Corsair Dark Core (SE) Teardown

Disassembling the Corsair Dark Core mouse to fix some scroll wheel related issues.

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INTRODUCTION

I really like my Dark Core, but unfortunately Corsair support is lackluster at best when it comes to self repair (mostly just discouraging it).

In this guide I will attempt to provide help to others in my predicament.

Thanks to @thefoilist for providing the information I needed in this thread: Corsair Dark Core RGB (non SE))

🔧 TOOLS:

- T5 Torx Screwdriver (1)
- Phillips #0 Screwdriver (1)
- Spudger (1)

These can be substituted for any open-y thing (guitar pick, credit card etc.)

- Heat Gun (1)

I've heard putting it on a radiator for a little while can be enough, I used an open flame because I'm dumb, do as I say, not as I do.
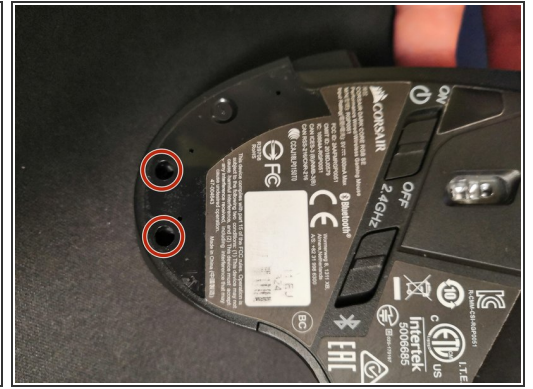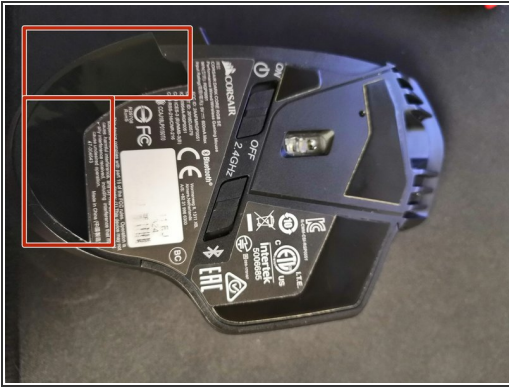
- Q-Tips (1)

OPTIONAL: The dark core seems to have some issues with the scroll wheel, might as well give it a rubdown with some lubricant while you're in there

- Isopropyl Alcohol (1)

OPTIONAL: See Q-Tips, can be substituted for WD-40 like I did, but this might attract more gunk later on.

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Step 1 — Getting Started

- ⓘ Make sure the on/off switch is set to off to prevent any accidental unwanted inputs to the machine

- Apply heat to the leftmost pad as shown in the image, near where the back of the palm rests while in use.

  - Once heated, try to gently pry off the PTFE pad with a spudger or a guitar pick

  - Heat the adhesive again and try to pry it off in one piece so you can reuse it.

  - ⓘ In my case, the PTFE came off without the adhesive, if you manage to get it all off at once, even better.

- Now, using your T5 Torx screwdriver, remove the 2 screws as marked in the image.

Step 2 — Removing the Palmrest

- With the screws removed, we can try to remove the palmrest.

- ⚠ Removing this part may require quite a bit of force as it's held by two clips at both sides of the mouse. Take your time and don't rush this process.

- If you remove the pinkie rest piece you should be able to see a divide between the upper palm rest and the rest of the shell, we will only be removing the upper part for now.

- Try to carefully pry it open using a spudger, creditcard, wiggle the tool and take your time and slowly increase the amount of force exterted while wiggling.

- Once one side's clip has popped out, slide a credit card/pick all the way along the newly created opening to the other side and wiggle the other side's clip loose as well (this shouldn't take nearly the amount of force used for the other side.)

