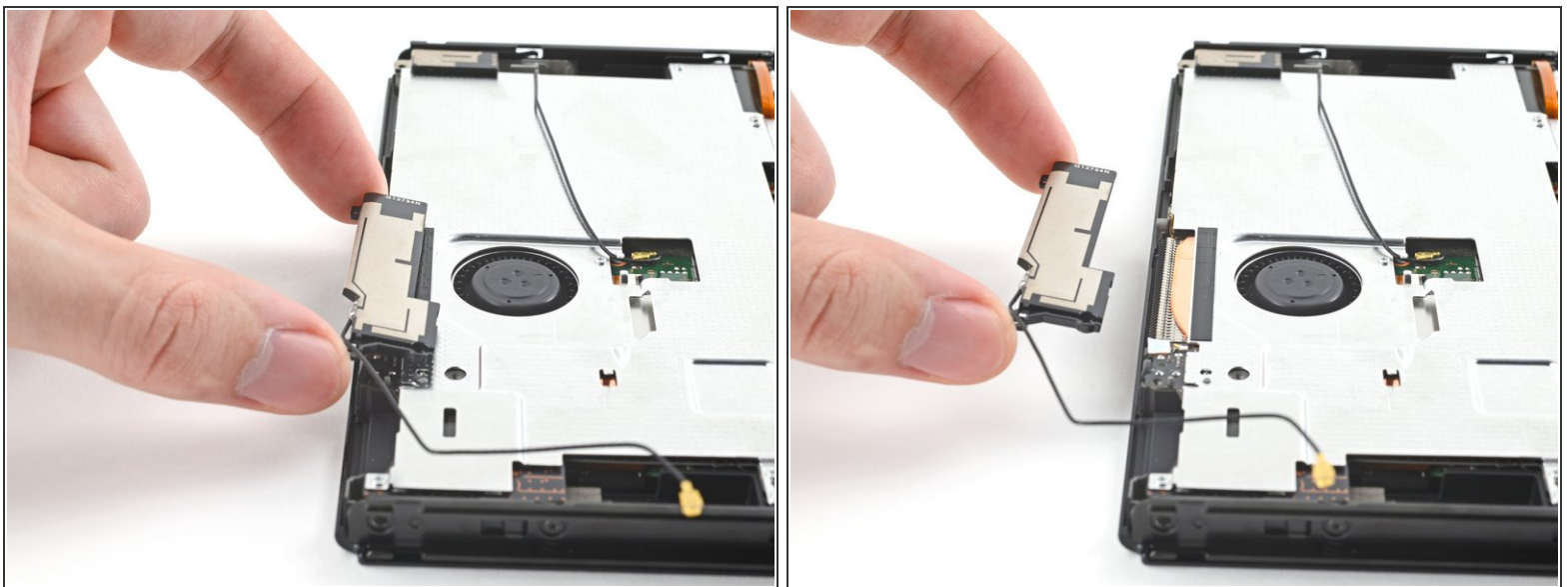
- Use a Phillips driver to remove the two 4.4 mm screws securing the primary Wi-Fi antenna to the shield plate.

Step 15 — Remove the primary Wi-Fi antenna



- Insert an opening pick between the primary Wi-Fi antenna and the shield plate.
- Pry up with the pick to separate the primary Wi-Fi antenna from the shield plate.

Step 16



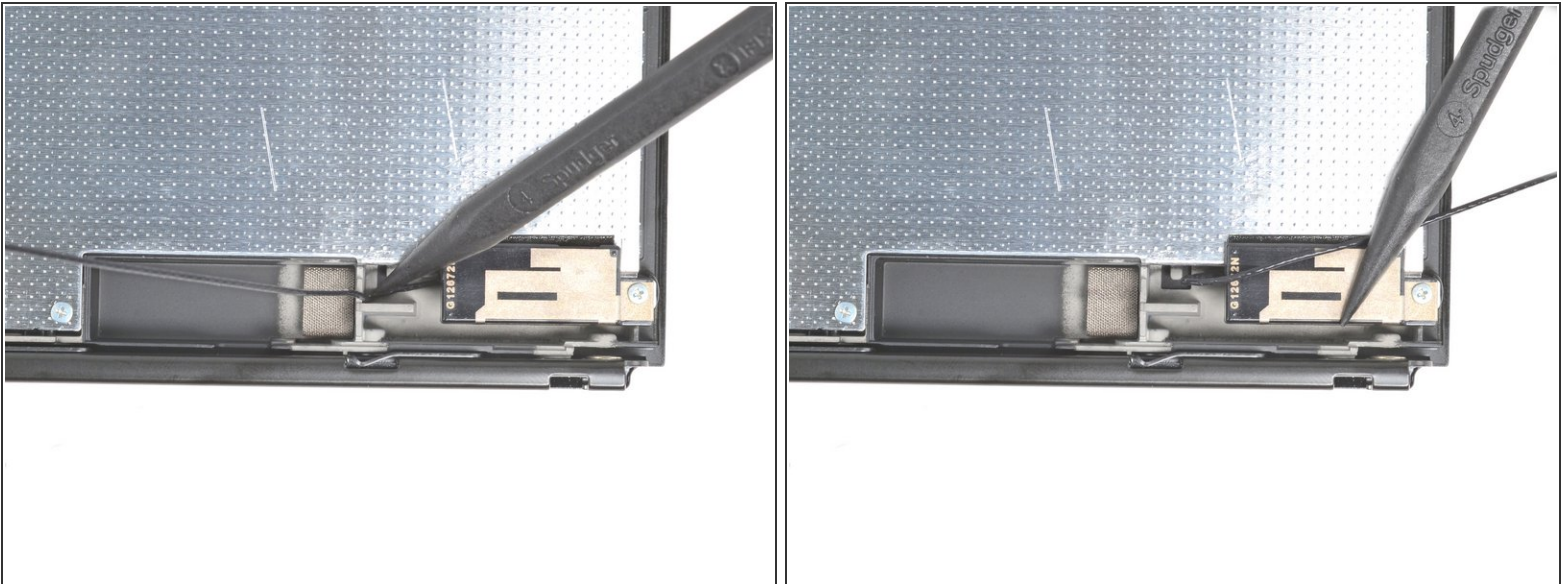
- Remove the primary Wi-Fi antenna.

Step 17 — Disconnect the secondary Wi-Fi antenna



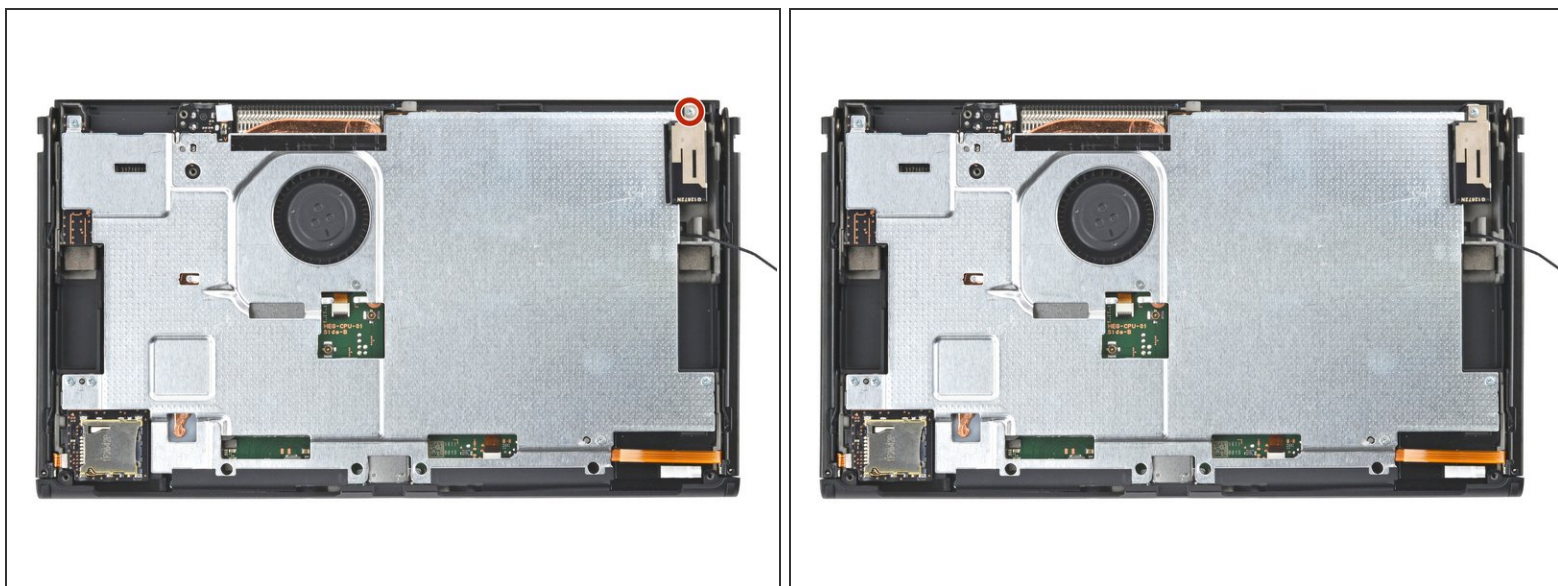
- Use tweezers, or your fingers, to pull up and disconnect the secondary Wi-Fi antenna's coaxial cable.

