



Nintendo Switch Left Joy-Con Shell Replacement

This guide will help you replace the shell of...

Written By: Jose Castro



INTRODUCTION

This guide will help you replace the shell of the Left Joy-Con on your Nintendo Switch (model HAC-015).

If your Joy-Con shell is cracked or showing discoloration, you may want to replace it. The Joy-Con shell protects its inner components while also giving it an aesthetic appeal. A damaged shell will eventually damage the inner components and can also make it uncomfortable to play.

You can find replacement shells on [Amazon](#), where they are much cheaper than buying them through Nintendo. These come in many different colors and designs.

When following the steps, be sure not to strip any of the screws or remove any components using too much force. Any small damage can cause your Joy-Con to not work after reassembly.

If you would also like to replace the Right Joy-Con shell, there is a helpful guide on [iFixit](#) that can walk you through that process.



TOOLS:

[Tweezers](#) (1)

[Spudger](#) (1)

[1 x Opening Picks](#) (1)

[Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)

[Tri-point Y00 Screwdriver](#) (1)

Step 1 — Opening the controller (1/3)



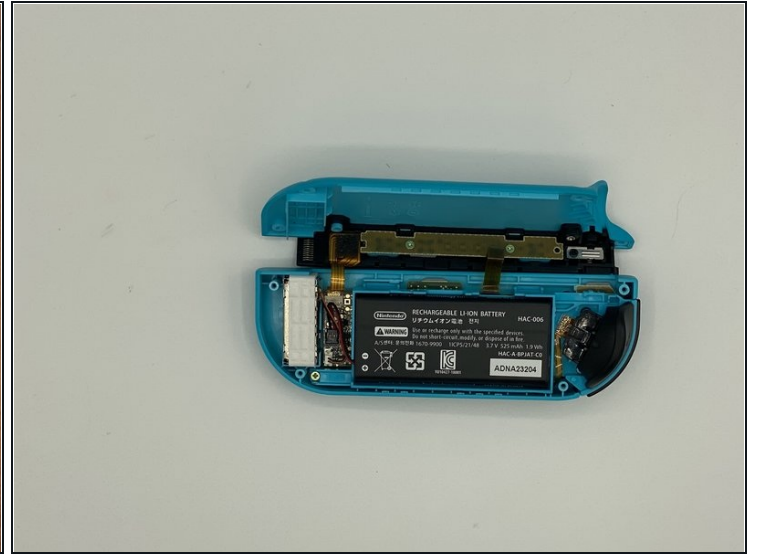
- Start by unscrewing the four (4) tri-wing ("Y00") from the back panel.
- ① Keep the screws somewhere safe and organized.

Step 2 — Opening the controller (2/3)



- Insert an opening pick into the seam at the bottom edge of the controller (opposite the L and ZL buttons).
- Slowly slide the flat edge of your opening pick up the side of the Joy-Con.

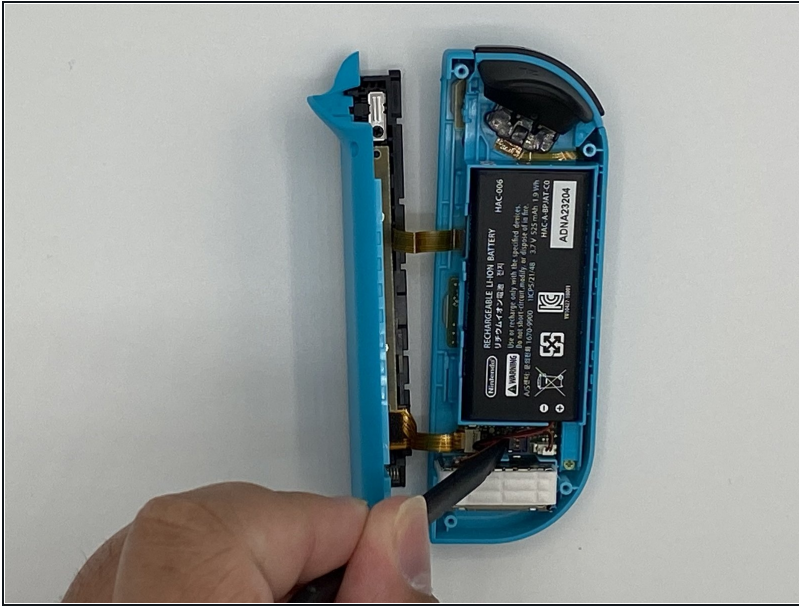
Step 3 — Opening the controller (3/3)



- With the charging rail facing away from you, open the Joy-Con like a laptop.

