



iPhone XR LCD and Digitizer Replacement

If you're fixing a broken screen, and the back...

Written By: Jeff Suovanen



INTRODUCTION

If you're fixing a broken screen, and the back of your new display already includes a [thin metal LCD shield plate](#), you should follow [this shorter guide](#) for an easier repair. But if that LCD shield plate is [missing](#), keep reading—this guide will show you how to replace your screen and keep your old LCD shield plate.

The combined earpiece speaker + sensor assembly affixed to the back of the display is paired to your individual iPhone at the factory, so you must transfer it from your old display to your new one during any screen replacement. It contains the flood illuminator, which is part of the biometric Face ID security feature. If it is damaged or replaced, Face ID won't work, so take extra care not to damage any of these components during this procedure. If damaged, only Apple can restore Face ID function.

Note: True Tone functionality is disabled after a screen replacement, even when using an original Apple screen.



TOOLS:

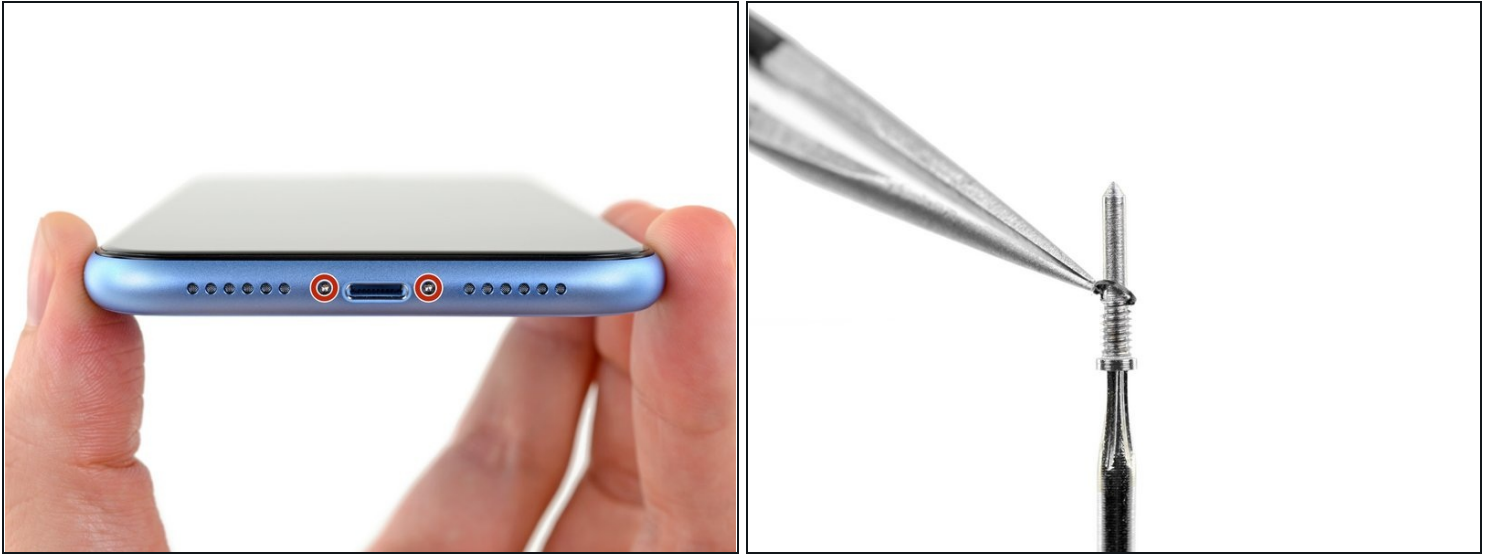
- [Anti-Clamp](#) (1)
- [P2 Pentalobe Screwdriver iPhone](#) (1)
- [iOpener](#) (1)
- [iFixit Opening Picks \(Set of 6\)](#) (1)
- [Suction Handle](#) (1)
- [Tri-point Y000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Phillips PH000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [iPhone XR Screen](#) (1)

Step 1 — Remove the pentalobe screws



⚠ Before you begin, discharge your iPhone battery below 25%. A charged lithium-ion battery can catch fire and/or explode if accidentally punctured.

- Power off your iPhone before beginning disassembly.
- Remove the two 6.7 mm-long pentalobe screws at the bottom edge of the iPhone.
- ⓘ Opening the iPhone will compromise its waterproof seals. Have replacement seals ready before you proceed past this step, or take care to avoid liquid exposure if you reassemble your iPhone without replacing the seals.
- ★ There's a black rubber gasket just beneath the head on each pentalobe screw. For maximum protection against dust and liquid, check the condition of the gaskets or replace the screws during reassembly.

Step 2 — Mark your opening picks



- ① If inserted too far, an opening pick can damage your device. Follow this step to mark your pick and prevent damage.
- Measure 3 mm from the tip and mark the opening pick with a permanent marker.
 - ① You can also mark the other corners of the pick with different measurements.
 - ① Alternatively, [tape a coin to a pick](#) 3 mm from the tip.

Step 3 — Tape over any cracks



- If your iPhone has a cracked screen, keep further breakage contained and prevent bodily harm during your repair by taping over the glass.
- Lay overlapping strips of packing tape over the iPhone's display until the whole face is covered.
 - ⓘ This will keep glass shards contained and provide structural integrity when prying and lifting the display.

⚠ Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from any glass shaken free during the repair.

- If the broken glass makes it difficult to get a suction cup to stick in the next few steps, try folding a strong piece of tape (such as duct tape) into a handle and lifting the display with that instead.

Step 4 — Tape over any cracks



- ① If your iPhone has a cracked screen, keep further breakage contained and prevent bodily harm during your repair by taping over the glass.
- Lay overlapping strips of clear packing tape over the iPhone's screen until the whole face is covered.
- ⚠ Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from any glass shaken free during the repair.
- If you can't get the suction cup to stick in the next few steps, fold a strong piece of tape (such as duct tape) into a handle and lift the screen with that instead.
- ① If all else fails, you can superglue the suction cup to the screen.

Step 5 — Anti-Clamp instructions



- ① The next three steps demonstrate the [Anti-Clamp](#), a tool we designed to make the opening procedure easier. **If you aren't using the Anti-Clamp, skip down three steps for an alternate method.**
- ① For complete instructions on how to use the Anti-Clamp, [check out this guide](#).
- Pull the blue handle backwards to unlock the Anti-Clamp's arms.
- Slide the arms over either the left or right edge of your iPhone.
- Position the suction cups near the bottom edge of the iPhone—one on the front, and one on the back.
- Squeeze the cups together to apply suction to the desired area.
- ① If you find that the surface of your iPhone is too slippery for the Anti-Clamp to hold onto, you can [use tape](#) to create a grippier surface.

Step 6



- Pull the blue handle forward to lock the arms.
- Turn the handle clockwise 360 degrees or until the cups start to stretch.
- Make sure the suction cups remain aligned with each other. If they begin to slip out of alignment, loosen the suction cups slightly and realign the arms.

Step 7



- [Heat an iOpener](#) and thread it through the arms of the Anti-Clamp.
 - ⓘ You can also use a [hair dryer](#), [heat gun](#), or hot plate—but extreme heat can damage the display and/or internal battery, so proceed with care.
- Fold the iOpener so it lays on the bottom edge of the iPhone.
- Wait one minute to give the adhesive a chance to release and present an opening gap.
- Insert an opening pick under the screen and the plastic bezel, **not the screen itself**.
 - ⓘ If the Anti-Clamp doesn't create a sufficient gap, apply more heat to the area and rotate the handle a quarter turn.
- ⚠ **Don't crank more than a quarter turn at a time, and wait one minute between turns. Let the Anti-Clamp and time do the work for you.**
- **Skip the next three steps.**

Step 8 — Heat up the screen



- ① Heating the lower edge of the iPhone helps soften the adhesive securing the display, making it easier to open.
- Use a hairdryer or heat gun, or [prepare an iOpener](#) and apply it to the lower edge of the iPhone for about a minute in order to soften up the adhesive underneath.

Step 9



- If you're using a single suction handle, apply it to the bottom edge of the phone, while avoiding the curved portion of the glass.

