



Written By: Evan Noronha



INTRODUCTION

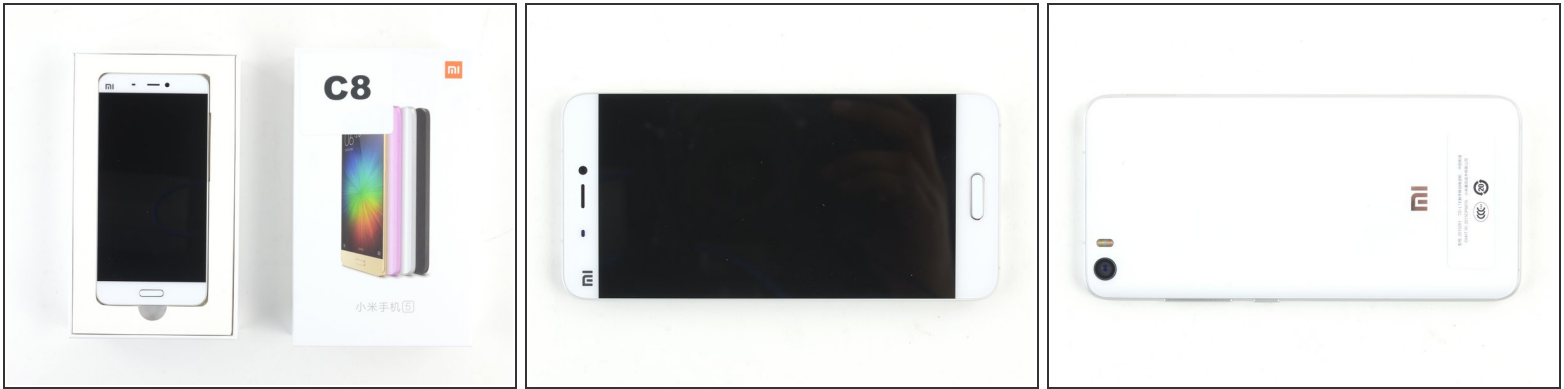
Xiaomi's Mi 5 handset earns some points for modularity, but scores a middling 6 for overall repairability—mainly due to an unnecessarily fussy display replacement procedure.



TOOLS:

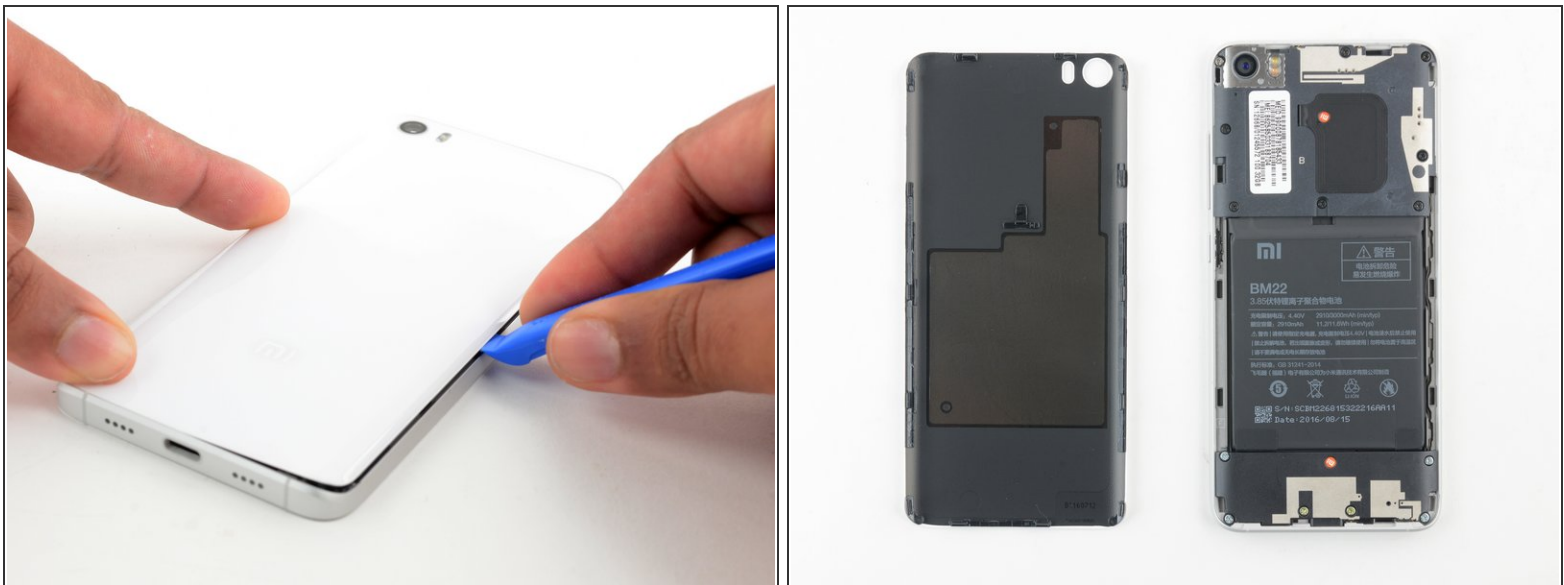
- [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
 - [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [Suction Handle](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Picks set of 6](#) (1)
-

