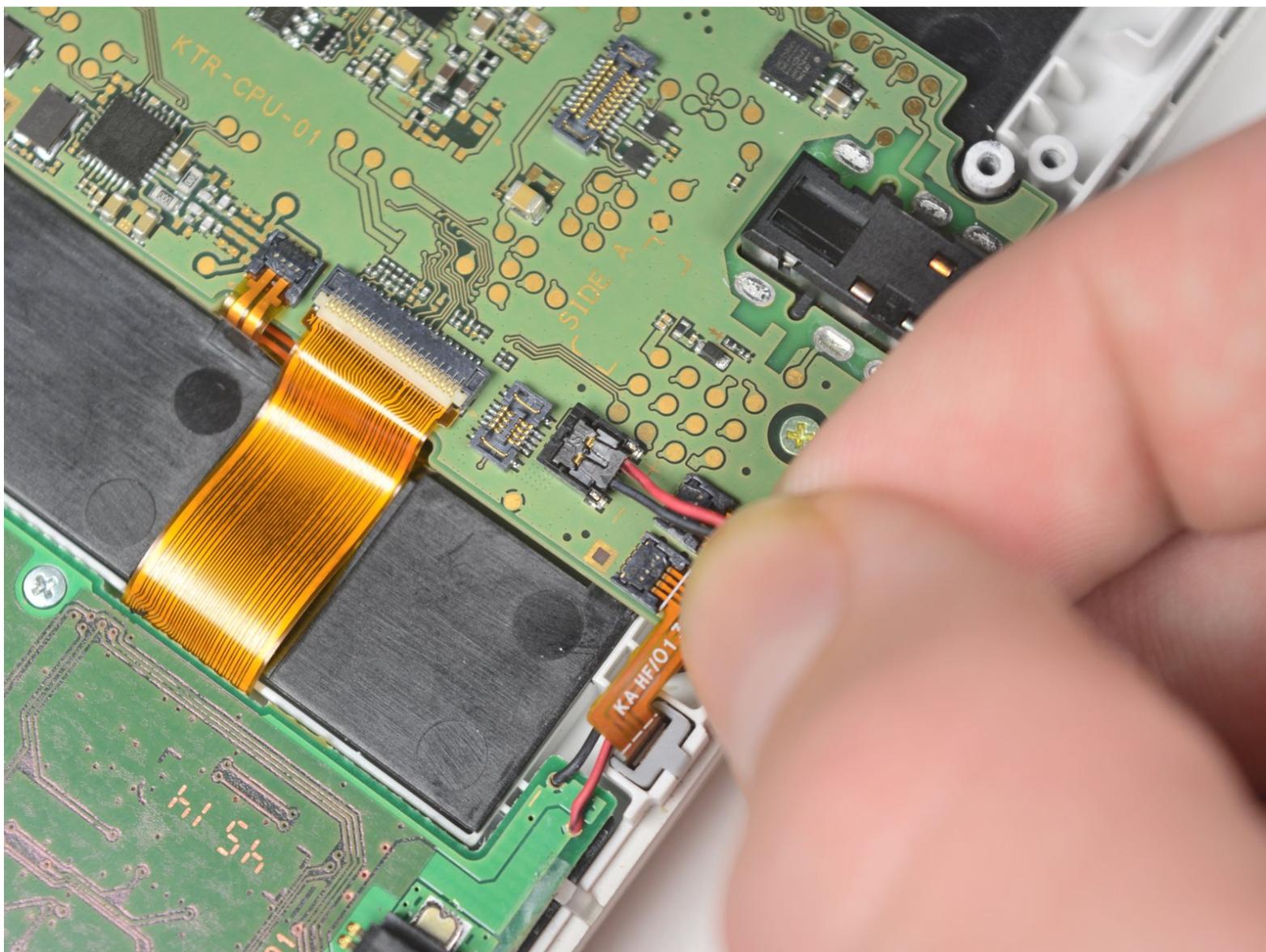




Nintendo 3DS 2015 Motherboard Replacement

This guide will show how to replace the motherboard in the 3DS 2015.

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INTRODUCTION

Replacing the motherboard should be a last resort and shouldn't be taken lightly. There are many delicate ribbon cables so be careful and go slow.

