



Archived

# Nintendo Switch Headphone Jack and Game Card Board Replacement

This is an archived guide. The updated version...

Written By: Blake Klein



# INTRODUCTION

This is an archived guide. The updated version can be found [here](#).



## TOOLS:

JIS #000 Screwdriver (1)  
ESD Safe Blunt Nose Tweezers (1)  
JIS #0 Screwdriver (1)  
Tri-point Y00 Screwdriver (1)  
Spudger (1)  
Phillips #000 Screwdriver (1)



## PARTS:

Nintendo Switch Game Card Reader (1)

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### 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.
- ① Repeat this same process for the other Joy Con.

## Step 3 — Remove the back-side screws



- Use a Y00 screwdriver to remove the four 6.3 mm-long screws securing the rear panel.
- ① Throughout this repair, [keep track of each screw](#) and make sure it goes back exactly where it came from.

## Step 4 — Remove the top and bottom screws



- Use a JIS 000 driver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the following screws securing the rear panel:
  - One 2.5 mm-long screw on the top edge of the device
  - Two 2.5 mm-long screws on the bottom edge of the device
- ⓘ To prevent these tight screws from [stripping](#), apply firm downward force, work slowly and try another JIS 000 or PH 000 driver if the screws won't come out.

## Step 5



- Use a JIS 000 screwdriver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the two 3.8 mm center screws on the sides of the device (one on each side).

## Step 6



- Use your finger to flip up the kickstand on the back of the device.
  - ① If there's a microSD card in the microSD card slot, remove it now before you continue to the next step.

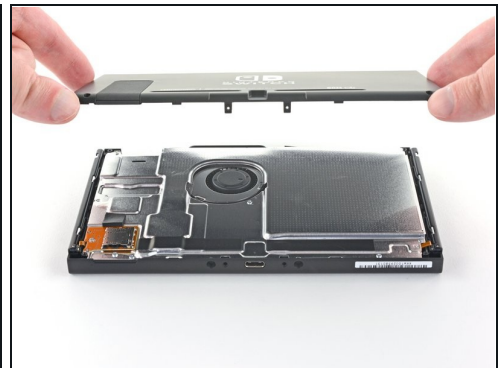


## Step 7



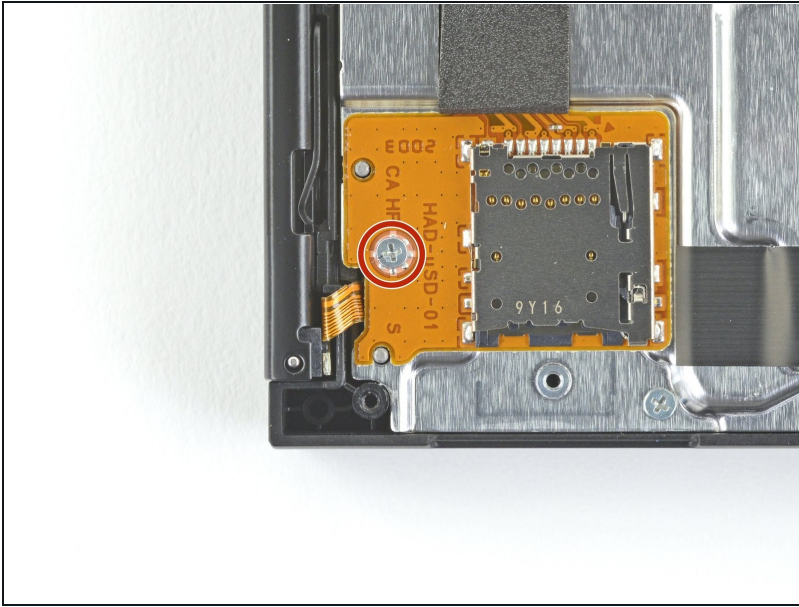
- Use a JIS 000 screwdriver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the 1.6 mm screw in the kickstand well.
- Close the kickstand.

