



Apple EarPods Lightning Connector Teardown

Basic teardown / opening up of Apple EarPods Lightning Connector.

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INTRODUCTION

Due to its basic nature, this is more of an 'opening up' than a teardown of the Lighting Connector of the Apple Earpods. Hopefully, it will be useful to anyone thinking of repairing the connector, if only to show that there are no readily accessible cables inside.

The point of this teardown is more to show the inside of the connector rather than to describe how to do it. A brief description of the teardown is provided in any case.

TOOLS:

- Utility Knife (1)

Step 1 — Score



- Using a sharp utility knife, score the plastic casing all around. Locate the cut at about half of the casing's length length.
- **Important:** Take extreme care with your fingers due to the small size of the casing, the smooth and slippery surface of the casing, and how close your fingers will be to the blade when doing this.
- Make the score lines as perpendicular to the casing as possible, and make them meet at a point after going around the casing. This will make the next step a lot easier. Marking out the score line with a permanent pen before scoring would help.

Step 2 — Cut



- Continue scoring along the lines made (very carefully as per the first step), and gradually apply more pressure as the cuts become deeper.
- Reduce pressure as you sense that you are getting close to cutting through the plastic.
- As you just break through the plastic on the flat side (not on either of the round sides), you will feel the blade start to scrape on metal. At this point, start to gently slice around the cut / score line all the way around the casing, avoiding cutting into the metal as much as possible.

Step 3 — Remove casing



- Once the casing has been split/cut apart, you should be able to pull off the section on the connector side.
- The white rubber seal/gasket will probably come off, but this can be quite easily pushed back into place if needed.

- The section of casing on the cable side is harder to remove. Use the tip of the utility knife, or better still, a scalpel, to cut and pry it away from the main body.

Step 4 — Now what?



- As you can see, there are no exposed cables or terminals to fix or re-solder. Maybe this guide saved you the time of actually taking it apart, or maybe you'd like to attempt to open up the metal housing inside and do some micro-surgery. Hope this helped in any case.