## Step 3 — Removing the mouse buttons and the upper shell
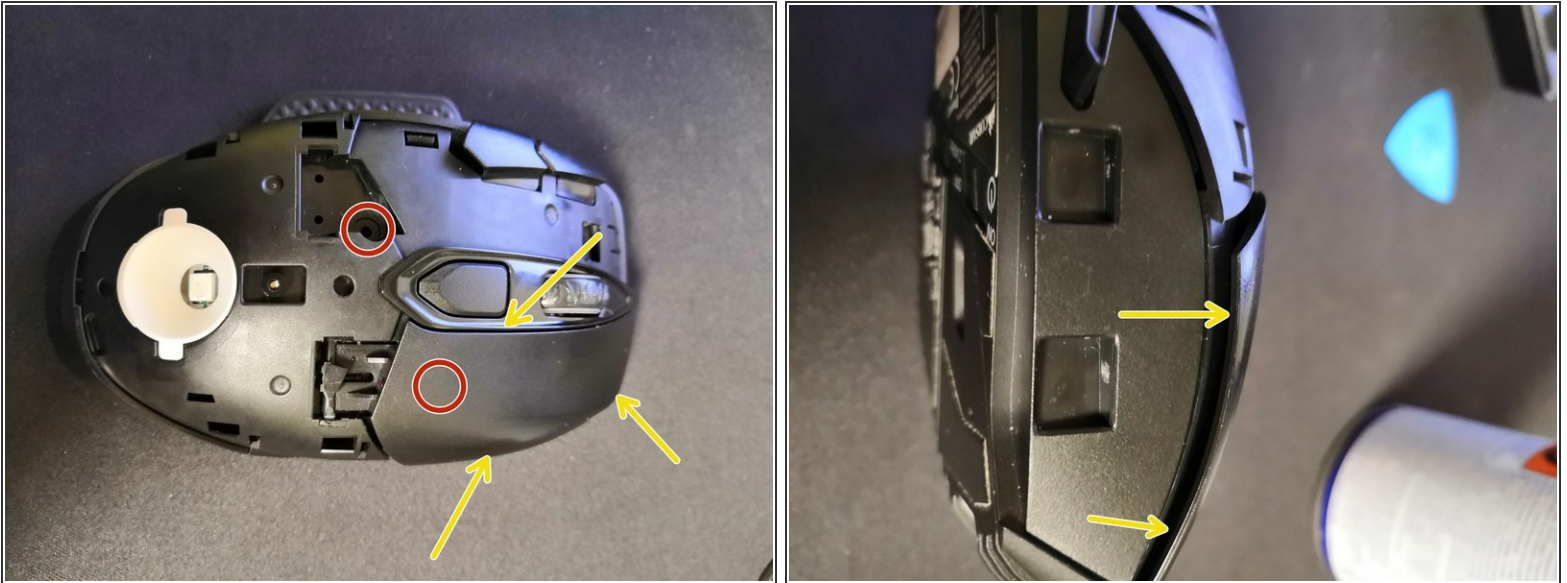
- To gain access to the internals we need to remove the upper shell, to do this we need to remove two more screws, which are (unfortunately) located underneath the two main mouse buttons.

  - The left button is rather easy to remove, just apply light upwards pressure between the shell and the mouse button, you will be able to lift it up as it's on a hinge, and gently remove it from the hinge for better access to the screw

  - For the right button, apply pressure from multiple angles if the button doesn't come off like the left button. Try to apply pressure from the points marked by yellow arrows.

    ⚠️ Removing the right button requires a lot more force, be very careful and try to apply pressure from as many sides as possible to spread out the pressure as to not break anything

    ⓘ For me, it didn't actually hinge like the left button did, instead I had to remove it from the hinge directly.

- Once both buttons are removed, we can access the screws located in the red circle markers, use a Phillips screwdriver to remove them.