Step 18 — Reroute the secondary Wi-Fi antenna's coaxial cable



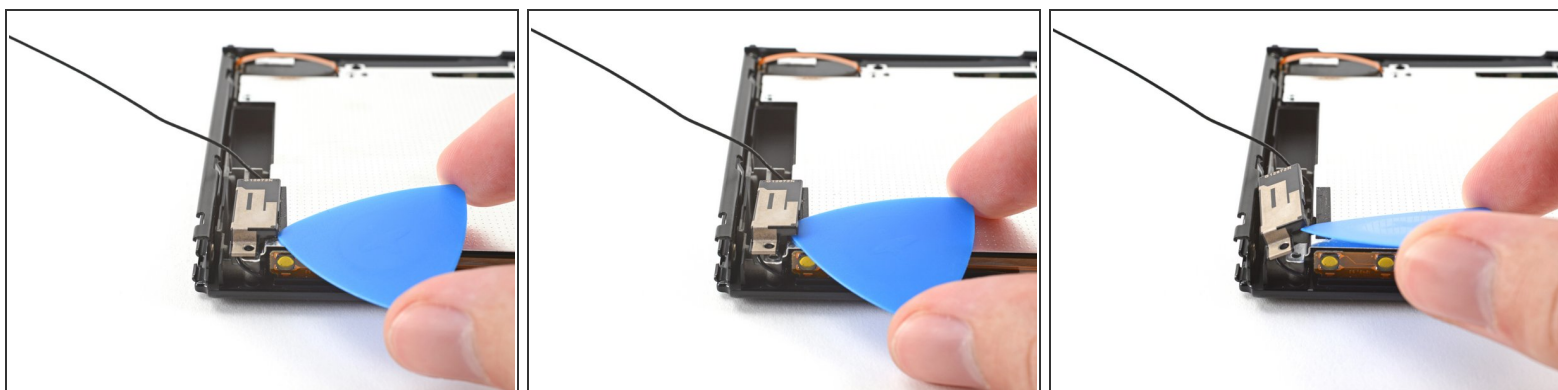
- Use the point of a spudger to reroute the secondary Wi-Fi antenna's coaxial cable from its slot in the frame.

Step 19 — Unfasten the secondary Wi-Fi antenna



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the 4.4 mm screw securing the secondary Wi-Fi antenna to the shield plate.

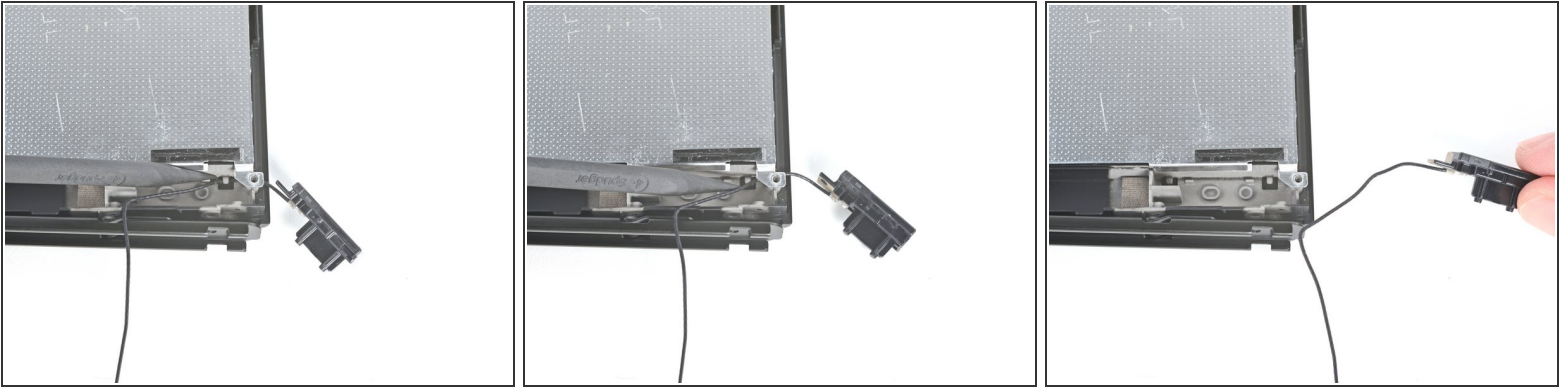
Step 20 — Remove the secondary Wi-Fi antenna



- Insert an opening pick between the secondary Wi-Fi antenna and the shield plate.
- Pry up with the pick to separate the secondary Wi-Fi antenna from the shield plate.

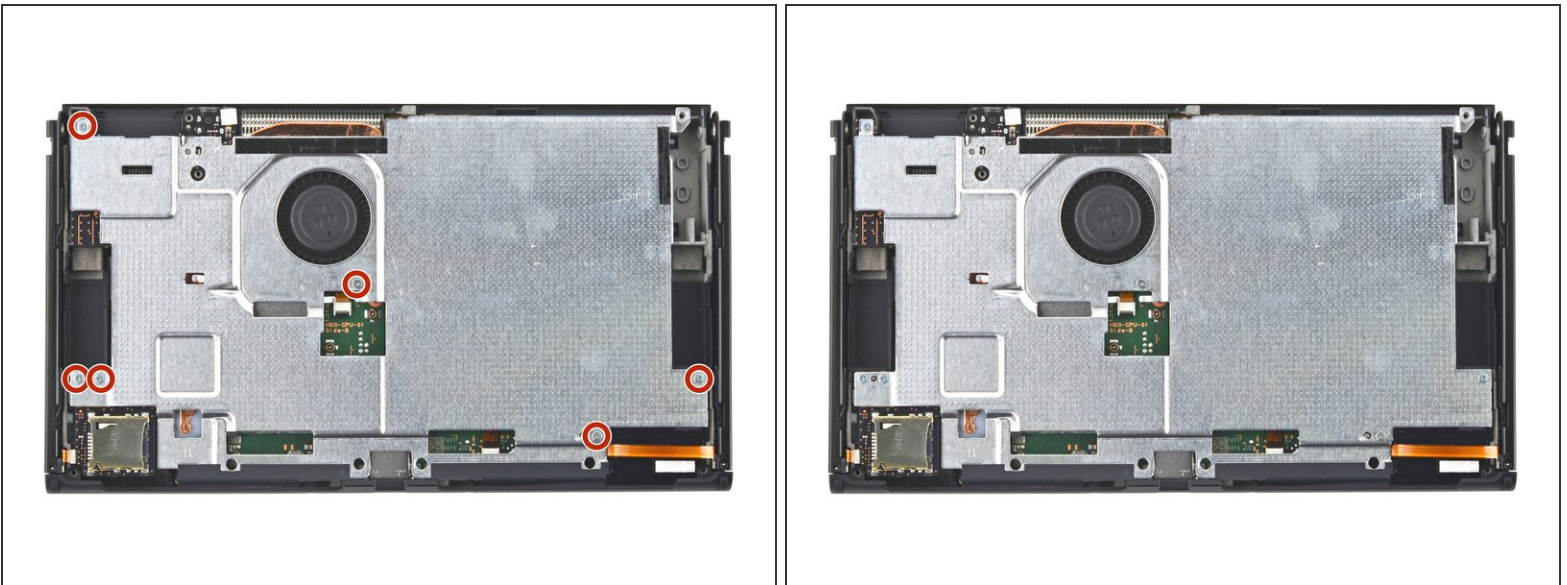
⚠ Don't attempt to completely remove the antenna yet, as its coaxial cable is still routed through the frame.

Step 21



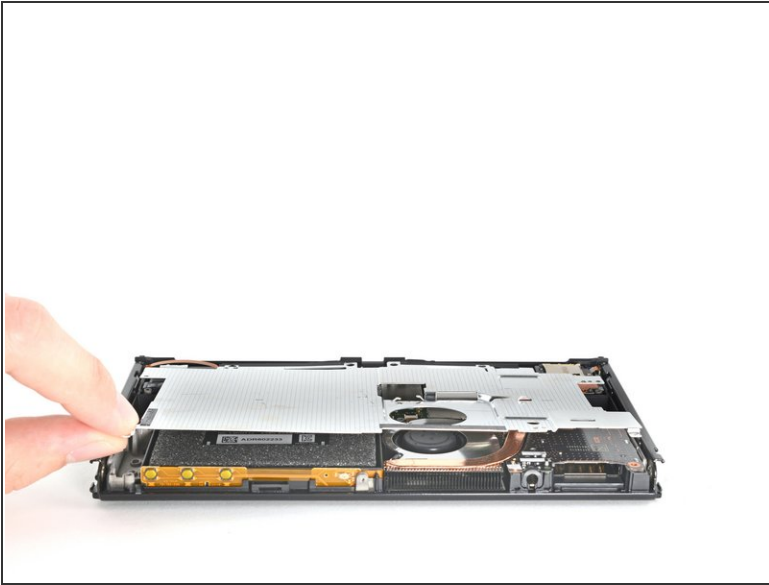
- Use the point of a spudger to reroute the secondary Wi-Fi antenna's coaxial cable out of its slot in the frame.
- Remove the secondary Wi-Fi antenna.