Step 10 — Lift the display slightly



- Pull up on the suction cup with firm, constant pressure to create a slight gap between the front panel and rear case.
- Insert an opening pick under the [screen and the plastic bezel](#), **not the screen itself**.
- ⓘ The watertight adhesive holding the display in place is very strong; creating this initial gap takes a significant amount of force. If you're having a hard time opening a gap, apply more heat, and gently rock the screen up and down to weaken the adhesive until you create enough of a gap to insert your tool.

Step 11 — Separate the screen adhesive



- Slide the opening pick around the lower left corner and up the left edge of the iPhone, slicing through the adhesive holding the display in place.
- ⚠ Don't insert your pick more than 3 mm, as you may damage internal components.

Step 12 — Screen information



⚠ There are delicate cables along the right edge of your iPhone. **Don't insert your pick at the marked spots**, as you may damage the cables.

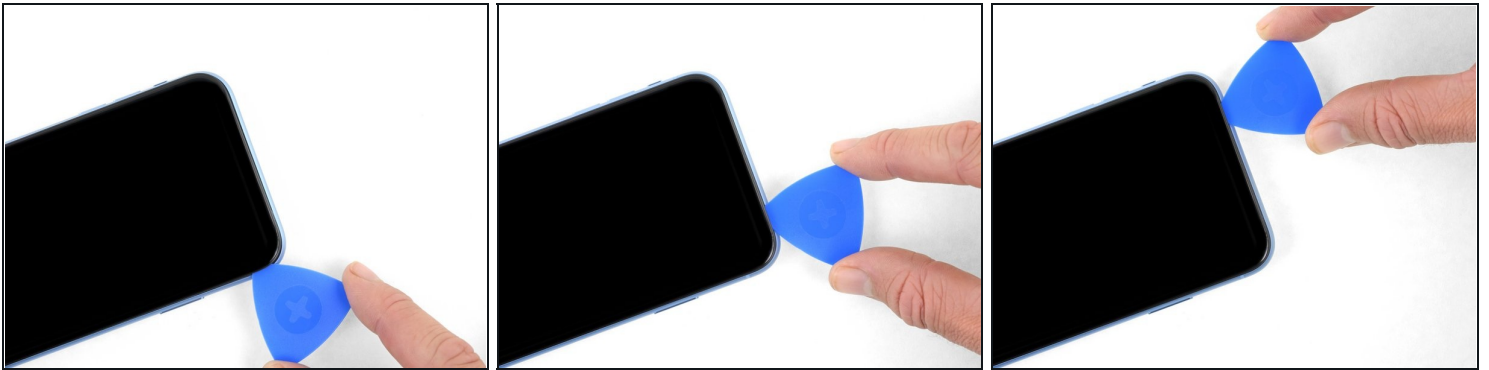
Step 13



- Re-insert your pick at the bottom edge of the iPhone, and slide it up the right side to continue separating the adhesive.

⚠ Don't insert your pick more than 3 mm, as you may damage the display cables.

Step 14



① The top edge of the display is secured with both glue and clips.

- Slide the opening pick around the top corner of the display, while gently pulling or wiggling the display **down** in the direction of the Lightning port.

⚠ The clips will break if you use too much force. Work carefully and be patient.

⚠ Don't insert your pick more than 3 mm, as you may damage the front panel sensor array.

- Slide the pick to the opposite corner and cut any remaining adhesive securing the display.

Step 15



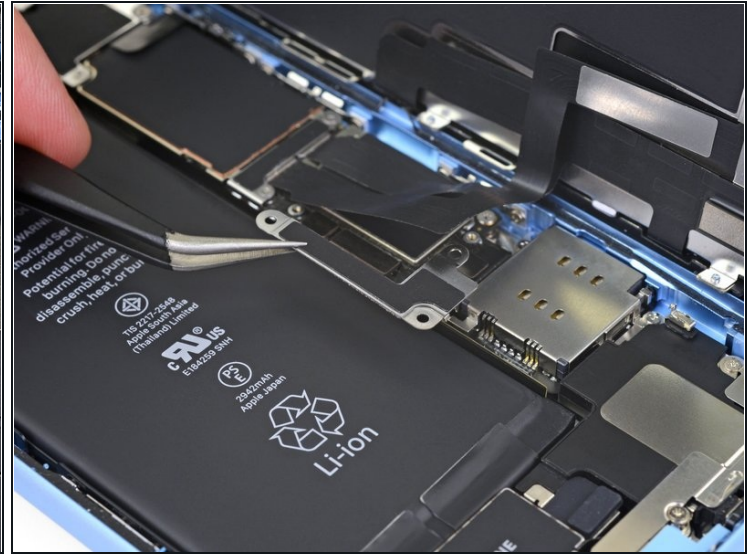
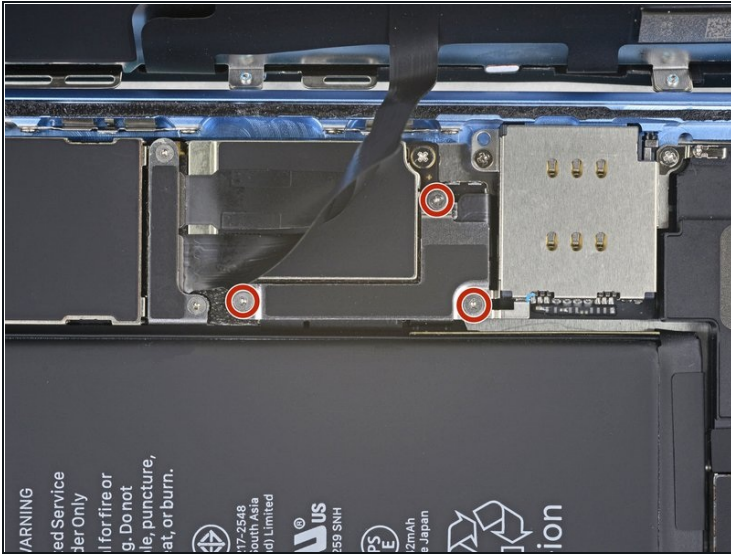
- Pull on the small nub on the suction cup to remove it from the front panel.

Step 16 — Open the iPhone



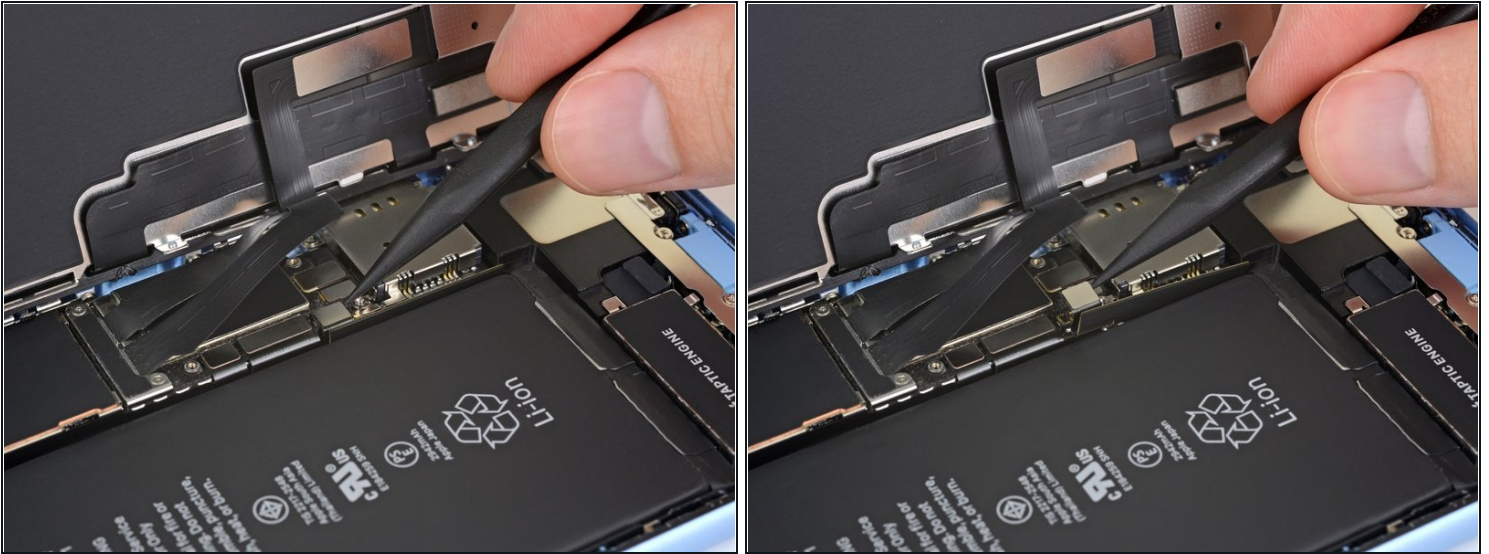
- Open the iPhone by swinging the display up from the left side, like the back cover of a book.
- ⚠ Don't try to fully separate the display yet, as several fragile ribbon cables still connect it to the iPhone's logic board.
- Lean the display against something to keep it propped up while you're working on the phone.
- ★ During reassembly, lay the display in position, align the clips along the top edge, and carefully press the top edge into place before snapping the rest of the display down. If it doesn't click easily into place, check the condition of the clips around the perimeter of the display and make sure they aren't bent.

