



iMac Intel 21.5" EMC 2638 Adhesive Strips Replacement

Replace the Adhesive Strips in your iMac Intel 21.5" EMC 2638.

Written By: Sam Goldheart



INTRODUCTION

Removing the display requires cutting through the adhesive around the perimeter of the screen. After the adhesive is cut, it cannot be used to re-seal the display. You'll need to apply a new set of adhesive strips to ensure a proper seal.



TOOLS:

- [Isopropyl Alcohol](#) (1)
- [Microfiber Cleaning Cloths](#) (1)
- [iMac Service Wedge](#) (1)
- [Tweezers](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Painter's Tape](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [iMac Intel 21.5" \(2012-2017\) Adhesive Strips](#) (1)

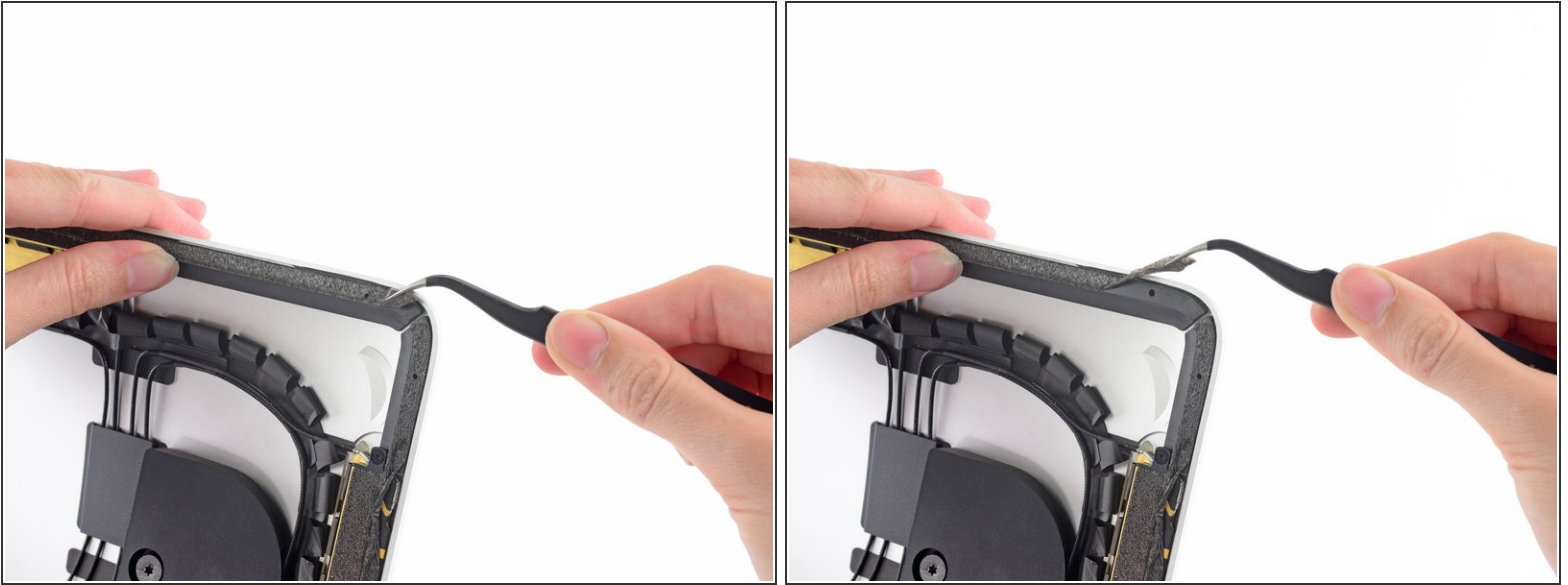
Step 1 — Adhesive Strips





i With the hinge free to move, the iMac will be unbalanced and hard to work on. Repairs can be completed as shown, but are faster and easier with an [iMac service wedge](#).

! If you are not using an iMac service wedge, be very careful when installing and working behind the display—it can easily fall out and break if the iMac moves unexpectedly.

