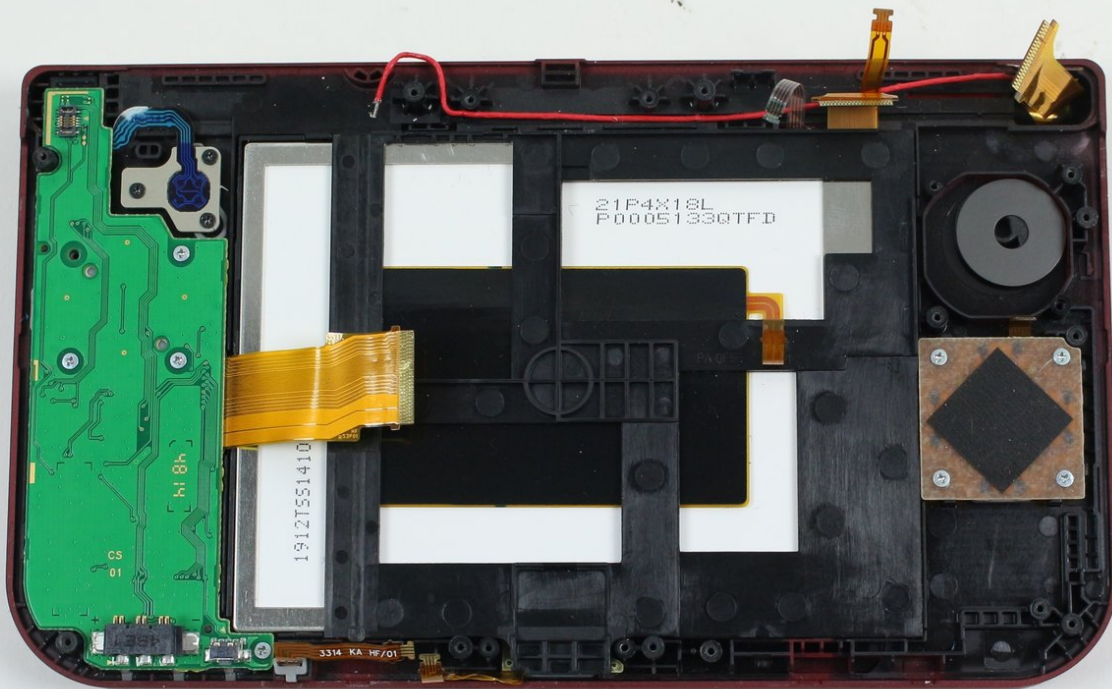




Nintendo 3DS XL 2015 Motherboard Replacement

This guide details how to access and remove the motherboard.

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INTRODUCTION

The motherboard should only be replaced as a last resort. Be careful removing it!



TOOLS:

- [JIS Driver Set](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Nintendo 3DS XL \(2015\) Motherboard](#) (1)

Step 1 — Battery



- ⚠ Ensure your device is powered off before proceeding. Failure to do so may result in electrical shock or damage to the device.
- Place the 3DS upside down. Remove the game card, headphones, charging cable, stylus, or anything else that may be connected to the device.

Step 2



- Using a JIS #0 screwdriver, loosen the two black screws on the back.
- ⓘ The screws are held in place by captive washers and should not be completely removed.

Step 3



- Once the screws are loosened, pry open the back cover.

Step 4



- The battery is located on the left hand side of the 3DS - to remove, use the small gap located at the top-middle and pull up with a pointed tool.

