Apple Watch 42mm Glass Digitizer Only Replacement

Glass/Digi only replacement on the Apple Watch 42mm, the same technique and steps should also apply to the 38mm version.

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INTRODUCTION

Step by step, detailed guide on removing the LCD from the glass/digi on an Apple Watch. This is for experienced technicians only, requires expensive machinery and tools, and is recommended to be performed by professionals only.

TOOLS:

- Sharp tip tweezers (1)
- Business card or thin plastic card (1)
- Sharp knife (1)
- Spudger (1)
- Heat Gun (1)
- autoclave (1)
- Soldering Iron (1)
- Ruler (1)
- Cutting Board (1)

PARTS:

- Apple Watch Digitizer (1)

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Step 1 — Apple Watch Glass Only Repair

- Heat the screen up so that the entire display and watch are warm. Be sure to turn the device off first by holding down the crown then sliding to power off. Using a sharp blade start at the bottom right corner and lift the glass up enough to create a gap, once you have a large enough gap use a plastic tool to break the adhesive bond around the edges

Step 2 — Disconnecting the LCD assembly
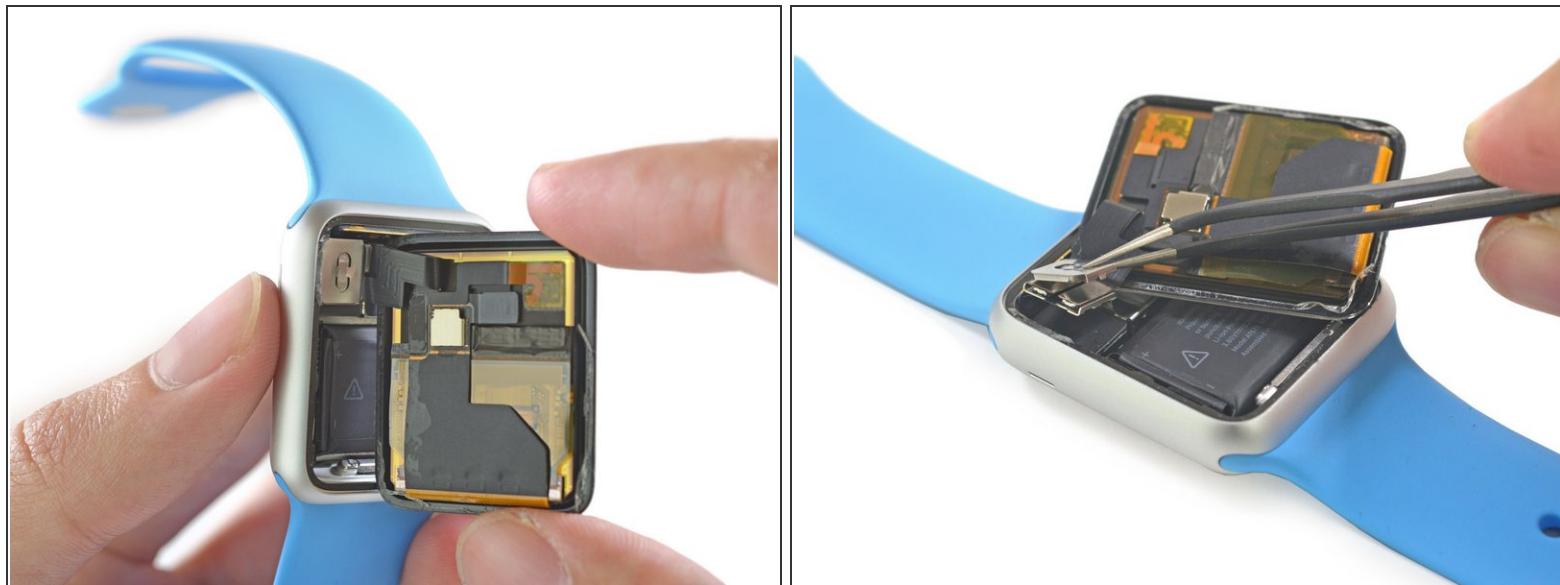
- When inserting the knife & plastic tools around the edges be sure not to go further than 1mm into the AMOLED. The force touch gasket lies directly underneath the glass and is easily damaged if pushed on too hard with a knife or other metal object. The FPC clip is tricky but is easily removed using sharp point tweezers on the battery edge.