## Step 8



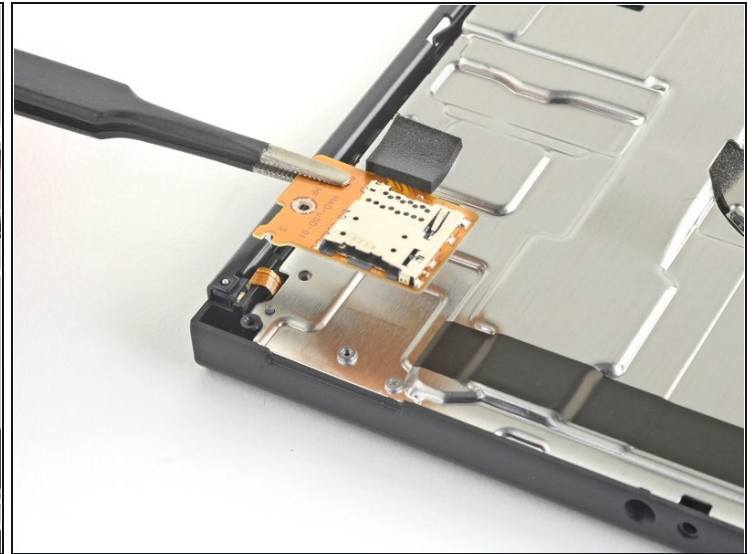
- Open the game card cartridge flap.
  - ① The game card cartridge flap attaches to the other half of the plastic shell, preventing you from completely lifting up the rear panel if it's closed.
- Lift the rear panel up from the bottom of the device and remove it.

## Step 9 — Remove the microSD card reader



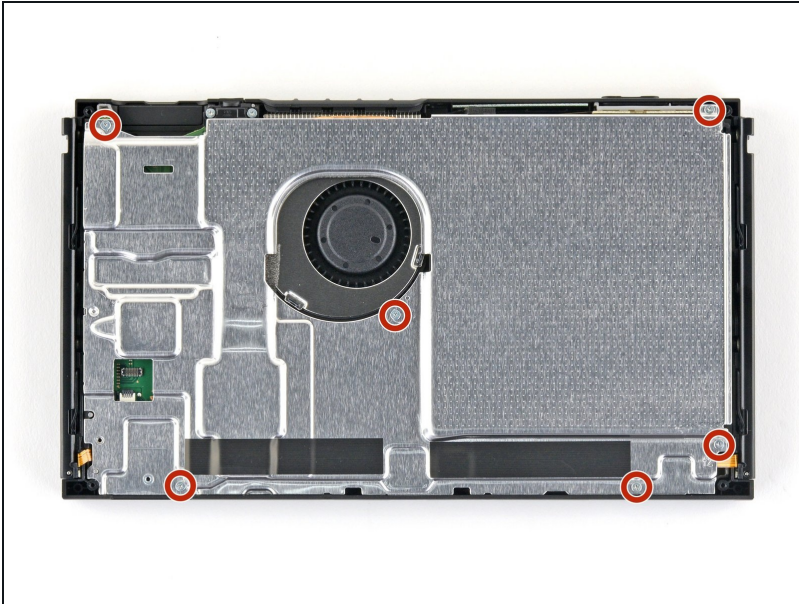
- Use a JIS 000 screwdriver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the 3.1 mm screw securing the microSD card reader to the device.

## Step 10



- Use your fingers or a pair of tweezers to lift the microSD card reader straight up from the device to disconnect and remove it.
- ☑ During reassembly, make sure the press connector underneath the foam pad is firmly connected to the motherboard. It may help to remove the foam pad before reinstalling the card reader.

## Step 11 — Remove the shield plate



- Use a JIS 000 screwdriver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the six 3 mm screws securing the shield plate to the device.

