

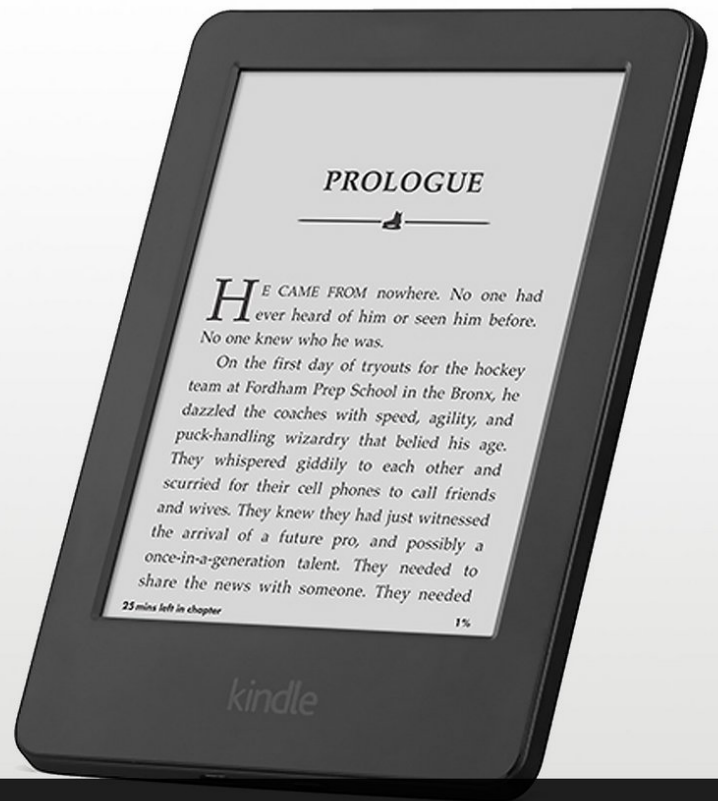


Kindle 7th Generation Teardown

Teardown of the Kindle 7th Generation on October 8, 2014.

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Kindle 7th Gen



TEARDOWN

INTRODUCTION

The newest iteration of Amazon's base Kindle e-reader brings us to the 7th generation. New to the party is the addition of a touch screen, but how will it fare for repair? Tune in to find out.

Double Teardown Alert! We also tore down Amazon's new \$100 [Kindle Fire HD 6!](#)

Read all about our repair exploits on [Twitter](#), flip through our [book of faces](#), or enjoy our [Instagram](#) picture book.



TOOLS:

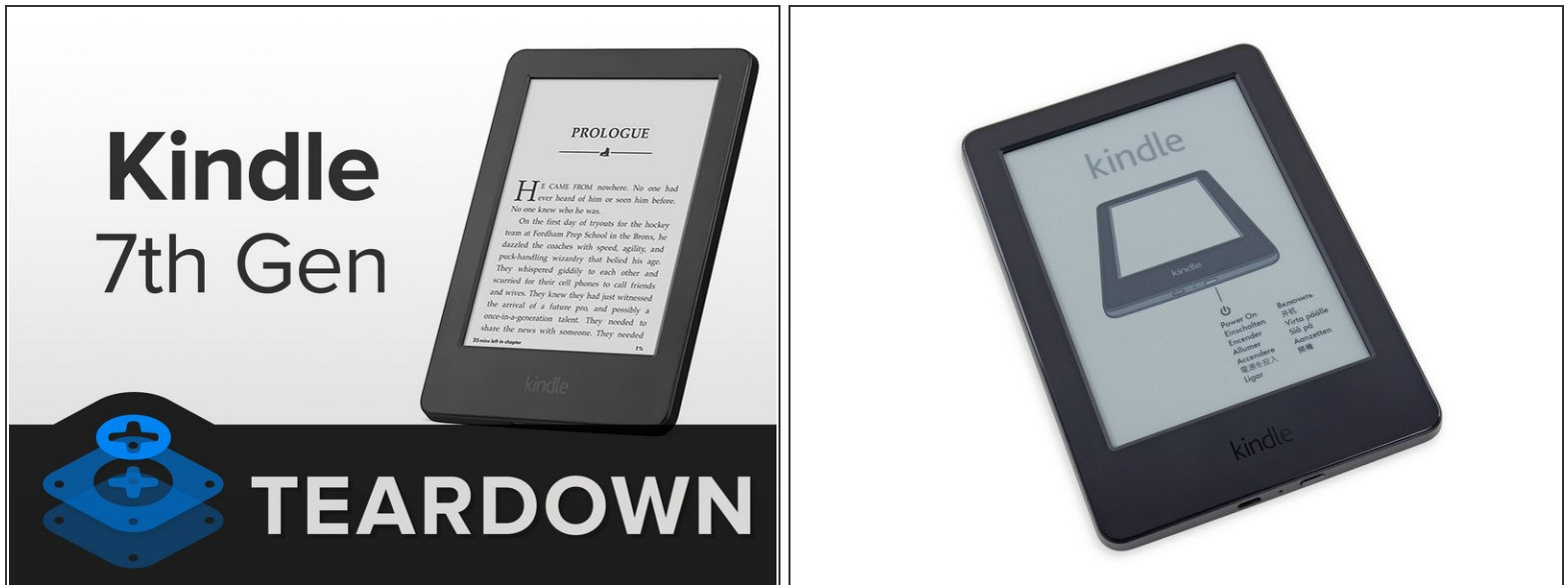
- [iFixit Opening Picks set of 6](#) (1)
- [T5 Torx Screwdriver](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Kindle \(7th Generation\)](#) (1)