Step 5 — Motherboard



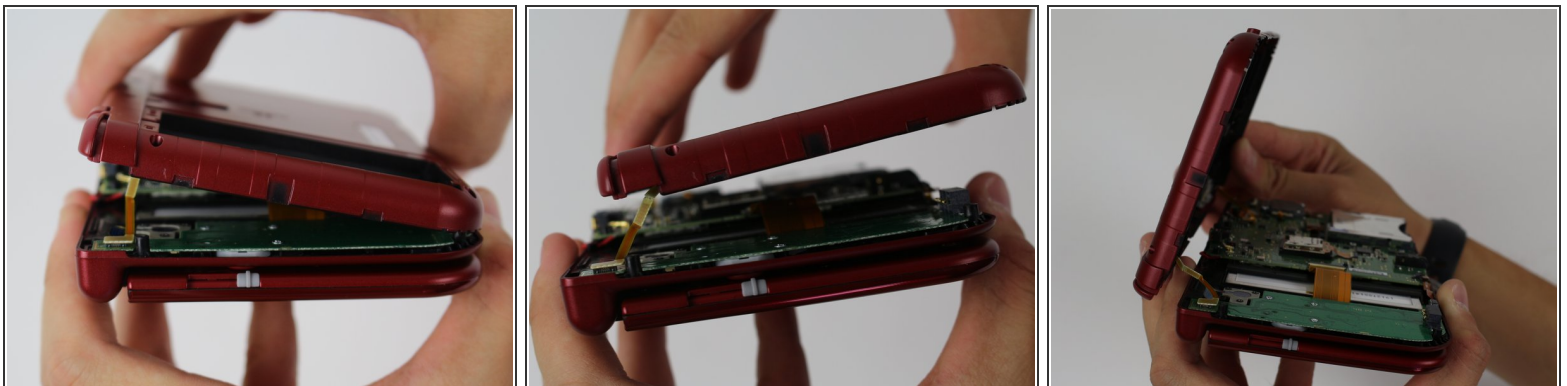
- Using a JIS #000 screwdriver, remove the six 6mm screws around the edges of the secondary cover.

Step 6



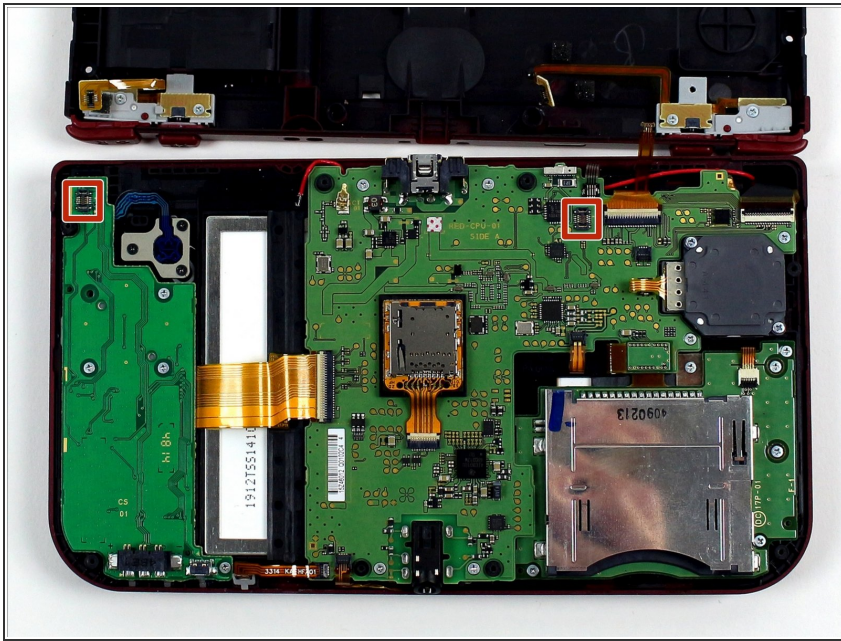
- Using tweezers, carefully pop out the rubber bumpers located at the top side of the 3DS. Removing them will reveal another two 6mm screws. Remove these screws using a JIS #000 as well.

