



Nintendo 3DS 2015 D Pad Replacement

Replace the D pad in the 3DS 2015.

Written By: Tyler Starr



INTRODUCTION

If you aren't getting full range of motion on the D pad replacing may fix it. Go slow. There are several delicate ribbons cables. Make sure that components are completely disconnected before you pull them apart.

TOOLS:

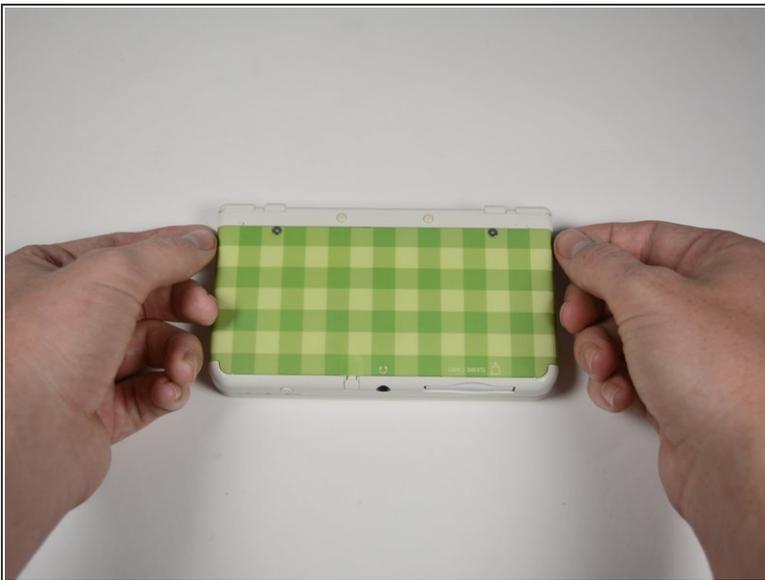
- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
 - [Tri-point Y0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Tweezers](#) (1)
-

Step 1 — Battery



- Unscrew the two 3mm Phillips #0 head screws along the top edge of the device.
- ⚠ The screws on the back panel strip easily. Go slowly and press down firmly.
- ⓘ The screws on the back panel are held in by locking washers, so they won't come out of the back panel.

Step 2



- Pull the top corner tabs of the front face plate outward and towards you.
- Pull the faceplate up and out of the slots at the bottom of the device.
- Set aside the back faceplate.

Step 3



- Insert a plastic opening tool into the notch at the top of the battery.
- Pry the battery up with the plastic opening tool.

Step 4 — SD Card Reader



- Unscrew the three 3mm Y0 screws along the right and bottom of the SD card reader.
- ⓘ The bottom of the SD card reader should slightly pop out after removing the screws.

Step 5



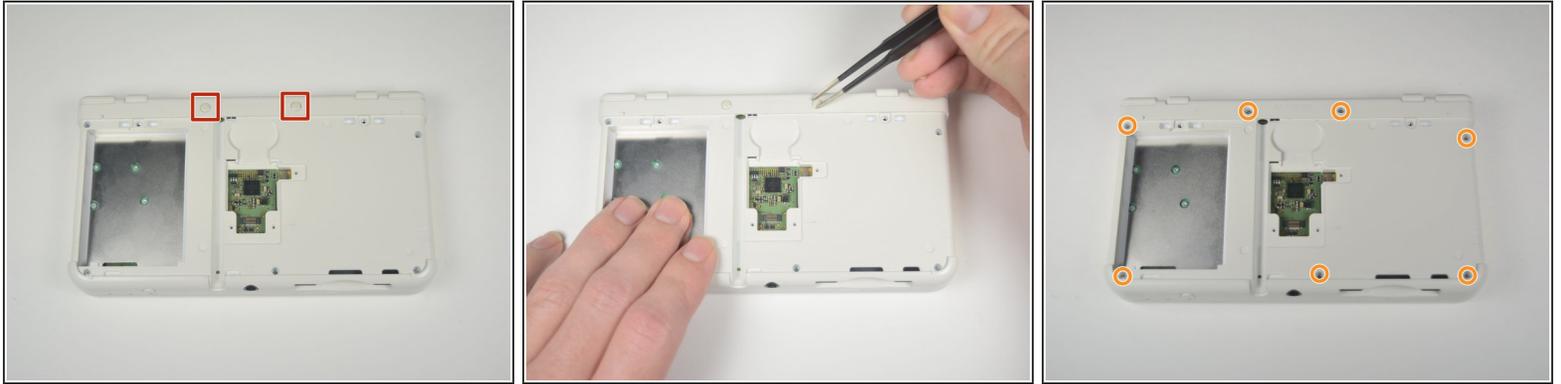
- Pull the SD card reader from the edge with two holes gently to free the tab at the top of the SD card reader.
- ⚠ Don't completely pull the SD card out of the device yet. There is a ribbon cable connected under the SD card reader.
- Reorient the device so that the power jack faces you.