TOOLS:

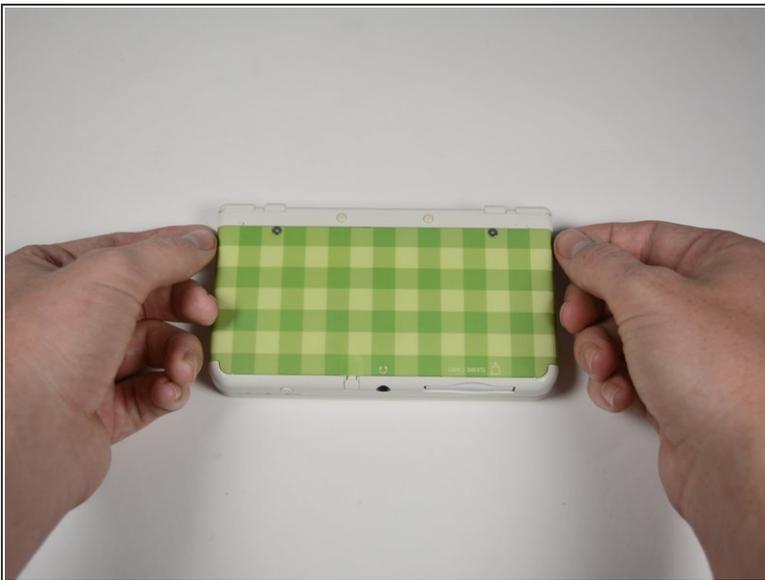
- [Phillips #0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
 - [Tri-point Y0 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Tweezers](#) (1)
 - [Spudger](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Battery



- 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.

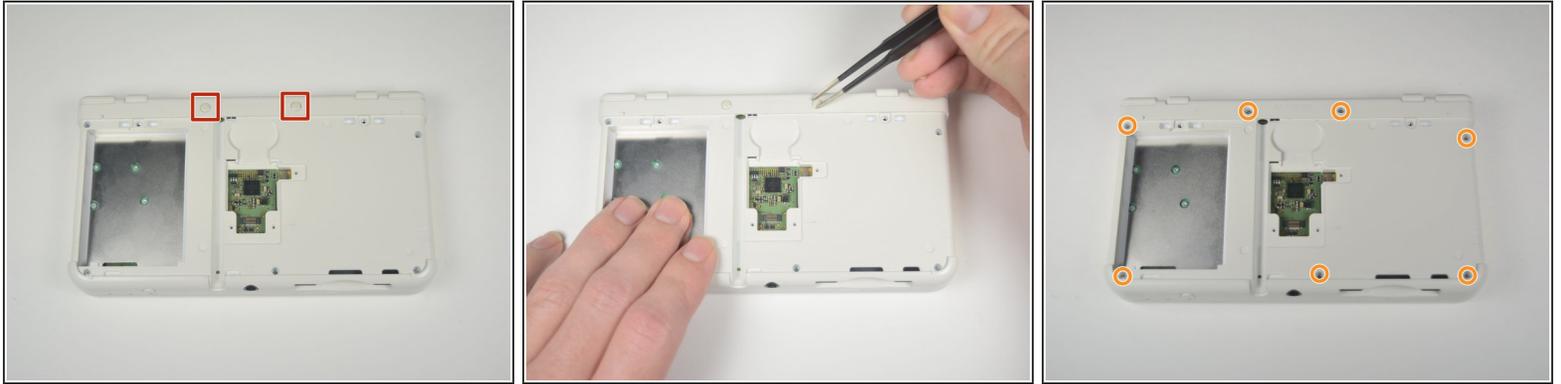
- Reorient the device so that the power jack faces you.

