



# iPhone 8 Plus Teardown

Teardown of the iPhone 8 Plus performed on Thursday, September 21.

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## INTRODUCTION

They say that good things come in threes. Seems like Apple has really taken that adage to heart with an unusual release of three new phones this season.

We already showed you what's inside the [iPhone 8](#)—but what about the 8 Plus? Is wireless charging wrapped in pretty pink glass enough to distinguish the iPhone 8 Plus in the lineup? Or are two large glass panels just tempting fate? We're here at [Circuitwise](#) headquarters in Sydney, Australia, to find out. Join us as we tear down the iPhone 8 Plus.

We've got three more good things for you— [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to keep you up-to-date on all things repair!



### TOOLS:

- [P2 Pentalobe Screwdriver iPhone](#) (1)
  - [iOpener](#) (1)
  - [iSlack](#) (1)
  - [iFixit Opening Picks set of 6](#) (1)
  - [Phillips #000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
  - [Tri-point Y000 Screwdriver Bit](#) (1)
  - [Tweezers](#) (1)
  - [Spudger](#) (1)
  - [Curved Razor Blade](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — iPhone 8 Plus Teardown



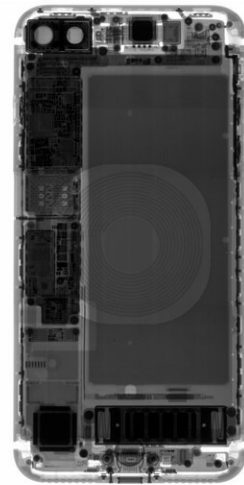
- The 8 Plus adds some bonus screen, and some bonus features. Let's take a look:
  - Apple A11 Bionic processor with embedded M11 motion coprocessor
  - 64 or 256 GB onboard storage capacity
  - 5.5-inch multitouch IPS Retina HD display with 1920 × 1080 pixels (401 ppi)
  - Dual 12 MP wide-angle and telephoto cameras with  $f/1.8$  and  $f/2.8$  apertures (respectively), optical zoom, and 10x digital zoom
  - 7 MP FaceTime HD camera with  $f/2.2$  aperture and 1080p HD recording capability
  - Supports fast-charge and Qi wireless charging
  - 802.11a/b/g/n/ac Wi-Fi + MIMO Bluetooth 5.0 + NFC

## Step 2



- From the front, we have... an iPhone. Except for the new color, the 8 Plus looks about the same as a [6 Plus](#) from 2014.
- Flip it over and one new feature really *shines*. That glossy glass back serves two purposes: wireless charging, and doubled crackability—the likes of which iPhones haven't seen since the [4s](#).
- Of course, Samsung's flagship phones adopted the glass sandwich design starting with the [S6](#), and it comes with similar trade-offs.
- In a great victory for Apple Chief Design Officers everywhere, the model number has been erased from the back panel. Fumbling for the box, we see that our 8 Plus is A1864 (an iPhone 8 [plus one](#)).