Step 6



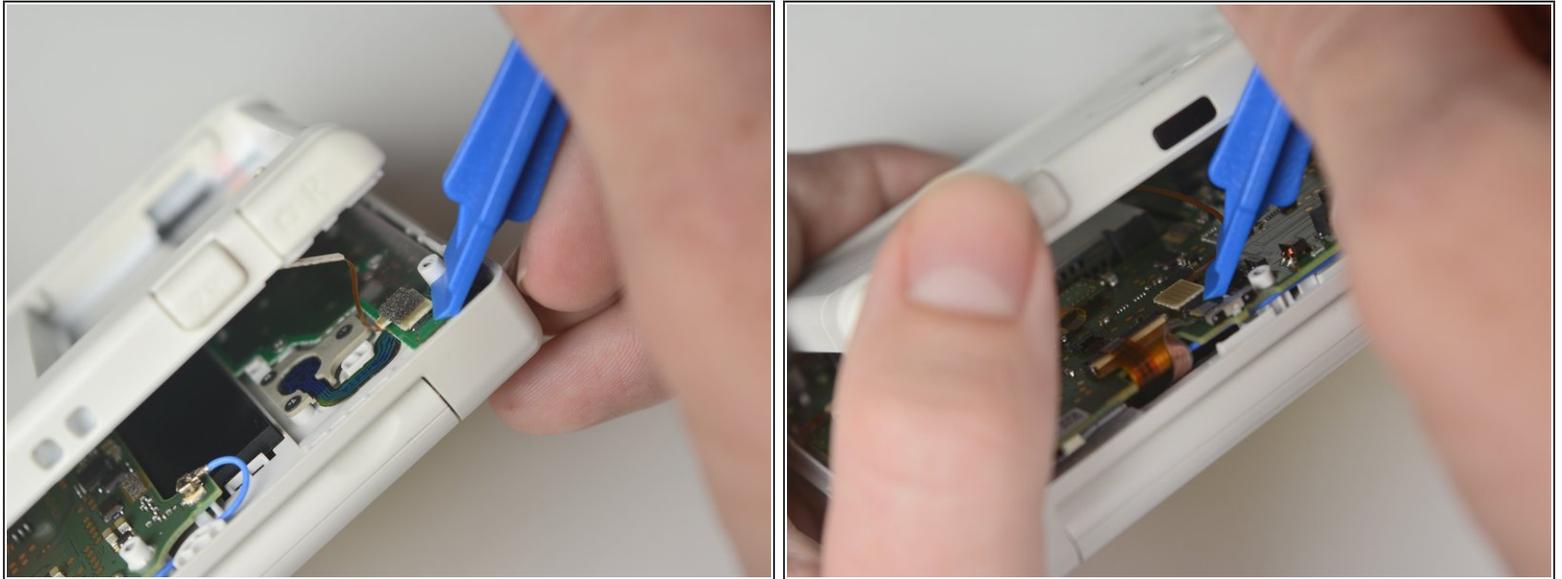
- Lift the SD card reader gently.
- Use a plastic opening tool to pry the SD card ribbon cable off the socket on the motherboard.
- Lift the SD card reader out of the lower casing.