Step 2



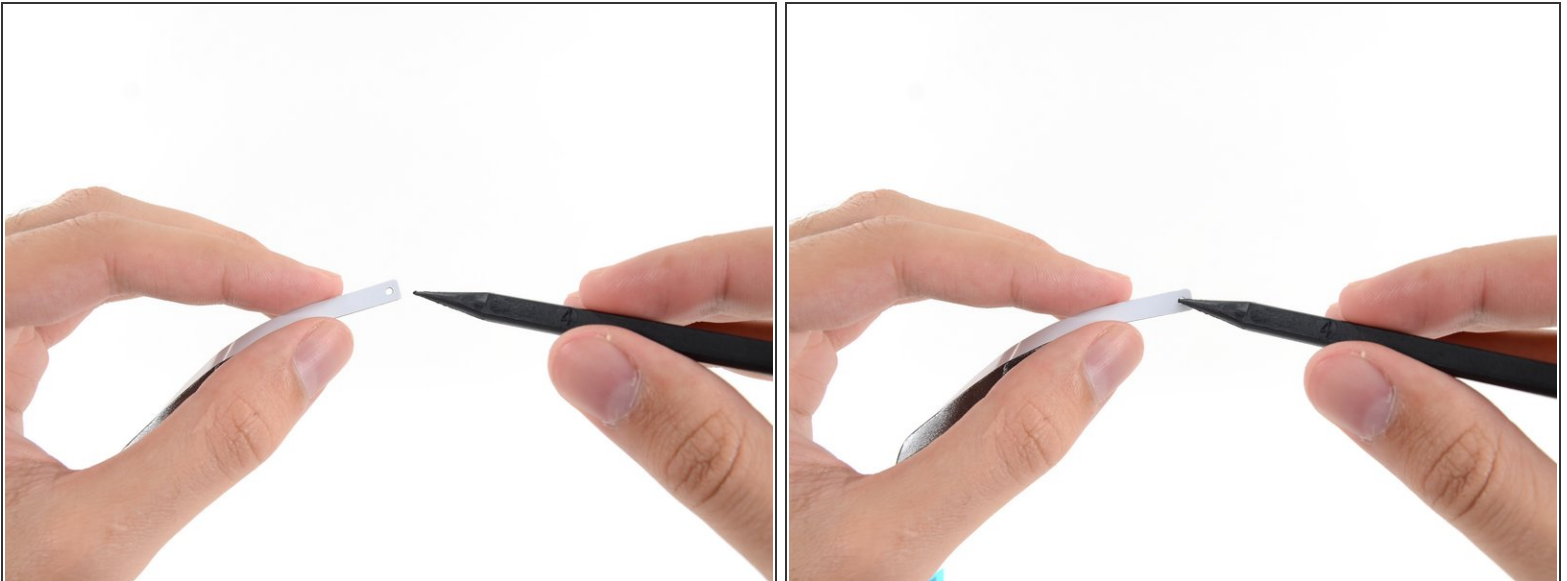
-  Before you start placing strips, remove all of the old adhesive around the perimeter of the rear enclosure.
- If you are re-using your existing display, you must also remove the old adhesive from the back of the display.
 - Peel off the old strips of adhesive using tweezers or your fingers. Start at the bottom and peel *upward* towards the top of the device.
 - After all the old adhesive is removed, carefully clean the area under the adhesive with 90% (or greater) isopropyl alcohol and a lint-free cloth. Wipe in one direction, not back and forth.
-  **Don't skip this step**, or your new adhesive strips may not bond properly, and the display may fall out of your iMac.

Step 3



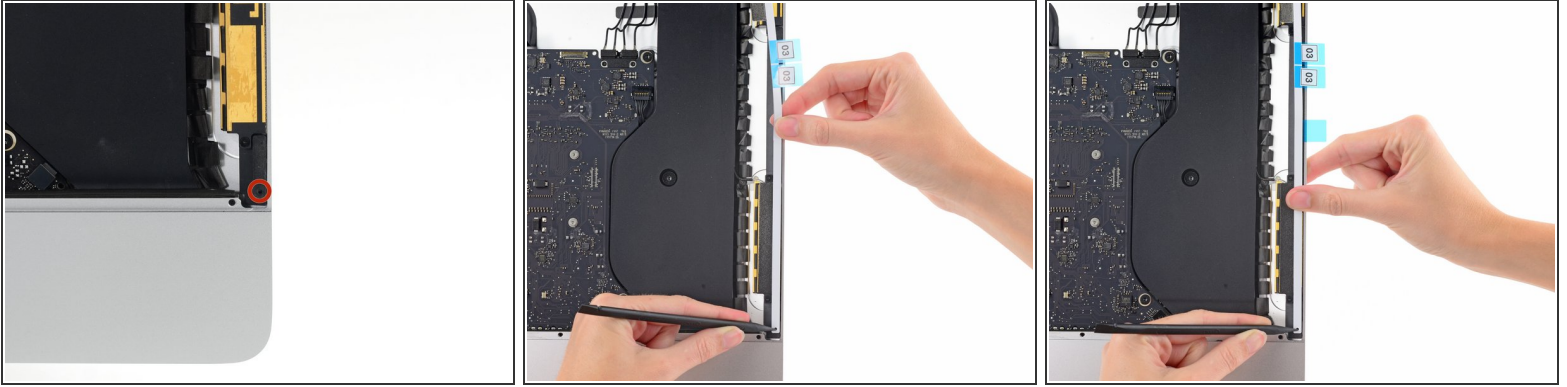
- Start with the strip labeled 3 (or 03), which goes on the right vertical side of the rear enclosure.
- ⓘ Before peeling off any backing, line it up against the frame of the iMac to get an idea of where it goes.
- Peel the short piece of backing off the back of the strip.

