



Samsung Galaxy W SGH-T679M Front Glass/Digitizer Replacement

This is a guide on replacing the digitizer, however it involves disassembling the entire phone so it can be used as a guide to help with any repair.

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INTRODUCTION

My niece broke the digitizer on her Galaxy W (as the Bell version is named) and I had the task of replacing it.

I think I spent more time trying to find out other names for the phone so I could find a replacement digitizer then I did actually doing the repair.

When I finally came across the name Exhibit II and confirmed that it was the same phone the digitizer was an easy find on eBay.

The overall process was pretty simple and I only hit a couple of minor snags. I've done many iPod, iPhone 4 and 4S as well as iPad screens and this was much easier then either one of those.



TOOLS:

- [Flathead 3/32" or 2.5 mm Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Heat Gun](#) (1)
 - [Spudger](#) (1)
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Step 1 — Front Glass/Digitizer



- I took pictures of the whole process but I forgot to get a pic of the broken phone. Here it is with the job completed.

Step 2



- The first steps are pretty simple.
- Remove the battery cover, battery, SIM and MicroSD card.

Step 3



- Pry off the top panel, refer to the images below for the locations of clips. Note: I found that the USB ports corners was a good place to lightly pry up- short side first.
- This is the top panel after it was removed. There are three little tabs on this and a bunch of adhesive. I used a small flat head screwdriver on the pointy corner closest to the headphone jack and it popped right up. I slowly worked my way across and got the rest of the cover to pop up as well.
- While lifting the cover I took my time, ensuring the adhesive wasn't damaged. It all stuck to the top cover as is evident in the second picture.

Step 4



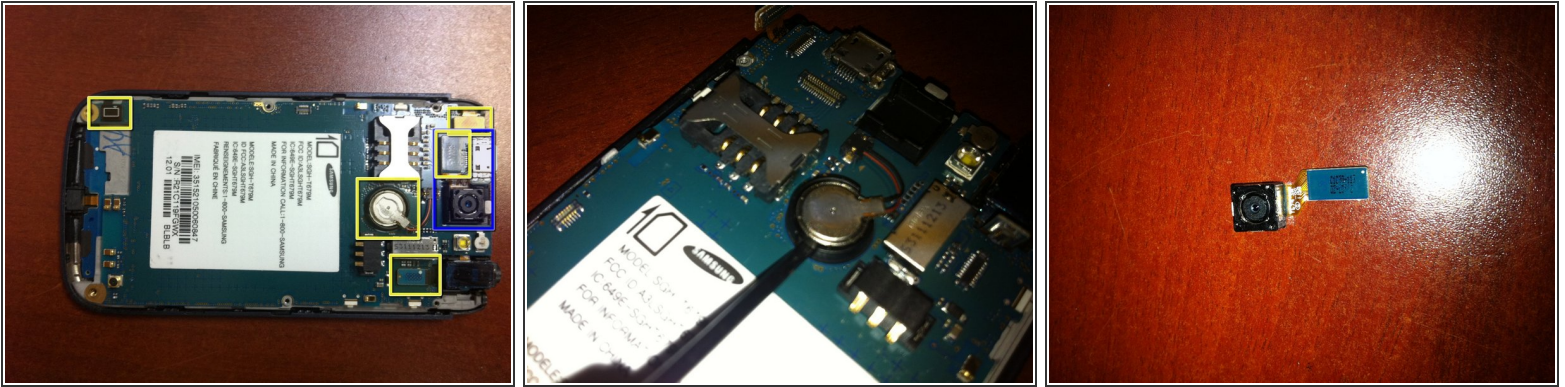
- There are six screws to remove from the rear of the phone and two from the top.

Step 5



- The phone came apart pretty easily. I started on the bottom edge with a flat head screwdriver and carefully pried up the back cover. It opened easily until I got to the top section.
- In the small gap indicated I inserted a small flat head screwdriver and turned it slowly. Once I opened this gap the rear case slipped off easily.