Step 7 — Lower Case



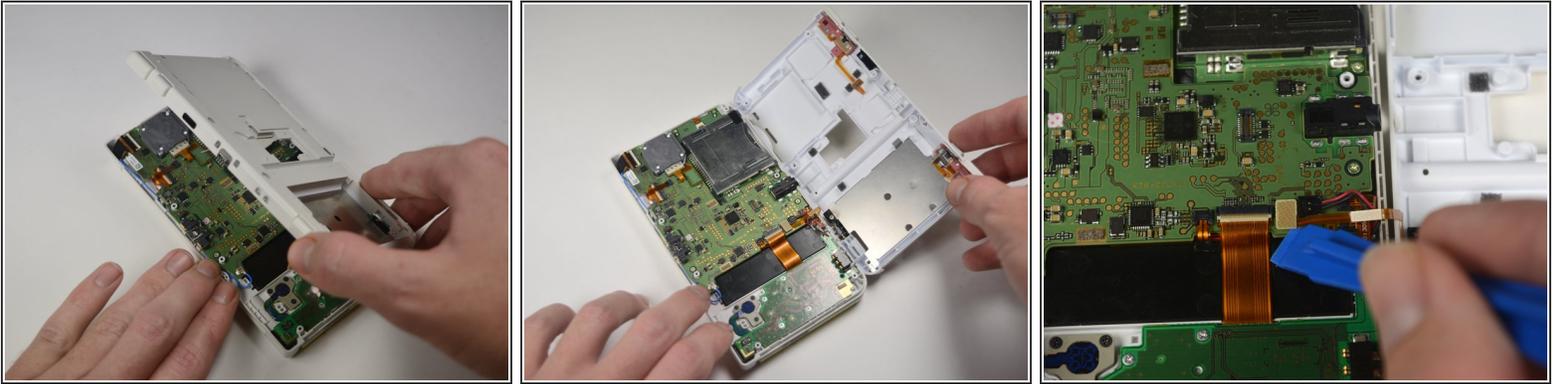
- Reorient the device so that the game slot now faces you.
- Remove the two rubber bumpers along the top of the device using tweezers.
- Unscrew the seven 6mm Phillips #00 screws along the top and bottom of the 3DS.

Step 8



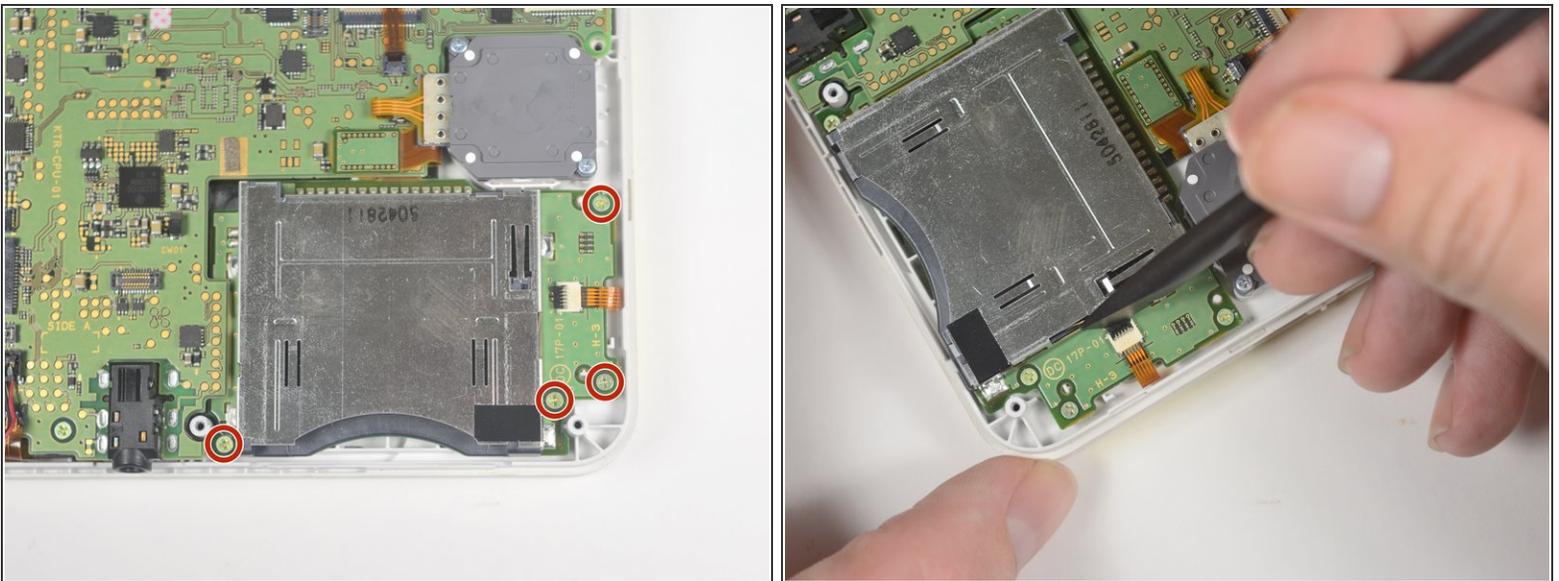
- Lift the top edge of the lower case slightly off on the 3DS.
- ⚠ Don't pull the lower casing completely off, you may break those connections. There are ribbon cables that must be disconnected first.
- Pry the ribbon cable socket under the right trigger using a plastic opening tool.
- Pry the ribbon cable socket under the infrared receiver cover using a plastic opening tool.