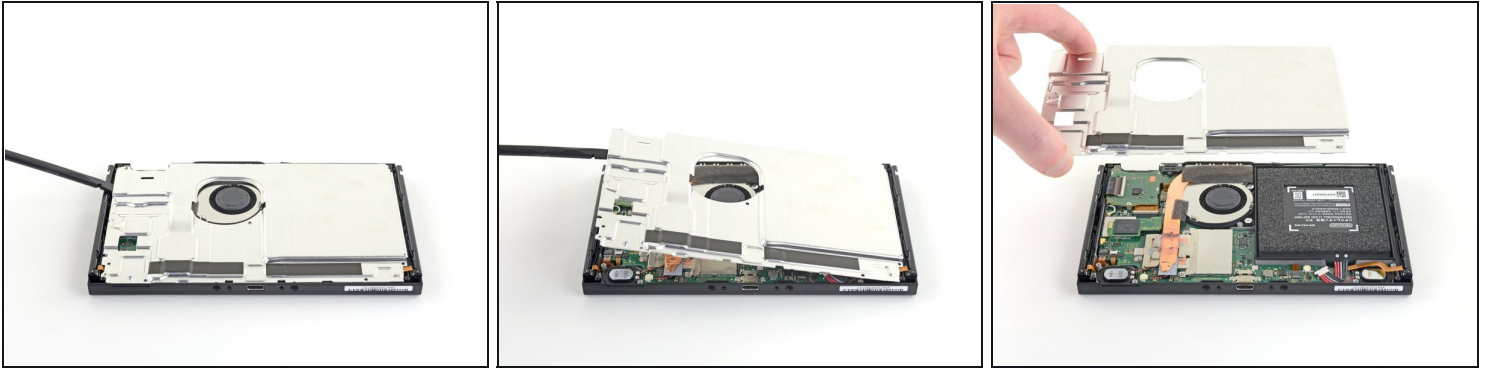
## Step 12



- Use your fingers or a pair of tweezers to peel back the piece of foam on the top edge of the device near the fan exhaust port.  
**⚠ If the foam doesn't easily peel away, don't force it as it might end up tearing. Carefully peel at different spots to pull back the foam.**