⚠ Do not fully remove the back panel yet; there are still two ribbon cables connecting the charging rail to the motherboard.

Step 4 — Disconnecting the battery

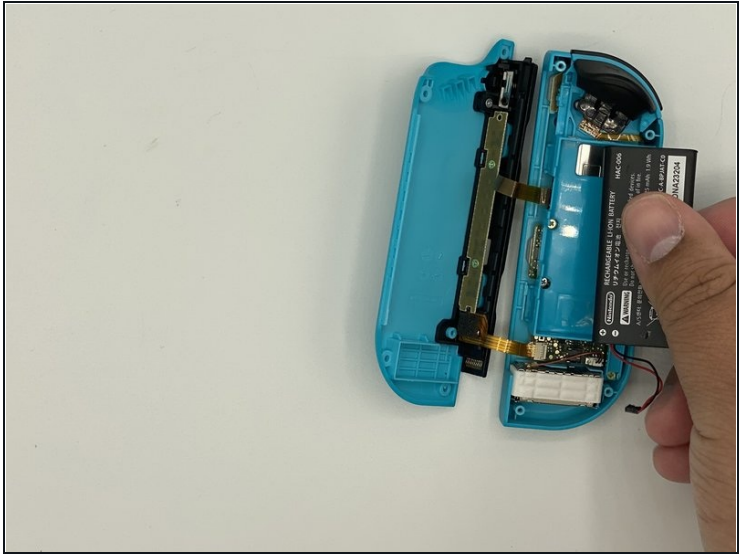
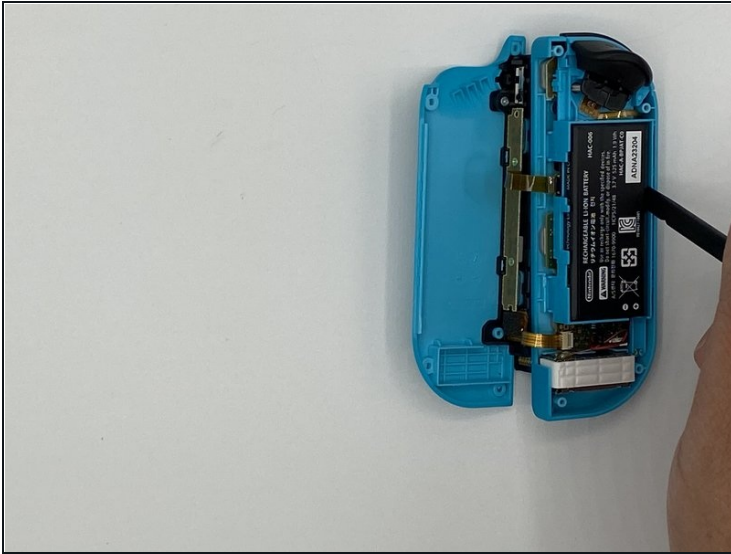


- Gently pry the battery connector straight up from its socket on the motherboard using a plastic spudger (avoid metal ones to reduce the risk of shorting components). This will keep the Joy-Con from powering on during the repair.

⚠ Use caution while working around the rumble's module cable which runs in the vicinity of the battery connector.

⚠ When handling electronics and/or batteries, it's a good idea to wear at least an **anti static bracelet**.