Step 4 — Open her up!
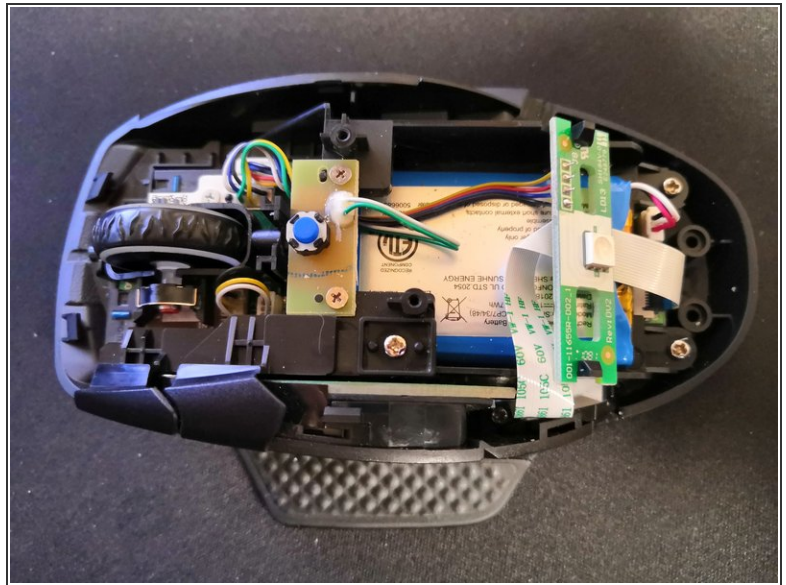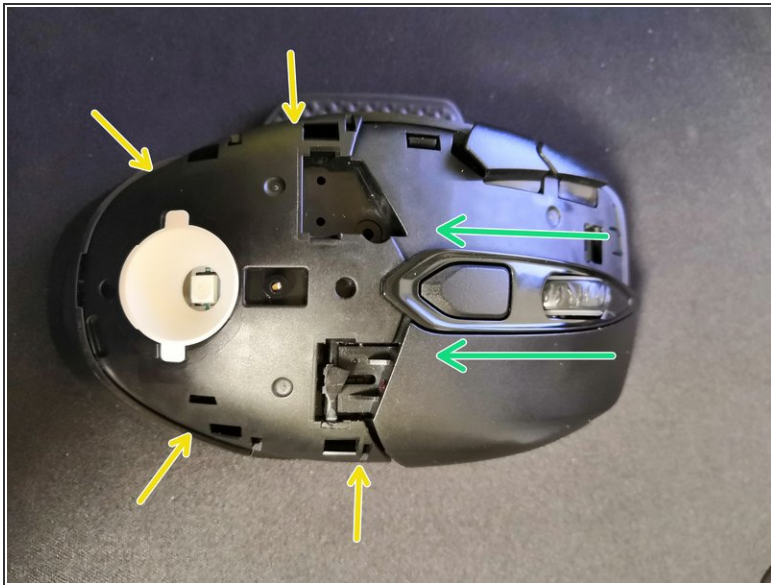
- With the screws removed, we can remove the last clamshell that stands between us and the internals.

  ⚠️ Where you are going to pry now has electronics underneath, try to keep your prying tools close to the edge. Check the second image to see where the sensitive electronics and cables can be.

  ℹ️ Removing this shell should require significantly less force than the palmrest removed in step 2. Still, take your time and try to apply pressure from multiple points if possible.

- Using a spudger or your prying tool of choice, apply press between the upper shell and the bottom part, there are two clips near the front of the mouse that prevent the upper shell from moving forward, so remove the shell in the direction of the green arrows.

Step 5 — You son of a &@!)#, I'm in.
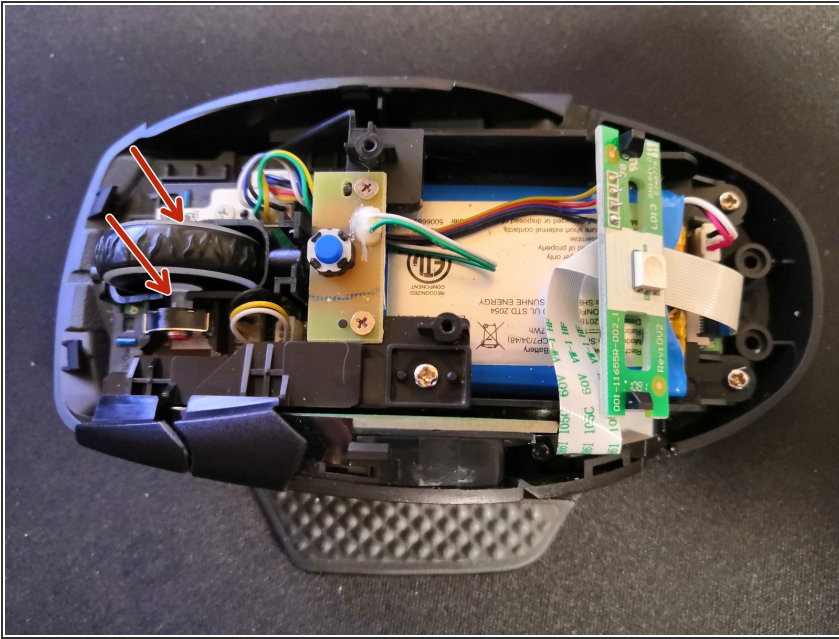
- If all went according to plan, you now have access to the internals

- OPTIONAL: As mentioned before, while you're in here, I recommend applying some Isopropyl alcohol /WD40 to Q-Tip and applying that to the shaft marked by the red arrows, afterwards turn the wheel a lot to get it settled in. This gets rid of some possible gunk which seems to be a common problem with the mouse.