Step 6



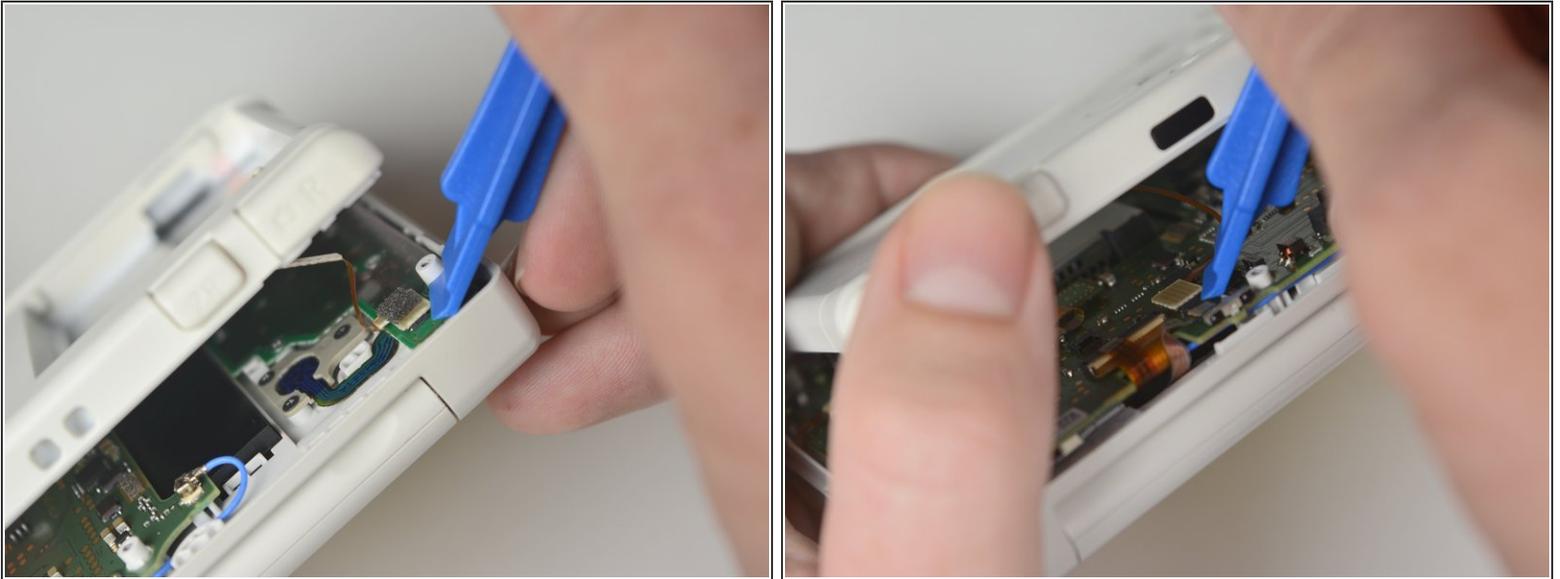
- Lift the SD card reader gently.
- Use a plastic opening tool to pry the SD card ribbon cable off the socket on the motherboard.
- Lift the SD card reader out of the lower casing.

Step 7 — Lower Case



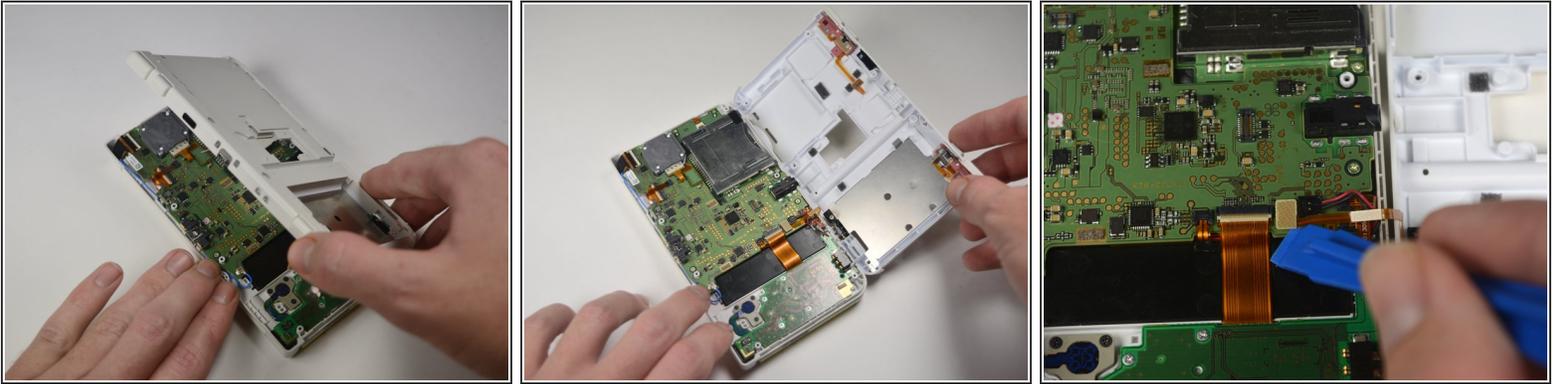
- Reorient the device so that the game slot now faces you.
- Remove the two rubber bumpers along the top of the device using tweezers.
- Unscrew the seven 6mm Phillips #00 screws along the top and bottom of the 3DS.