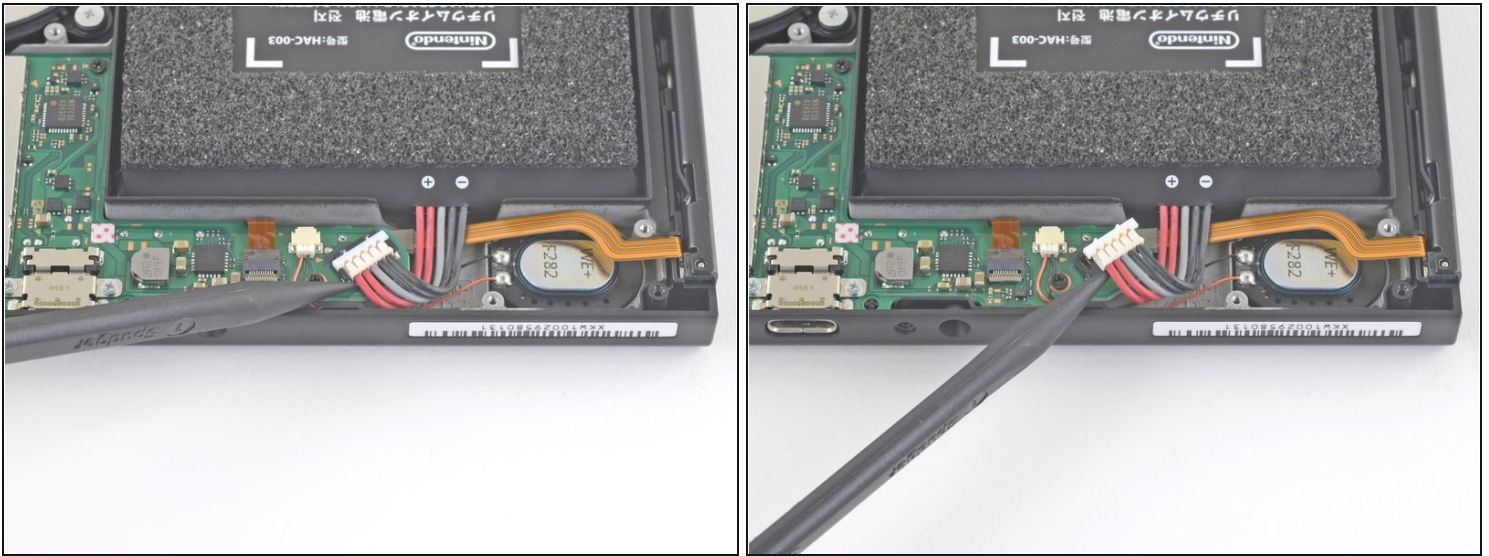


## Step 13



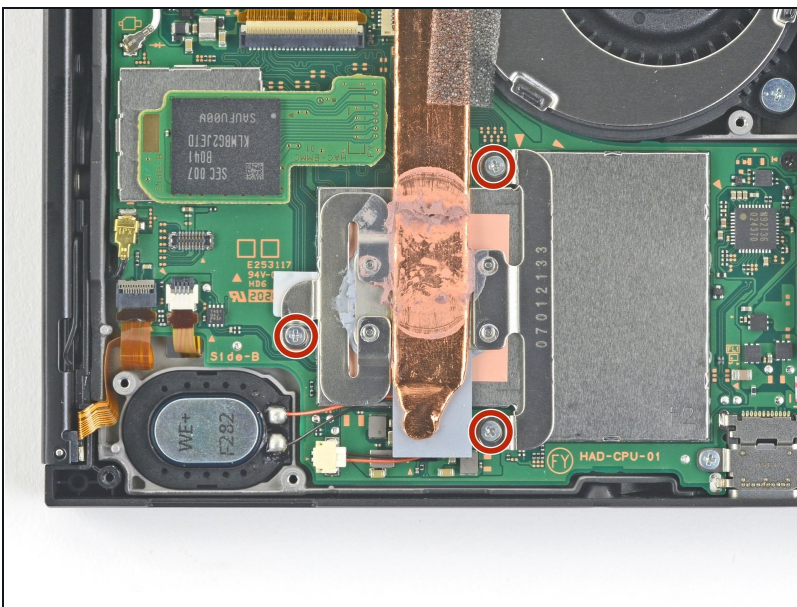
- Insert a spudger underneath the shield plate along the edge of the device.
- Pry up to lift the shield plate and remove it from the device.
  - ① You may feel a bit of resistance. This is normal, since the shield plate is slightly bonded to the heat sink with thermal paste.
- ① A thick pink thermal compound bridges the gap between the shield plate and the copper heat sink underneath. This helps prevent the Switch from overheating.
  - You can reuse the pink thermal compound if you're careful. Keep the compound clean and make sure it makes solid contact between the heat sink and the shield during reassembly.
  - If you need to replace it, 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 14 — Disconnect the battery



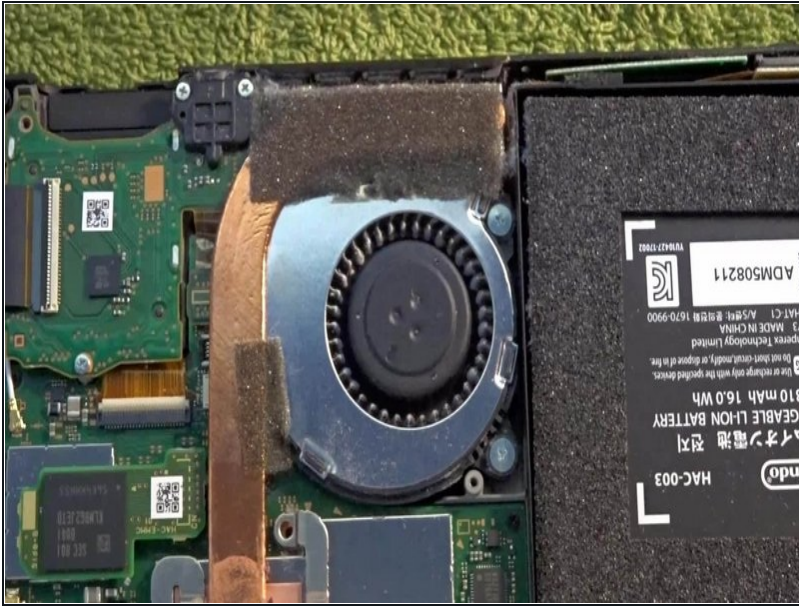
- Use the point of a spudger to pry the battery connector straight up and out of its socket on the motherboard.

## Step 15 — Remove the heat sink



- Use a JIS 000 screwdriver or an official iFixit PH 000 driver to remove the three 3 mm screws securing the heat sink to the motherboard.

## Step 16



- Carefully peel the two foam pieces stuck over both the heatsink and the fan away from the fan.