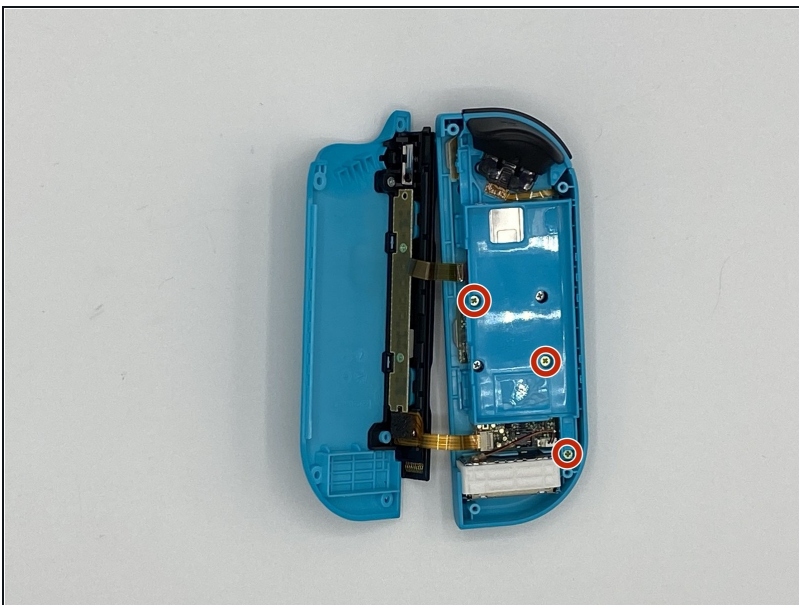
Step 5 — Removing the battery



- Insert a spudger between the battery and the Joy-Con housing.
- Gently pry out the battery.
- ① The battery is lightly taped in place.

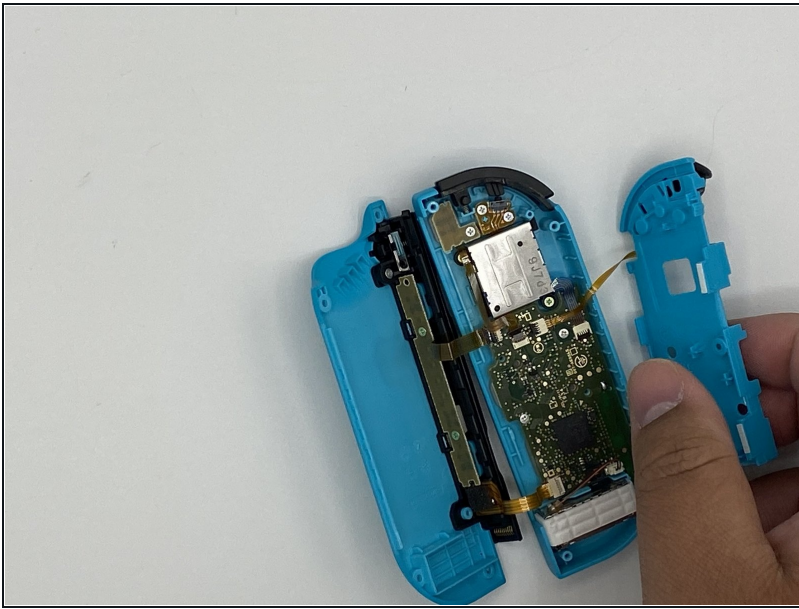
⚠ Be careful not to deform, puncture or damage the battery.

Step 6 — Removing the battery housing



- Remove the three (3) 3½mm golden Phillips #00 screws from the midframe.