Step 7



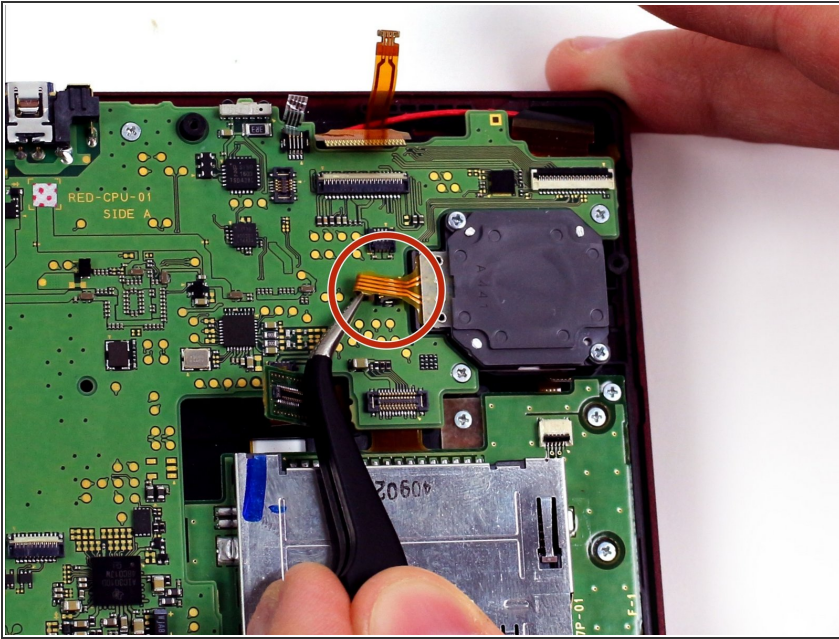
- To separate the cover, carefully lift it up and away from the hinges (in order to clear the headphone port), then pivot it towards the hinges to expose the circuit boards.
- ⚠ Don't fully remove the cover yet, or you may damage the delicate ribbon cable that still connects it to the motherboard.

Step 8



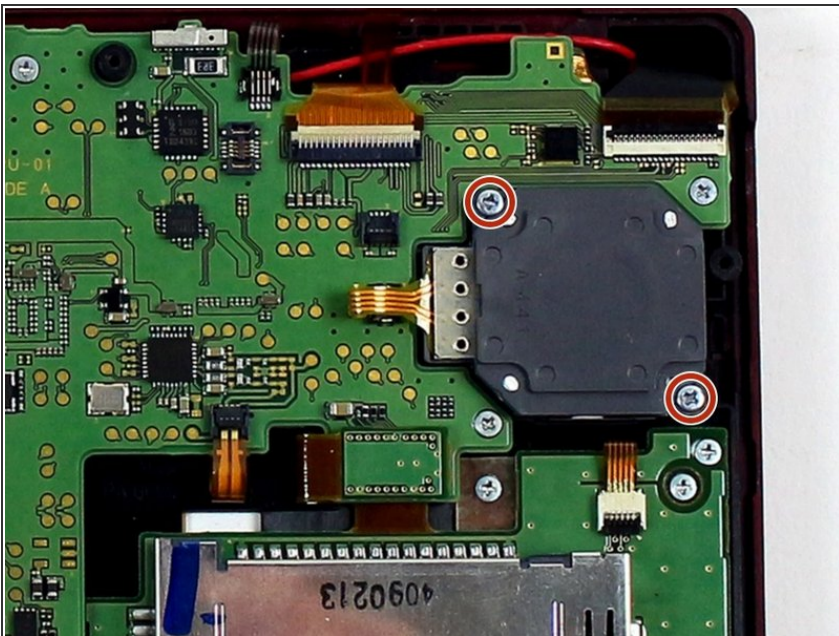
- Use a pair of tweezers to lift away the two plugs that latch the L/R/ZL/ZR button ribbons to the motherboard. You can now remove the back cover completely and set it aside.