Step 22 — Unfasten the shield plate



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the six 4.4 mm screws securing the shield plate to the frame.

Step 23



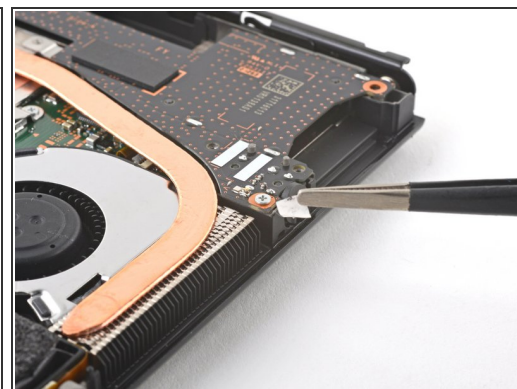
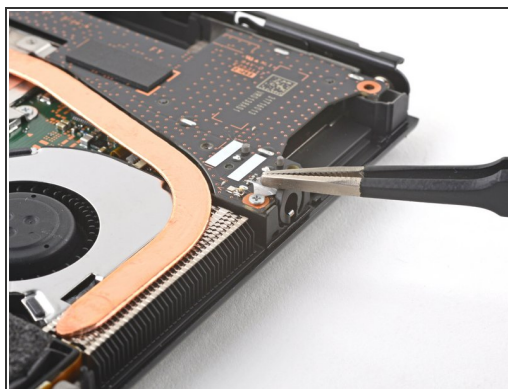
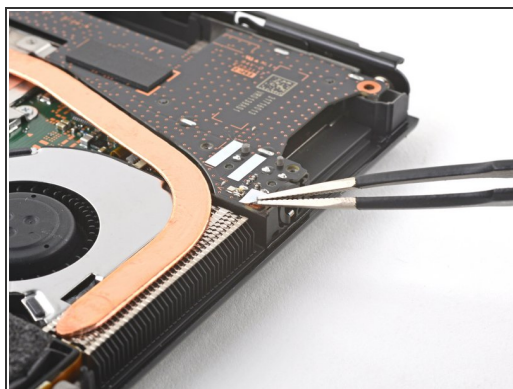
- Use your fingers to lift the top of the shield plate up and away from the frame.
 - ❗ You may feel a bit of resistance. This is normal, since the shield plate is slightly bonded to the heat sink with thermal paste.
- Remove the shield plate.
- ✦ A thick pink thermal compound bridges the gap between the shield plate and the copper heat sink underneath. Whenever the shield plate is removed, refer to our [thermal paste guide](#) to remove the old thermal compound and replace it with an appropriate compound, such as [K5 Pro](#), during reassembly.

Step 24 — Disconnect the battery



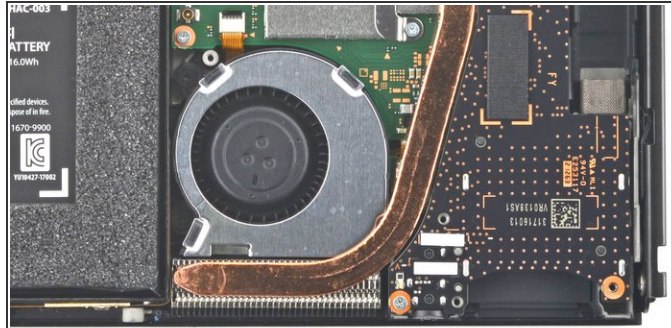
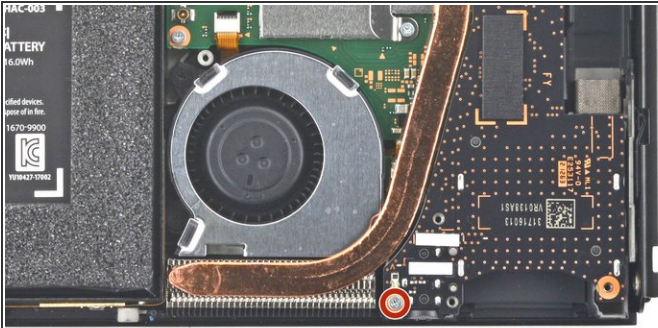
- Use the point of a spudger to pry up and disconnect the battery.

Step 25 — Remove the tape



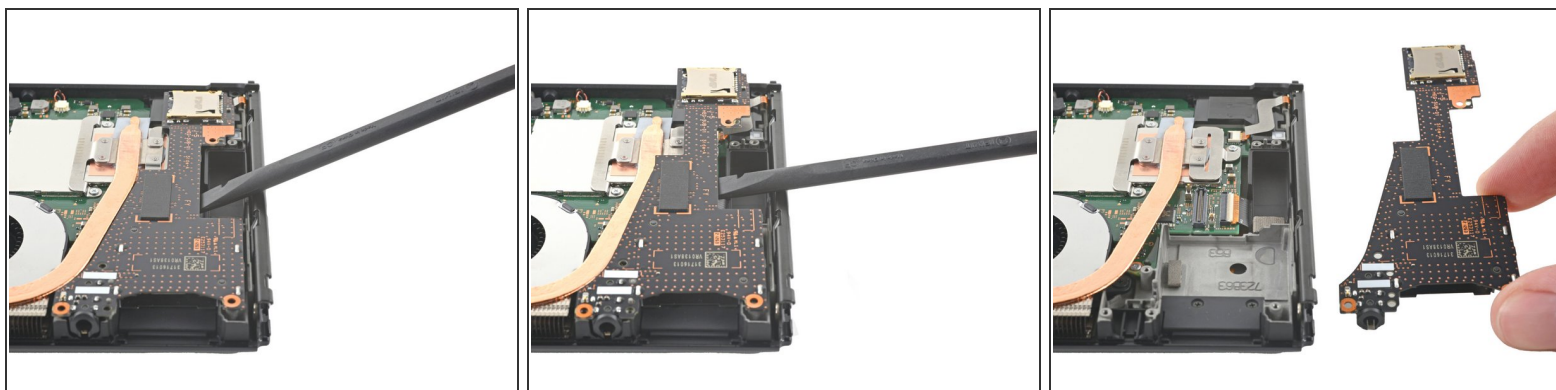
- Use tweezers, or your fingers, to remove the piece of tape obscuring the daughterboard's screw.


Step 26 — Unfasten the daughterboard




- Use a Phillips driver to remove the 4 mm screw securing the daughterboard to the frame.

Step 27 — Remove the daughterboard

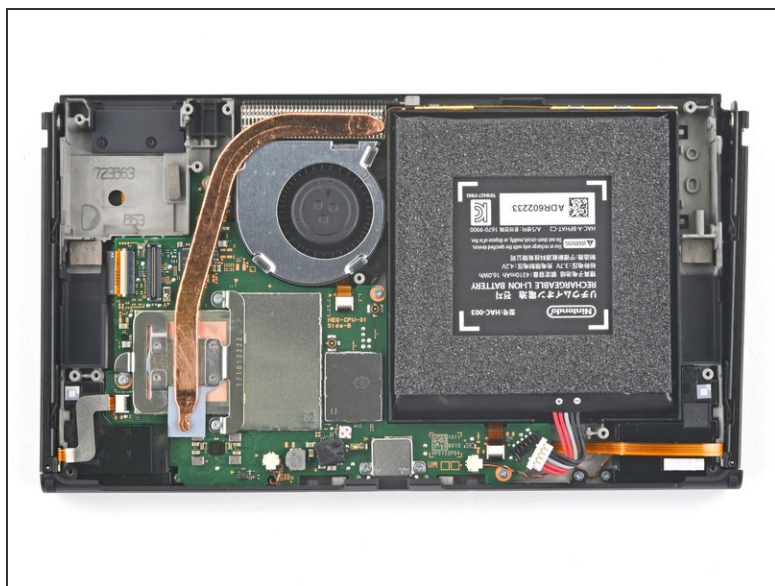
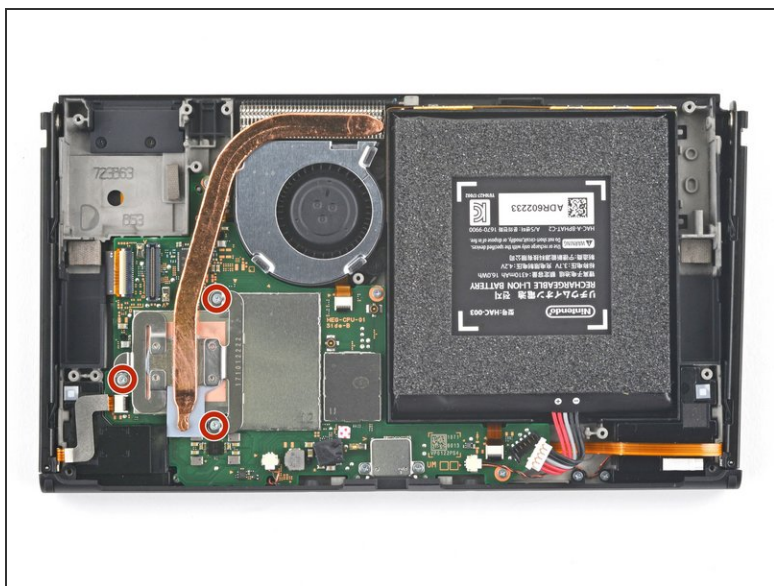


 The bottom of the daughterboard is connected to the motherboard via a [press connector](#).