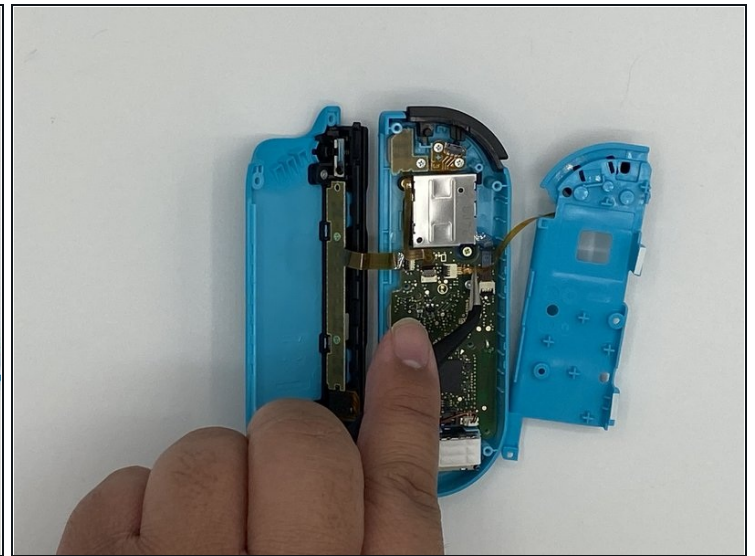
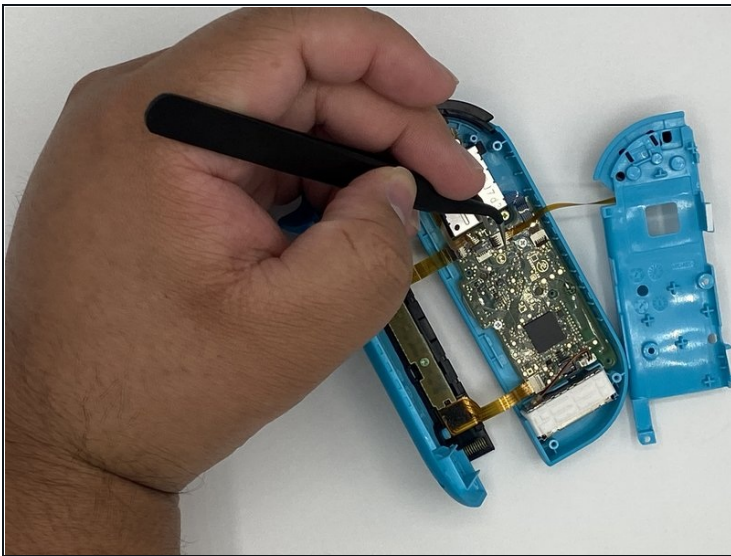
Step 7 — Accessing the controller's motherboard



- Carefully flip the midframe over, away from the motherboard, as if you were turning the page of a book.

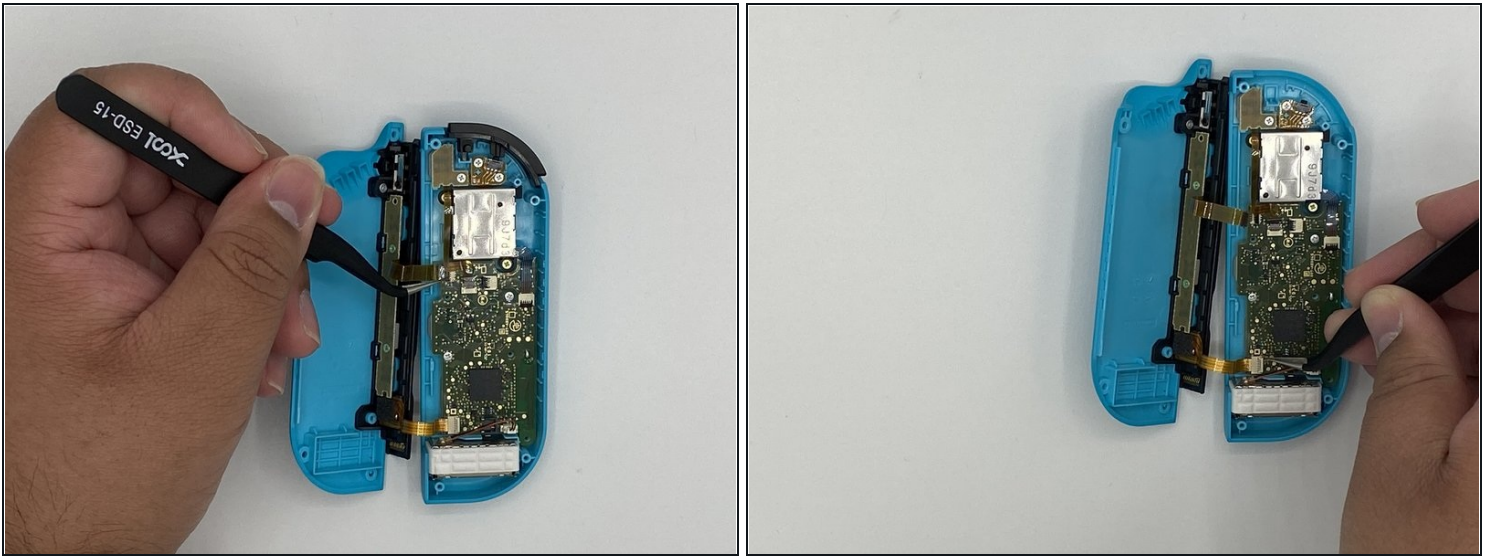
⚠ The ribbon cables are extremely fragile. It is advised to use non-sharp [tweezers](#) rather than bare hands.