Step 6



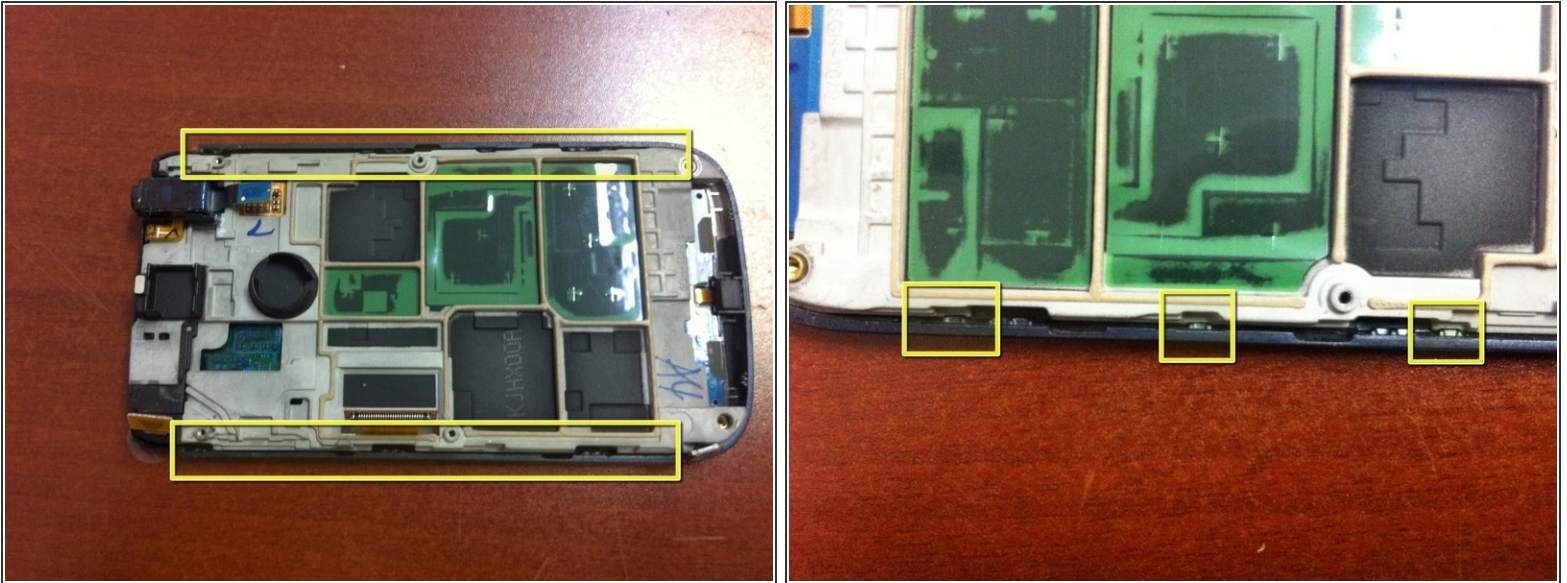
- The first thing I removed was the battery. There is a plastic rim around the battery with a gap in one spot. I inserted a small flat head screwdriver in this gap to get under the battery and then popped the battery up and out. I left it connected to the main board.
- Next you have four connectors to remove. I simply popped them off with my fingernail. Hook it underneath and gently lever them up.
- The connector with the yellow and blue rectangle on it in the pic is the camera connector. When you lift this connector the camera will be free to remove.

Step 7



- The main board will now lift up easily from the chassis. There is one connector underneath that has to be removed. Again, a fingernail worked perfectly for me.
- Once this connector was removed the main board was free from the rest of the phone.