## Step 3



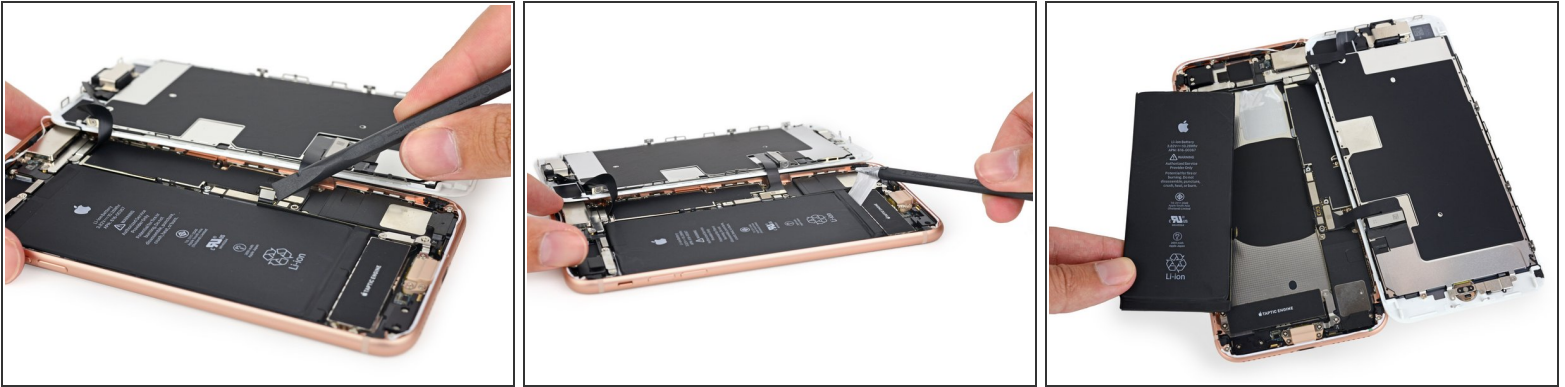
- We can't wait to get a peek inside ... and we don't have to, thanks to [Creative Electron](#) and their ~~magic~~ X-ray technology.
- After taking the 8 Plus for a spin in the X-ray machine, we see a dizzying spiral—the charging coil—on the back of the phone. More on that later...
- Just like in the [iPhone 8](#), there's no sign of an Apple logo, which was prominent in prior models like the [iPhone 7 Plus](#).
- It's not all apples and oranges compared with the previous generation—we reckon that is the same [Taptic Engine of yore](#).

## Step 4



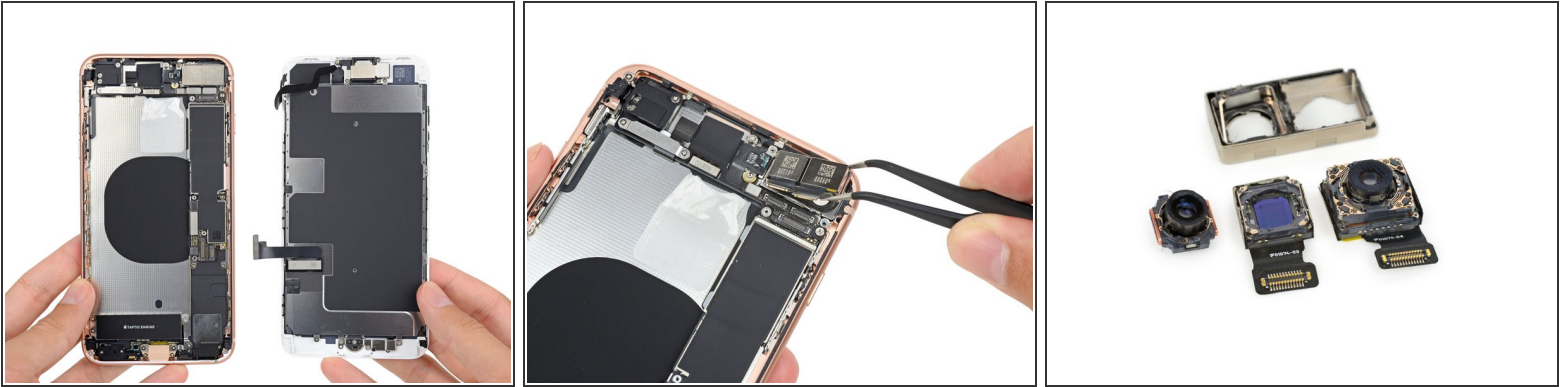
- Pentalobe-puller in hand, we find our familiar nemesis—and it's wearing [some kind of gasket](#), for ingress-proofing, we presume.
- This new iPhone is a little nervous for its big debut, so we called in our [iOpener](#) to apply some heat and help it relax ... its adhesive.
- A little coaxing and we get this iPhone to open up. Now, if it will just spill its guts ...