Step 8 — Disconnecting the ribbon cables



- Use tweezers to flip the ZIF connector lock opposite the cable.
- ① The ZL button is locked in place by a small ZIF connector on the motherboard.
- Use tweezers to gently pull the ZL button flex cable out of its ZIF connector socket. The midframe is now disconnected and can be removed.

Step 9 — Removing the L button



- Unlock the rail's top ZIF connector and then disconnect the cable.
- Unlock the rail's bottom ZIF connector and disconnect the cable. We can now remove the rail from the back frame.
- Remove the L button and its spring.

⚠ Be careful because the spring tends to fling away.

Step 10 — Removing the rail



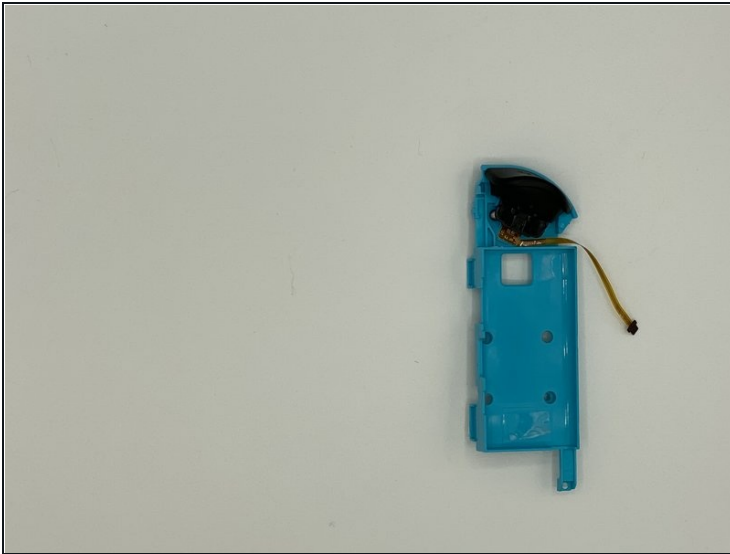
- Remove the screw holding the rail in place. Remove the rail from the back frame and set it off to the side.