Step 17 — Unscrew the battery connector cover



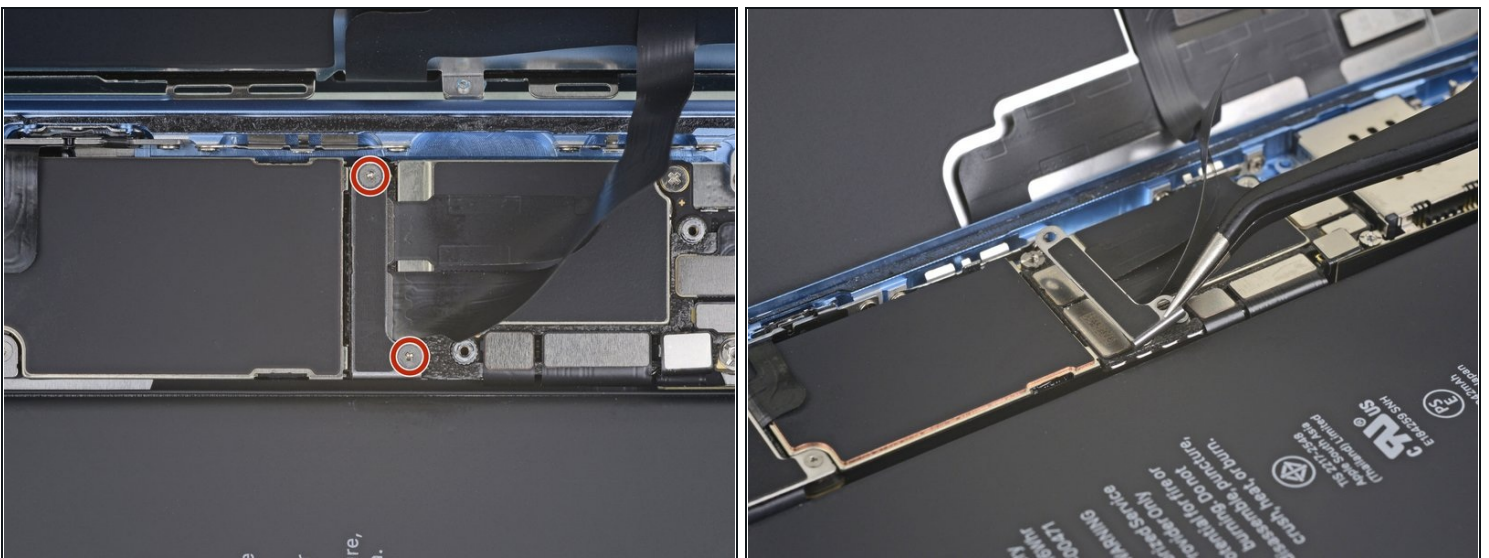
- Remove three 1.2 mm Y000 screws securing the battery connector cover bracket.
- Remove the bracket.
- ① Throughout this repair, [keep track of each screw](#) and make sure it goes back exactly where it came from to avoid damaging your iPhone.
- ☑ During reassembly, this is a good point to power on your iPhone and test all functions before you seal the display in place. Be sure to power your iPhone back down completely before you continue working.

Step 18 — Disconnect the battery



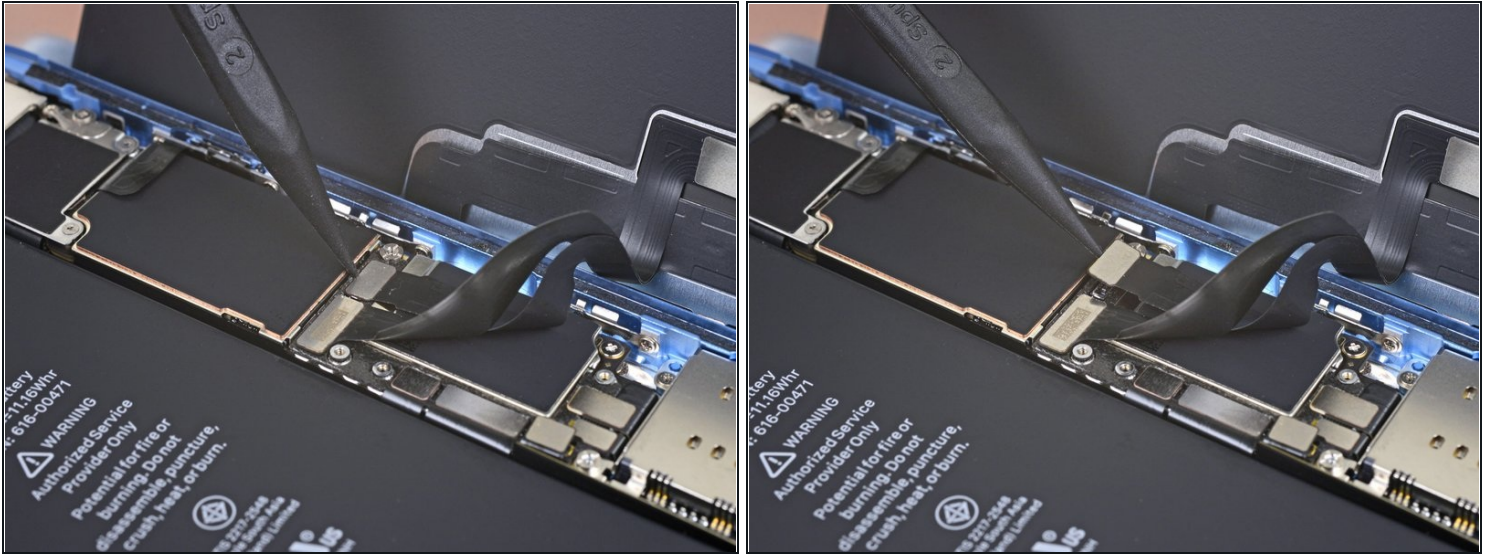
- Use the point of a spudger to pry the battery connector straight up out of its socket.
 - ① Try not to damage the black silicone seal surrounding this and other board connections. These seals provide extra protection against water and dust intrusion.
- Bend the connector slightly away from the logic board to prevent it from accidentally making contact with the socket and providing power to the phone during your repair.