## Step 5



- The battery connector is no match against our trusty [spudger](#). Just like we saw in the [iPhone 8](#), Apple ditched the tricky tri-points we're accustomed to seeing on this bracket and replaced them with Phillips #000 screws.
- Also mirroring the iPhone 8, we find four battery tabs, where in prior years there were but two.
- Taking a closer look at the battery, we find a 3.82 V, 2691 mAh cell providing 10.28 Wh of power.
  - The 8 Plus packs less of a punch than its predecessor—the [iPhone 7 Plus](#) boasted a 3.82 V, 2900 mAh cell coming in at 11.1 Wh.
  - It's also a lightweight stacked up against the [Galaxy Note8](#), which sports 12.71 Wh (3300 mAh at 3.85 V) of power.
- Lest you worry about the hard hit to the battery spec, Apple promises the battery life will remain a contender with last year's model.

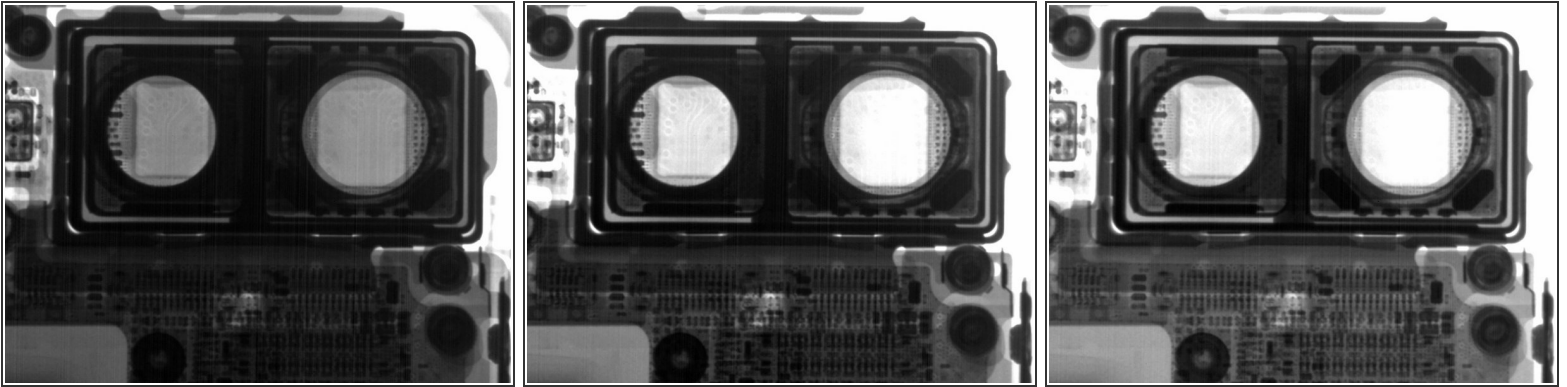
## Step 6



- Just a few turns from our Phillips *and* tri-point drivers and the display is free ... to hit the bench. For the full scoop on the display, check out our [iPhone 8 Teardown](#).
- ❗ Our parts testing crew reports that the 8 and 8 Plus use the exact same home button part, which should make that particular replacement part a little easier to source.
- We successfully yanked 3 out of 4 adhesive tabs when removing the battery—leaving one stubbornly in place. Looks like Apple's decision to switch to four tabs from two was to avoid a sticky situation on that fancy new wireless charging coil.
- Speeding right along, we pull out that factory-calibrated-for-AR dual camera unit.
- These 12 MP cameras are solidly fixed together, enabling software used for portrait mode to combine images from both lenses.