Step 11 — Removing the latch button



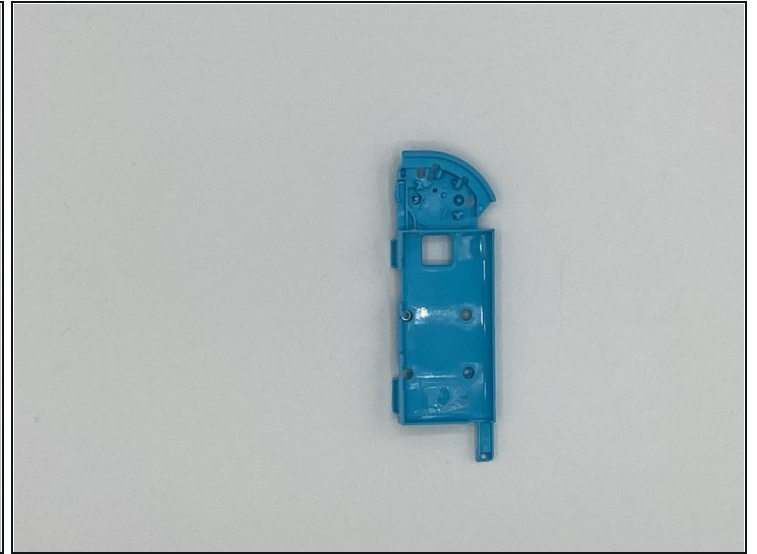
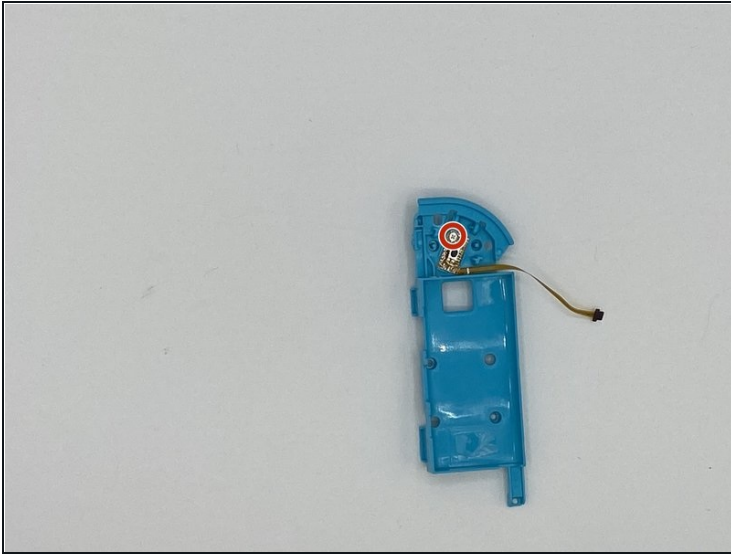
- Remove the latch button and set it off to the side.

Step 12 — Removing the triggers 1/2



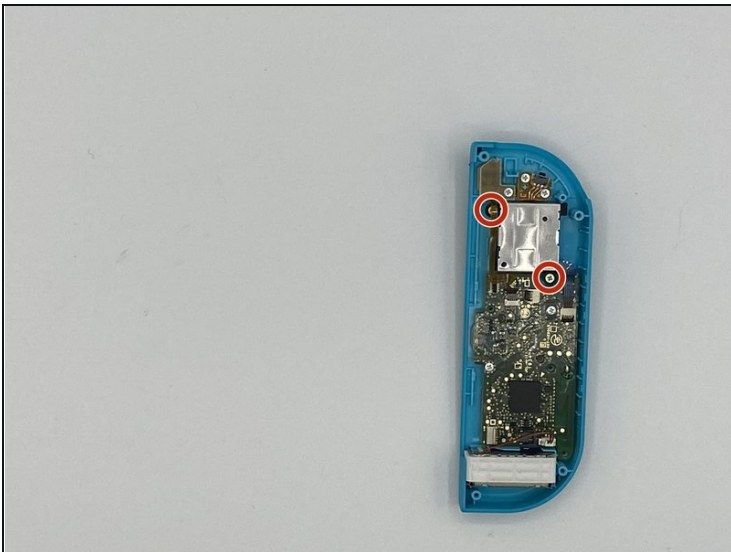
- Depress the latch underneath the trigger using tweezers. Gently pry the trigger off.
- ☑ Make sure to note the position of the two springs under the trigger as they will need to go back in the same spot on the new mid-frame.