Step 19 — Unscrew the display connector cover



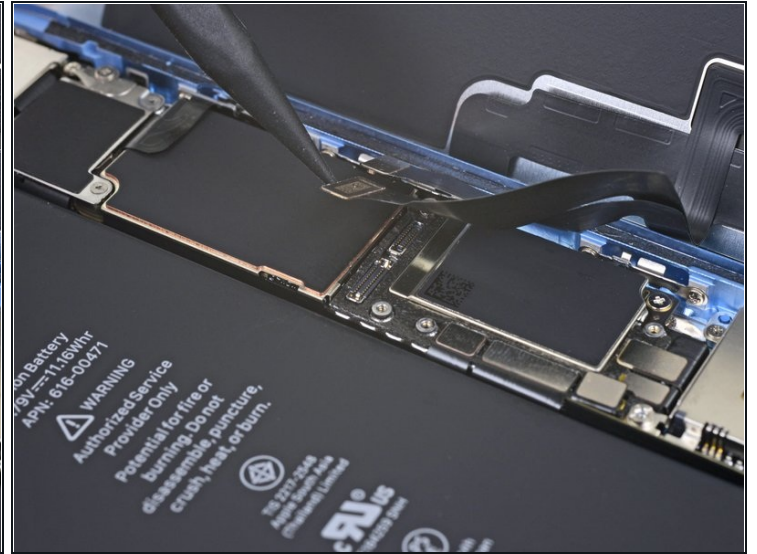
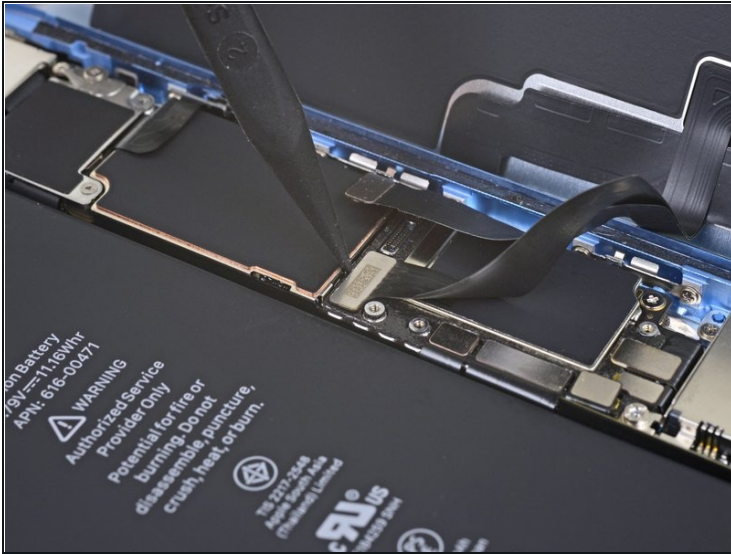
- Remove the two 1.2 mm Y000 screws securing the display connector bracket.
- Remove the bracket.

Step 20 — Disconnect the digitizer



- Use the tip of a spudger to pry up and disconnect the digitizer cable.
- ☑ 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.
- ☑ If any part of your screen doesn't respond to touch after your repair, disconnect the battery and then re-seat this connector, making sure it clicks fully into place and that there's no dust or other obstruction in the socket.

Step 21 — Disconnect the display



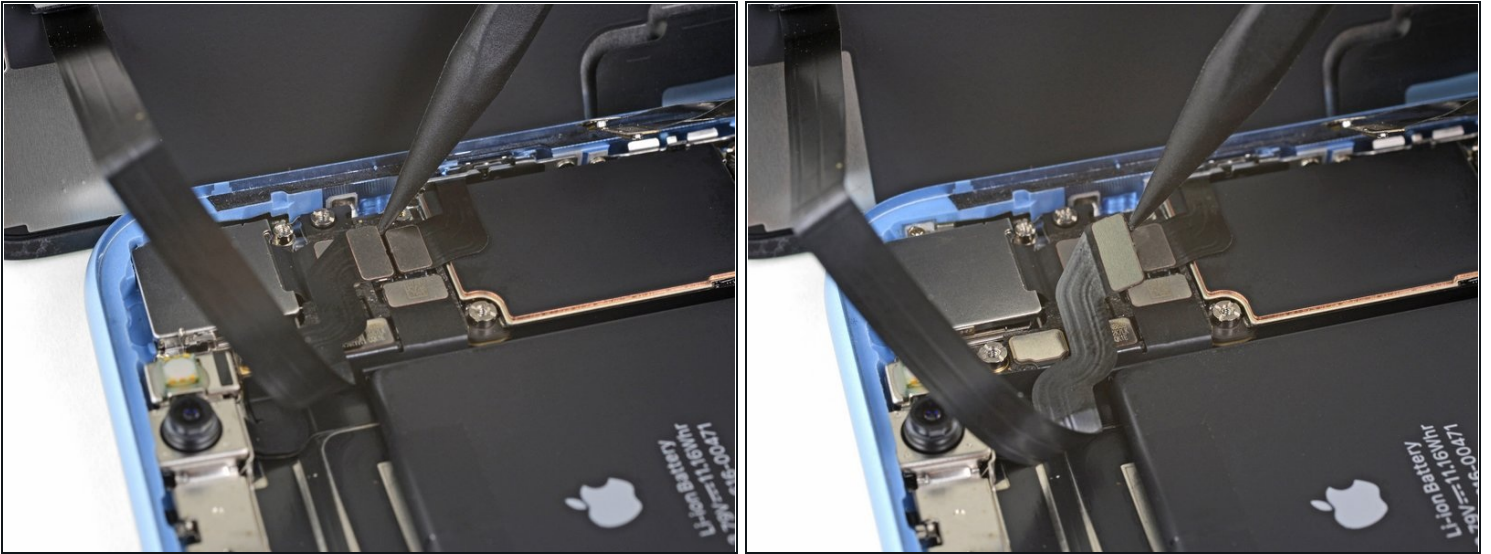
- Use the tip of a spudger to disconnect the display cable connector.

Step 22 — Unscrew the logic board connector cover



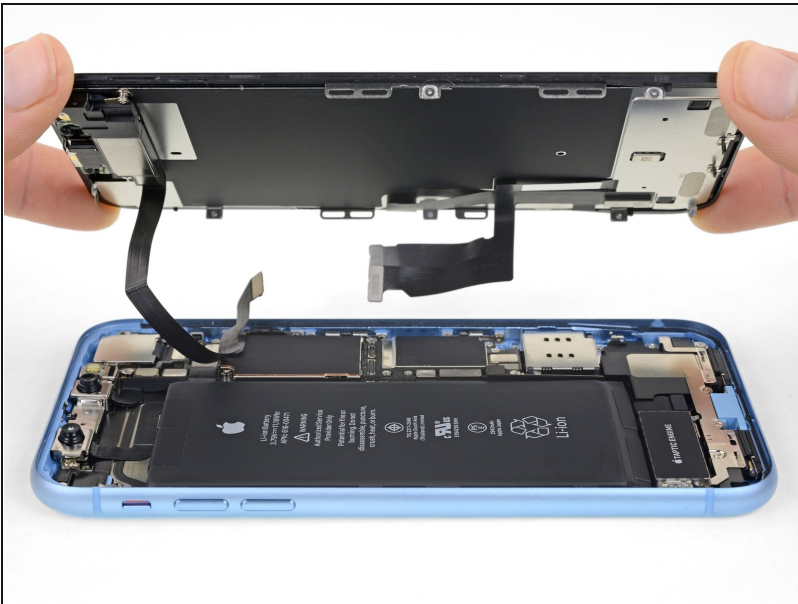
- Remove the five screws securing the logic board connector bracket to the rear case:
 - One 1.3 mm Phillips #000 screw
 - One 1.5 mm Phillips #000 screw
 - Three 1.2 mm Y000 screws
- Remove the bracket.
 - ⓘ Be careful not to lose the [smaller bracket](#) clipped onto the edge. It's secured with a [small clip](#) and is easy to accidentally knock off of the larger bracket.

Step 23 — Disconnect the front sensors



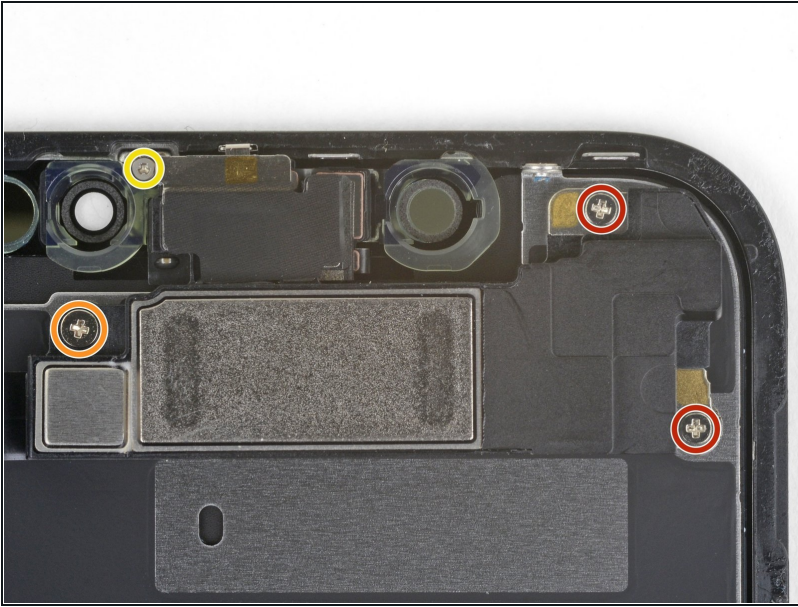
- Use the tip of a spudger to pry the front sensor assembly connector up from its socket.