Step 4



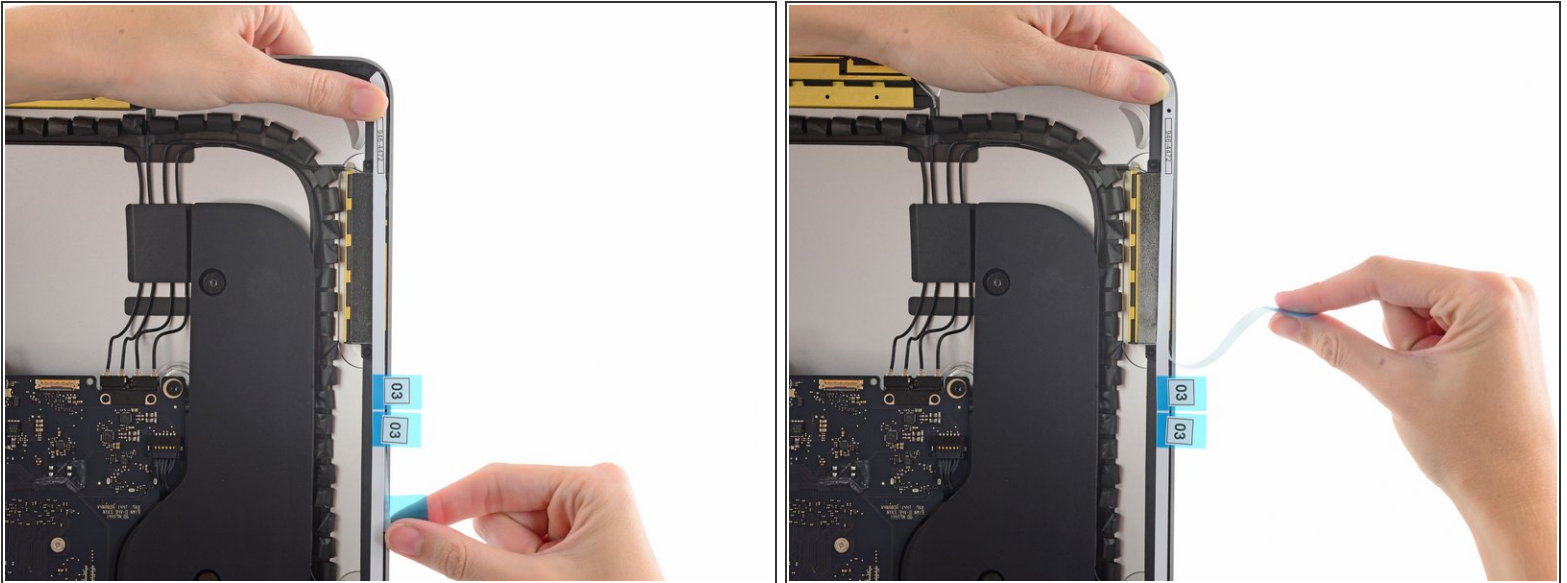
- Insert the tip of a spudger into the hole at the end of the strip from the side that still has a backing on it.