Step 13 — Removing the triggers 2/2



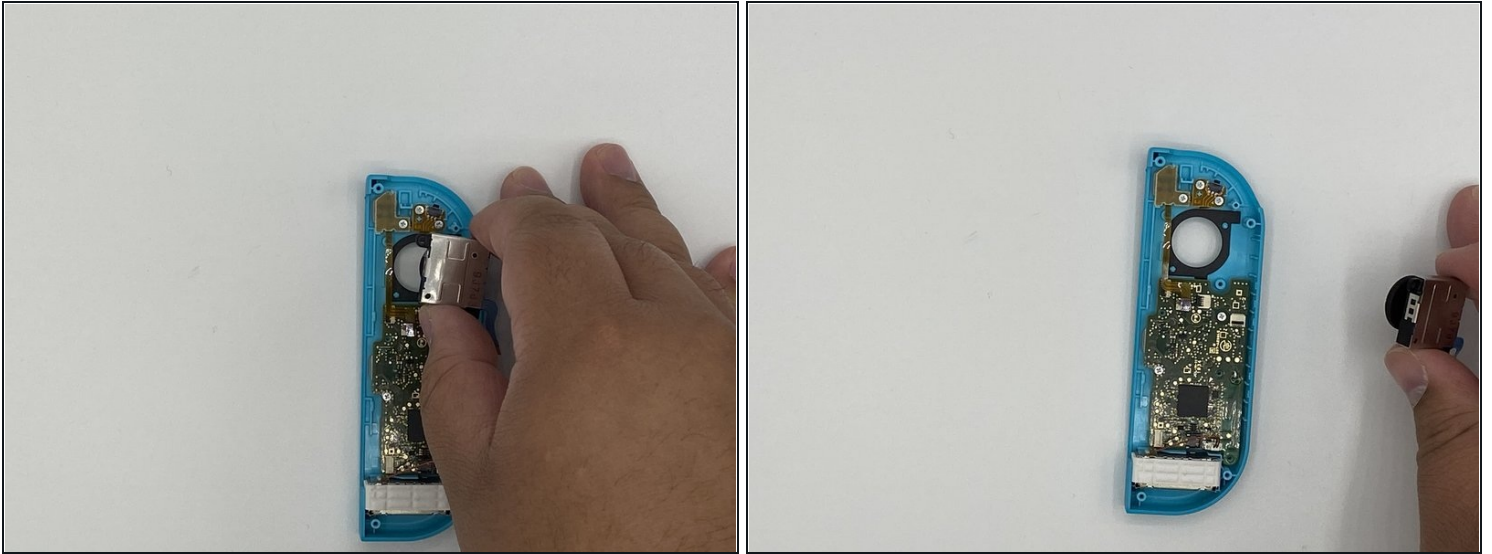
- Remove the screw holding the circuit board for the trigger in place.
- Remove the circuit board.

Step 14 — Removing the joystick 1/2



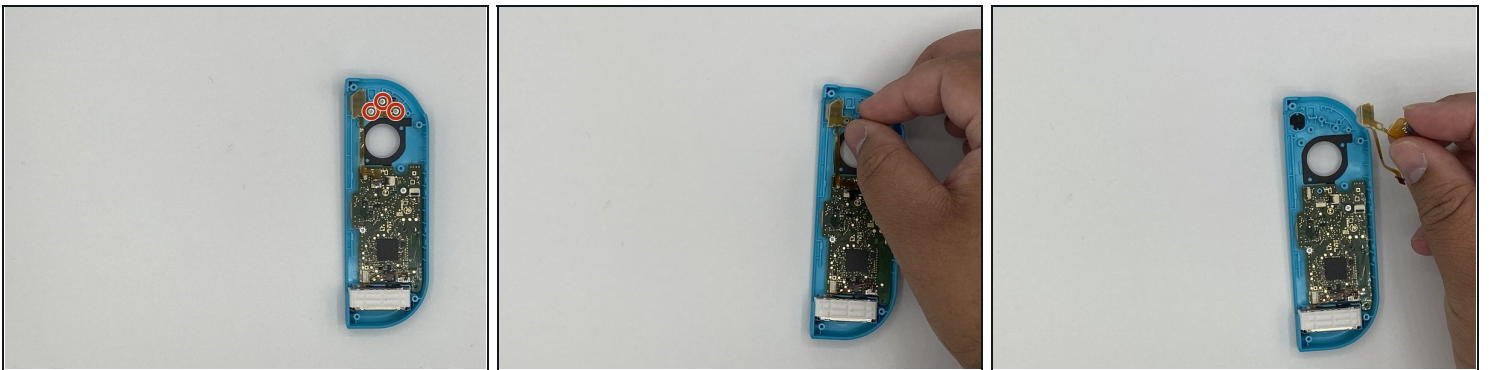
- Remove the screws holding the joystick in place.
- ① The top-left screw is covered by the L button's flex cable.
- Unlock the ZIF connector and remove the ribbon cable using tweezers.

Step 15 — Removing the joystick 2/2



- Remove the joystick.