Step 24 — Remove the display assembly



- Remove the display assembly.
- ☑ During reassembly, pause here if you wish to [replace the waterproof adhesive around the edges of the display.](#)

Step 25 — Unscrew the earpiece speaker



- Remove the four screws securing the speaker/sensor assembly to the back of the display:
 - Two 1.6 mm Phillips screws
 - One 2.3 mm Phillips screw
 - One 1.2 mm Y000 screw

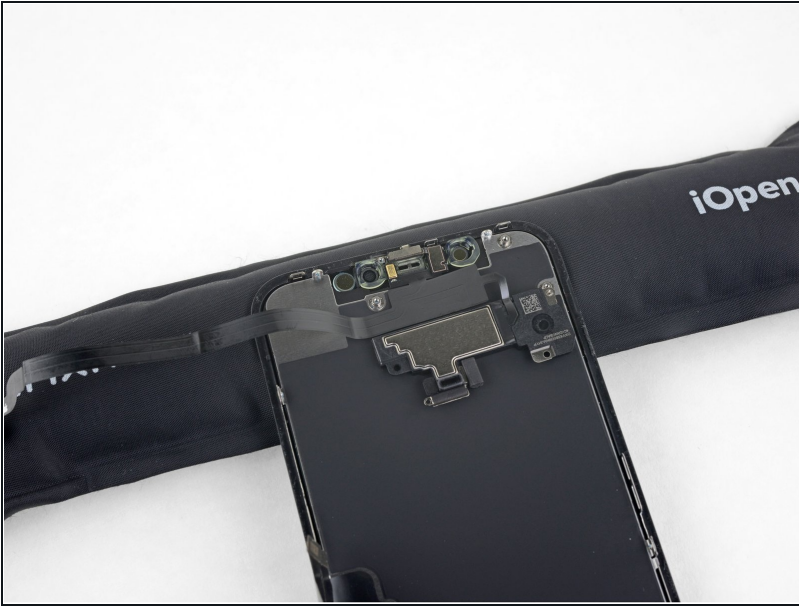
Step 26 — Flip the speaker over



- Using [tweezers](#), gently flip the speaker assembly over—down and away from the top edge of the display.

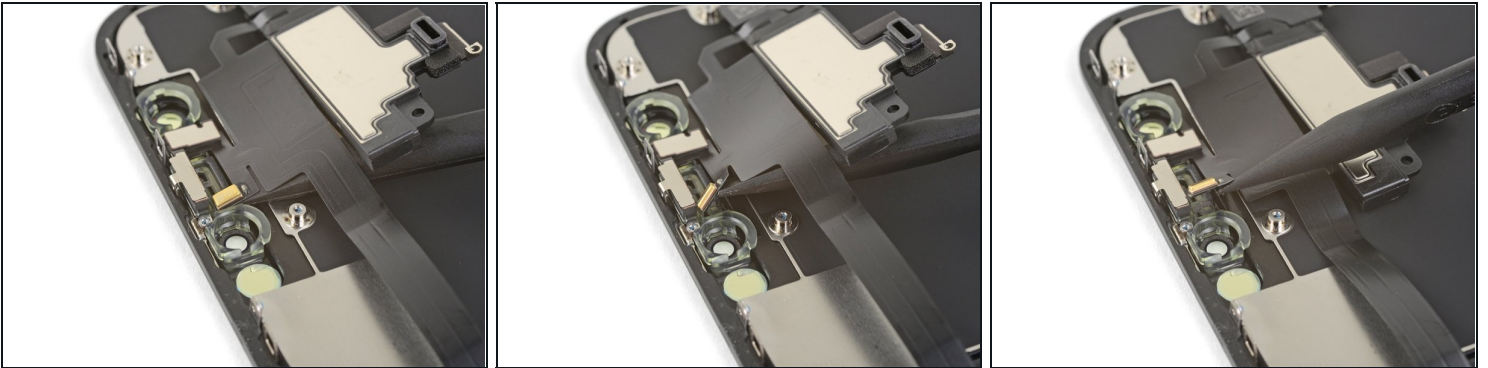
⚠ The speaker remains attached via a very thin flex cable. Be careful not to strain or damage the cable.

Step 27 — Heat the front sensor strip



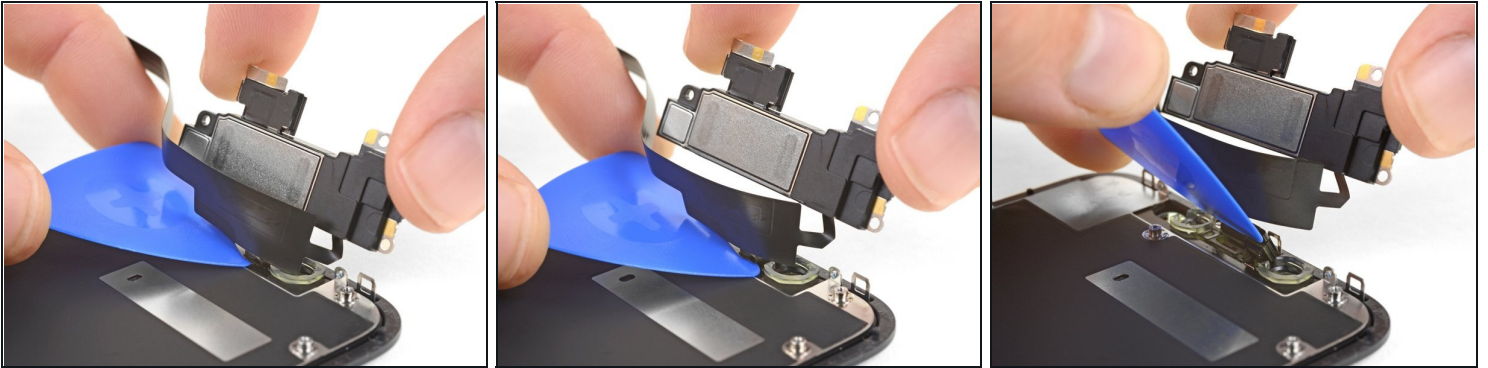
- Use a hairdryer, a heat gun, or a [heated iOpener](#) applied to the top front of the display for about a minute, in order to soften the adhesive securing the sensors.

Step 28 — Pry up the microphone



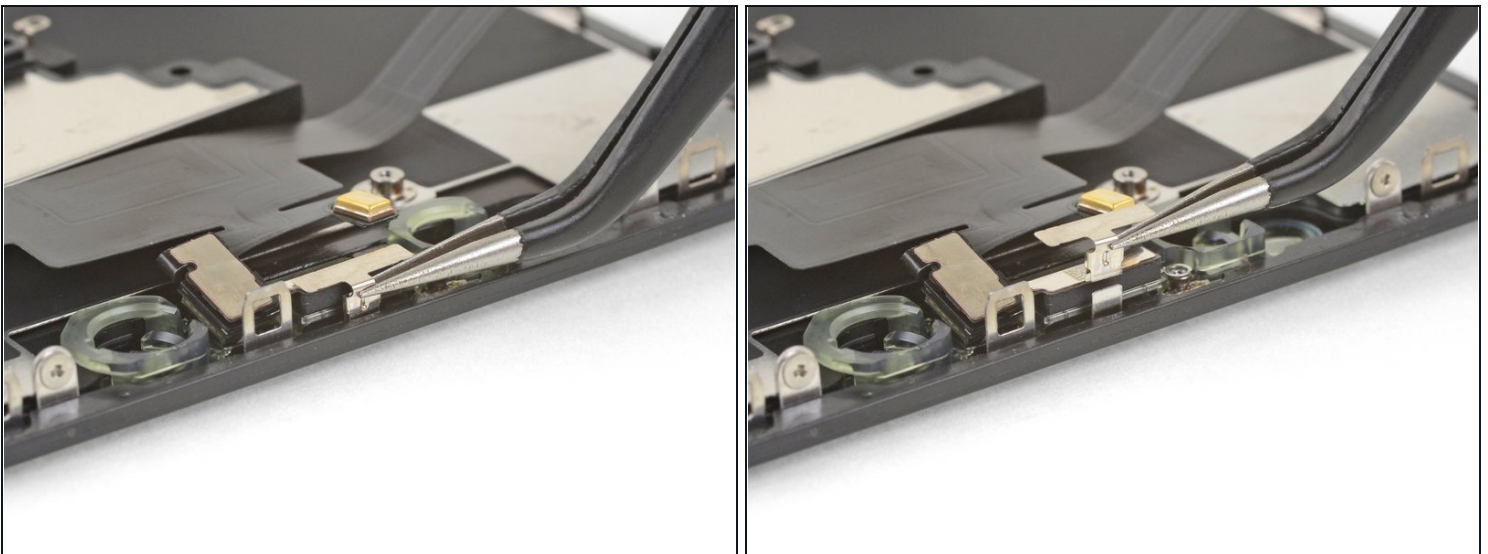
- Carefully slide the flat edge of a spudger underneath the flex cable below the microphone.
- Twist gently to separate the microphone, while being careful not to strain or damage the flex cable.
- If needed, use the point of the spudger to finish separating the microphone from its notch in the front panel. If the microphone remains difficult to separate, apply more heat.