**i** The foam only needs to be peeled back enough to clear the fan.

**⚠** The foam is really delicate and tears easily. Use the following technique to peel the foam:

- Insert the point of a spudger underneath the part of the foam that isn't stuck against anything,
- Press the top of the foam with your finger to hold it in place.
- Roll the spudger tip underneath the foam all the way to the other end of the foam to release it.

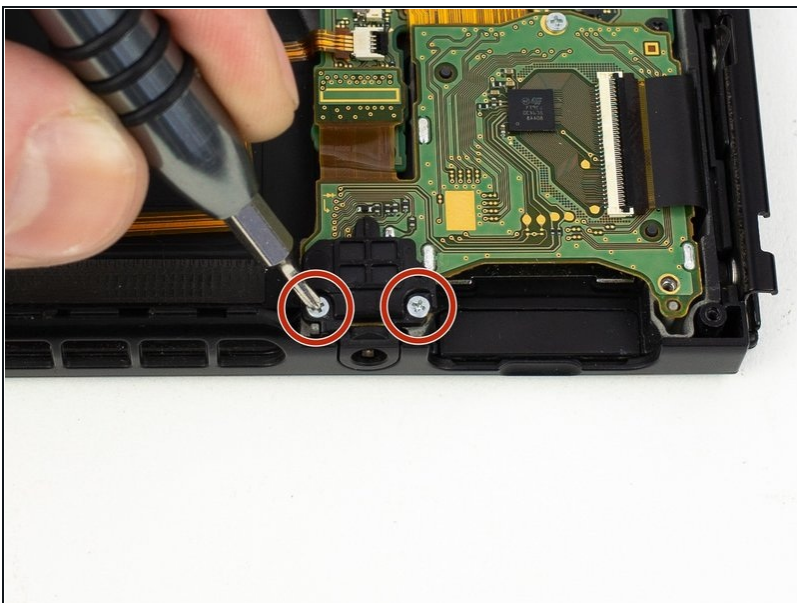


## Step 17



- Use a spudger or your fingers to lift the heatsink up and off the motherboard to remove it.
  - ⓘ You may feel a bit of resistance. This is normal, since the heat sink is slightly bonded to the CPU with thermal paste.
- ☑ 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.
- Apply thermal paste to all surfaces that had thermal paste applied previously. This includes between the heatpipe and aluminum shield, which the Switch uses as additional heatsinking.

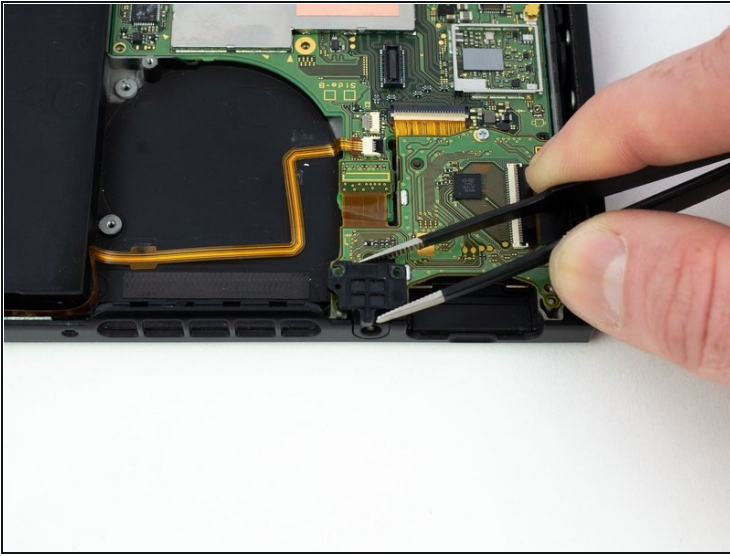
## Step 18 — Headphone Jack and Game Card Board



- Remove the two 3.1 mm Phillips screws from the headphone jack bracket.