Step 1 — Xiaomi Mi 5 Repairability Assessment



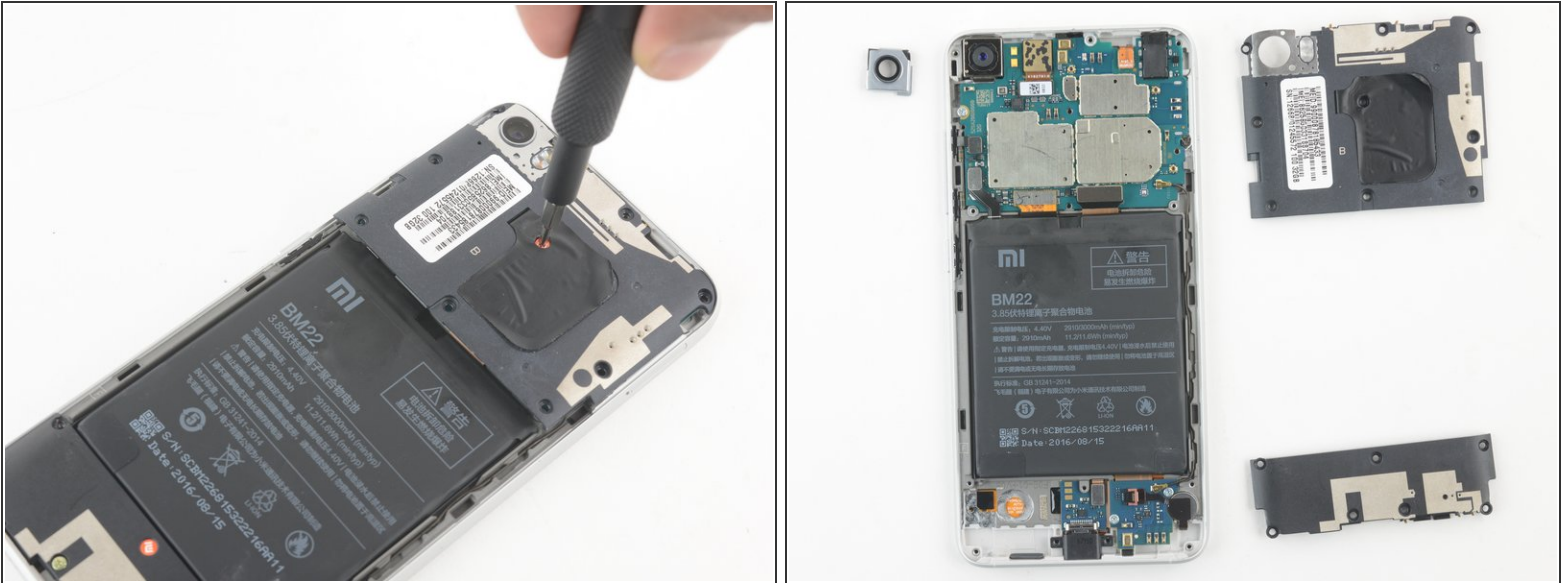
- Reference shots

Step 2



- Rear cover is lightly clipped in. Comes off super easily.
- Looks like we can see the battery, but need to pull off some midframe components to reach the connector.

