



How to Replace the Audio Jack

Quick and simple trouble shooting to determine the cause of a lack of sound coming from Skullcandy Lowrider OE (Over-the-Ear) headphones.

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INTRODUCTION

Luckily, this turned out to be a straight-forward repair. The Lowrider headphones only needed a new audio connector. This guide will show how to simply test the function, and what to look for. The trickiest part here is the removal of the ear cushion. It appears as if every manufacturer changes the way they are fastened. Hopefully, this will prevent somebody from breaking their headphones while trying to repair them.

TOOLS:

- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Soldering Workstation](#) (1)

PARTS:

- [3.5mm stereo plug](#) (1)

Step 1 — How to Replace the Audio Jack



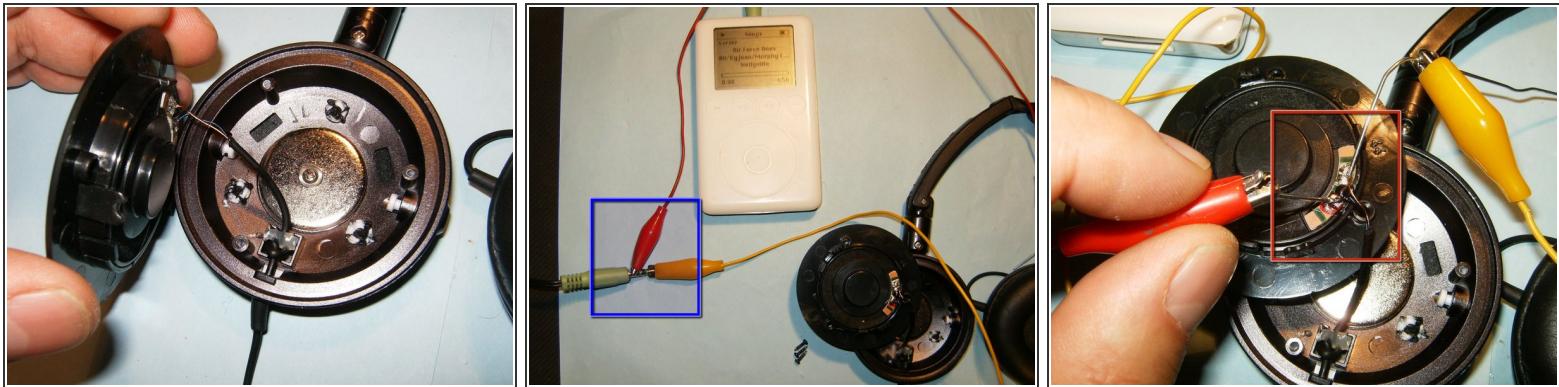
- Here is the complete headphone. I got no sound from either side when I plugged it in to my old iPod.
- The cushion is simply stuck into a space between the speaker (driver) and the case.
- Remove the cushion by gently tugging it out of that groove.

Step 2



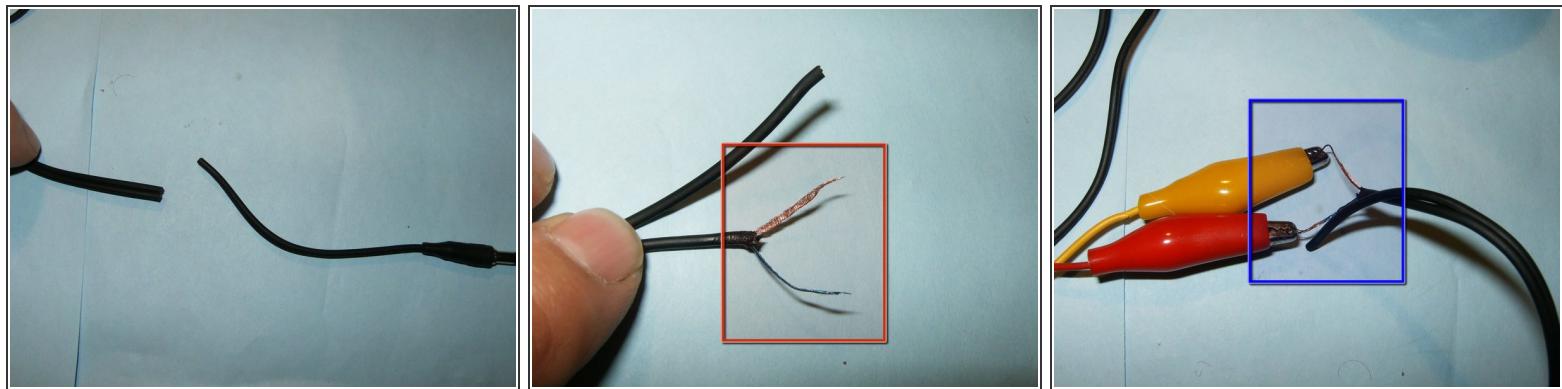
- Here is a shot of the device with the ear cushion removed and intact (replacements are available online).
- Here are the three Phillips screws that need to be removed.
- The screws are all of the same size, so do not worry about separating them.