Step 5



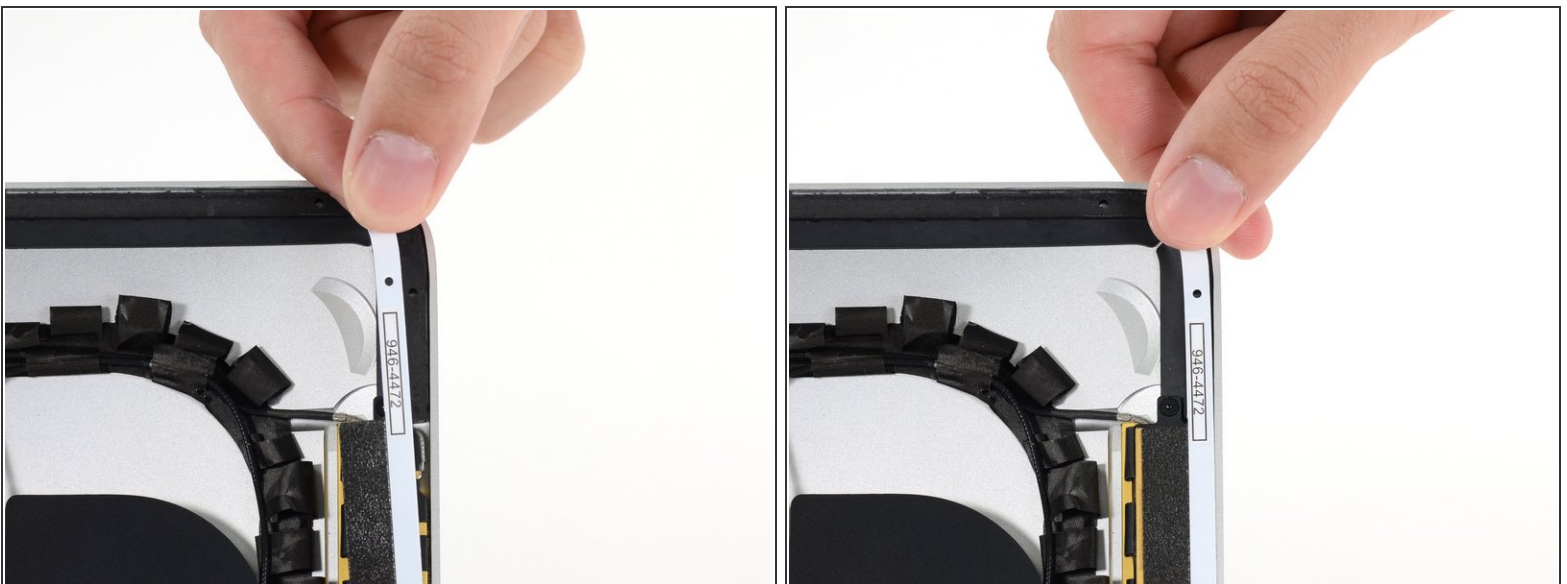
- With the spudger still poking through the hole in the adhesive strip, push the spudger tip into the corresponding hole in the frame of the iMac.
- Using the hole and spudger to anchor the position of the adhesive strip, line the strip up against the right edge, gently pulling up against the spudger to ensure the strip is taut, and stick it onto the frame.

Step 6



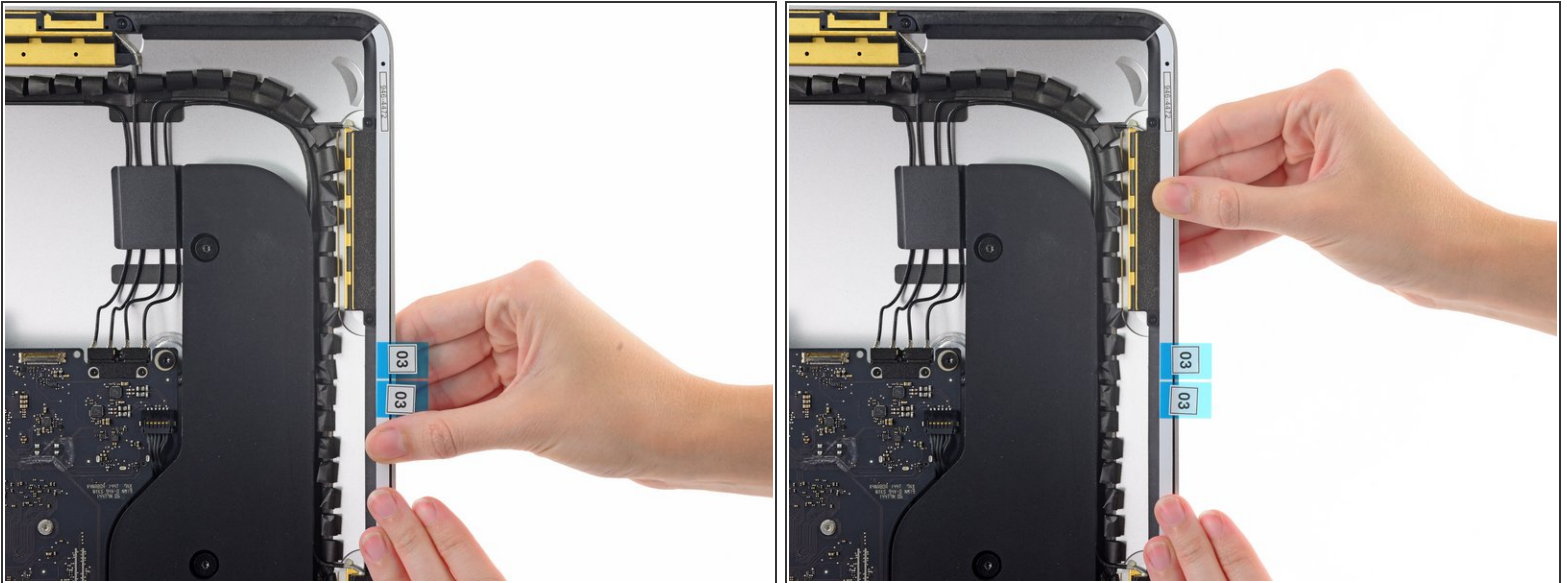
- Once you've aligned the bottom half of the adhesive strip, peel the longer piece of backing out from behind the strip.
- ⓘ If the bottom half isn't aligned properly, you can carefully peel it up and re-stick it before peeling off the lower backing strip. Be sure to use the spudger tip to anchor the top.