Step 9



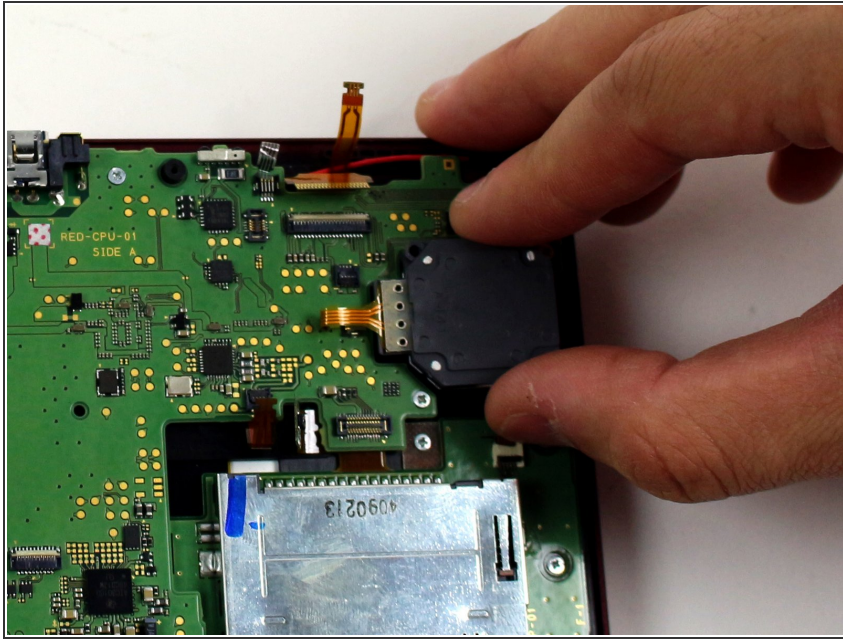
- Using tweezers, gently pull the gray clamp underneath the circle pad ribbon connector upwards from the right side. Then slide the ribbon out of the ZIF connector.

Step 10



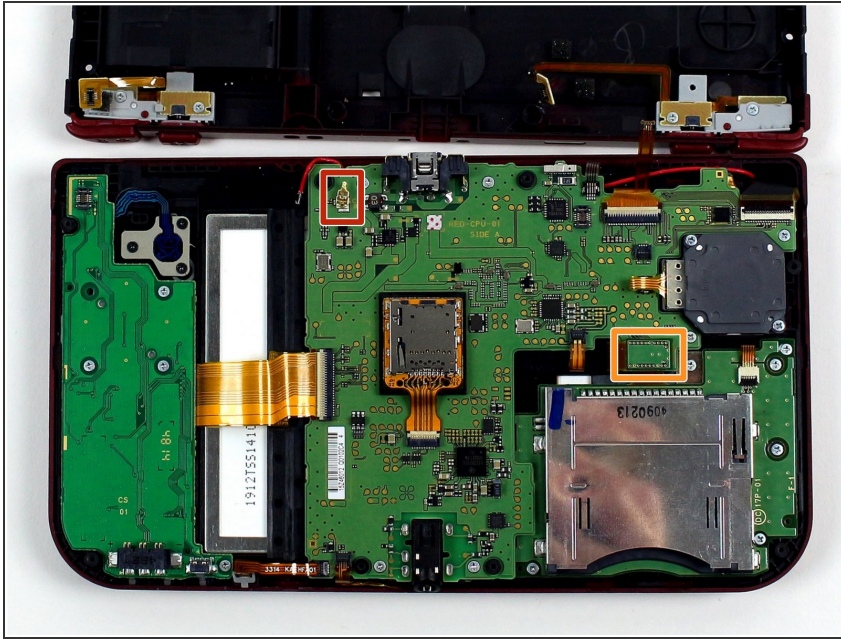
- Using a JIS #000 screwdriver, remove the two 8 mm screws securing the circle pad.