- Insert a spudger between the edge of the daughterboard and the motherboard.
- Pry up with the spudger to disconnect the press connector and separate the daughterboard from the frame.
- Remove the daughterboard.

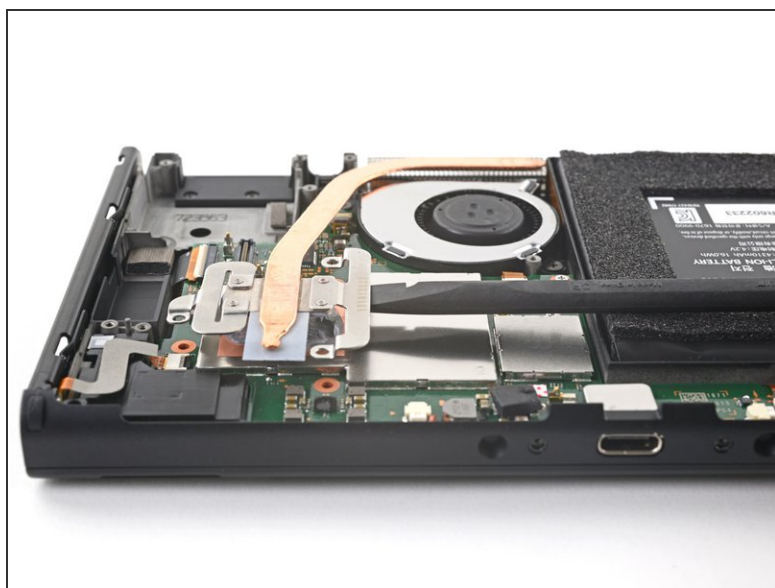
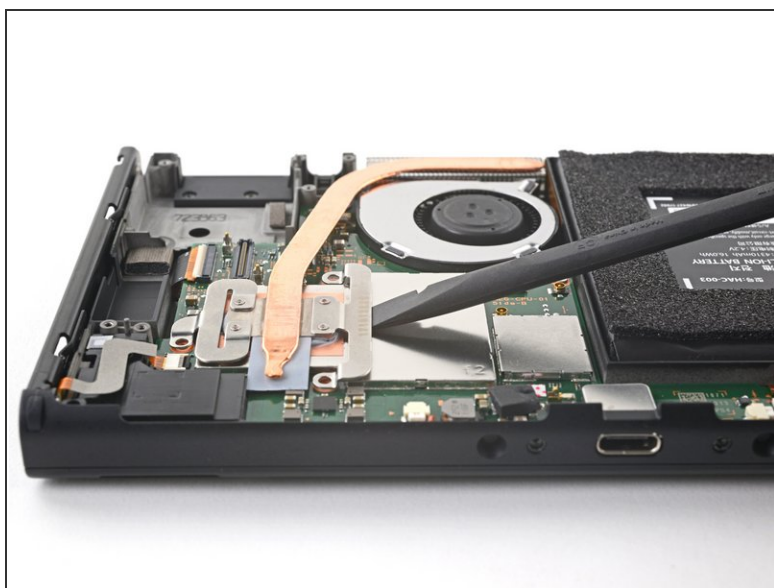
 To re-attach [press connectors](#) like this one, carefully align and press down on one side until it clicks into place, then repeat on the other side. Do not press down on the middle. If the connector is misaligned, the pins can bend, causing permanent damage.

Step 28 — Unfasten the heat sink



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the three 3 mm screws securing the heat sink to the motherboard.

Step 29 — Remove the heat sink



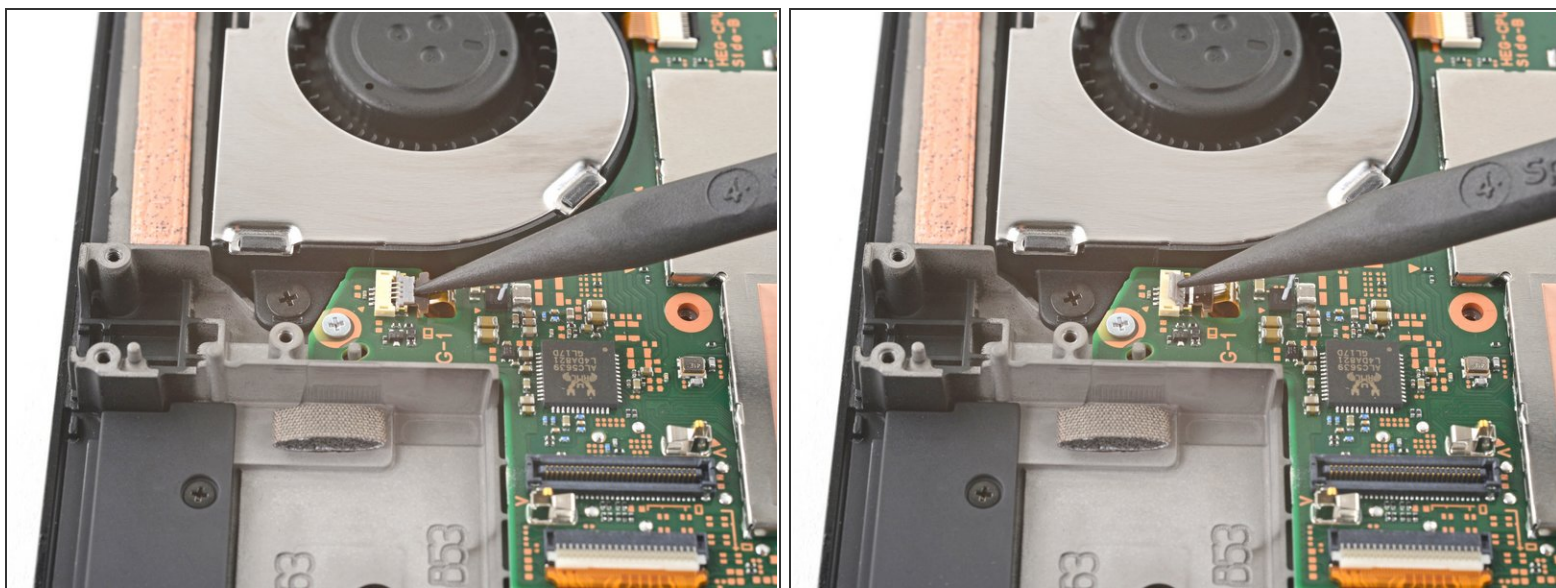
- Insert a spudger between the heat sink's bracket and the motherboard.
- Pry up with the spudger to separate the heat sink from the motherboard.
- ❗ You may feel a bit of resistance. This is normal, since the heat sink is slightly bonded to the CPU with thermal paste.

