



Steam Controller Disassembly

Complete disassembly of the Steam controller for repairs and replacement. Each screw will be mentioned. One Steam Controller was harmed during writing.

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INTRODUCTION

Background: My left analog stick started having drift and left-right phantom input problems, so this controller was already on the deathbed.

For disassembly, I drilled two screws out because I didn't want to wait for a longer T6 driver, so this controller is permanently damaged now both physically and (already was) electronically.

TOOLS:

- [T6 Torx Screwdriver \(1\)](#)
- [Cordless Drill \(1\)](#)
- [Hex Key/Allen Wrench \(1\)](#)
- [Razor Blade \(1\)](#)
- [Metal Spudger \(1\)](#)
- [ESD Safe Tweezers Blunt Nose \(1\)](#)

Step 1 — Beginning



- *(i)* I did not have one on me, (the pro tech toolkit does not have one long enough) so I ended up drilling out two of the four side screws.
- Go ahead and take off the back plate and remove the batteries.

Step 2 — Remove 4 side external screws



- Start by taking out the 4 obvious screws, two on each side.
- You'll need a long-necked T6 driver if you want to get these out cleanly. (At least 1" / 25mm.)
- The pro tech toolkit does not have one long enough, so I used a slightly hacked hex key on two of them (stripping the heads) and ended up drilling out the other two because the hex key is not a good fit.

Step 3 — Remove 3 center inner screws



- These are hidden under the label, simply use a sharp blade or just punch through the label with something sharp.
- There are two at the top just outside the holes showing metal, and one near the bottom center.
- The two at the top are much deeper in, but my normal T6 fits just fine.

Step 4 — Carefully pry off backplate



- Starting at the bottom center seems easiest and leaves the least amount of visual scratches.
- Go all the way around, going **below/behind** the USB port. (see second picture)

Step 5 — Watch for loose plastic parts



- Upon removing the backplate, there will be two battery hinges that may come off on either side.
 - I recommend keeping them on the backplate for reassembly later.
- Next there is the backplate release switch, composed of two plastic parts and two springs.
 - See the 3rd picture of those parts.

Step 6 — Four Motherboard screws



- Two screws near the top center.
- Two screws on the far sides on top of the battery holder plastic backings.

⚠ Don't take the motherboard off yet - there are ribbon cables attached underneath.

Step 7 — Four touchpad bracket screws



- Two screws hold each touchpad in place. They are mirrored across.
- You might need to lift the motherboard by a finger's width to reach two of the four screws. (They are slightly underneath the battery holder plastic.)

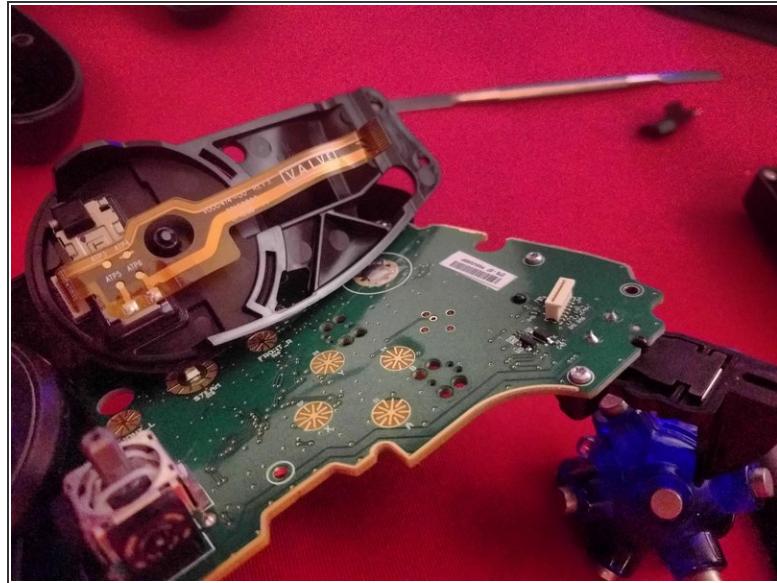
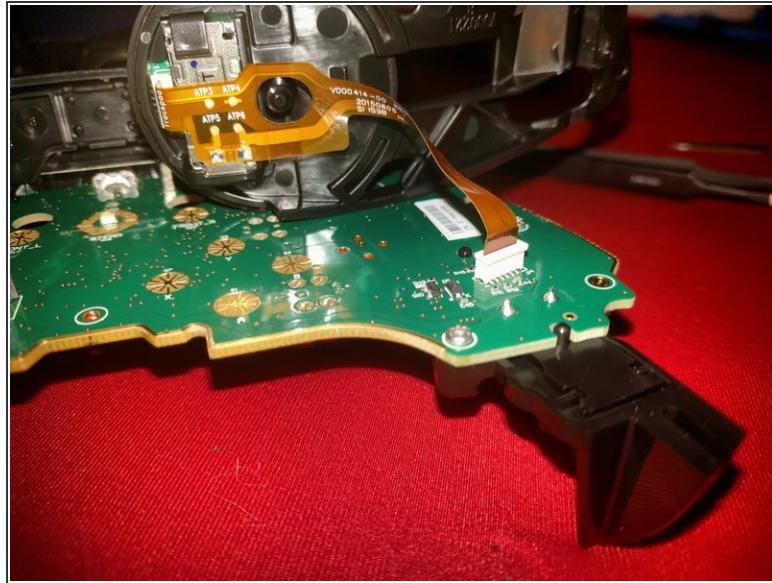
Step 8 — Take the motherboard out



- The only thing attached to the trackpads are the ribbon cables, be careful when lifting the motherboard off the front face plastic.

i Watch out for the buttons falling out if you flip the front face over. There is a rubber/conductive silicone part that covers them all.

