



Google Stadia Controller Thumbstick Replacement

This guide shows how to remove the thumbsticks in a Google Stadia controller.

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INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to remove the thumbsticks in your Google Stadia controller.

Although you don't need special tools to open the Google Stadia controller, the opening process is difficult and requires a lot of force. The case of the controller is held together by super tight plastic clamps which require a tool solid enough to withstand the pressure it takes to pry them open. Take your time and try not to get frustrated during the opening procedure—otherwise you're likely to scratch or otherwise damage your controller.



TOOLS:

- [iOpener](#) (1)
- [iFixit Opening Picks \(Set of 6\)](#) (1)
- [Jimmy](#) (1)
- [TR8 Torx Security Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Precut Adhesive Card](#) (1)
- [Pro Tech Toolkit](#) (1)

optional

Step 1 — Loosen the screw cover adhesive



- Apply a [heated iOpener](#) to the rear side of the Stadia controller where the screw cover is located to loosen the adhesive underneath. Apply the iOpener for at least two minutes.

Step 2 — Insert an opening pick



- Insert the tip of an opening pick into the gap between the plastic screw cover and the rear case of the controller.

Step 3 — Remove the screw cover



- Slide the opening pick along the screw cover to slice the adhesive.
 - Use a pair of tweezers or your fingers to remove the screw cover.
- ☒ You might want to replace the screw cover adhesive during reassembly. Apply a bit of high-concentration isopropyl alcohol (>90%) to a Q-tip or use a cleaning pad to gently remove the leftover adhesive on the rear cover of the controller before installing new adhesive.

Step 4 — Unfasten the rear case screw



- Use a Torx T8 screwdriver to remove the 9.6 mm-long screw securing the rear case.

Step 5 — Disassembly information



- The front cover assembly of the Stadia controller is held in place by various tight plastic clamps. They are very hard to open and snap back in place easily.

⚠ The opening procedure requires some force, however, try to avoid damaging your controller case along the way.

Step 6 — Pry open the stadia controller



- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly at the inside of the left controller handle.
- ⓘ To make sure you insert the Jimmy at the correct position where the clamps are located, you can use [this photo](#).
- Tilt the Jimmy upwards and push it into the gap between the covers at the same time to pry open the plastic clamp. You should hear a *clack* noise once the clamp pops open.
- ⓘ Once the clamp is completely open, the gap between the two controller covers should be about 2-3 mm wide.


Step 7 — Insert an opening pick



- Insert an opening pick in a steep angle into the gap you created to prevent the first clamp from popping back into its closed position.

Step 8 — Pry open the Stadia controller



 To make sure you insert the Jimmy at the correct position where the clamps are located, you can use [this photo](#).

- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly at the outside of the left bottom end of the controller handle.
- Repeat the previous opening procedure to open the three plastic clamps at the outside of the left controller handle.

Step 9



- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly between the left shoulder button and the charging port at the top edge of the Stadia controller.
- Tilt the Jimmy upwards and push it into the gap between the covers at the same time to pry open the plastic clamp. You should hear a *clack* noise once the clamp pops open.
- Repeat the previous procedure at the clamp between the right shoulder button and the charging port.

Step 10



- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly at the right edge of the right controller handle.
- Repeat the previous opening procedure to open the three plastic clamps at the outside of the right controller handle.

Step 11



- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly at the inside of the right controller handle.
- Repeat the previous opening procedure to open plastic clamps at the inside of the left controller handle.

Step 12



- Insert a Jimmy into the gap between the front and back cover assembly at the bottom edge of the Stadia controller right to the headphone jack.
- Tilt the Jimmy upwards and push it into the gap between the covers at the same time to pry open the plastic clamp.
- Repeat the previous procedure at the clamp left to the headphone jack.

⚠ Do not try to remove the front cover assembly all the way yet. It's still connected to the rear cover assembly.

Step 13 — Unfold the front cover assembly



⚠ Avoid straining the front cover assembly cable during this step.

- Carefully lift the front cover assembly and fold it to the left side of the Google Stadia controller.

Step 14 — Remove the right thumbstick



- Use your fingers to remove the right thumbstick by pulling it upwards and off the right joystick.

Step 15 — Remove the left thumbstick



- Use your fingers to remove the left thumbstick by pulling it upwards and off the left joystick.

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

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

Repair didn't go as planned? Check out our [Answers community](#) for troubleshooting help.