Step 30



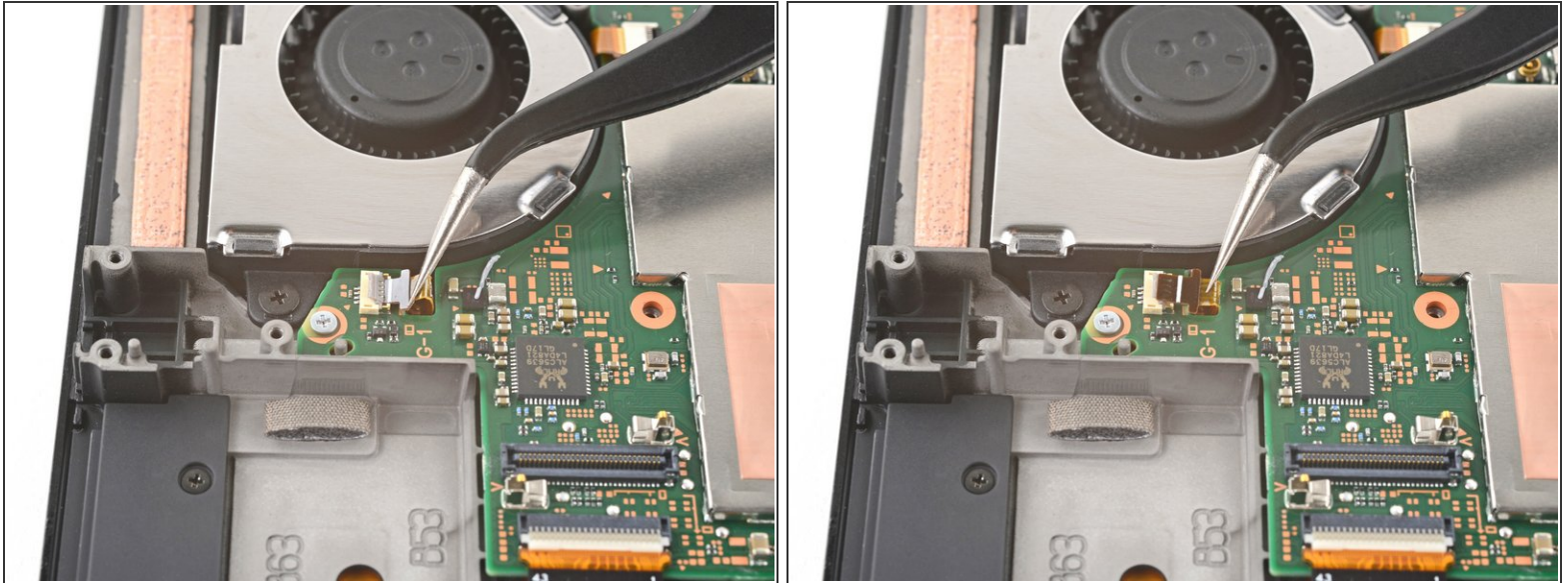
- Insert a spudger in the gap between the fan and the heat sink.
 - Pry up with the spudger to separate the heat sink from the adhesive beneath it.
 - Remove the heat sink.
- ☑ Clean off the old thermal paste from the heat sink and CPU using high-concentration (90% or higher) isopropyl alcohol and a microfiber cloth. [Apply new thermal paste](#) to the CPU before reassembly.

Step 31 — Disconnect the fan's ZIF connector



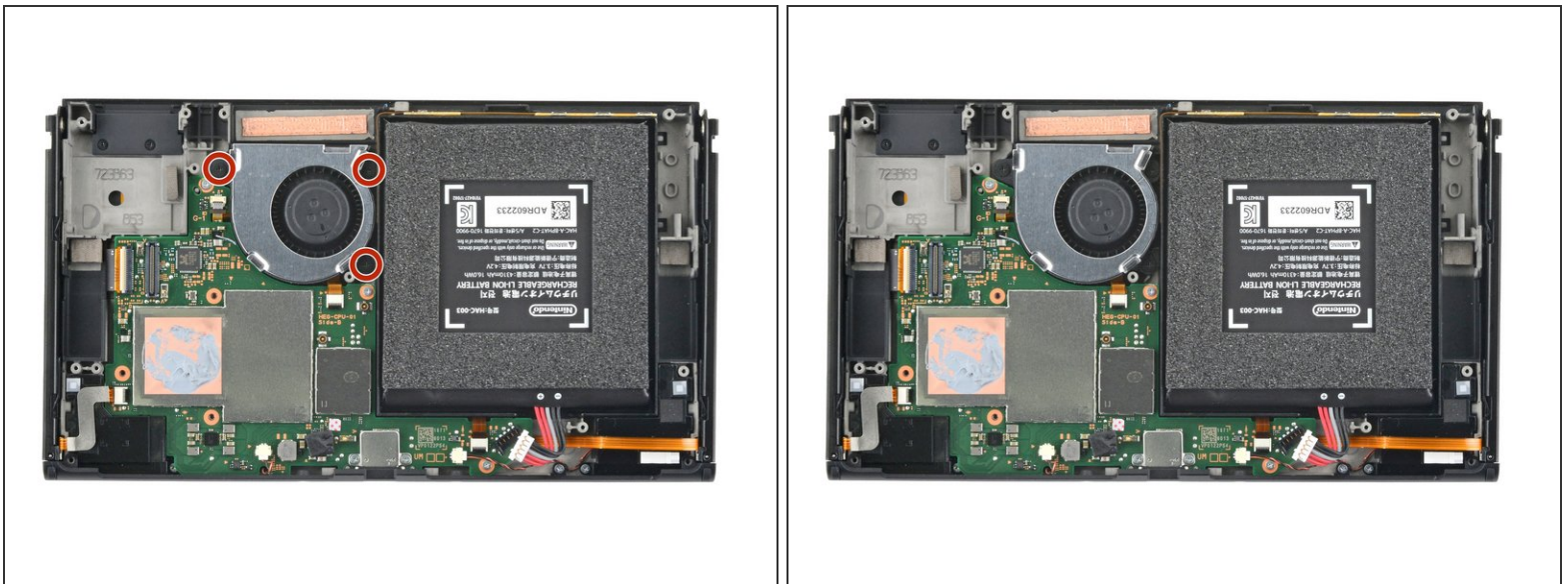
- Use the tip of a spudger, an opening tool, or your fingernail to flip up the small, hinged locking flap on the fan cable's [ZIF connector](#).

Step 32



- Use a pair of tweezers to pull the fan cable straight out of its connector on the motherboard.

Step 33 — Unfasten the fan



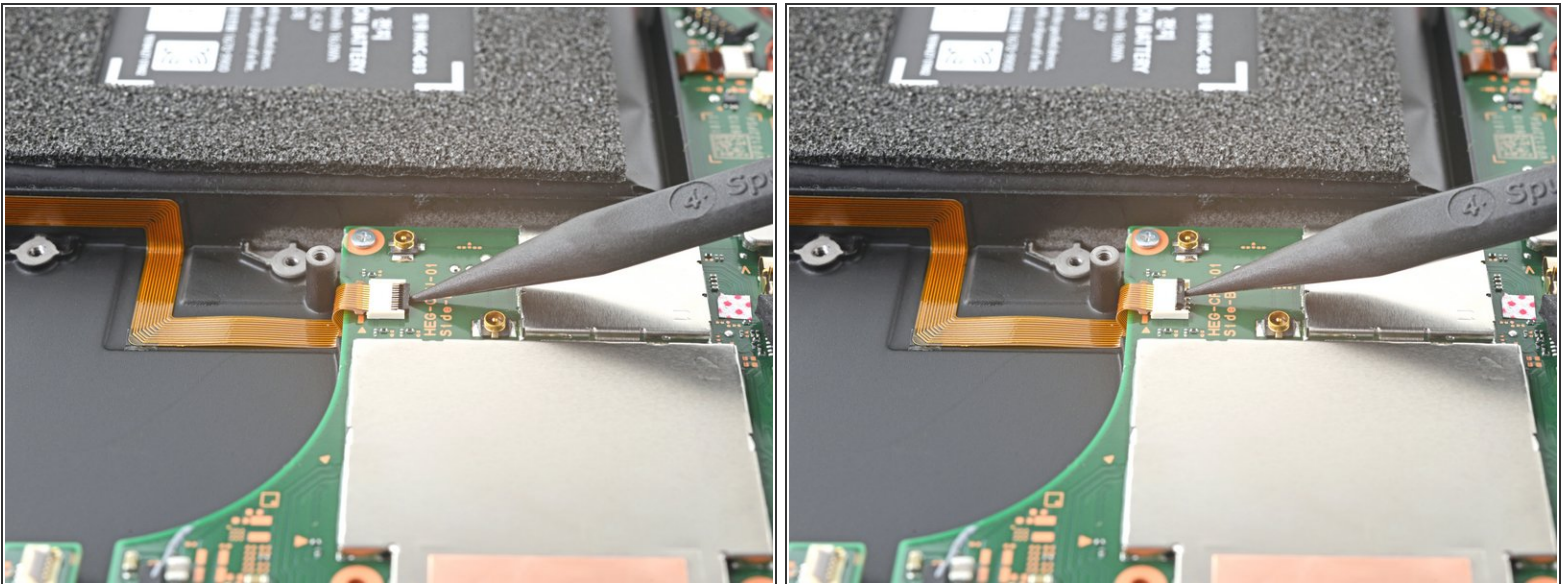
- Use a Phillips driver to remove the three 3 mm screws securing the fan to the frame.

Step 34 — Remove the fan



- Use a spudger to lift the fan out straight out of the frame.
- Remove the fan.

