



# Zanco Tiny T1 Teardown

Teardown of the Zanco Tiny T1, performed on December 20, 2018.

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## INTRODUCTION

We've seen (and torn down) pretty much everything, but now Zanco's Tiny T1 is here. It's oblivious to your obsession with screen-to-body ratios, impervious to your petty PPI comparisons, and contemptuous of those quadruple-digit smartphone price tags—but it might just take the thin-and-light crown for good. Join us for the Tiniest teardown we've ever done. It's gonna be big.

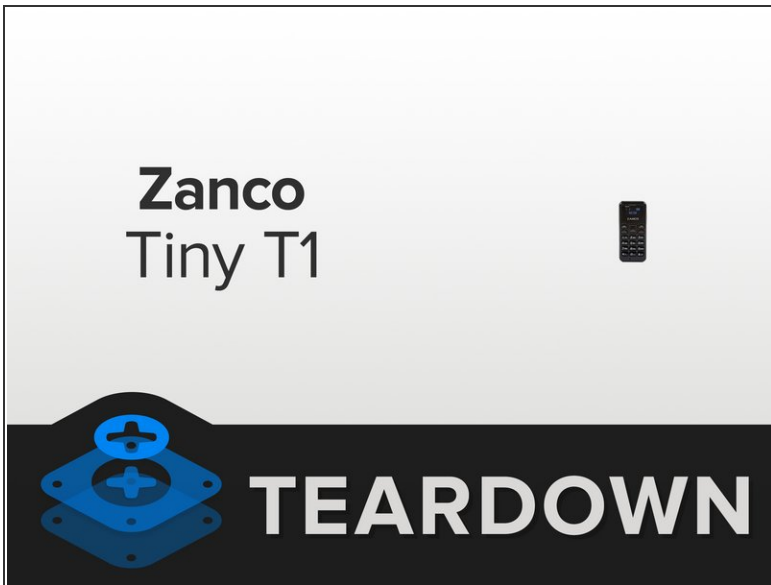
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### TOOLS:

- [Spudger](#) (1)
  - [Tweezers](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — Zanco Tiny T1 Teardown



- The Tiny T1 may be small—but is it mighty? We'll let its specs do the talking:
  - Mediatek MTK6261D SoC
  - 0.49" OLED display with 64 x 32 pixel resolution (146 ppi)
  - Built-in voice changer
  - 32 MB RAM and 32 MB ROM
  - Backlit keyboard
  - 2G network connectivity
  - MicroUSB port


## Step 2



- i** For size reference, we've enlisted the help of a certain furry rebel. Don't worry—we'll [transport him back](#) to the Rebellion when we're done with him.
- While it's not the most popular [tiny phone form factor](#), the T1's chocolate bar layout makes dialing *and* texting with human-sized fingers a breeze.
  - The *metal* back case is smooth except for a regulatory sticker and speaker grille. No fragile glass panel to shatter. No unsightly rear camera bump.

## Step 3



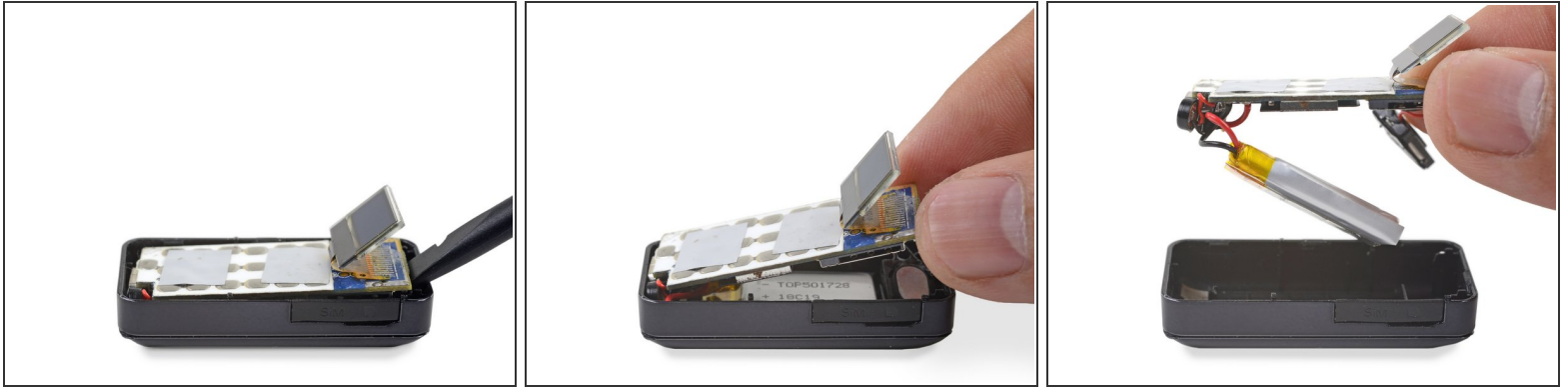
- A "micro"-USB port occupies the bottom of the phone—and Zanco has managed to squeeze in a pinhole microphone alongside it.
- Nano is such a relative word, as the "nano" SIM slot dominates the right edge of the phone.  
 If you're prone to butt-dialing people, the Tiny T1 is not for you.
- Does size matter? We compare the Tiny T1 to its modern compatriots: a tech writer's LG ENV3 and a [Samsung Galaxy S9+](#).