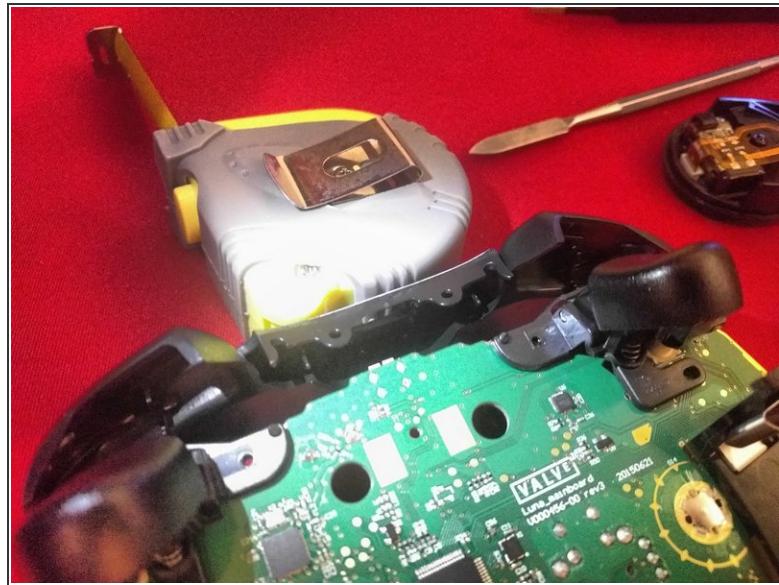
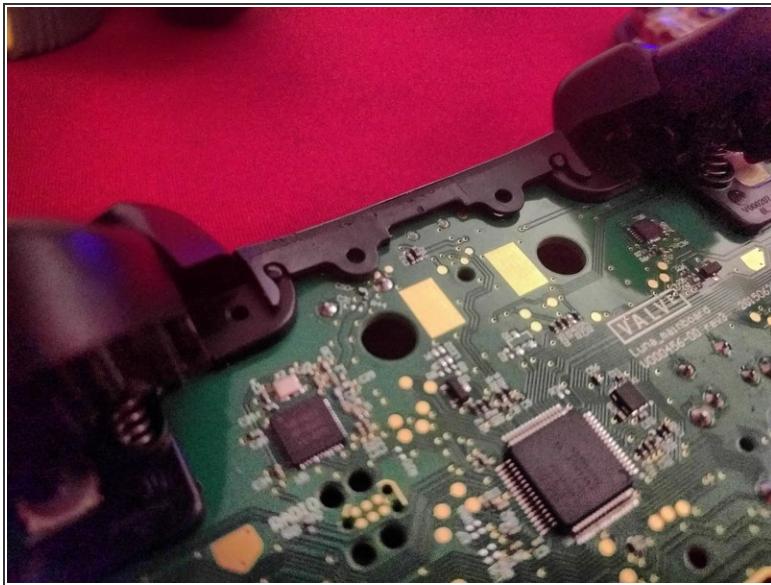
Step 9 — Optional: detaching ribbon cables



(i) This step is only needed if you are replacing a trackpad.

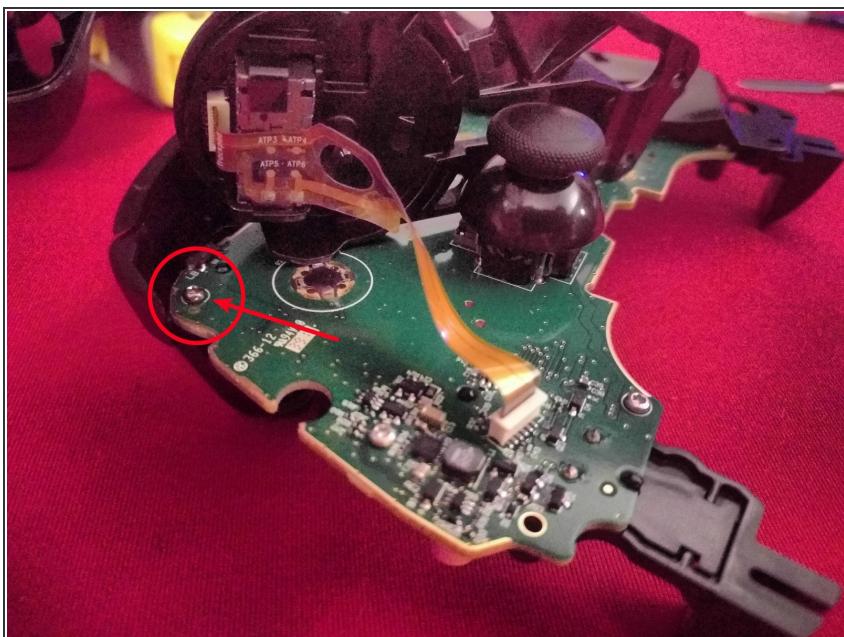
- These ribbon cables are actually really easy to take out, just tug gently straight away from the board.
- ESD-safe tweezers are recommended for re-insertion, as the stiff ends are very small and difficult to grasp.

Step 10 — Optional: Front USB I/O panel, top bumper buttons



- This thing literally just pops off using two plastic pressure-based latches. Just pull it in the direction the USB cable would go from the motherboard.
- When the USB I/O panel comes off, so will the two bumper buttons. The two top bumpers are actually one long plastic part, who knew?

Step 11 — Optional: Bumper Triggers / Buttons



- The screw for the bumper setups is on the opposite side of the motherboard, under the trackpad location.