Step 29 — Pry up the proximity sensor



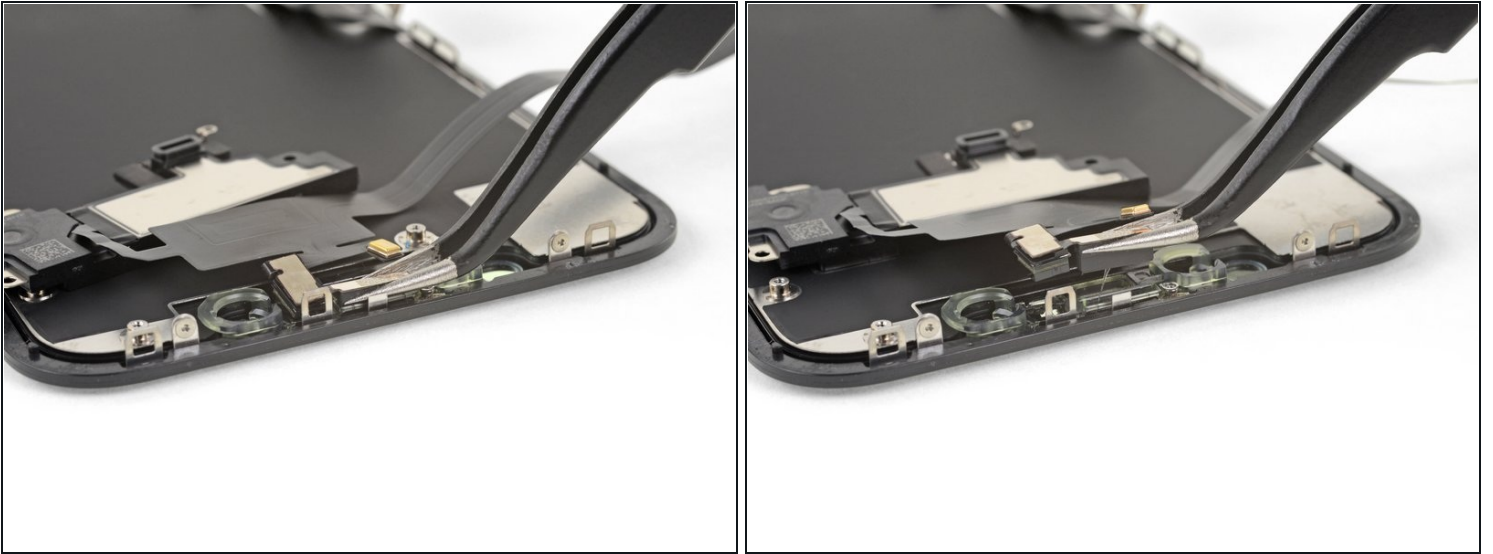
- Working left to right, slide an opening pick beneath the flex cable and underneath the proximity sensor + flood illuminator module.
- Gently wiggle and lift to separate the module from its notch in the front panel.
- ① It's helpful to lift and hold the speaker out of the way for access. Just be careful not to pull on the thin flex cable while you work.

Step 30 — Remove the ambient light sensor bracket



- Use tweezers to slide the small bracket straight up and off of the ambient light sensor.

Step 31 — Lift the ambient light sensor



- Use tweezers to wiggle the ambient light sensor and lift it from its notch in the display.
 - ⓘ If the sensor does not wiggle free after a few seconds, apply more heat and try again.

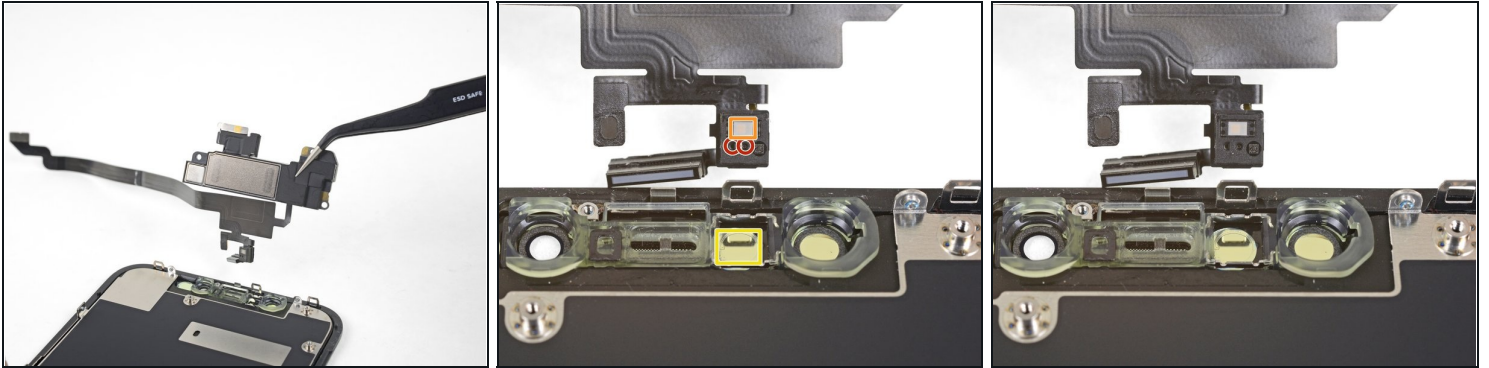
⚠ The sensor remains attached to the rest of the sensor assembly via a very thin flex cable. Be careful not to strain or damage the cable.

Step 32



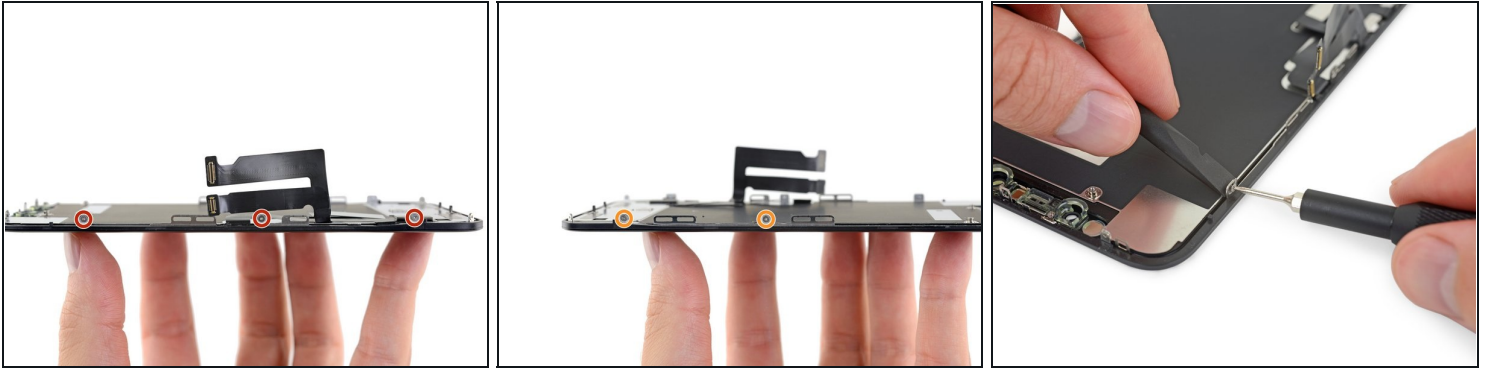
- If you successfully removed the entire ambient light sensor, as shown in the first photo, continue to the next step below.
- If the white diffuser strip is detached and remains embedded in the display, as shown in the second photo, you will need to carefully lever it out along the top edge using a thin blade or pry tool. Re-applying heat first may make this task a bit easier.
 - ☞ During reassembly, install the diffuser into the display first, making sure it faces the right direction (the front-facing side is shown in the first image, and the rear-facing side is shown in the third).
 - ☞ Then, set the ambient light sensor on top of the diffuser. You will need to hold the sensor in position while installing the screws securing the earpiece/sensor assembly. Once the screws are tightened, the sensor will stay in place and work normally.