Step 35 — Disconnect the power button board's ZIF connector



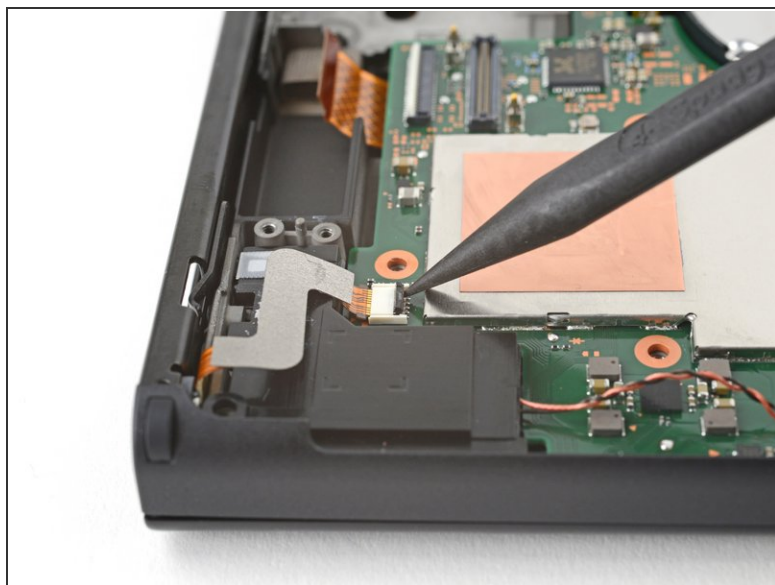
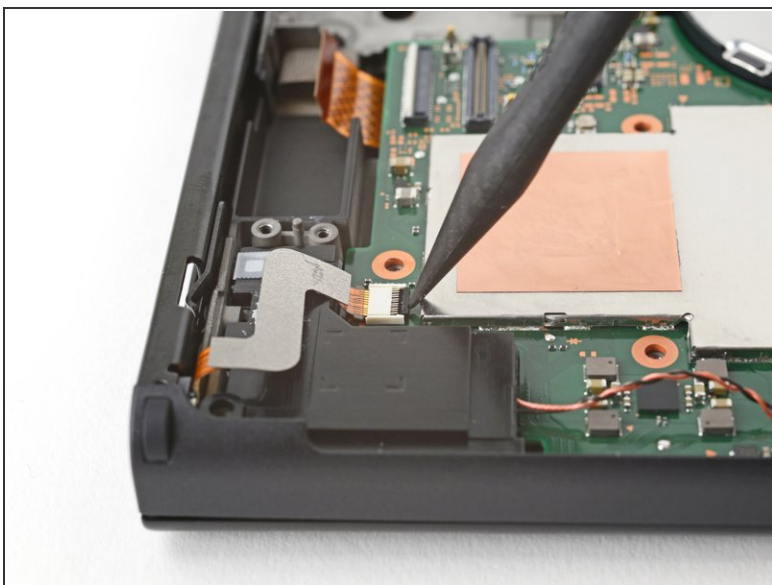
- Use an opening tool, spudger, or your fingernail to flip up the small, hinged locking flap on the power button board's ZIF connector.

Step 36



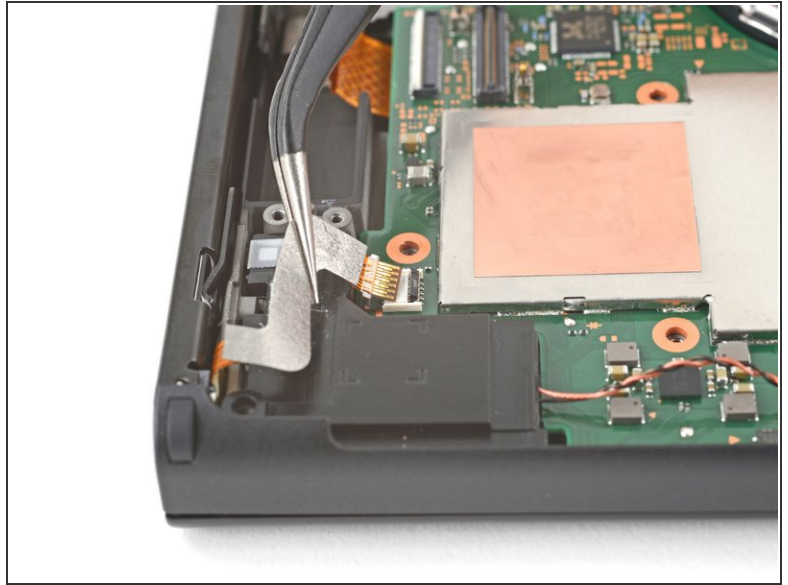
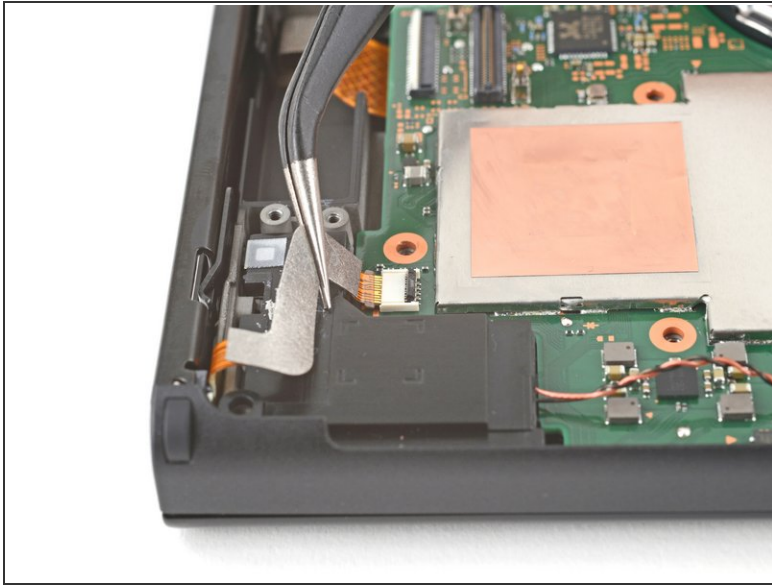
- Use a pair of tweezers to pull the power button board cable straight out of its connector on the motherboard.

Step 37 — Disconnect the right Joy-Con sensor rail's ZIF connector



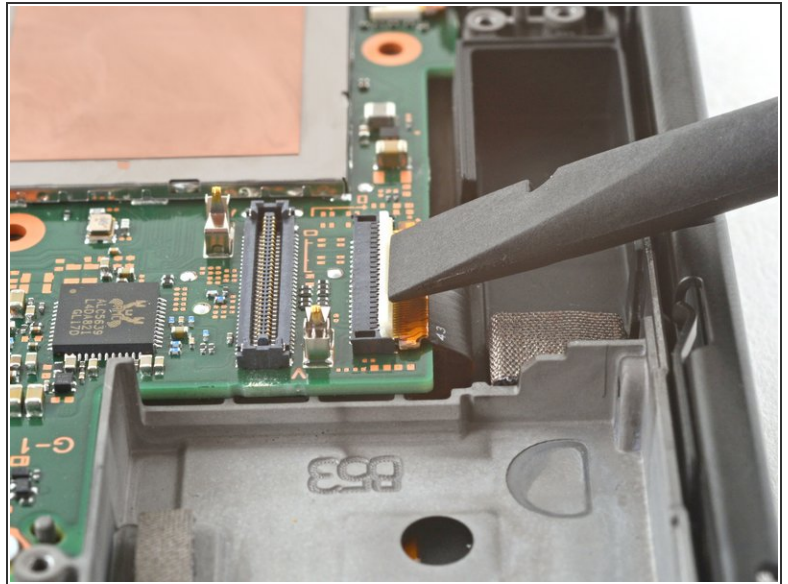
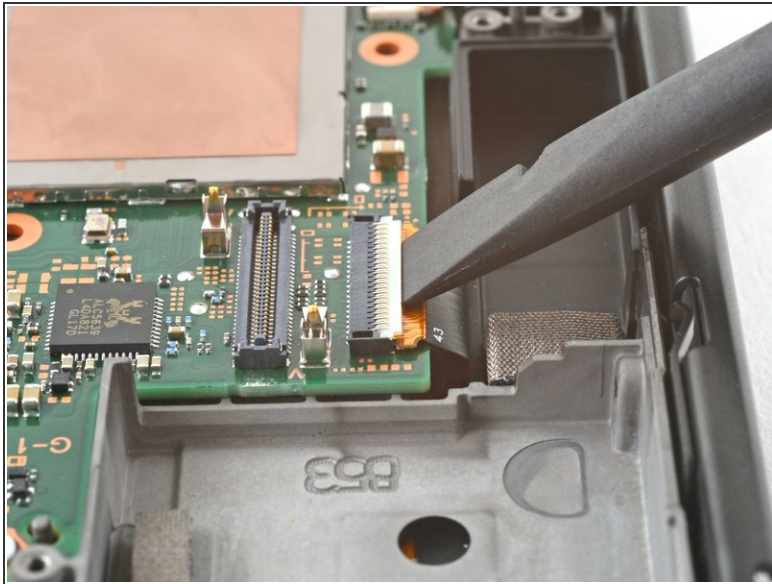
- Use an opening tool, spudger, or your fingernail to flip up the small, hinged locking flap on the right Joy-Con sensor rail's ZIF connector.