Step 7



- Align the upper half of the strip with the right edge of the rear enclosure, and stick it down.

Step 8



- Use your finger to smooth Strip 3 along the right edge. Make sure it is neatly aligned with the right side of the frame and that it sits flat.

i Do not peel off the front adhesive backing yet.

Step 9



- Work your way around the perimeter of the iMac, adding three more adhesive strips in the same manner.
- Working counter-clockwise from Strip 3, place:
 - Strip 2 on the top right
 - Strip 1 on the top left
 - Strip 5 on the left vertical

Step 10



- i** The two remaining strips (4L and 4R) do not have guide holes and are more difficult to place than the previous ones. Before sticking them down, we recommend first setting them in their respective places on the iMac to get comfortable with their placement.
- Grasp the red film pull tab on the 4R adhesive strip and pull to remove the backing from the strip.
 - Align the strip on the bottom edge of the rear enclosure, directly to the right of the middle screw on that edge.
 - Run your finger along the length of the adhesive strip to ensure it is straight and unwrinkled, pressing down as you go to adhere the strip to the iMac.

Step 11



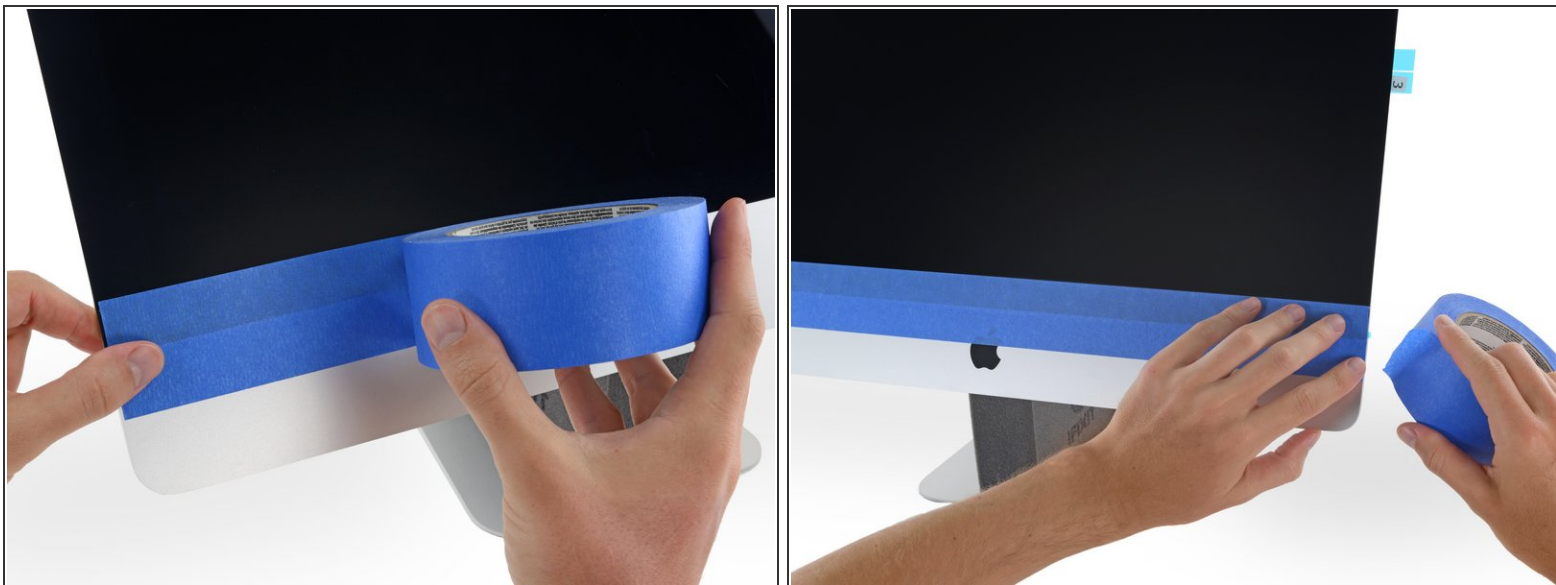
- Repeat the previous step for the 4L adhesive strip, placing it along the left half of the bottom edge of the iMac.
- ⓘ Once you've applied all the adhesive strips, the iMac should look as shown in the photo.