Step 3



- With the three screws removed, the driver will simply fold up to reveal the wiring. In this case, the color code for the wires is Blue for left and Gold for ground.
- Here is the way I connected some alligator test leads. Use a male-male 3.5 mm stereo cable. Attach one lead to the sleeve, the upper part of the connector, and one lead to either tip (front) or Ring (middle) of the connector.
- Attach some test points to the end of the alligator cables and touch the solder connections of the speaker (driver). In this case, there was clear sound. This determined that there was no signal going from the connector to the drivers.

Step 4



- Cut about 3 inches off the end of the cable.
- To make sure that it was indeed the connector, and not a cracked wire further up, remove the insulation of one set of wires. The device uses one set for each side. To remove the insulation, you can use a boxcutter, a sharp knife, a lighter, etc.
- Attach the test lead from any MP3 player, as previously shown. If the reason for the non-functioning headphones was the connector, there should now be sound coming from the headphone speaker (driver). In this case, there was. Therefore, it was indeed the audio connector that was broken.

Step 5



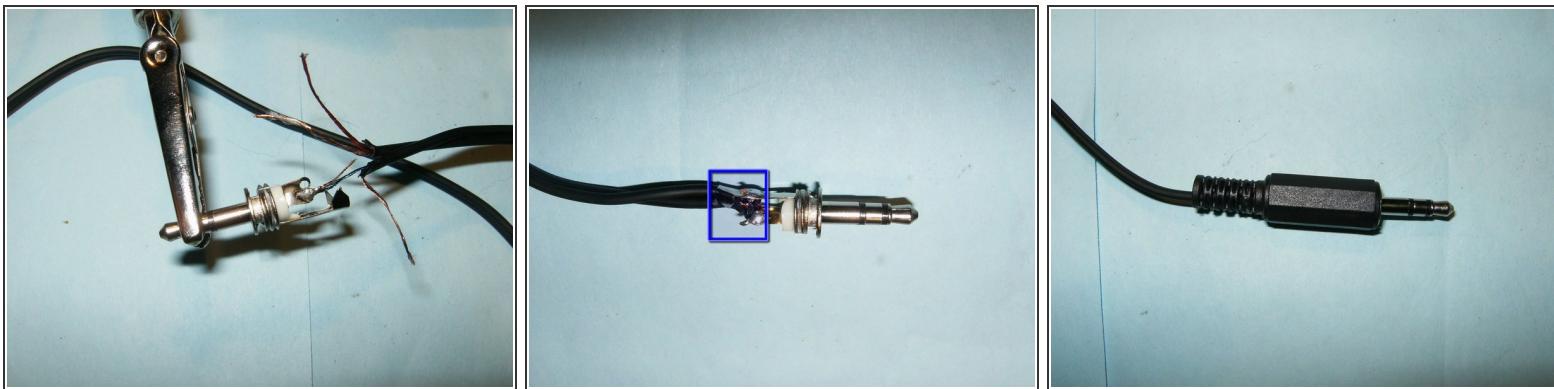
- Here is a new 3.5 mm stereo audio connector. The cover simply screws on the actual connector.
- Place the cover in the proper direction over the wire
- Here is how to determine which solder tab fits to what part of the connector. Set a multimeter to the Ohm scale. Touching the tip and the shortest tab showed continuity.

Step 6



- Since the ring (middle) of the connector and the medium size tab showed continuity, they are a match for soldering.
- Lastly, the sleeve (top) and the longest tab showed continuity. Now we have determined which parts are a match. This is important to properly connect the left and right speaker (driver).
- If no multimeter is available, here is a quick sketch of the three corresponding connections.

Step 7



- Most MP3 players, including the iPod, use the Tip for the left channel. Solder the Blue wire to the tip connector, the Red wire to the Ring connector, and both Gold wires to the Sleeve connector.
- When all wires are soldered to their respective connectors, squeeze the cable tab at the sleeve connector tight around the cable. This helps to keep the solder connection when the headphones get disconnected by pulling on the wire.
- Attach the cover to the audio jack connector.

Step 8



i Reassembly was straightforward. The only tricky part was getting the cushion back on the speaker (driver), but a pair of fingernails served the purpose quite nicely. The headphones are once again fully-functioning and sound pretty good. Total cost for the repair was \$0.75 and it took me 38 minutes...not a bad job.:)

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