Step 11



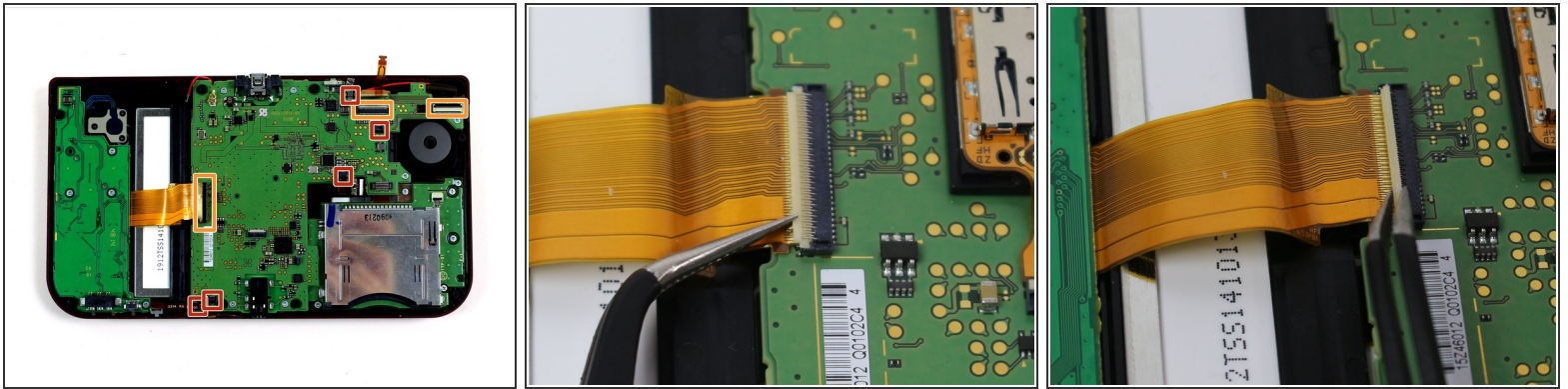
- Lift the circle pad casing upward to remove it. There will be some friction, but it should not require excessive force.

Step 12



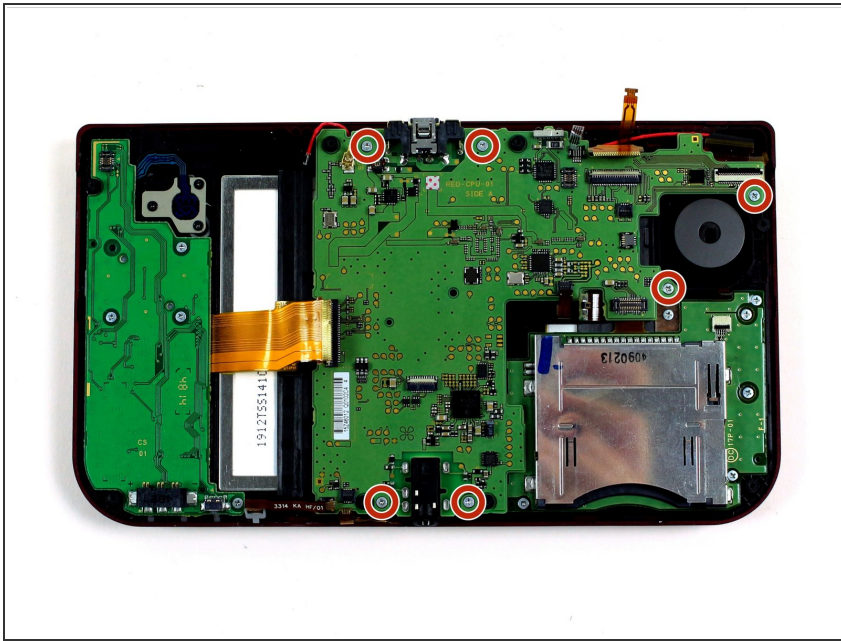
- Locate the gold terminal plug with a red cable at the top left of the motherboard. Using your fingers, carefully pull the plug straight upward to remove.
- Use a pair of tweezers to disconnect the single ribbon connector.
- ⚠ Don't do what we did -- be very careful **not** to pull on the red cable.