Step 12



- Gently lay the display in place over the iMac, and align it carefully.

Step 13



- Use painter's tape or masking tape to temporarily secure the bottom edge of the display to the iMac's enclosure.
- ⓘ The tape preserves the display's alignment, and allows you to safely swing the top edge of the display open to access the display cables.

Step 14



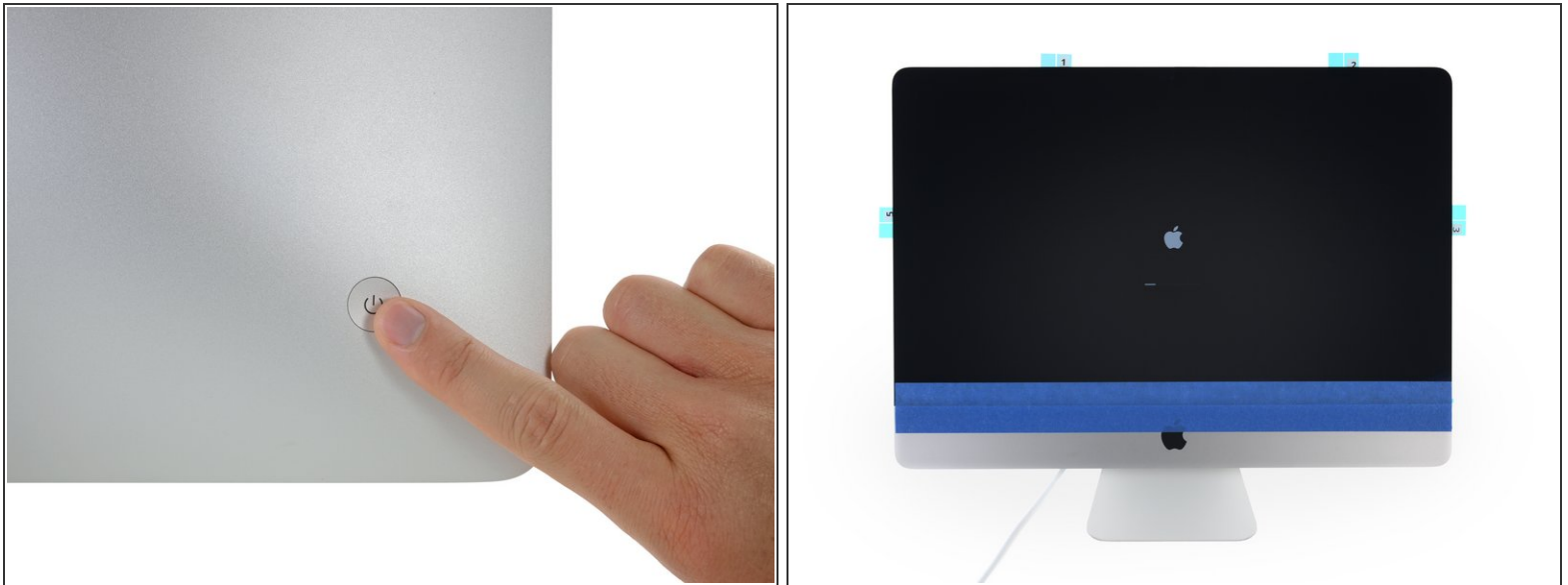
- i** At this point it's a good idea to test your repair, in order to make sure your iMac works properly before you seal it back up. Follow the next three steps to temporarily reconnect the display cables and boot up your iMac prior to pulling the protective film off the adhesive strips.
- If you've already verified that your iMac is working correctly and are ready to seal it up, **skip to Step 17.**
 - Insert the display power cable into its socket on the logic board.