Step 3 — Desoldering the proximity sensor power supply
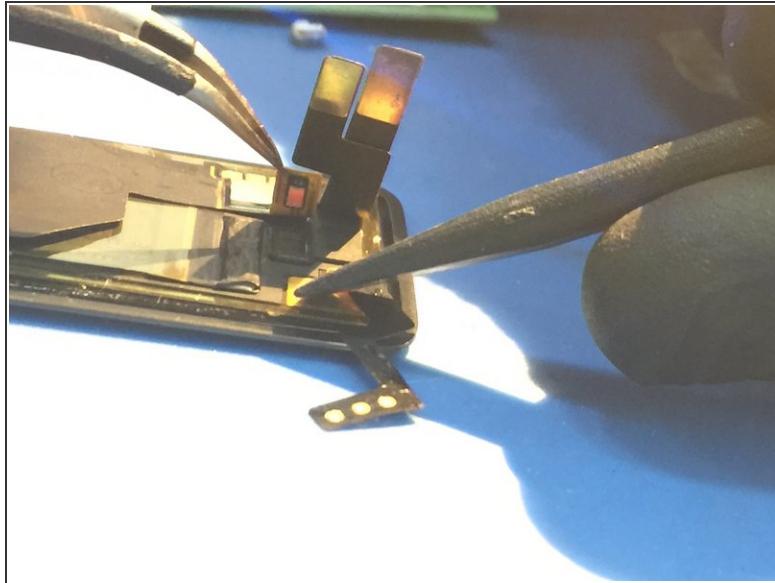
- I used a solder iron tip that was larger than the solder pads. Turn your soldering iron up to a high temperature, 350C is where I kept mine at. DO NOT add any solder, just use the heat & tweezers to pull back the tabs. After unsoldering pull the flex cable out of the way and use tweezers to peel back the proximity sensor from the AMOLED. CAREFULLY.

## Step 4 — Separating the Digi flex from the LCD
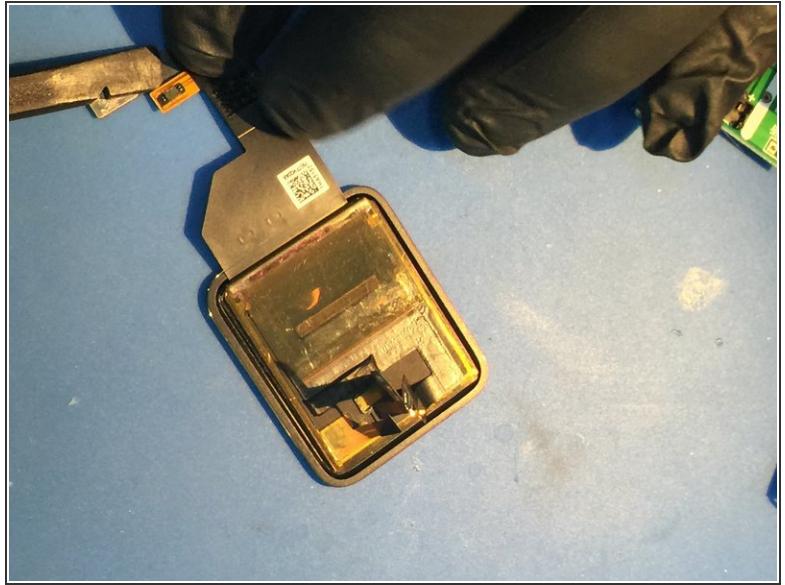
- After desoldering use a plastic spudger in the exact area as the picture shows to loosen up the adhesive holding the digi flex in place. It's best if you use a small amount of heat, around 150F, to help soften the adhesive bond. Fold the digi cable back as shown in the second picture.