Step 1 — Kindle 7th Generation Teardown



- That time of the year is upon us. No it's not Leif Erikson day, nor is it National Hug Your Cat day. It's that time of the year when new Kindles show up on our teardown doorstep.
- Today's special guest, the [Kindle 7th Generation](#) (now with a touch screen!):
 - 6" display with Pearl e-paper technology with 167 ppi
 - 4 GB storage capacity (it could figuratively hold thousands of books)
 - 802.11b, 802.11g, or 802.11n Wi-Fi compatibility
 - Touch screen (did we mention it has a touch screen)
 - 4 weeks of battery life (based on 30 minutes of reading a day, with wireless turned off)

Step 2



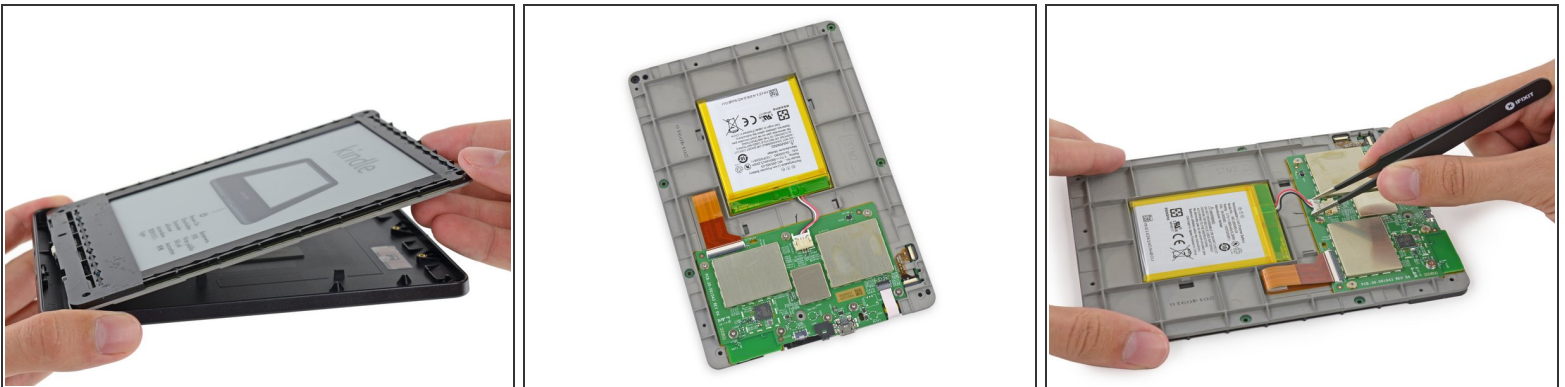
- In case you forgot which smiling benevolent overlord megacorp is responsible for your Kindle, simply turn it over and the answer shall present itself: Amazon.
- ① The Kindle 7th Generation is identified by its model number WP63GW.
- All of the Kindle's numerous IO hardware features are conveniently located together on the bottom edge. Including and completely limited to:
 - Power button
 - Multicolored status LED
 - Micro USB port