Step 8



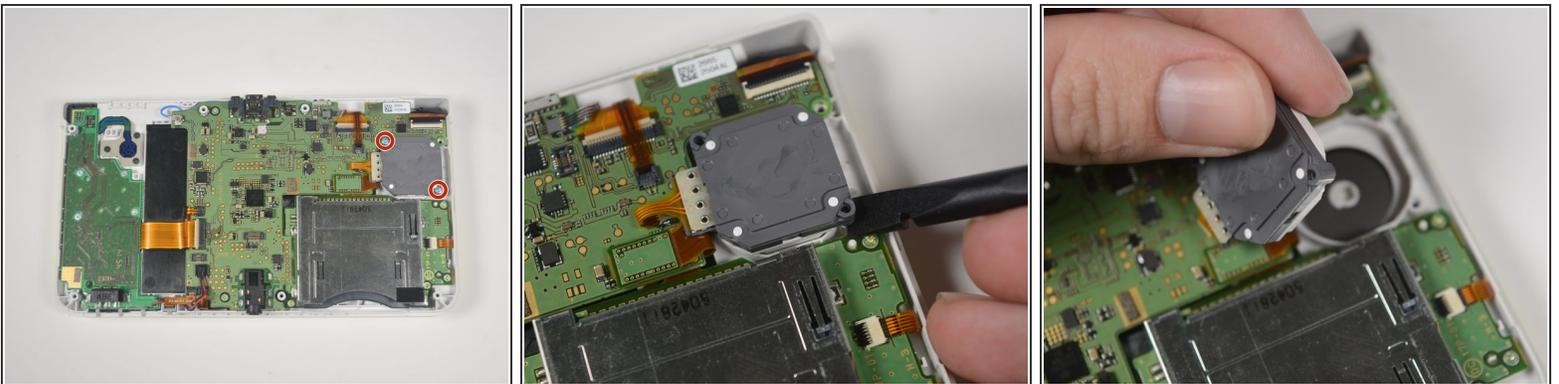
- Lift the top edge of the lower case slightly off on the 3DS.
- ⚠ Don't pull the lower casing completely off, you may break those connections. There are ribbon cables that must be disconnected first.
- Pry the ribbon cable socket under the right trigger using a plastic opening tool.
- Pry the ribbon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

