



Floppy Disk Teardown

Teardown of a floppy disk, performed October 27, 2016.

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Floppy Disk



INTRODUCTION

Facts about floppy disks

- The casings are hard
- The disks are floppy
- Once opened, they don't go back together
- They're old.

TOOLS:

- [Jimmy](#) (1)

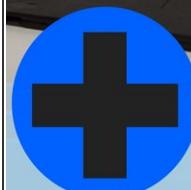
Step 1 — Floppy Disk Teardown

Floppy Disk



TEARDOWN

Floppy Disk

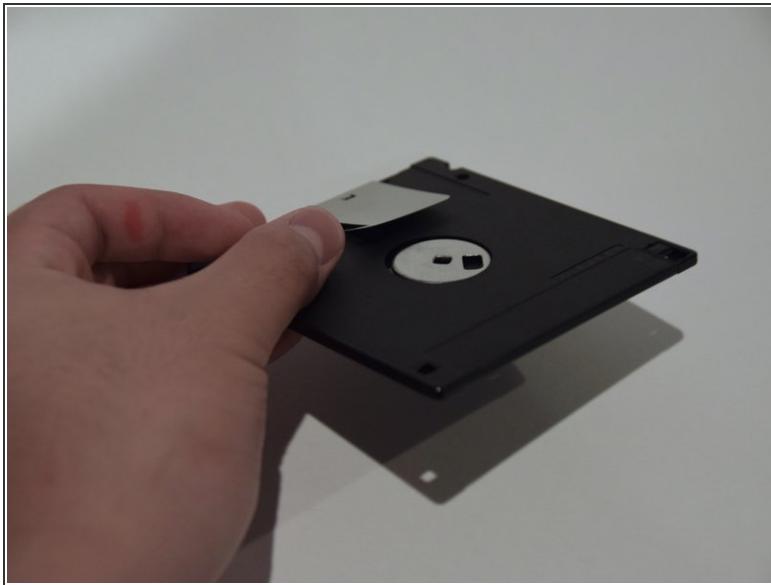


Teardown

- The floppy disk has gone the way of the dinosaur.
 - Except for Google's lovable jumping [dinosaur](#).
 - These disks might hold one or two photos at best; they probably won't hold much more though at only 2MB.
 - It's worth noting that today's photos taken can be upwards of 10MB on their own!

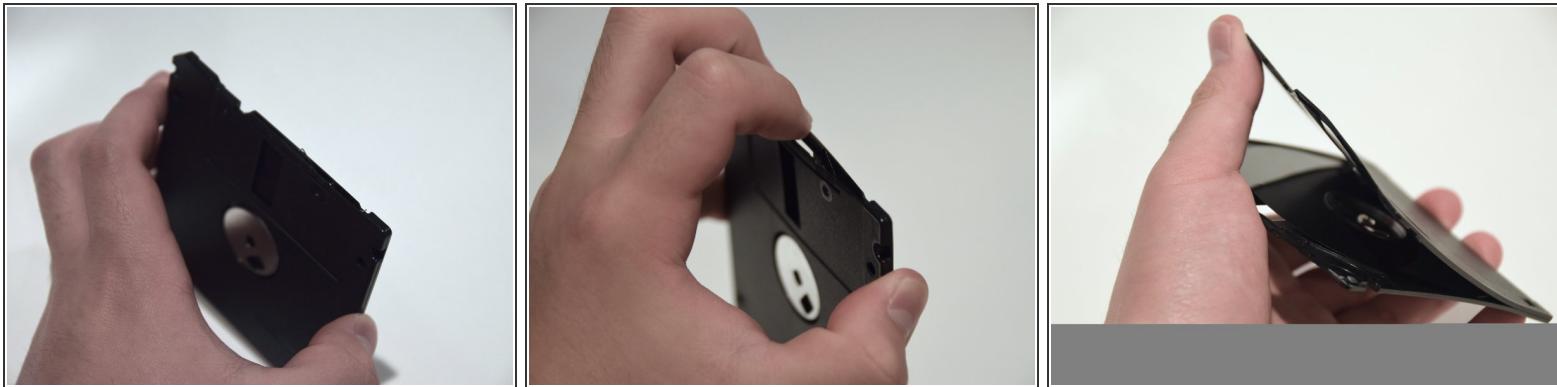
(i) We liked skimmilk05's teardown so much (and his amazing attempt at his own teardown graphic) we supplied one of our own for this truly unique community contributed teardown. - iFixit Staff <3

Step 2 — Removing the Cover



- Thin metal pieces are good places to start.
- This one's so thin that you can bend it with a finger.
- This one wasn't too hard, but if you're having trouble getting it up, a [Jimmy](#) comes in handy.