Step 5 — Separating the AMOLED from the glass/digi
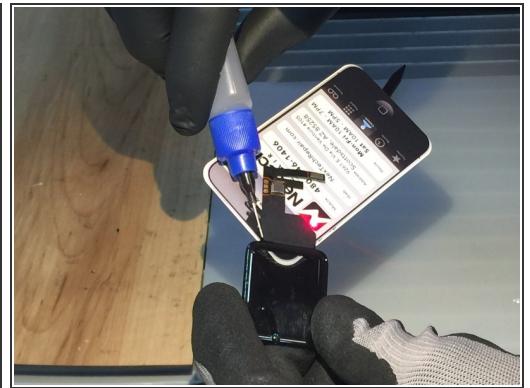
- Begin by preheating the entire screen to a uniform temp, letting it sit under warm air for 10 minutes. I keep my heat gun on 300F-350F while holding the screen 3"-6" away from the nozzle to vary the temperature. Carefully insert a business card under the screen on the dig flex side. Use alcohol to weaken the OCA tape bond then move the card in slow

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Step 6 — Further removal of the AMOLED
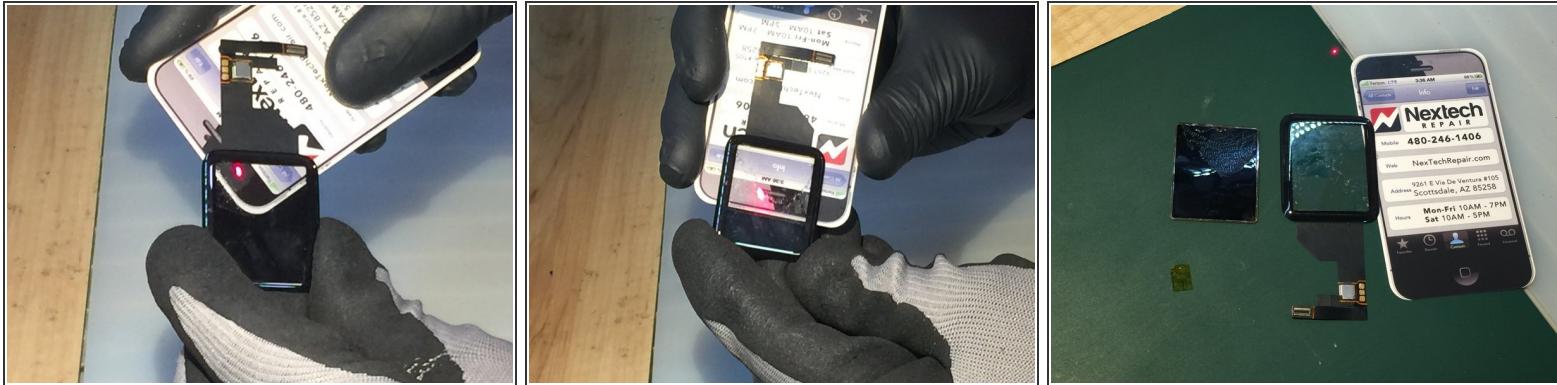
- Keep inserting the card slowly while using alcohol as a de-bonder and lubricant as well as keeping uniform hot air blowing on the screen. While holding the outside of the glass continue rocking the card back and forth until the AMOLED is completely separated.

Step 7 — Cleaning the AMOLED

- The AMOLED screen is extremely thin, but not as fragile as you might expect, remember to be gentle and use heat through the entire separation process. To remove the old OCA adhesive use your finger and "roll" the glue off, pure isopropyl alcohol also helps to de-bond the adhesive. The screen is "waterproof" alcohol seeping into the edges is okay.

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Step 8 — Tips

- Be careful of the force touch flex cable that sticks into the frame on the bottom left of the display while removing the display assembly from the frame. The force touch gasket sits around the ENTIRE edge of the watch and is a thin silicone membrane. Test your AMOLED after separation before proceeding to the next steps.

Step 9 — Waiting for new digi/glass to arrive

- I will finish this guide after the new digitizer/glass assembly arrive. They are coming from China so it will be a few days still.

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