Step 3



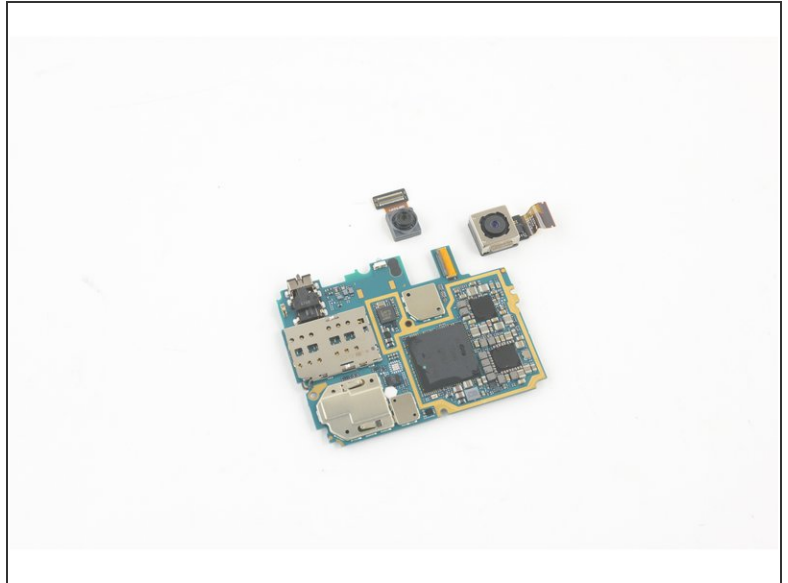
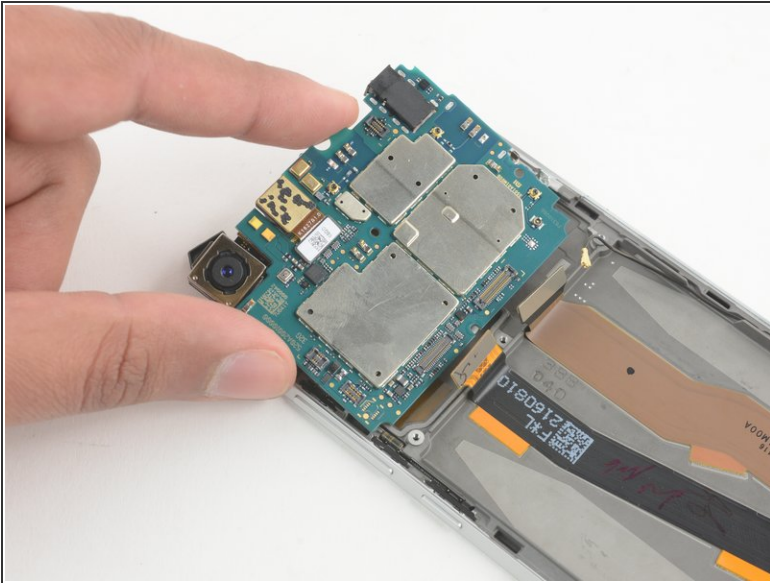
- Midframe comes out no problem, although we needed to punch through two tamper-evident screws.

Step 4



- The battery is held in with adhesive pull tabs.
- ❗ We're used to seeing these at this point, but we love their convenience and won't get tired of them any time soon.

Step 5



- Next out is the motherboard. It's secured by a single Phillips screw and a handful of press connectors.
- ⓘ The modular front- and rear-facing cameras come with the motherboard, but the headphone jack is soldered to the board and not going anywhere.

Step 6



● Now we can just start picking out the stragglers:

- Daughterboard (including cable)
- Coin-cell vibrator
- Ambient light sensor
- Earpiece speaker
- Volume buttons

⚠ All three buttons are on a single highly-delicate flex cable assembly that tore during removal.

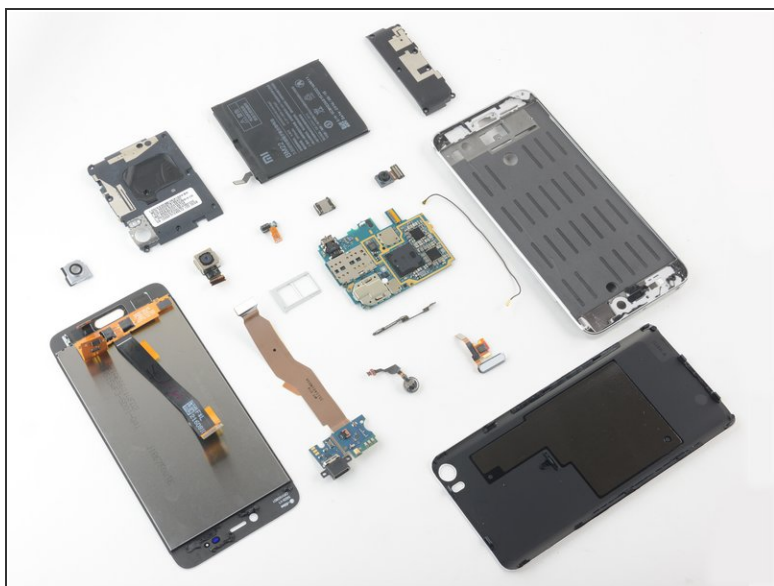
ⓘ All these components came out fairly easily—the daughterboard was secured with screws while everything else was held in by friction (and the previously-removed motherboard).

Step 7



- The screen has no visible fasteners, so we reluctantly use a suction cup and opening pick to start prying from the front.
- The display finally separates from the midframe, but this design is a pain:
 - The LCD is held in place exclusively with glue, so reassembling the device means purchasing new adhesive designed for this unit.
 - Even though the screen is removed from the front, the LCD and digitizer connectors are not accessible without disassembling the back side.
 - The home button is trapped between the front panel assembly and the midframe, so replacing this (commonly failing) part will require removing and re-adhering the display.

Step 8



REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- The Xiaomi Mi 5 earns a **6 out of 10** on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):
 - The motherboard and battery can be replaced independently and easily.
 - Most components are modular and can be replaced independently.
 - All screws are standard Phillips screws, but removing them will void your warranty.
 - The display is difficult to replace, requiring complete disassembly and purchasing consumables.
 - The manufacturer does not provide user-accessible repair documentation.