Step 9



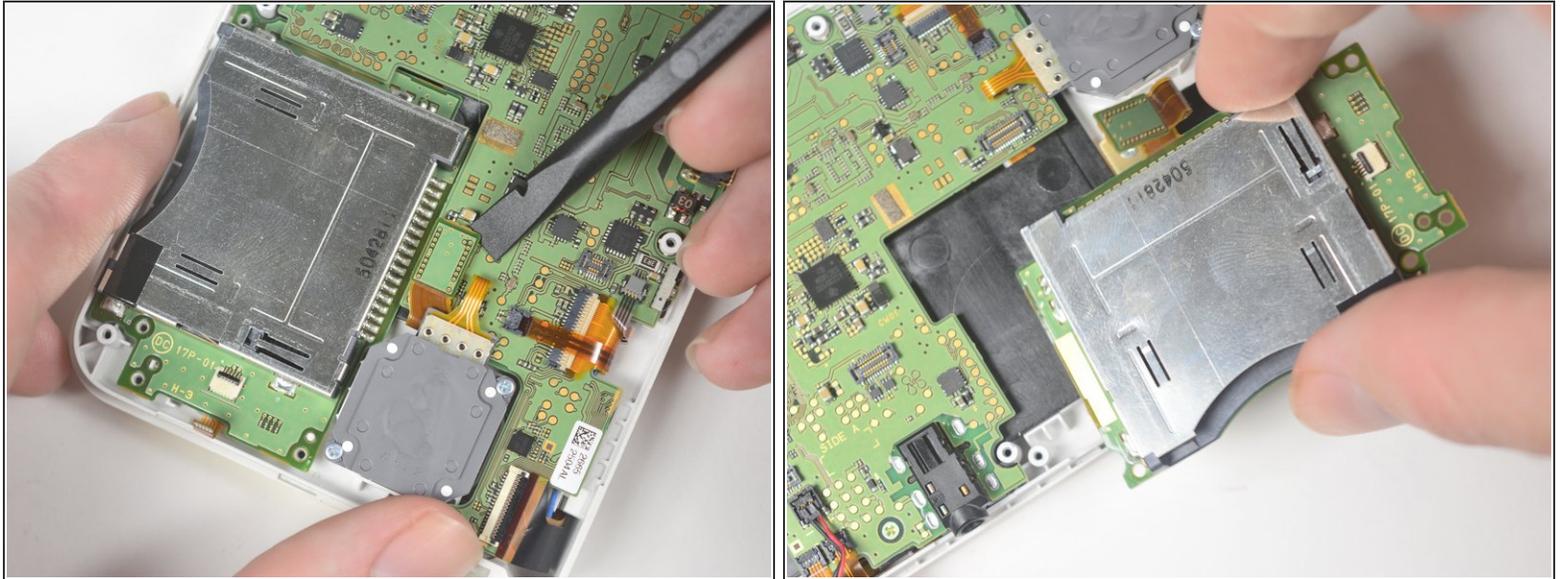
- Open the device slowly from its top edge. Be careful not to tug the ribbon cable connected near the bottom edge of the device.
- Pry the last ribbon cable attached to the lower case using a plastic opening tool.