Step 3



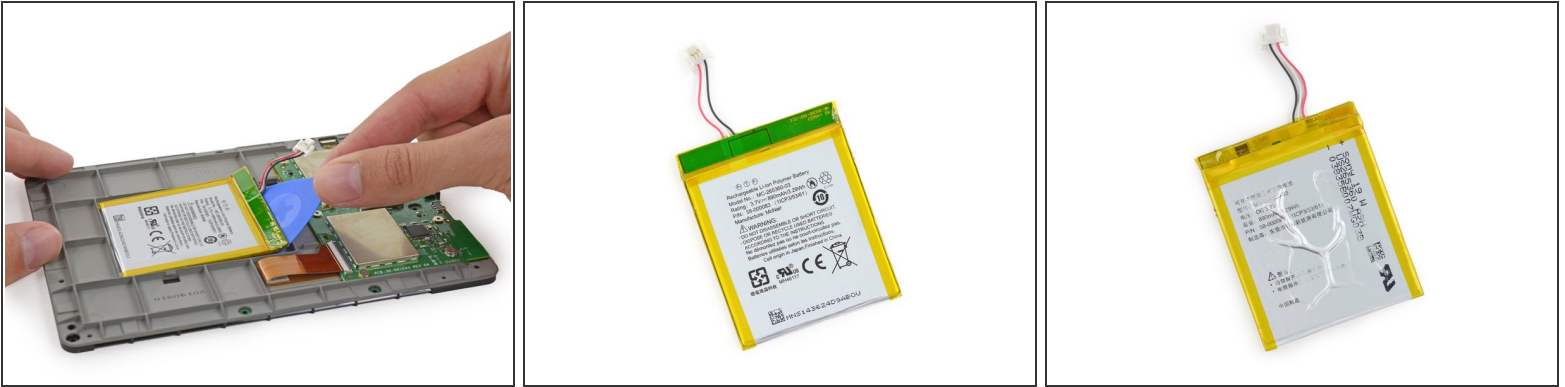
- Mild adhesive and plastic clips secure a thin plastic bezel to the front of the Kindle. We gave it a shot without heat, and our opening pick made short work of both fasteners.
- Proprietary screws? No sir. T5 Torx screws make for easy entry and happy fixers.

Step 4



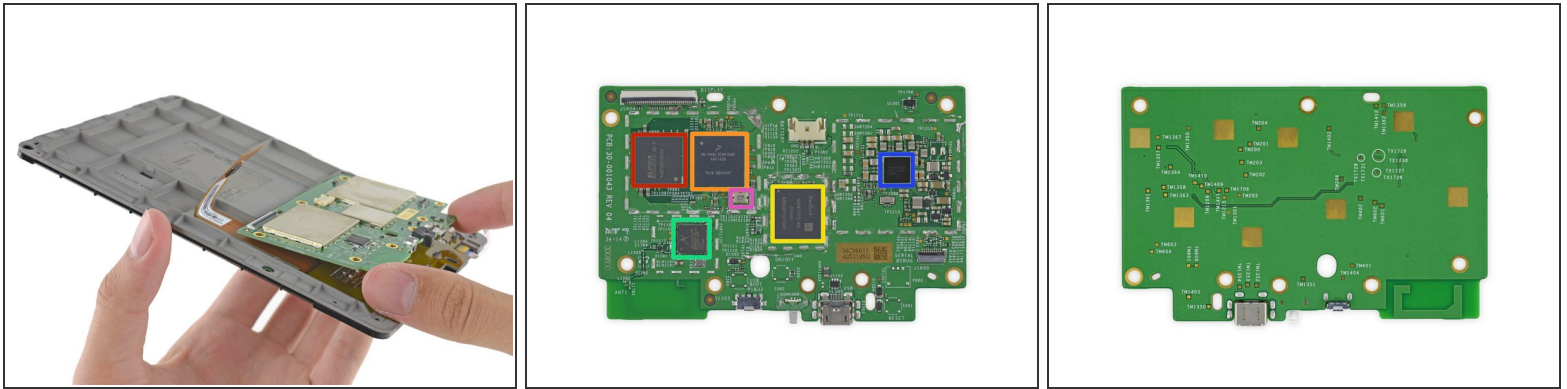
- Screws out, and the display assembly pops out of the rear case with minimal jostling.
- ⓘ Amazon kept a minimalistic approach from the start on their Seventh Kindle. Ditching buttons in favor of a touch screen sounded intense to us, but so far it's looking like the decision made for a greatly simplified design.
- The motherboard and battery ride on the back of the display assembly midframe. We'll pop out a connector and get to the chemical goods.