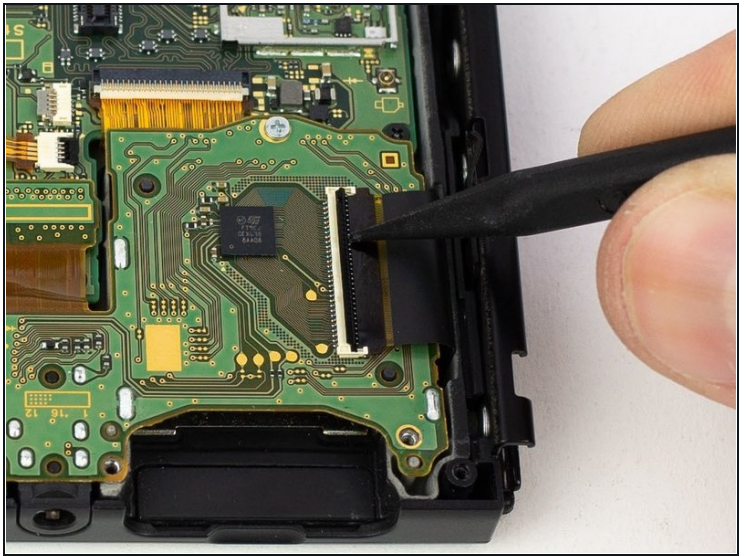
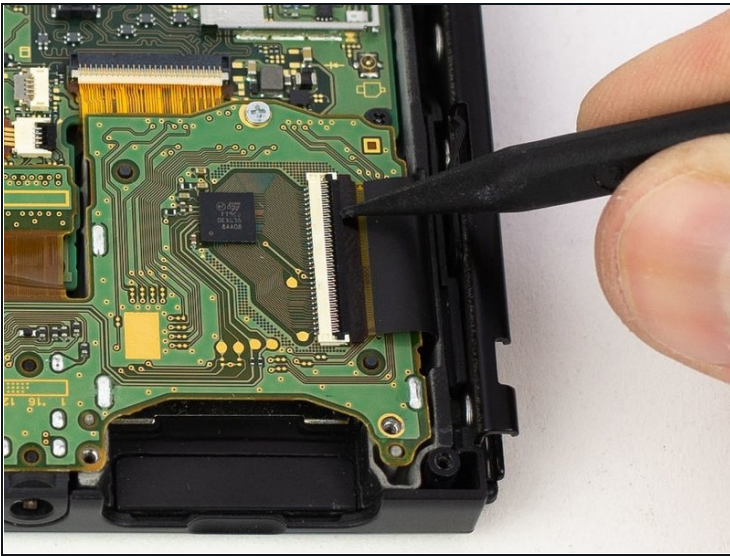


## Step 19



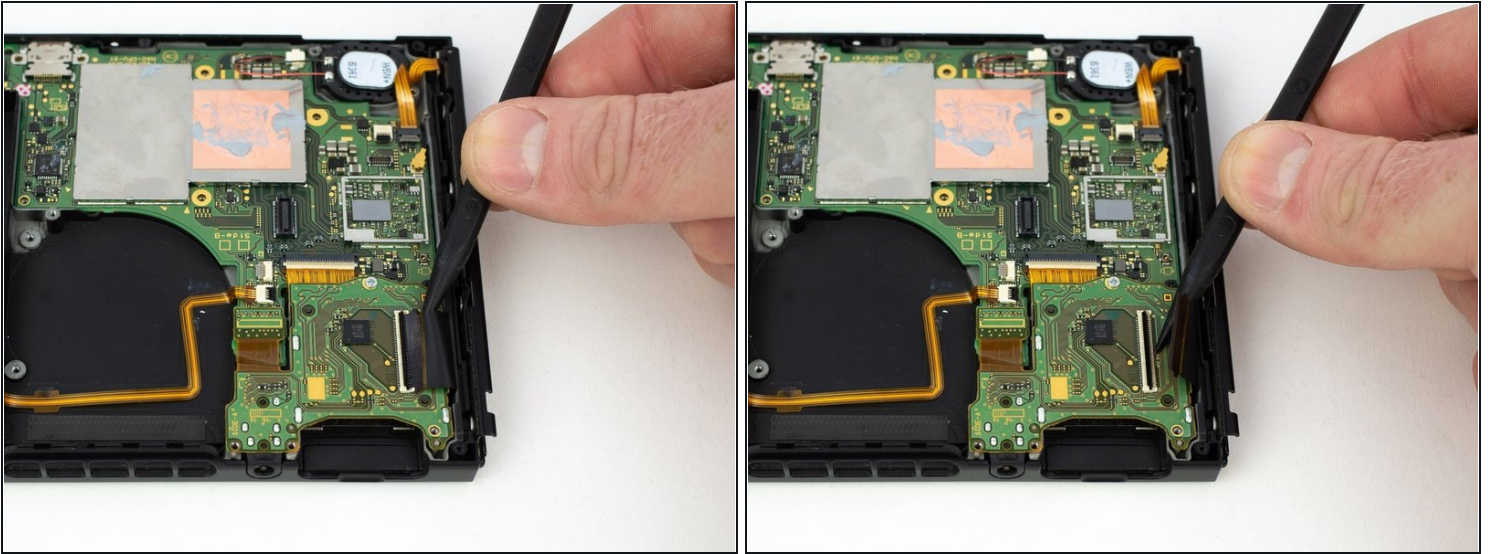
- Remove the headphone jack bracket.