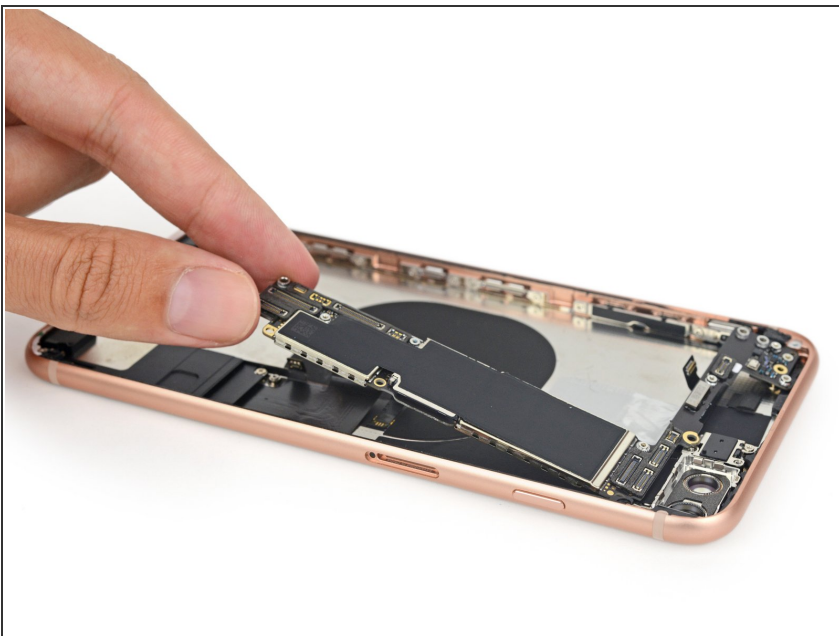


## Step 7



- We take our camera staring contest to the next level—with X-rays!
- By adjusting the exposure on our scope, a few different details come into view.
  - The first image shows ribbon cable traces under the camera image sensors.
  - The last image shows magnets used for OIS on only one of the dual cameras.
- ❗ Those missing magnets and the horizontal orientation is just another reminder that this isn't the iPhone X ...

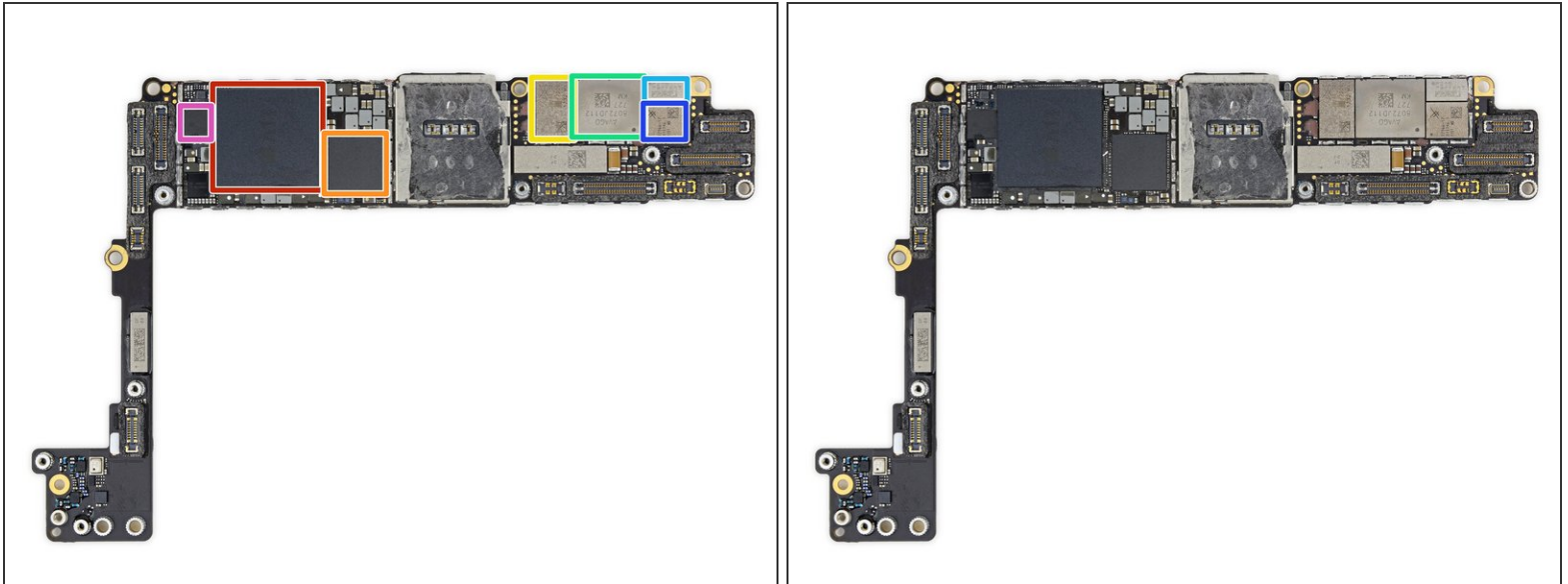
## Step 8



- We're serving up the silicon next! Logic board, we are coming for you.
- There is some nervous anticipation as we approach a logic board on a new midframe assembly ...
- ... But we are stoked to find that the logic board is secured using the same [standoff screws](#) and Phillips screws seen in other iPhones.