Step 13



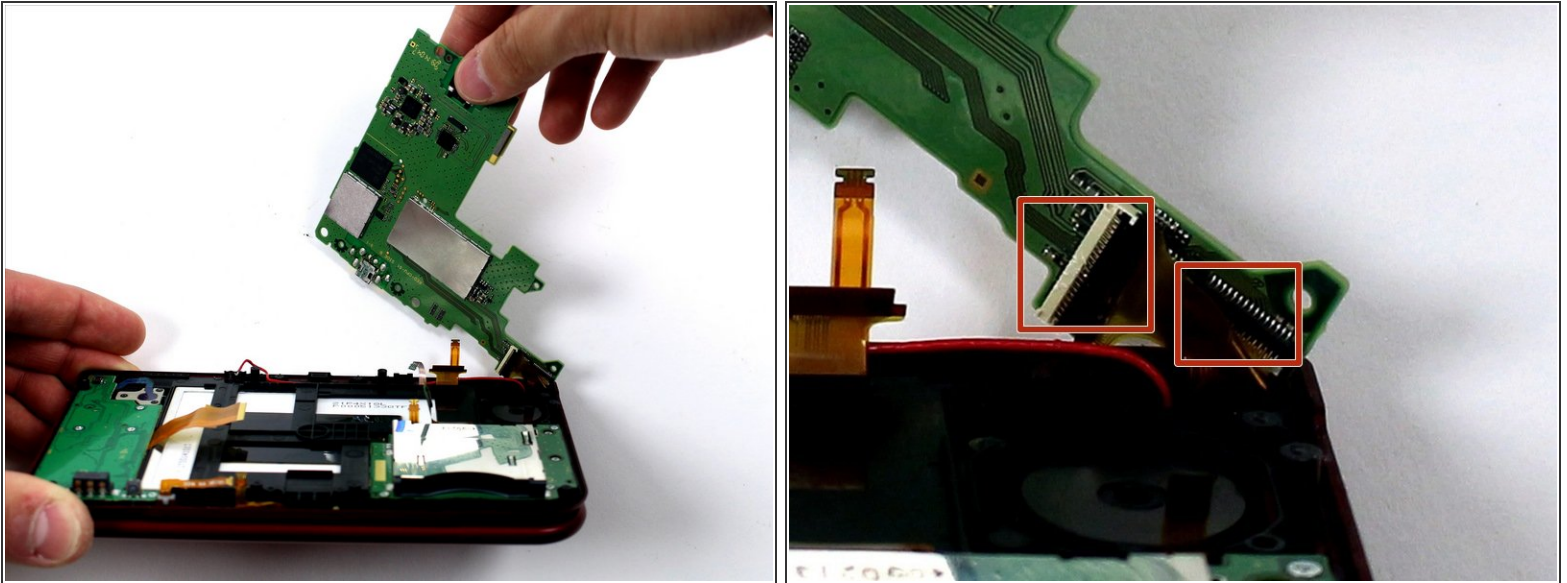
- Using tweezers, gently pull the five marked ribbons out of the ZIF connectors along the sides of the motherboard.
- ⚠ Note that these ZIF connectors are held in place by friction and do **not** have locks -- lifting the flaps on these connectors will break them!
- Three of the ribbon connectors have plastic clamping flaps that cover the ribbon to prevent slippage. Use the tweezers to flip them up before ribbon removal.
- 🔧 When reassembling the device, be sure to flip the ZIF clamps back down.
- 📖 While the SD card reader is shown as removed in this photo, it is optional for the removal of the motherboard.

Step 14



- Using a JIS #000 screwdriver, remove six 4mm screws along the edges of the motherboard.

Step 15



- Carefully pivot the motherboard 90 degrees toward the hinges to reveal two more ZIF connectors on the underside of the motherboard.
- Both have latches that must be flipped up. The left, longer latch is black; the right, shorter one is white. Flip up the flaps, slide the ribbons out and remove the motherboard.
- ⓘ Note which way the ribbons slide into their connectors carefully, as they are different.

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