Step 33 — Remove the speaker + front sensors



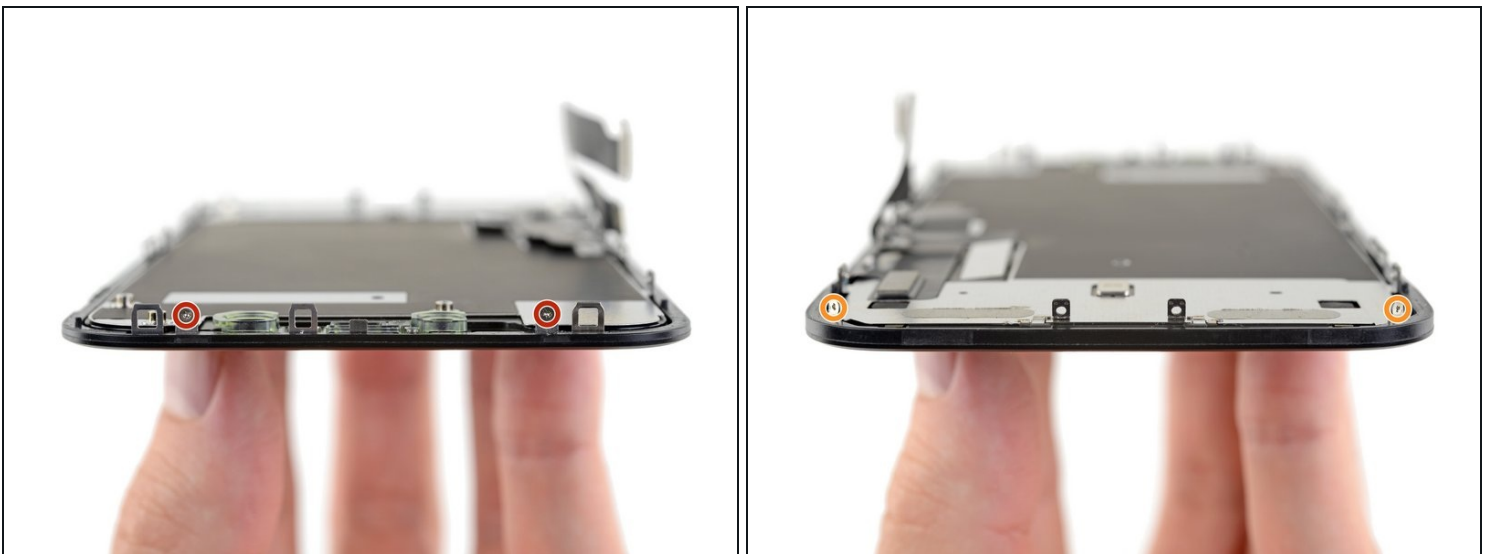
- Remove the earpiece speaker and front sensor assembly.
- ☑ During reassembly, check the position of the black plastic module containing these components:
 - Proximity sensor
 - Flood illuminator
- The module must be positioned so that these components are not obstructed by any adhesive.

Step 34 — Unscrew the LCD shield plate



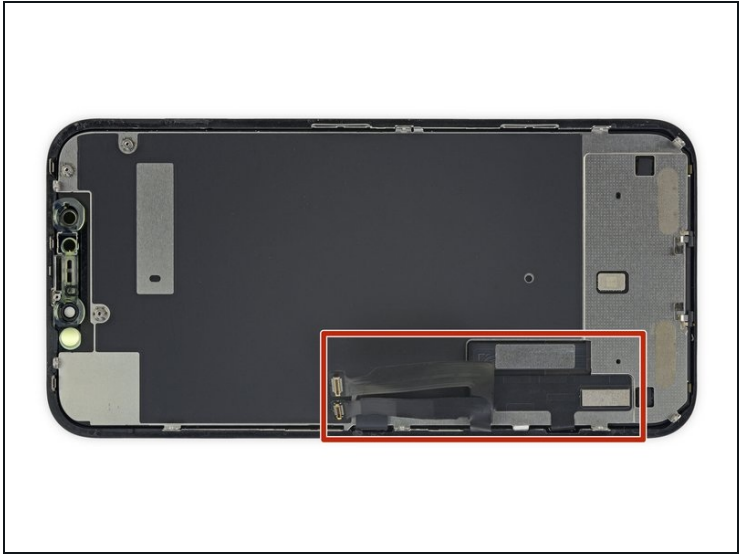
- Use a Y000 driver to remove the 1.1 mm screws securing the LCD shield:
 - Three screws on the side nearest the display cables
 - Two more screws on the opposite side
- ① Press your driver firmly into the screw while turning it. If needed, you can use your spudger to brace each screw from behind, in order to apply more pressure to the screws without bending the shield.

Step 35



- Remove the remaining 1.1 mm Y000 screws from the top and bottom edges of the LCD shield:
 - Two screws near the camera cutouts
 - Two screws at the bottom corners

Step 36 — Add a little heat



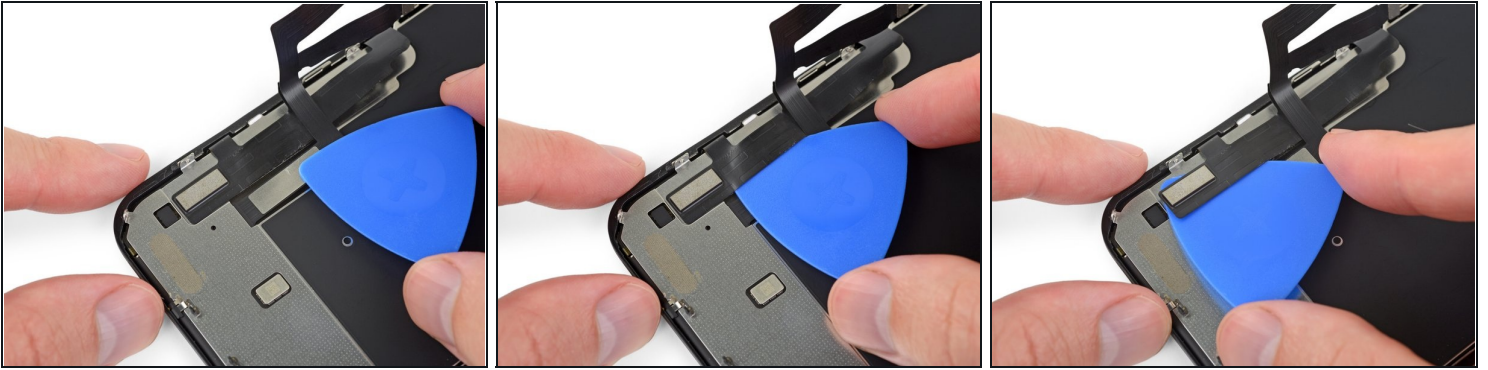
- Apply a little heat from an iOpener (or hair dryer / heat gun) to the back of the display, in order to soften the adhesive securing the display cables to the LCD shield.

Step 37 — Unstick the display cables



- Insert an opening pick between the display cables and LCD shield.
- Slide it toward the bottom edge of the display to begin separating the cables.
- Stop when you reach the end of the first cable.

Step 38 — Separate the two cables



- Re-insert your opening pick, this time *between* the two cables.
- Slide the pick to the bottom edge of the display to separate the cables from each other.