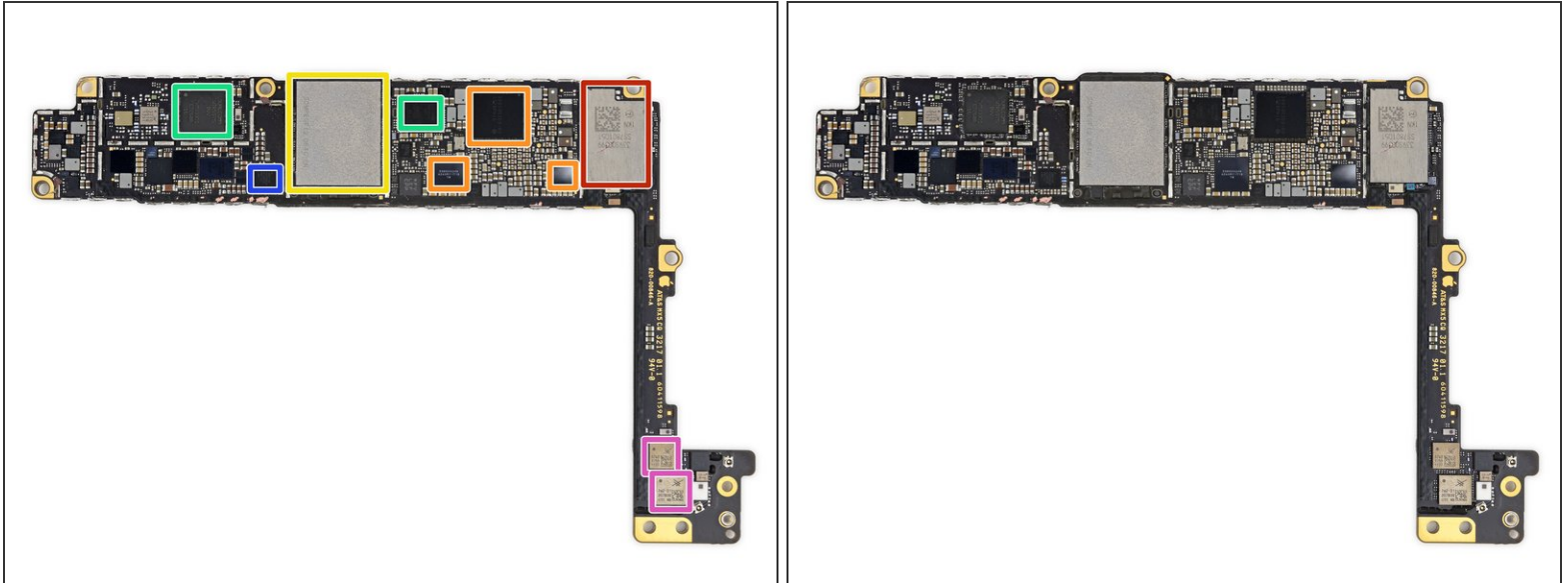
- We quickly remove and ~~decap~~ de-sticker the logic board for the IC-ing on the cake.