Step 38



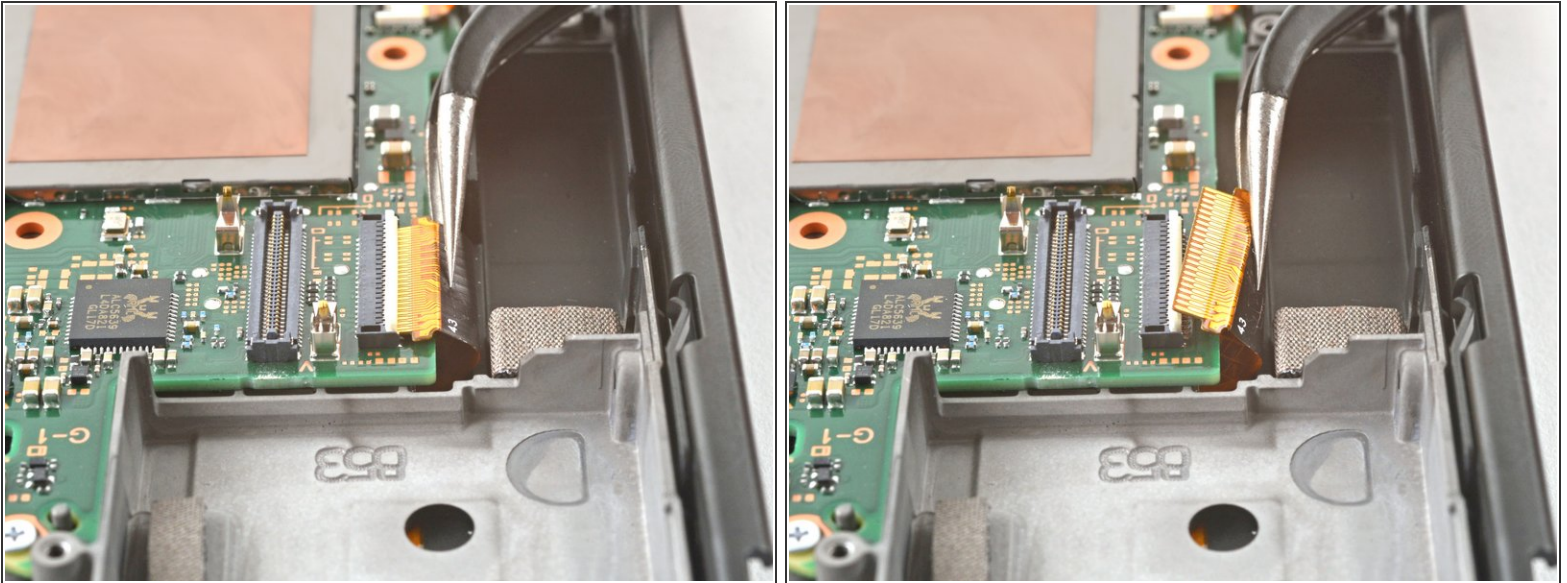
- Use a pair of tweezers to pull the right Joy-Con sensor rail's cable straight out of its connector on the motherboard.

Step 39 — Disconnect the display's ZIF connector



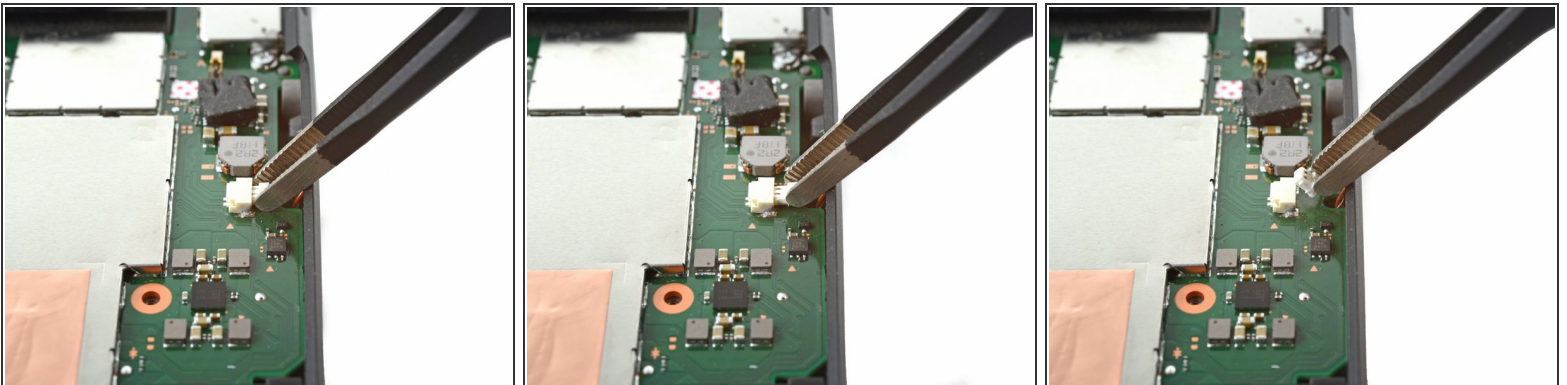
- Use an opening tool, spudger, or your fingernail to flip up the hinged locking flap on the display's ZIF connector.

Step 40



- Use a pair of tweezers to pull the display cable straight out of its connector on the motherboard.

Step 41 — Disconnect the left speaker



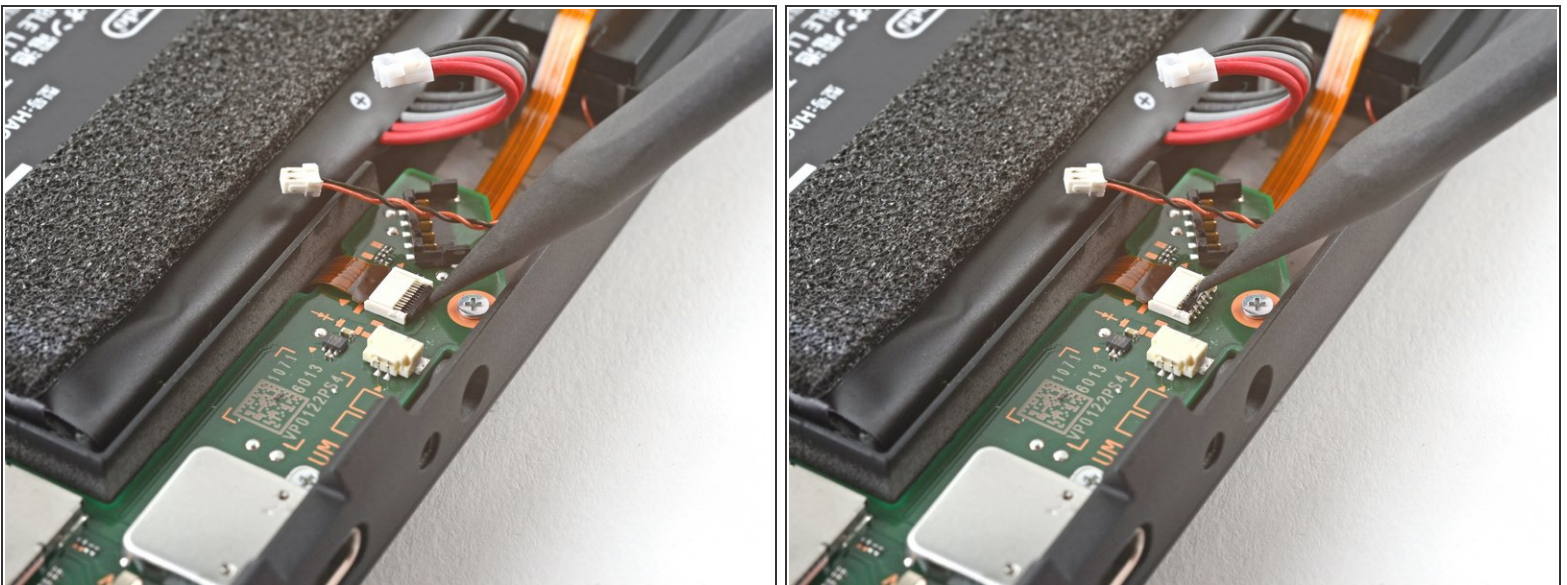
- Use blunt tweezers, or your fingers, to pull the left speaker's JST connector out of its socket.

Step 42 — Disconnect the right speaker



- Use blunt tweezers, or your fingers, to pull the right speaker's JST connector out of its socket.

