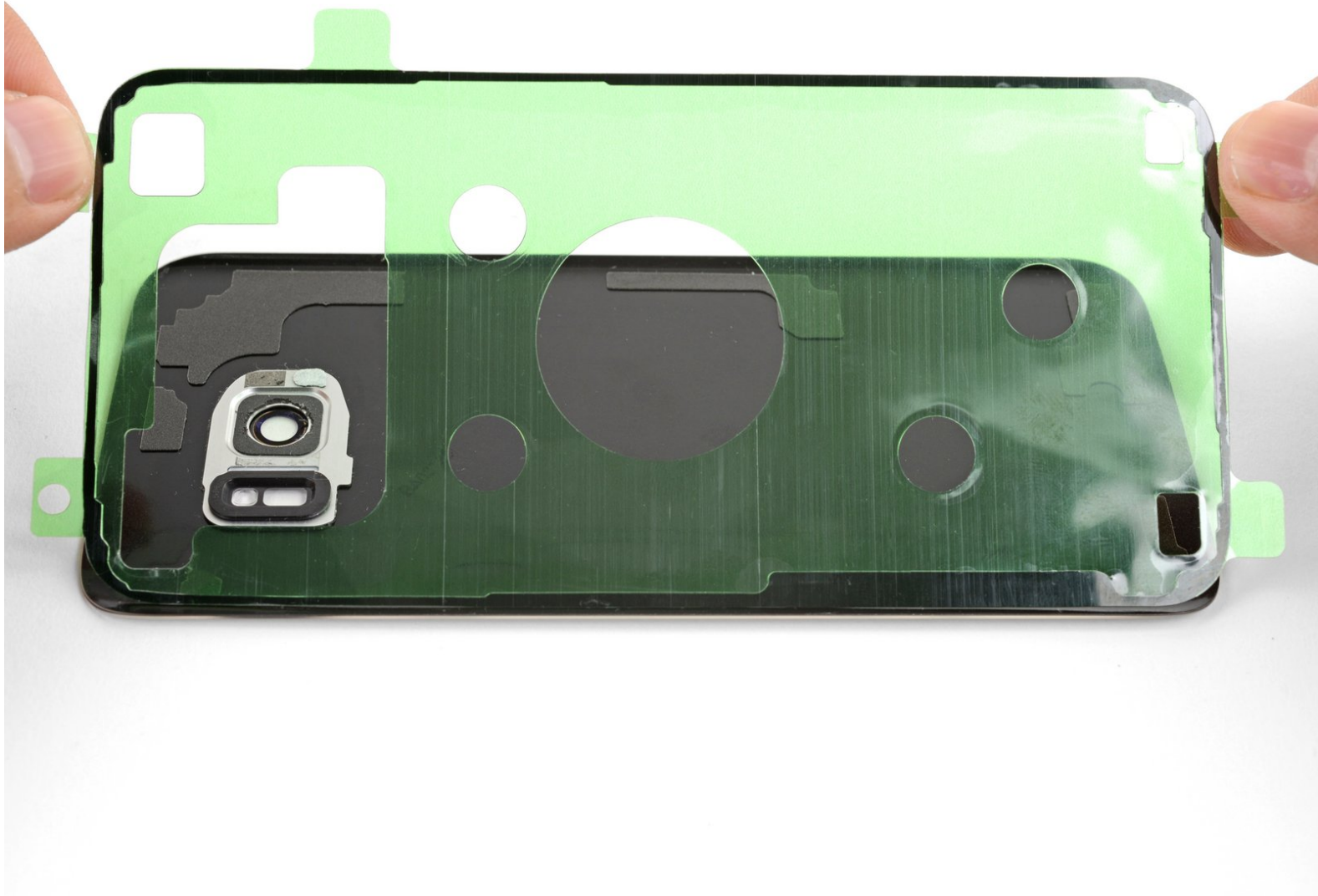# How to Apply Custom-cut Adhesive Strips

This general guide provides tips on how to apply custom-cut adhesive strips for various smartphones.

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## INTRODUCTION

Follow this guide if you are unsure how to apply custom-cut adhesive to your device. The adhesive could be for a screen, back cover, battery, etc. Read through the entire guide before applying any adhesives.

If the device's repair guide has specific adhesive instructions, those instructions precede this guide.

For Samsung Galaxy S phones, follow this guide instead.
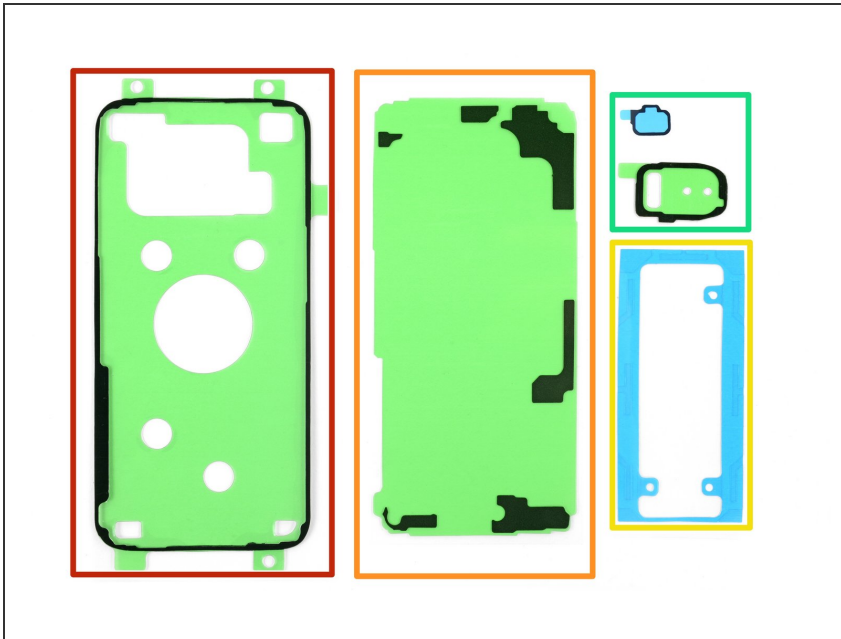
For iPhones, follow this guide instead.