Step 16 — Removing the top flex circuit



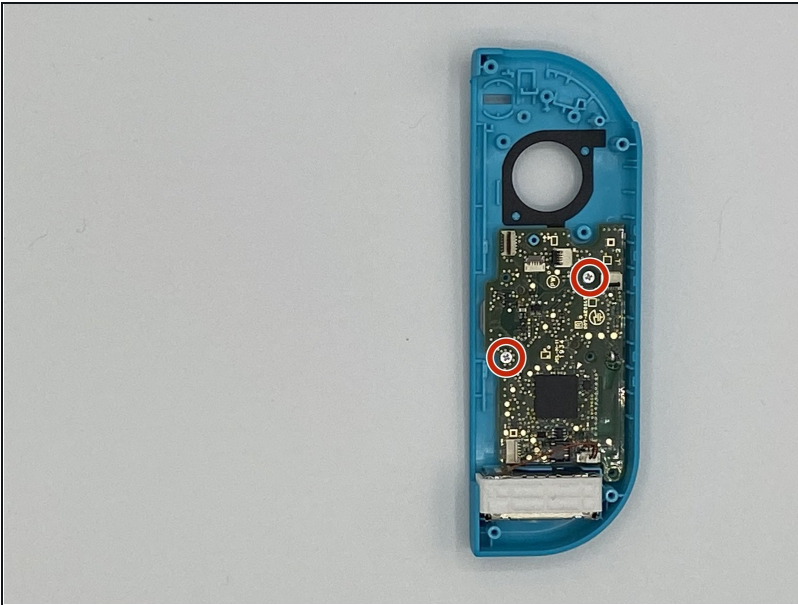
- Remove the screws holding the flex circuit (marked by a red circle) for the minus and L buttons.
- Remove the flex circuit.

Step 17 — Removing the minus button



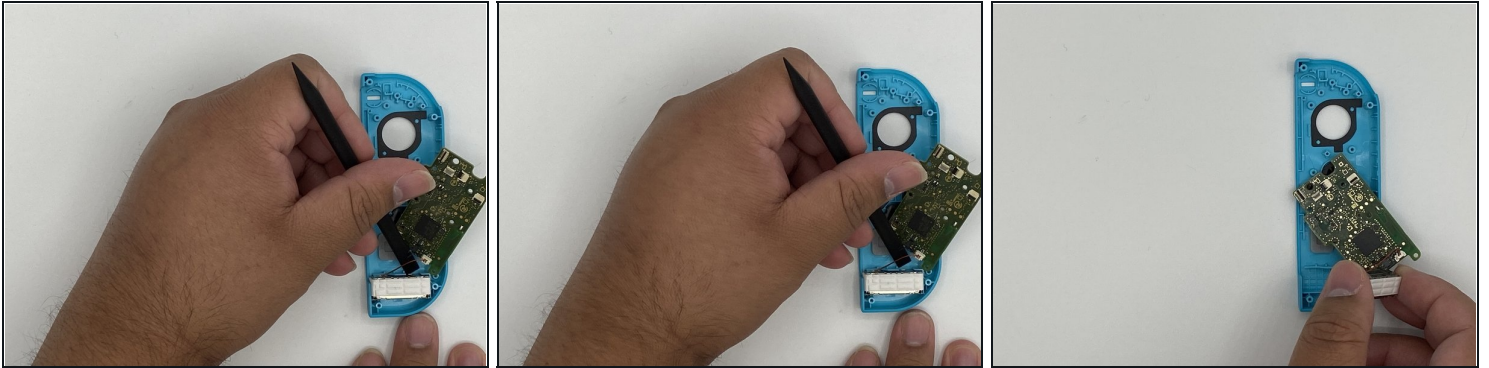
- Remove the minus button.
- ★ There will be a silicone membrane covering the minus button. Make sure to put it back over the minus button during reassembly.

Step 18 — Removing the motherboard 3/3



- Remove the screws holding the motherboard in place.

Step 19 — Removing the rumble pack



- Using the spudger, gently pry the rumble pack out of its housing.
- Remove the rumble pack and the motherboard.

Step 20 — Removing the remaining buttons



- Remove the remaining five buttons from the shell.

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