



How to diagnose JBL Flip 3

This is an overall issue diagnosing guide. I have repaired a slew of flip 3s and have found common issues.

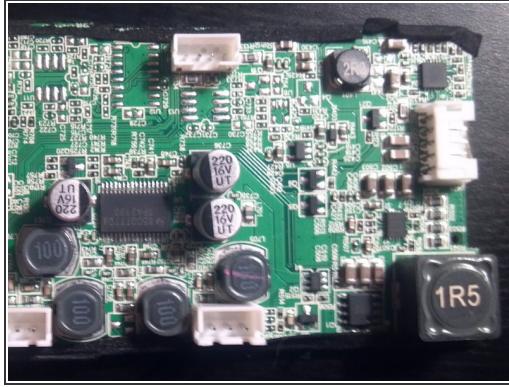
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TOOLS:

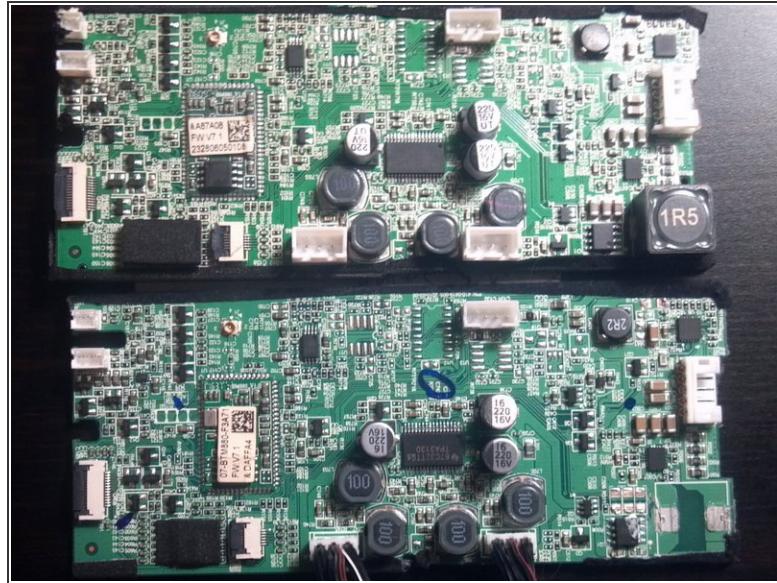
- [Phillips Screwdriver \(2\)](#)
- [Flathead Screwdriver \(2\)](#)

Step 1 — Flip 3



- There are many models but few differences.
- Most model changes had case differences but the only difference I saw in the components was whether the speakers were soldered in or plugged in and a small change in placement of capacitors.
- Inspect your motherboard as much as you can before removing it. Get a game plan. The issue is generally obvious.

Step 2 — Common Issues



- Most flip 3s suffer from one of these issues:
- Its USB port was damaged by a drunkard who didn't care to check what way he was inserting the cable. It actually is delicate though so I shouldn't complain too much.
- The battery has gone bad. Most of the time the battery expands and presses the case into the buttons making it turn on but be unable to turn off or use buttons. The best way to check is to try to use the buttons. If any are not working it is a probable issue. Often the case becomes curved slightly.
- It was dropped. Often an inductor breaks off. Sometimes it doesn't break off all the way but you would need to solder it back on. Its actually quite easy. The sign that this happened is everything looks good but there is no sound.
- The flip 3 charges but does not turn on. An expanding battery or a drop led to the small white ribbon getting ripped by the battery. This took me a while to diagnose as the ripped point was right on the exit hole to the control module under the motherboard.
- I have seen various issues relating to forever charging, control issues, the flip 3 turns on but won't turn off. There is a little chip next to the battery connection and is almost always the culprit. Sometimes a trace is burned, sometimes everything looks good. I believe that chip deals with power on states.

Step 3 — Actions



- USB: I suggest to replace the module instead of trying to replace the port. Its quite hard. Small pins delicate pads close plastic. Good luck.
- Battery: Get a new one. Its not too hard to replace the battery. Just don't pull the connector. Use a flathead screwdriver to brace the plastic part the connector is connected to else it could come off the motherboard. You have to dig out glue to get the connector out but just go slow and avoid putting too much pressure on the cable.
- Inductor: Solder on the component "1R5" its not hard if you use flux but don't hit the nearby pieces! I think I spent 30 seconds soldering this but 30 minutes getting to it!
- Ribbon: Replace the ribbon. You have to remove the motherboard so most of the risk is getting to the ribbon. Sometimes the connectors have glue other times they don't. Spend the extra time thinking it through before you act!
- Microcontroller: Kiss it goodbye. Im stockpiling these boards until I get a hot air station. If you can get that replaced with a soldering iron, your my hero! I do know there are people who can do it but I'd rather not wreck lots of them to know I need the right tool.

Work slowly and think it out. The chances of getting it fixed go up if you don't break it in the process of repairing it!