## Step 4



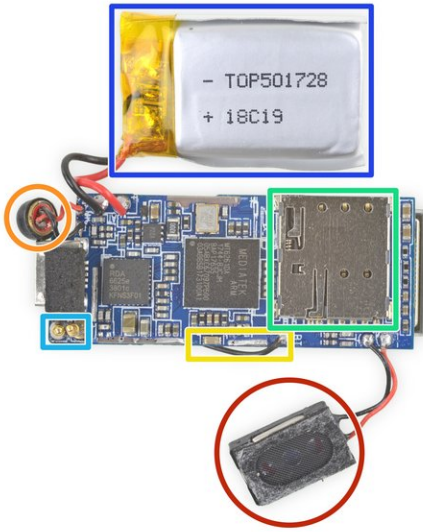
- Opening a phone of this scale requires specialty tools. Fortunately, iFixit has got it covered.
- Despite its retro aesthetic, this opening procedure is far from obsolete. Some micro spudger action frees up the front clips, and the top plastic plate is free!
- ⓘ Unlike with some phones, we encounter no [proprietary screws](#) here.
- We move the keypad aside and find the button pad soldered to the board beneath.
- To supply backlight to the keypad, two white adhesive pads diffuse light from four surface-mounted LEDs underneath.

## Step 5



- While most modern phones are held together by an [army of screws](#) and [nasty adhesives](#), the Tiny T1 has none of that. Zero screws! Zero adhesives!
  - The entire innards pop out with a single pry with a (normal) sized [spudger](#).
- ⓘ The likely lesson here: to easily open *normal*-sized phones, we need a *giant* spudger.
- ⓘ Who says small can't be repairable? (Looking at you, [AirPods](#).)

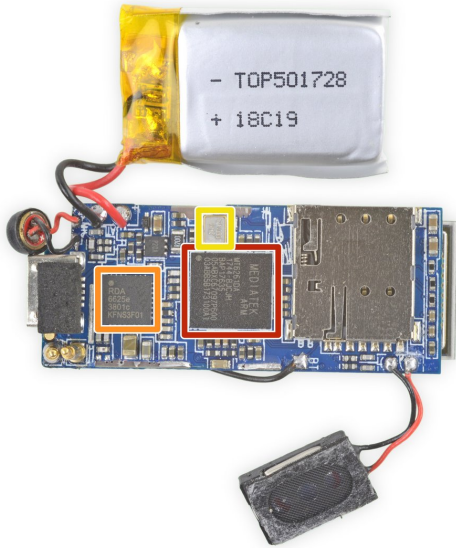
## Step 6



- Here we have the inner workings of the Tiny T1—all of them. It's just one board, with (nearly) everything soldered to it:
  - Speaker
  - Microphone capsule
  - High tech Bluetooth antenna (it's a wire)
  - "Nano" SIM slot, ironically hogging nearly half the board
  - Two mysterious pogo pins, which are accessible from outside—possibly for charging? Accessory port? A tiny taser?
  - 200 mAh 0.74 Wh battery (for comparison, the ENV3 has 3.5 Wh, while the Galaxy S9+ weighs in at 13.48 Wh)
  - *i* While the S9+ battery packs over *eighteen times* the capacity, we doubt that its standby scales linearly to the Tiny T1's three-day rating.



## Step 7



- What's the bare minimum amount of silicon needed for a functioning mobile phone? We're not sure, but this can't be far off:
  - Mediatek MT6261DA SoC
  - RDA Microelectronics [RDA6625](#) Front-end module
  - 26 MHz oscillator

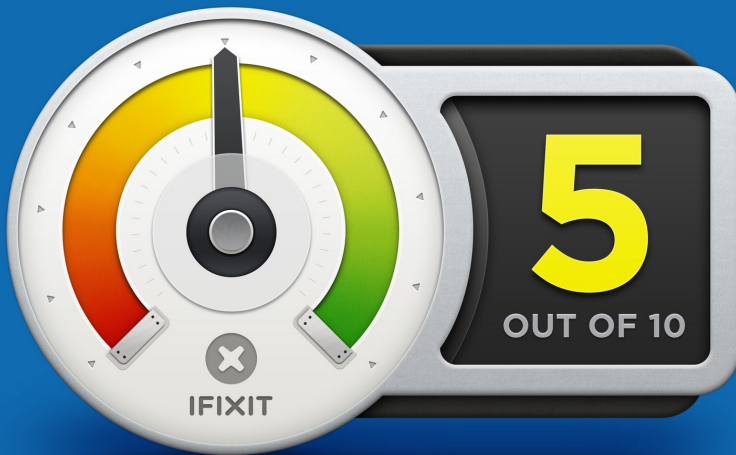
## Step 8



- That's a wrap to this Tiny Teardown!
- The T1 shows you can make a working phone with just a little hardware—and with technological advancements, you can make it that much little-er.
- We've come a long way from the [first mobile phones](#) of over forty years ago, even surpassing the wildest concepts from [spy films](#) and [science fiction](#).
  - ① ... Which just means that modern designers of fictional gadgets have to [keep upping their game](#).

## Step 9 — Final Thoughts

### REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- The Tiny T1 earns a **5 out of 10** on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):
  - The phone is held together by clips alone, making the opening procedure easy and painless.
  - The front plastic plate, which is prone to cracking, is easily replaceable.
  - Most components, including the battery, are soldered to the motherboard, making repairs difficult.