Step 43 — Disconnect the left Joy-Con sensor rail's ZIF connector



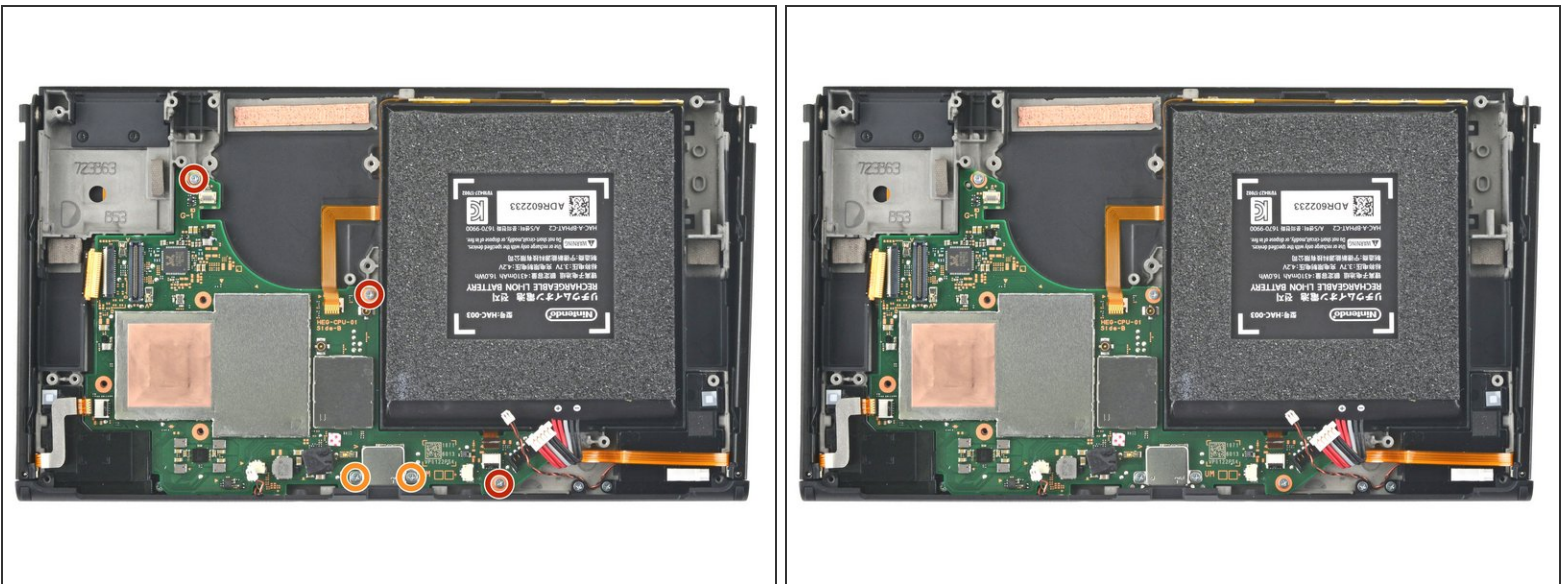
- Use an opening tool, spudger, or your fingernail to flip up the small, hinged locking flap on the right Joy-Con sensor rail's ZIF connector.

Step 44



- Use a pair of tweezers to pull the right Joy-Con sensor rail's cable straight out of its connector on the motherboard.

Step 45 — Unfasten the motherboard



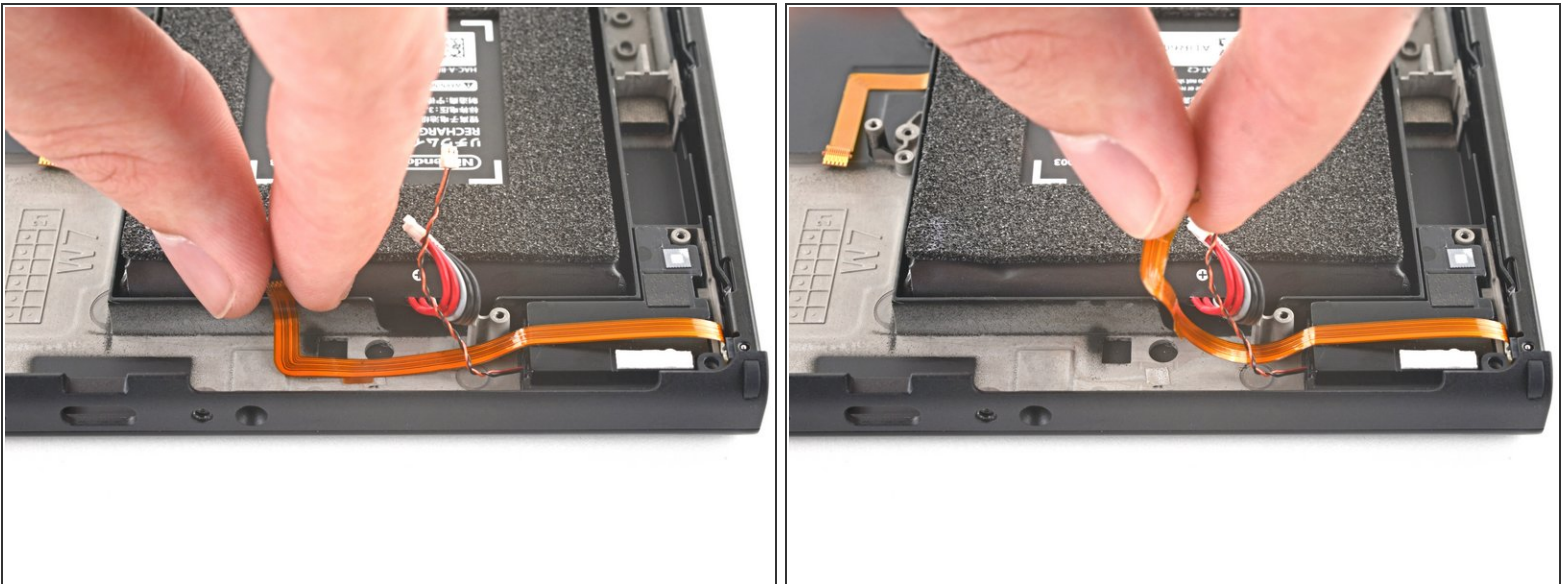
- Use a Phillips driver to remove the five screws securing the midframe to the frame:
 - Three 3 mm screws
 - Two 4.4 mm screws

Step 46 — Remove the motherboard



- Insert a spudger between the motherboard and the frame.
- Pry up with the spudger to separate the motherboard from the frame.
- Remove the motherboard.

Step 47 — Left Joy-Con Sensor Rail



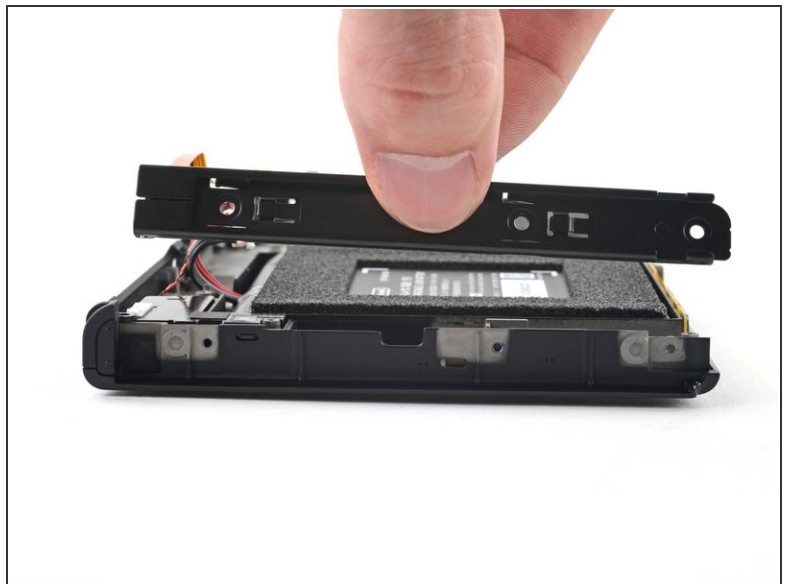
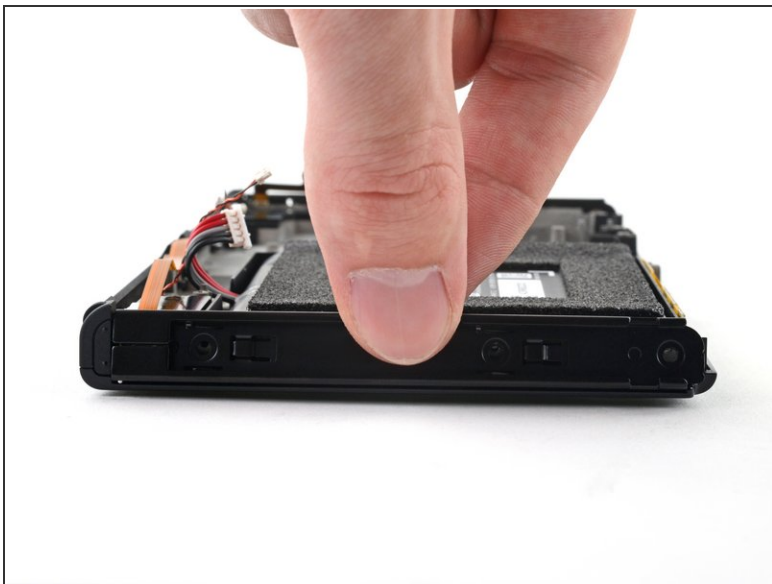
- Use your fingers to gently peel back the left Joy-Con sensor rail's cable from the frame.

Step 48 — Unfasten the left Joy-Con sensor rail



- Use a Phillips driver to remove the 3.8 mm screw securing the left Joy-Con sensor rail to the frame.

Step 49 — Remove the left Joy-Con sensor rail



- Remove the left Joy-Con sensor rail.

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

Compare your new replacement part to the original part—you may need to transfer remaining components or remove adhesive backings from the new part before you install it.

Repair didn't go as planned? Try some [basic troubleshooting](#), or ask our [Nintendo Switch OLED Answers community](#) for help.