## Step 9



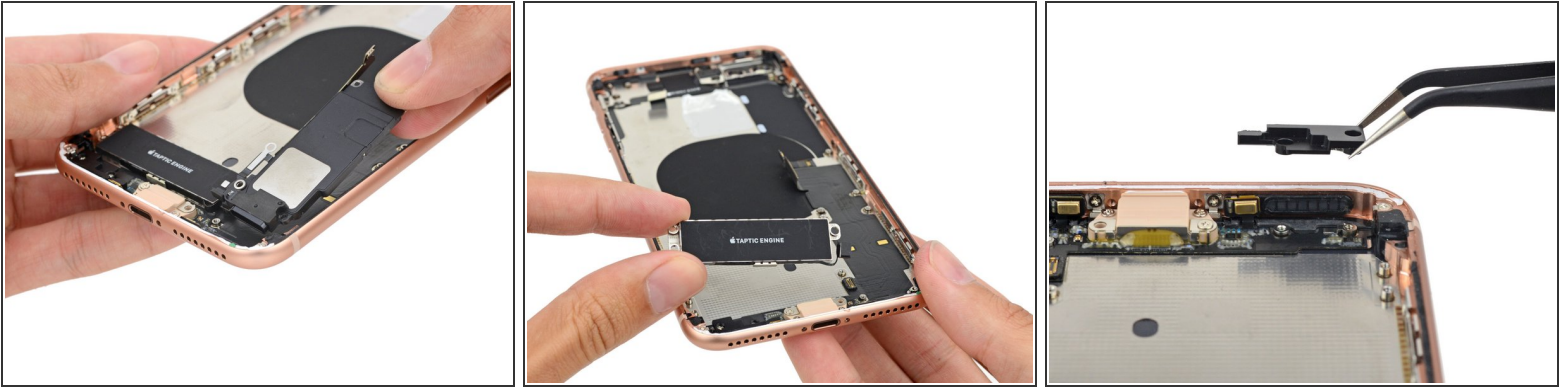
- Let's take a look at what the iPhone 8 Plus has under the hood:
  - Apple [339S00439](#) A11 Bionic SoC layered over Samsung 3 GB LPDDR4 RAM
  - Qualcomm [MDM9655](#) Snapdragon X16 LTE modem
  - Skyworks SkyOne SKY78140
  - Avago 8072JD112
  - P215 730N71T - likely an envelope tracking IC
  - Skyworks 77366-17 quad-band GSM power amplifier module
  - NXP [80V18](#) secure NFC module

## Step 10



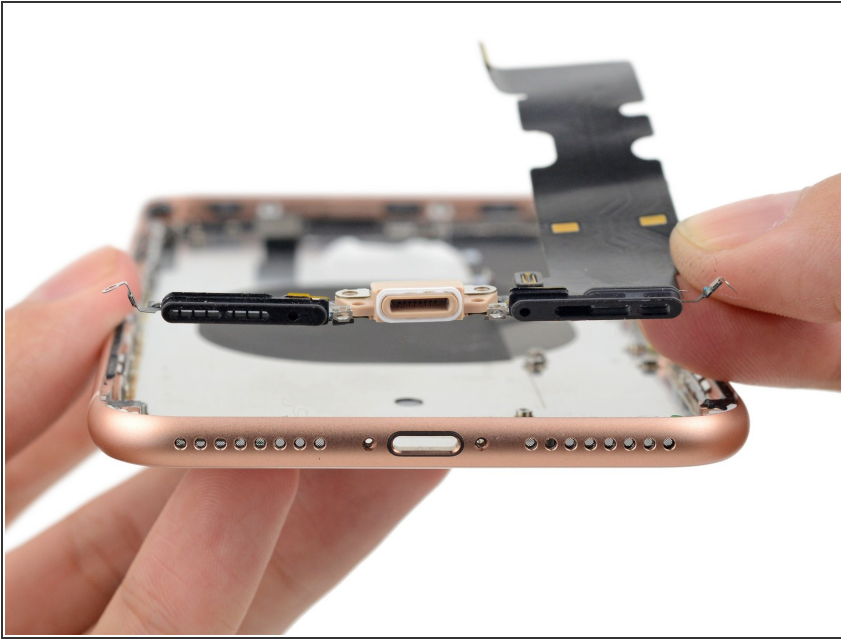
- And on the flip side, we find:
  - Murata 339S00399 WiFi/Bluetooth module
  - Apple 338S00248, 338S00309 PMIC, and S3830028
  - SanDisk SDMPEGF12 64 GB NAND flash storage
  - Qualcomm [WTR5975](#) Gigabit LTE RF transceiver and PMD9655 PMIC
  - NXP 1612A1—Likely an iteration of the 1610 tristar IC
  - Skyworks 3760 3759 1727 RF Switch and SKY762-21 207839 1731 RF Switch