Step 8



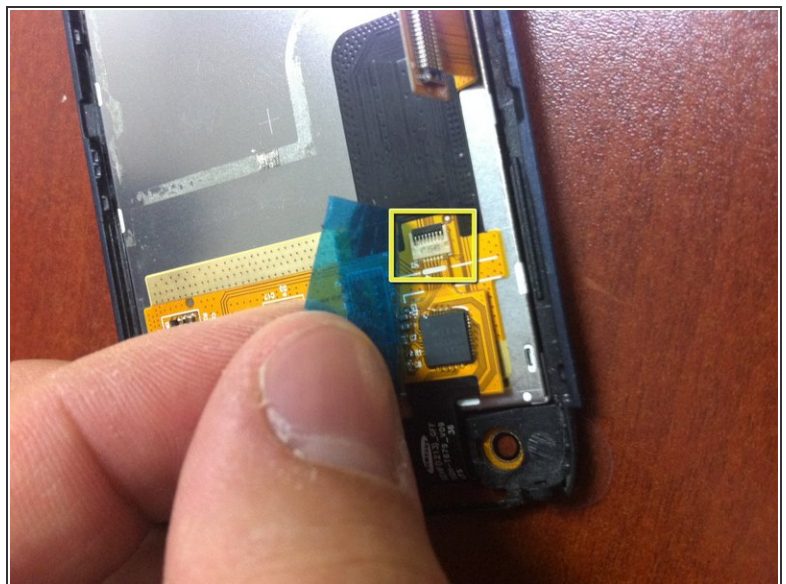
- The next steps involved a bit of a battle. The chassis has to be separated from the front of the phone.
- There are a number of clips holding the two pieces together. Again I used a small flat head screw driver to get the pieces to spread apart and then worked the two pieces apart gently... making sure not to damage anything.
- Once all the pieces were separated I noticed that my LCD was stuck to the front of the phone. In some cases it may stick to the chassis. In my case this meant I had to wrestle the LCD off of the front. (see step 11)

Step 9



- The yellow rectangle indicates the microphone board. This should be removed to replace the digitizer. There are a couple of little clips to pry away from the board and this piece will pop out easily.
- The LCD is indicated by the blue rectangle.

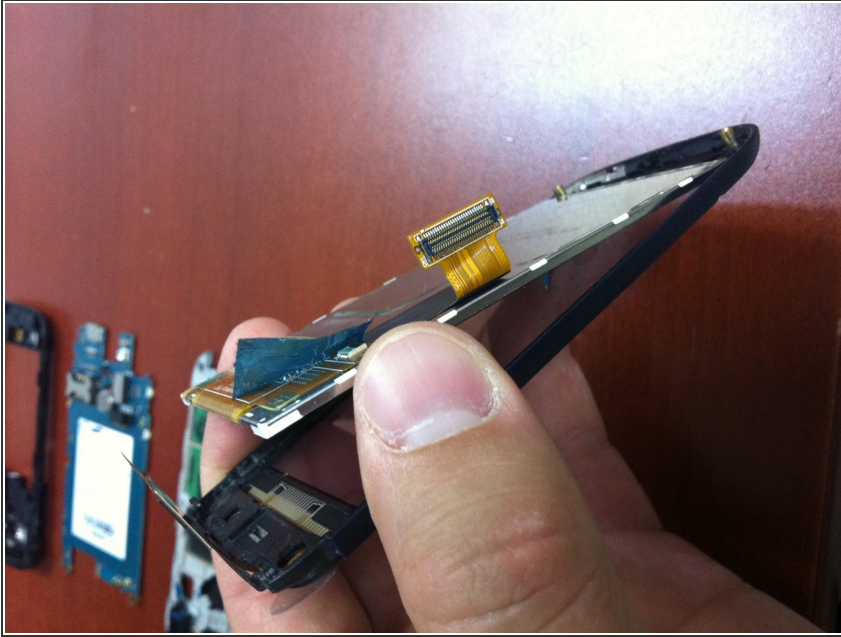
Step 10



- This piece of blue tape has to be lifted to access the digitizer connector beneath.
- The Yellow rectangle indicates the connector. The black piece has to be flipped up. Again, my fingernail worked fine here.
- Once this is up the cable slips out easily and is quite easy to reinsert and lock back down.

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Step 11



- To remove the LCD from the front panel I had to work carefully along the edges. I didn't want to break the LCD.
- Once it loosened up a little I was able to slide a guitar pick along the two long edges to free the adhesive.

Step 12



- Here you see the front of the phone with the digitizer still attached.
- The digitizer came out as one piece despite being horribly smashed.
- I didn't use a heat gun but it would have helped a little. The digitizer was easy to remove without heat.

Step 13



- This little rubber part threatened to fall out on me but I pushed it back in place and never had another issue with it.
- The installation is the reverse. It was very simple. The Digitizer I received had adhesive on it and fit perfectly. Once that was in place I had the phone back together in about 5 minutes.

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