Step 15



- Use a pair of tweezers or your other hand to gently insert the display data cable connector into its socket on the logic board.
- ⓘ Be sure to press it straight into the socket, and insert it completely.
- Secure the metal retaining bracket on the display data cable downwards towards the logic board.

Step 16

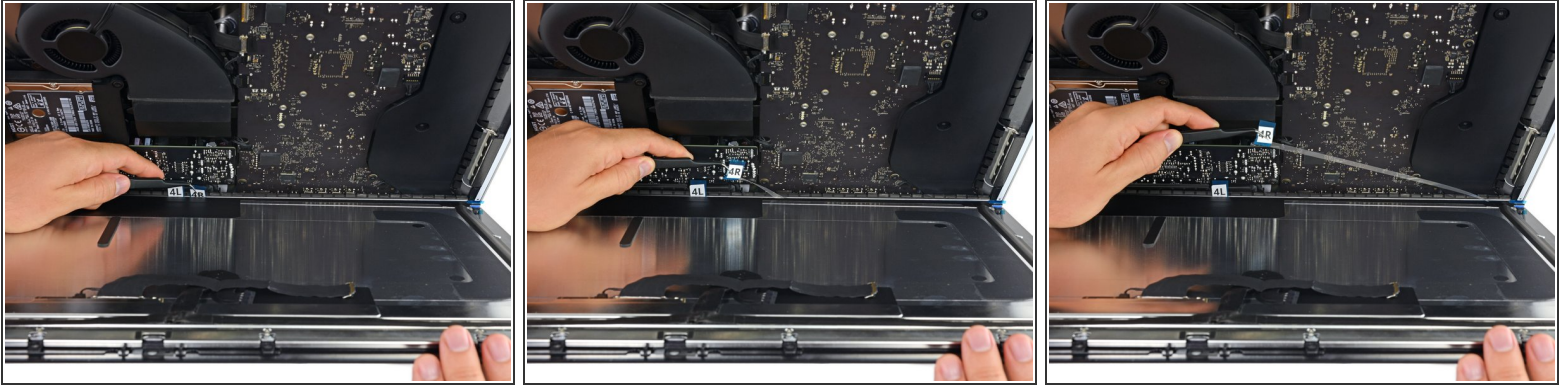



- Set the display back on the iMac's rear enclosure.

✦ At this time, plug in your iMac, power it on, and test your repair before moving on to actually sealing up the computer. Be sure to check for full functionality of any hardware you removed or disconnected.

⚠ When you are finished, shut the iMac down and **unplug the power cord** before you continue.

Step 17



 Verify that your iMac is turned off and unplugged from power before you continue.

- After confirming that your iMac functions properly, disconnect the display cables and carefully lean the display forward.
- Remove the film from the 4R strip by reaching in from above and pulling the tab straight up from the bottom edge of the display.

Step 18



- Repeat the previous step for the 4L strip.

Step 19



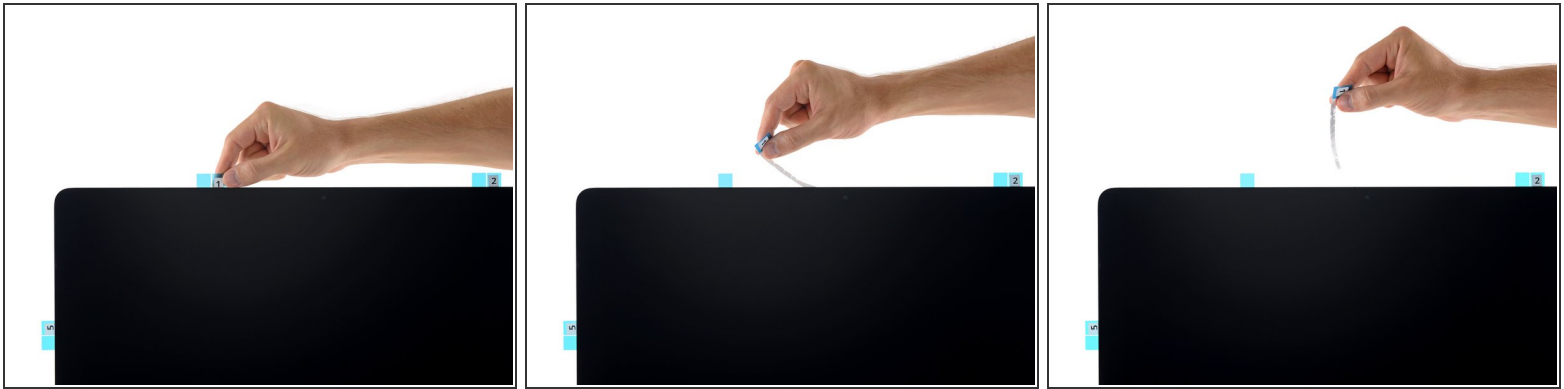
- Reconnect the display power and data cables for the final time.
- ☑ Remember to secure the metal retaining bracket on the display data cable.