## Step 20



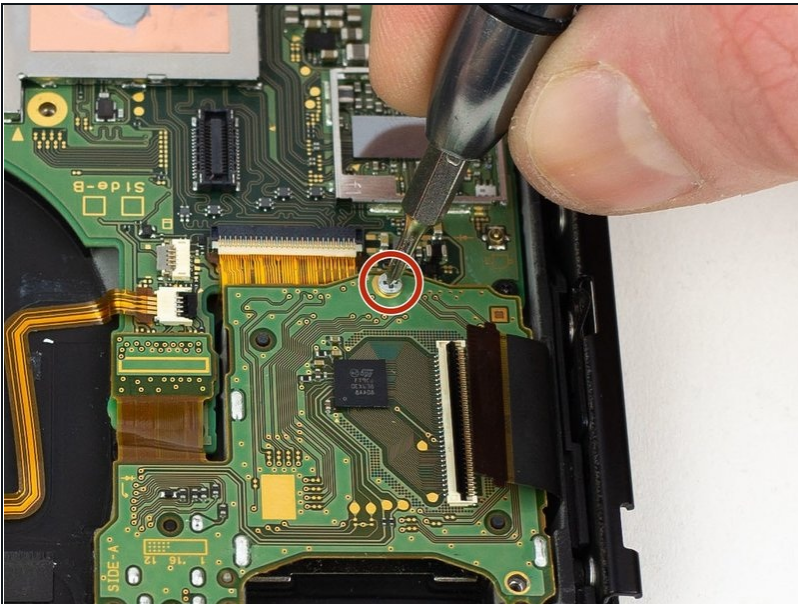
- Use a spudger to lift the black locking flap on the ZIF connector up.
- ☒ To reconnect [ZIF connectors](#) like this one, gently slide the cable back in place and press the locking flap back into place.

## Step 21



- Use the pointed end of a spudger to slide the ribbon cable out of the ZIF connector.

## Step 22



- Remove the single 3.1 mm Phillips screw from the headphone jack and game card board.

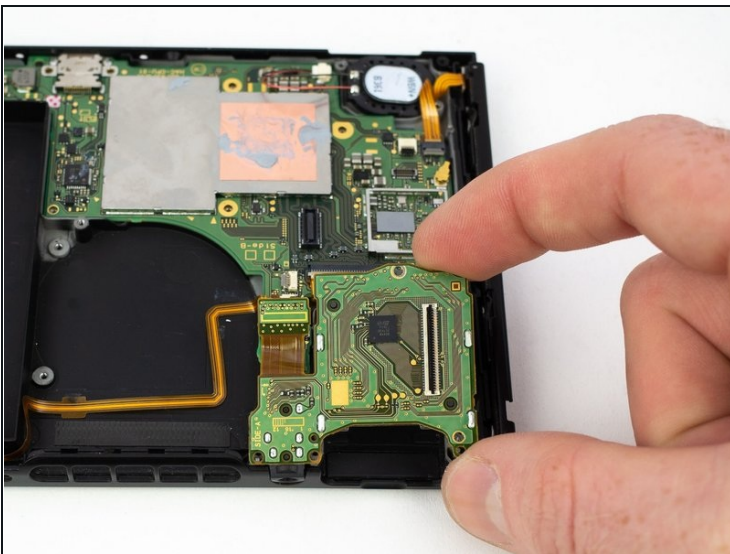


## Step 23



- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the headphone jack press-fit connector straight up off the motherboard.

## Step 24



- Remove the headphone jack and game card board.

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