Step 39



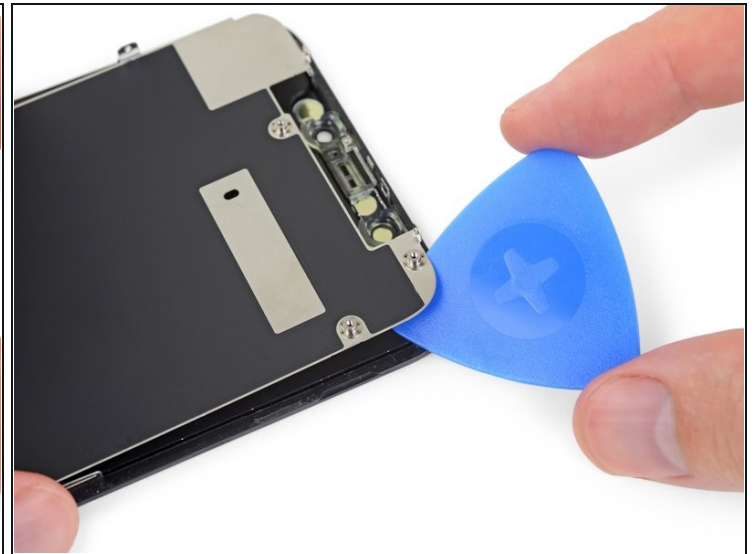
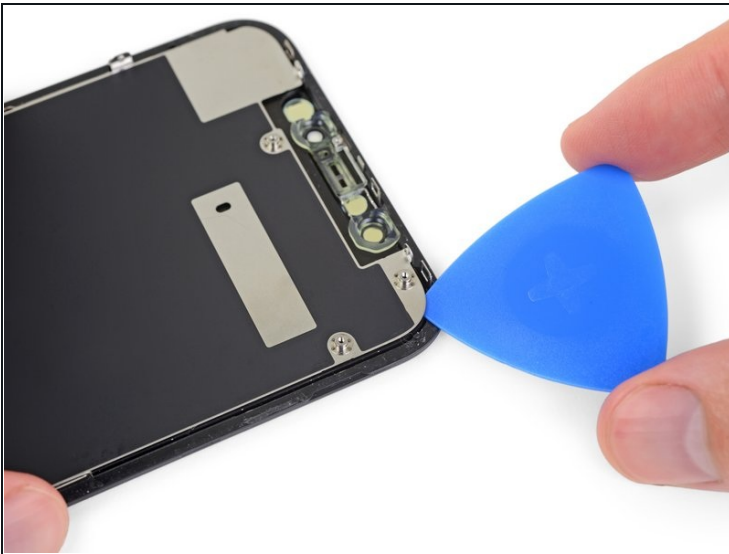
- Grab each cable near its 90° bend, and peel them apart.

Step 40



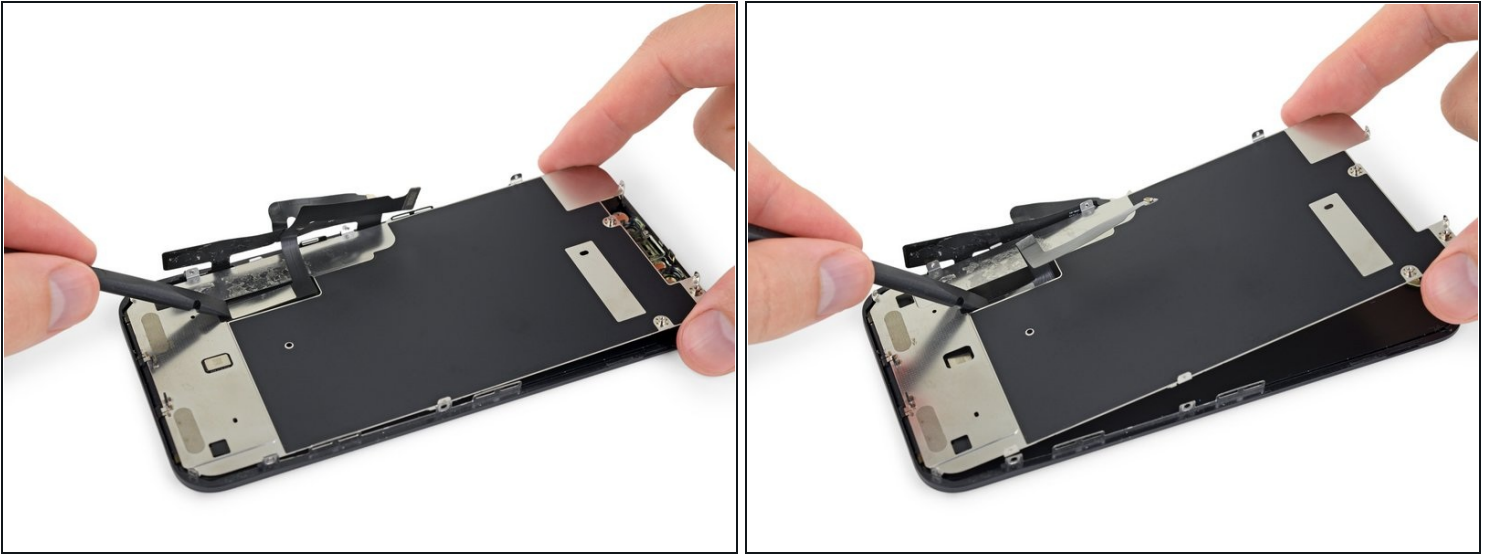
- Peel the entire digitizer cable away from the LCD shield, and fold it aside.

Step 41 — Lift the shield plate



- Insert an opening pick under the top edge of the LCD shield, and twist to separate it from the display.

Step 42



- Grab the LCD shield by its top edge and swing it upward a few degrees.
- Using your spudger, press gently on the lower part of the display cable, pushing it through the cutout in the LCD shield.

Step 43



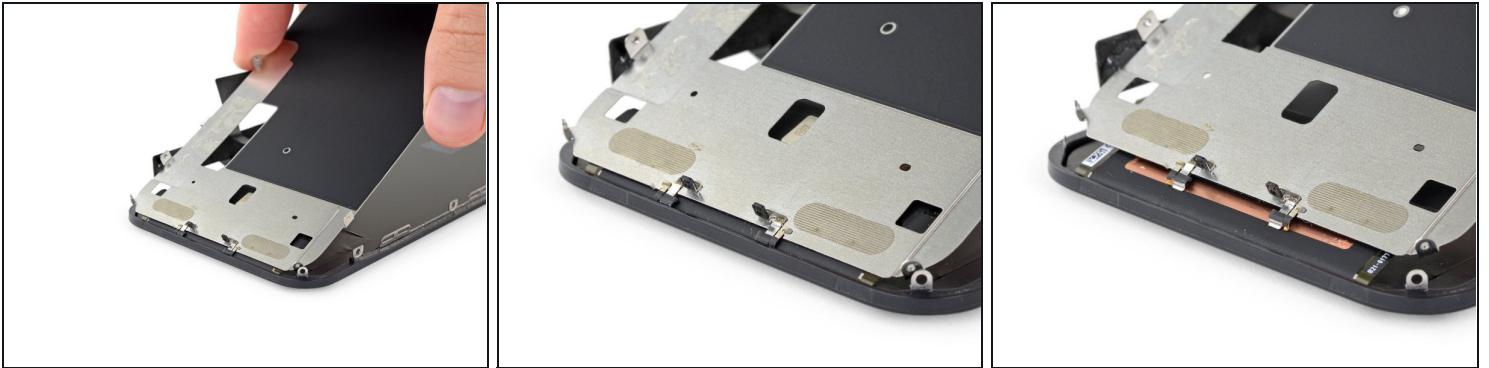
- Raise the top edge of the LCD shield a bit higher, and feed the rest of the display cable through the cutout in the shield.

Step 44 — Separate the display cable



- Raise the LCD shield up at a higher angle, until you can see the rest of the display cable stuck to the back.
- Slide a spudger between the LCD shield and the display cable, and separate them completely.

Step 45 — Check the EMI fingers



- As you lift the LCD shield, note the metal prongs on the bottom edge.
- ☑ During reassembly, make sure these prongs (a.k.a. EMI fingers) are correctly inserted into the LCD frame as shown.

Step 46 — Remove the shield



- Remove the LCD shield.

Step 47



- Only the LCD and digitizer remains.

To reassemble your device, follow the above steps in reverse order.

Take your e-waste to an [R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler](#).

Repair didn't go as planned? Try some basic [troubleshooting](#), or search our [Answers forum](#) for help.