Step 9



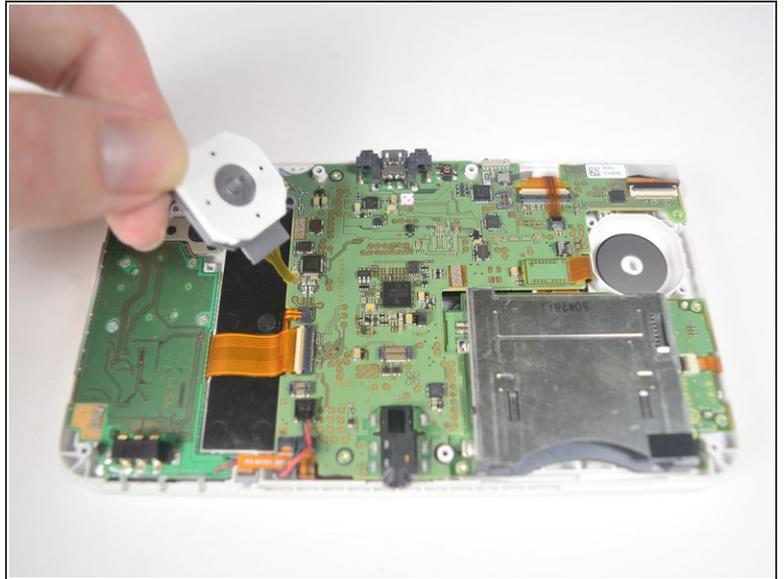
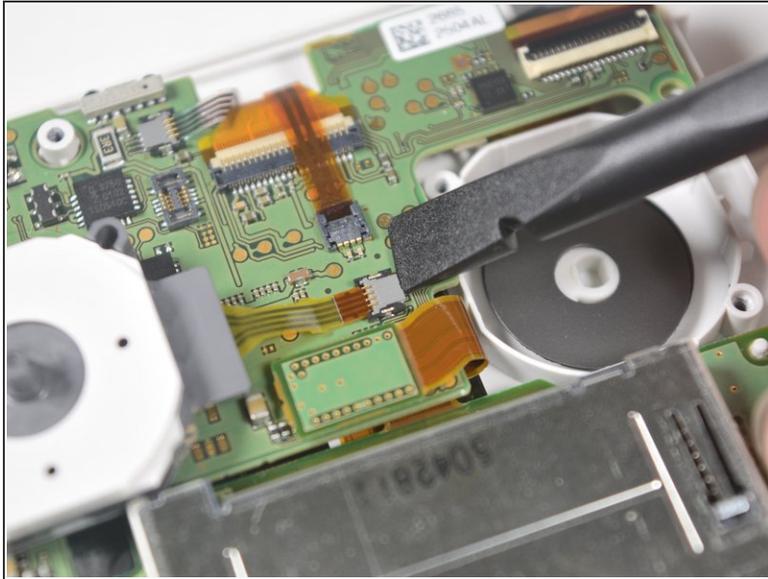
- Open the device slowly from its top edge. Be careful not to tug the ribbon cable connected near the bottom edge of the device.
- Pry the last ribbon cable attached to the lower case using a plastic opening tool.

Step 10 — Joystick



- Locate the joystick assembly near the top right corner of the motherboard.
- Remove the two 8mm Phillips #00 screws from the back of the joystick.
- Use the flat end of the spudger to pry off the joystick pad from its plastic housing.

Step 11



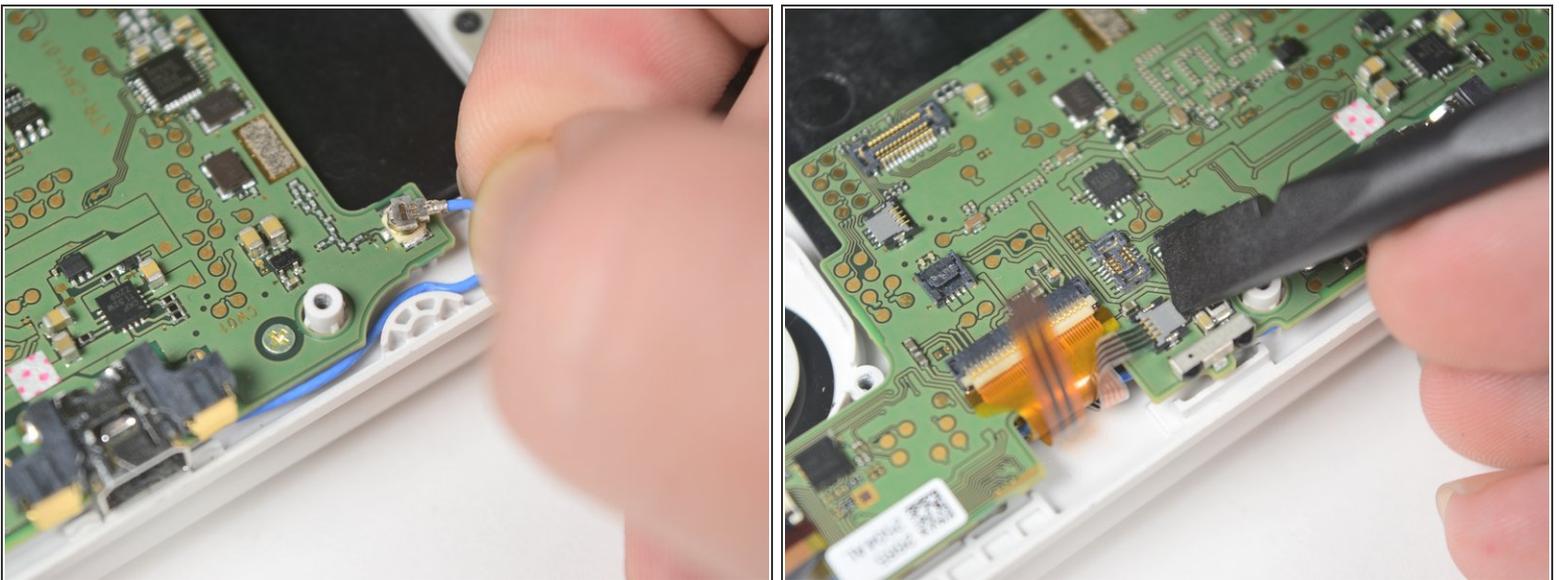
- Lift the joystick pad and place it on its back. This will reveal the ribbon cable connected to the joystick pad.
- Use the flat end of the spudger to pry up the retaining flap for the ribbon cable.
- Lift the joystick out of the device.