Step 20




- ☑ Check the glass directly in front of the webcam for dust and other contaminants. If necessary, wipe it down with a microfiber cloth before you seal up the display.
- Steady the display with one hand as you remove the adhesive liners in the following steps, or rest it lightly against the iMac's enclosure.

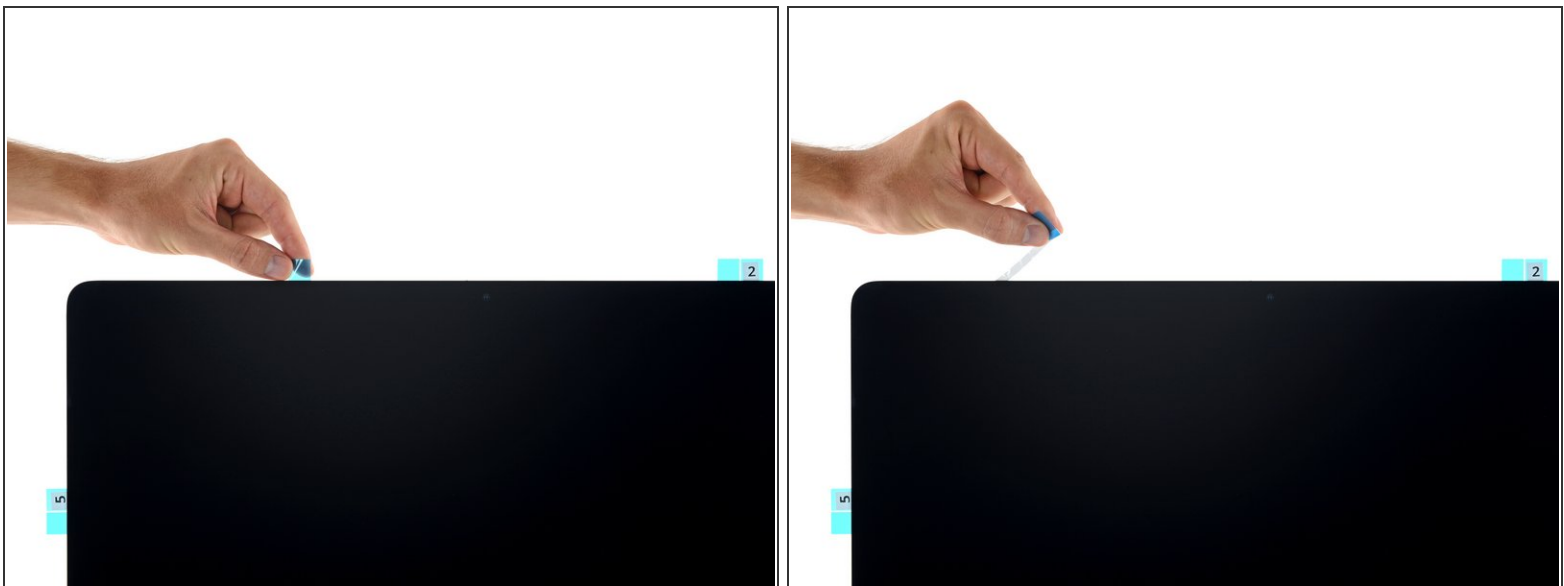
Step 21



- Remove the protective film from Strip 1 by pulling its tab straight up.

 The film/liner may break if pulled too hard. Work carefully and make sure that there's no pressure on the display and that it doesn't pinch the strips.

Step 22



- Likewise, remove the protective film from the strip that was paired with Strip 1.

Step 23



- Repeat the previous two steps to remove the protective film from all the remaining adhesive strip pairs (labeled 2, 3, and 5).

Step 24



- Remove the tape securing the display to the rear enclosure.
- To ensure a strong bond, carefully tip the iMac flat on its back (with the screen facing straight up) and press carefully but firmly around all four edges of the display.