Step 5



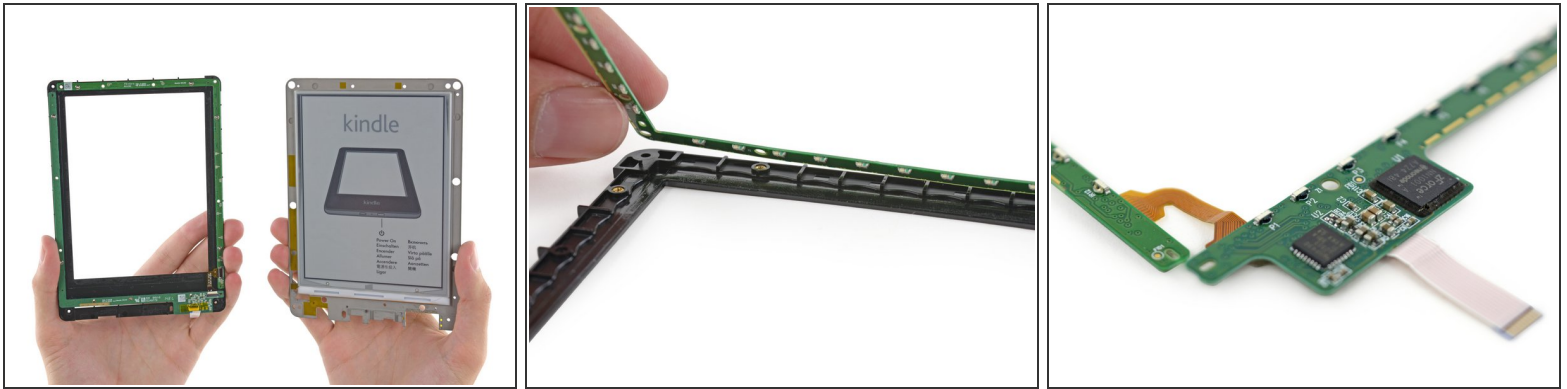
- In a teardown that's otherwise been a breeze, we've encountered our first real repair barrier. Overly sticky battery adhesive. Decidedly the worst kind of adhesive, this is the kind that requires effort to remove. Yuck.
- The Lithium-ion Polymer battery in the Kindle 7th Generation is rated at 3.7 V and 890 mAh. That works out to 3.29 Wh of energy.
- ① Amazon tells us that's good for 4 weeks of use, defined as reading half an hour a day with the Wi-Fi turned off. That's 14 hours of use and 658 hours of standby.
 - Sounds like a lot! But it's half the eight-week spec of the Kindle Paperwhite, a backlit tablet with a [5.25 Wh battery](#). Where is this Kindle's extra power going?

Step 6



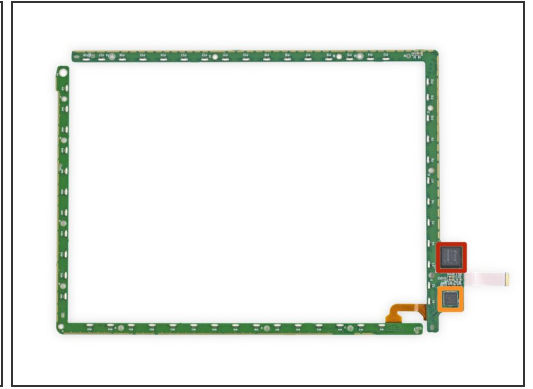
- We let some cables and screws know what we think of them, and free the motherboard for a closer look:
- Elpida (now Micron Technology) [B2432BCPE-8D-F](#) DDR2 Mobile RAM
- Freescale Semiconductor [MCIMX6L7DVN10AB](#) Applications Processor
- SanDisk [SDIN7DP2-4G](#) eMMC iNand Ultra 4 GB NAND Flash
- Atheros AR6803G-BL3B
- Maxim Integrated [MAX77696A](#) Power Management Integrated Circuit
- 24.000 430F

Step 7



- Returning to the front of the display assembly, we pop off a plastic bezel and find a secret perimetric circuit board.
- Looks like we've found the source of the new Kindle's touching sensibilities. A [grid of infrared LEDs](#) and receivers crosses the display, powered by [Neonode's zForce tech](#).
- The LEDs project away from the display, into small wells in the plastic bezel. These wells collimate and reflect the light back across the face of the display, in wide flat bands to be received on the opposite side...
- ...until your finger gets in the way and blocks the band, registering a touch.

Step 8



- The touch grid is made up of two distinct circuit boards, joined by a small ribbon cable.
- One is lined with LEDs and projects, from the top and left side of the Kindle's display. and the other is made up of IR receivers (likely phototransistors), and makes up the right and bottom edges of the display.
- ① We pulled out our favorite home-hacked IR camera to see this in action.
- There's a bit of circuitry on the receiver board, to monitor the breaks in projected light and detect touch:
 - Neonode zForce [NN1001](#) Single Chip Optical Touch Controller
 - Texas Instruments [MSP430G2](#) Ultra Low Power Microcontroller

Step 9



- The infrared LEDs seem to spend most of their time in a low-power idle state.
- Once the grid detects a break in the beam, the LEDs power up and get much brighter, to more accurately detect and track your finger.

Step 10



- Kindle 7th Generation Repairability Score: **8 out of 10** (10 is easiest to repair).
- Simple, modular design with few, distinct components that can be replaced independently.
- Easy opening procedure—clips supplemented by mild adhesive are all that hold the front bezel in place.
- Battery adhesive is much stronger than necessary, making its replacement hazardous.
- ⓘ Lack of available replacement parts has limited repair options in other Kindle models. We can only hope this model doesn't share the same fate.

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