Step 10 — Gamecard Reader



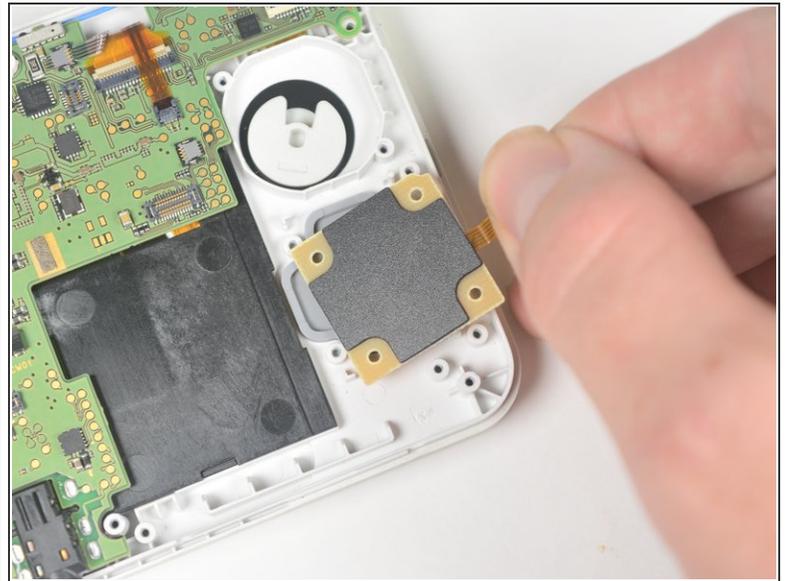
- Locate the gamecard reader near the bottom right corner of the motherboard.
- Unscrew the four 3mm Phillips #00 screws along the edge of the gamecard reader.
- Lift the black latch on the ZIF connector along the right side of the reader using a plastic opening tool.

Step 11



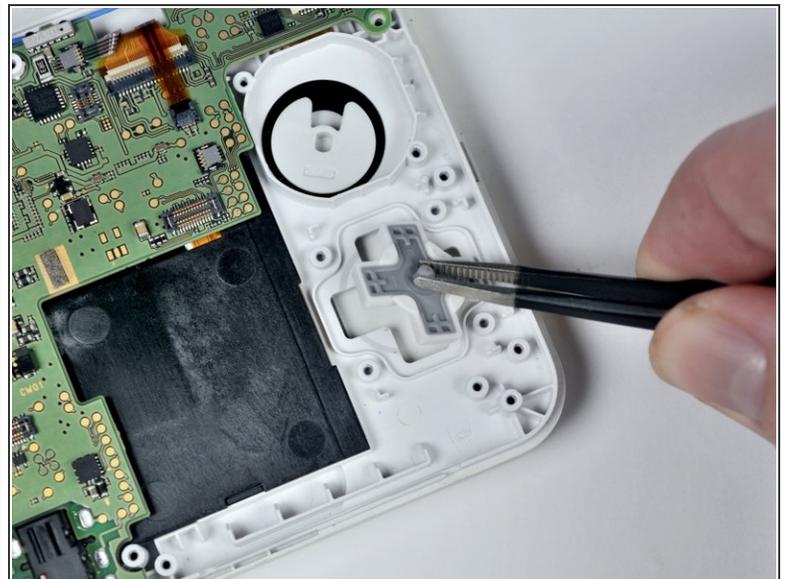
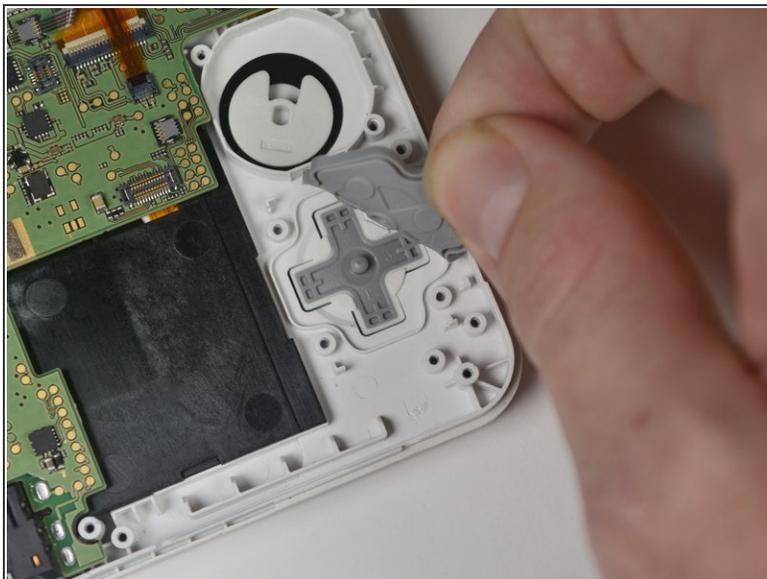
- Pry the ribbon cable from its socket, just left of the joystick, using the flat side of a spudger.
- Grab the right edge of the gamecard reader and lift it out of the device, watching to make sure the ribbon cables don't snag.

Step 12 — D Pad



- Remove the four 3mm Phillips #00 screws from the four corners of the D pad board.
- Lift the D pad board out of the device.

Step 13



- Peel the rubber piece, backing the D pad, out of the device.
- Lift the D pad out of the device with a pair of tweezers.

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