Step 12 — Motherboard



- Remove the power cable, indicated by the black and red wires, by gently pulling it up and out of the connector.
 - Gently pull the ribbon cables out of the 4 ZIF connectors.
- ⚠ Do not lift up on the tabs on these ZIF connectors. Lifting these tabs will break the connectors.

Step 13



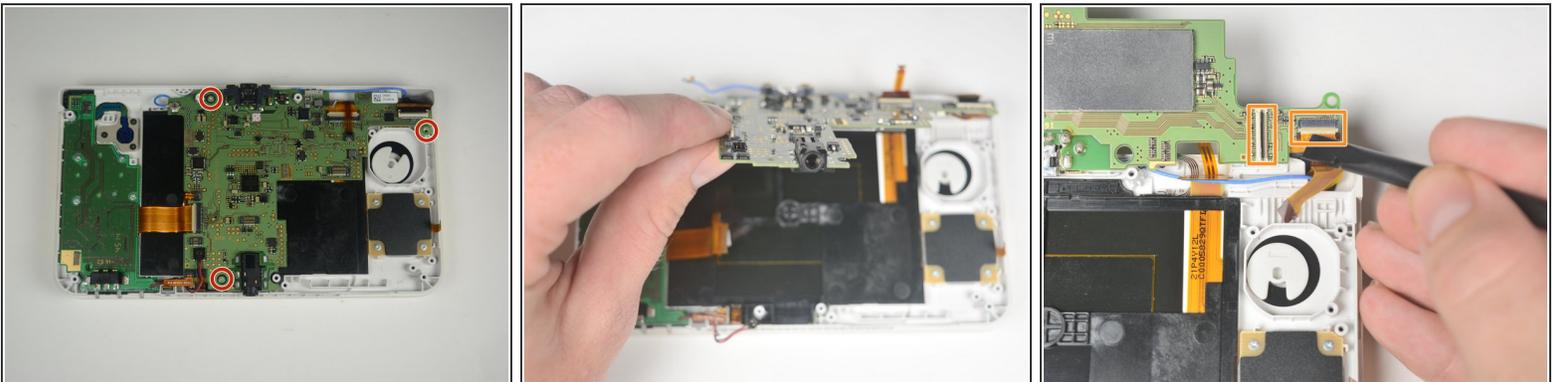
- Pull up gently on the blue wifi antenna.
- Pry the retaining tab on the connector behind the infrared receiver and gently pull the ribbon cable from the connector with tweezers.

Step 14



- Lift the retaining tab and remove the large ribbon cable on the left side of the motherboard.
- Lift the retaining tab and remove the large ribbon cable on the top of the motherboard behind the infrared receiver.
- Lift the retaining tab and remove the large ribbon cable on the top of the motherboard just above the joystick housing.

Step 15



- ⚠ Double check that all motherboard connection on the top of the board have been disconnected.
- Remove the three, 3mm Phillips #00 screws that secure the motherboard to the device housing.
- Lift the motherboard gently by the headphone jack.
- Remove the two ribbons on the back of the device by lifting the retaining tabs on the ZIF connectors.

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