Step 3 — Removing the Casing



- With some careful prying, the entire lid pops right off.
- You may need a spudger, metal spudger, Jimmy, or a combination of the three to get into the crack where the metal piece once was.
- There are little pushpins holding the two halves together, but they were pulled apart during disassembly, easy as [1, 2, 3!](#)
- And we get a glimpse of [what's inside!](#) Spoiler alert: not much is there.

Step 4 — The Spring



- In cracking open the casing, we lost a tiny little [spring](#).
 - [Boing.](#)
 - [Boing.](#)
- Playtime's over. Best guess as to what it is? Keeping that metal piece over the tape inside.

Step 5 — The Cleaning Pad



- On the inside, we see a small pad, probably to clean the turning disk that's inside.
- This one was pretty nasty. [Eww.](#)
- This pad is glued into the casing with some tough adhesive; the manufacturer really didn't want this pad coming out on its own.

Step 6 — The Disk



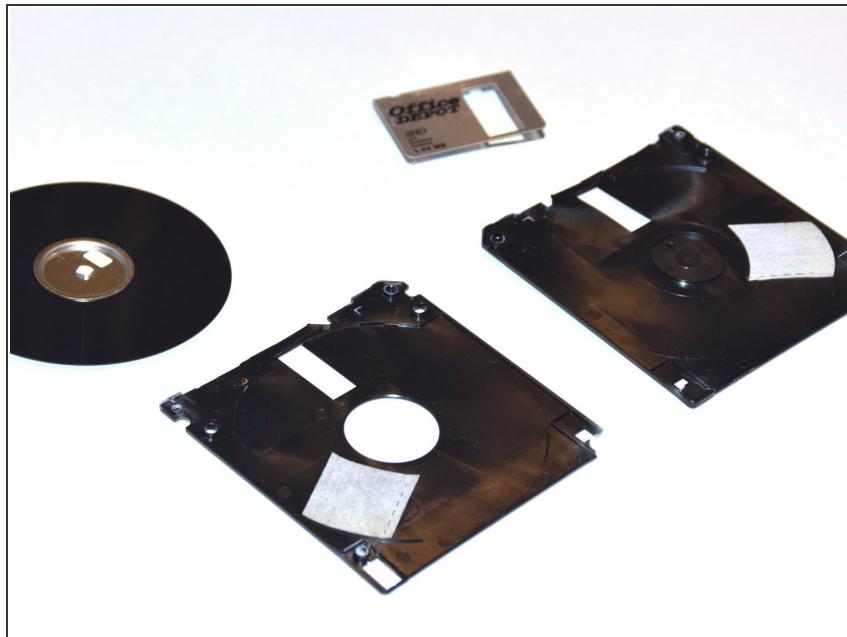
- [Aha!](#)
- The meat n' bones of the floppy disk, the disk itself!
- Ever wondered why the floppy disk was called the "floppy" disk, even though it was in that hard plastic case? This is why.

Step 7 — The Disk



- More floppy goodness.

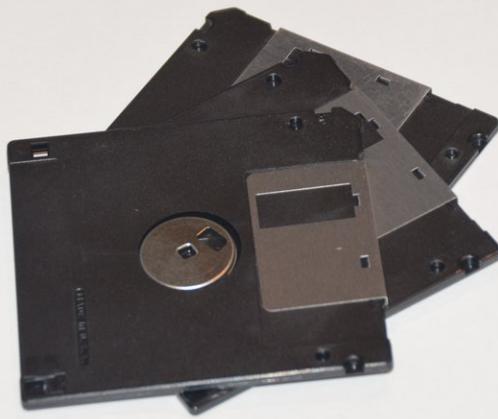
Step 8 — Wrap-up



- It's a pretty simple device in all. Not much else to say here.

Step 9 — Final Thoughts

REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- Floppy Disk Repairability Score: **1 out of 10** (10 is the easiest to repair)
 - This antique technology has virtually no replacement parts.
 - Replacement of the tape or cleaning pads are impossible without breaking the case.
 - The cleaning pads are held on with tight adhesive, making replacement difficult.
 - Attempts to use heat to loosen adhesive may result in the case melting.
 - High susceptibility to magnets make this device very sensitive.