For iPads, follow this guide instead.

If you are using general Tesa adhesives, follow this guide instead.

### 🔧 TOOLS:

- Spudger (1)
- iFixit Opening Tools (1)
- Tweezers (1)
- Isopropyl Alcohol (1)

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## Step 1 — Identify the adhesive strips



- Look over your pre-cut adhesive strips and figure out what they are used for.

- (i) Here are some common adhesives used in a phone repair, and examples of what they may look like:

  - Screen or back cover adhesives —usually the shape of the device

  - Back cover support adhesives— these will match the contours of components pressed against the back cover

  - Battery adhesives—normally a rectangular perimeter roughly the shape of the phone's battery

  - Component adhesives—they will be contoured to match the various components such as cameras and fingerprint sensors they are designed for

- (i) You usually want to apply the screen or back cover adhesives last. Be sure to apply all component adhesives beforehand, and if possible, test your repair before sealing up the device.

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## Step 2 — Prepare the surface



(i) To ensure a good adhesive bond, thoroughly clean the adhesion surfaces. This may take some time, but the results are worth the effort.

- Remove large chunks of adhesives with your fingers, spudger, plastic opening tool, or tweezers.

  ⚠ Do not use metal tools if you are cleaning display panels or glass covers, as the tools may scratch the surface.

- Use adhesive remover or high concentration (>90%) isopropyl alcohol to remove residue from metal surfaces. Wipe in one direction with a lint-free cloth or coffee filter until all the adhesive residue is gone.

  (i) While isopropyl alcohol is generally safe to use on electronics, they will dissolve certain foam adhesives. Be careful to contain the alcohol when cleaning, and allow it to completely evaporate from the device before re-assembly.
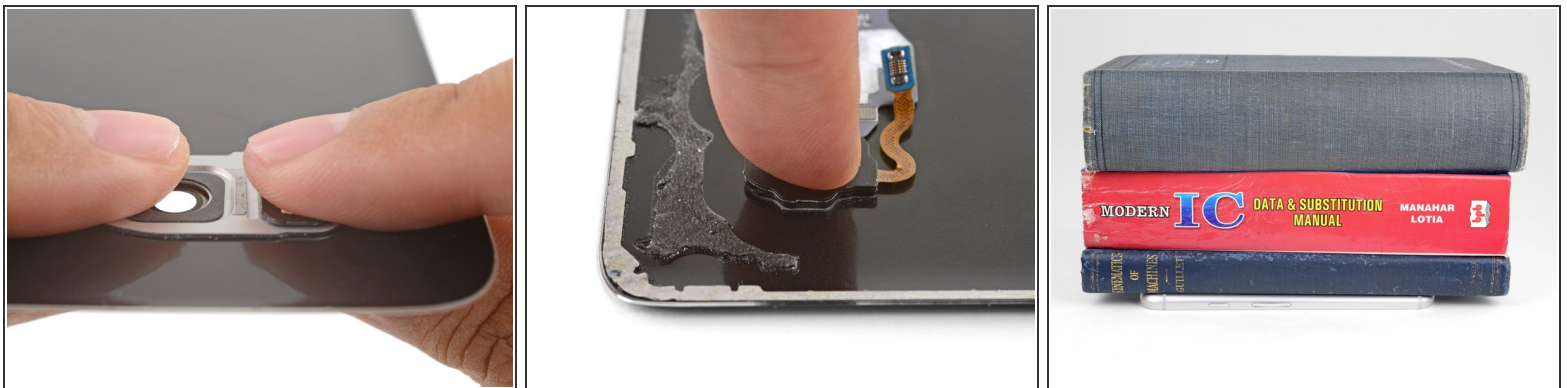
## Step 3 — Remove the adhesive liner



(i) Generally, adhesives strips have a colored side and a non-colored (paper or clear plastic) side. **The non-colored side of the strip should be applied first.**

- Before you peel any liners, locate the surface the non-colored side should stick to.
  - To make adhesive application easier, you can align the strip to its intended position on the phone, <u>then tape one edge down to hold the strip in place</u>. This will allow you to peel away the liners and expose the adhesive without losing alignment.

- Once you have a good idea how the adhesive strip fits on the surface, peel the non-colored liner off.

(i) If you are applying a back cover or screen adhesive, you may need to peel out the unnecessary center portion of the adhesive strip.

- Carefully peel away the center portion of both the white (paper) and black (adhesive) layers, <u>starting with the U-shaped cutout (if present)</u>.

- Peel off and discard the remaining paper liner, exposing the adhesive underneath.

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## Step 4



- Hold the exposed strip by its tabs and carefully line up a long edge of the adhesive to the edge of the back cover.

  - (i) Be very careful with alignment. Most of the time, you cannot peel and re-apply the adhesive strip if it's misaligned.

- Set the adhesive onto the surface and press it firmly onto the surface with your fingers.

- Peel away the colored liner from the adhesive strip to expose the remaining adhesive side.

## Step 5



- Press the other surface firmly against the exposed adhesive for 20-30 seconds.

- If you are adhering a screen or a back cover, stack some books on top for a few hours to help the adhesive bond.

  - (i) Be careful to apply even pressure across the surface. Take note of any camera bumps and avoid applying pressure solely on them.

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If properly applied, the adhesive should work reliably for a long time.

The repair may not restore the device's water resistance. Be careful not to expose the device to liquids.

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