## Step 11



- With the logic board out, we can remove some of the peripheral components. We go into sensory overload as we pop out a speaker, tap our Taptic Engine, and blow through the barometric vent.
- Do you remember when you could swap your speaker without first removing the logic board? [iFixit remembers](#).
- How about when you could remove the Taptic Engine without first removing the speaker? Yeah, we [remember that too](#).
- ⓘ While we are happy that many components remain modular, the new layout and placement seems like a near-impossible game of [pick-up sticks](#).
- What's this little bit of plastic? Oh right, we answered that [last year](#) when we were first acquainted with this style of barometric vent.
- ⓘ Any more throwbacks and we'll need to take a [DeLorean](#) home.

## Step 12



- We remove the Lightning port cable and take a quick moment to examine this notable update.
- Our suspicions here are the same as they were in the [iPhone 8](#): the new design could be meant to dissipate heat quickly for fast charging, but at the very least it seems color-coded to match the body of the phone and Apple's proprietary mystery glass.
- Emphasis was placed not only on the color of the glass, achieved through a seven-layer color process, but on the material itself, reinforced with an “internal, laser welded, steel and copper structure.” What this actually is and what it means for performance, rigidity, and Apple's future [aims at metallic glass](#) remains to be seen. For now, we know that Apple likes [Pantone colors](#).



## Step 13



- After [painstakingly removing](#) the rear panel from the iPhone 8 intact, we decide to go hard on the heat, just in case that's the secret sauce.
- Spoiler alert: it isn't. It looks like Apple's adhesive of choice is pretty impervious to heat. If anything, it softens the metal frame a bit, but it doesn't seem to do much to the glue.
- This time, we *totally* broke the panel on purpose, to try out a more realistic situation of removing a broken panel. The verdict: don't drop this phone. Removing a broken panel is **much** more difficult than getting it out in one piece.

⚠ Maybe next time we'll use [even more heat](#).

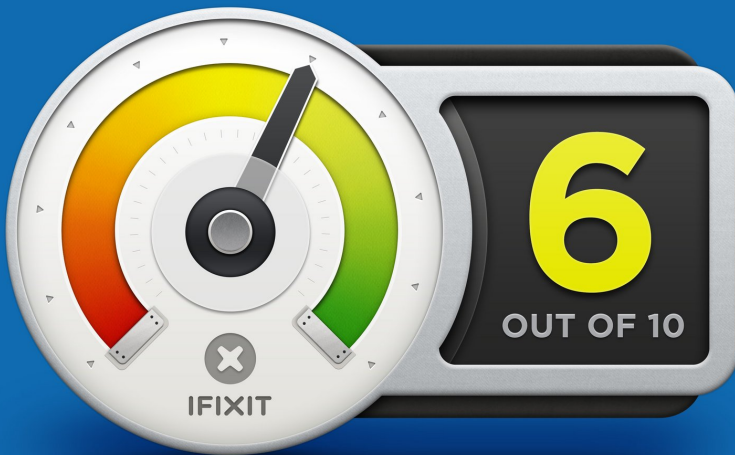
## Step 14



- Another tough teardown under our belts, we gaze upon the fruits of our labor, and give thanks...
- Thanks once again to [Circuitwise](#) for letting us camp at your place.
- And thanks to [Creative Electron](#) for the inside scoop with their wicked cool X-ray machine.

## Step 15 — Final Thoughts

### REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- The iPhone 8 Plus earns a **6 out of 10** on our repairability scale (10 is the easiest to repair):
  - The display and battery are straightforward to access—with the proper knowledge and tools.
  - Wireless charging means less wear on the all-purpose Lightning port, a common point of failure.
  - Water and dust seals complicate repair, but make the need for difficult liquid damage repairs less likely.
  - The battery connector still uses common Phillips/JIS fasteners—but you'll still need up to four different drivers for many repairs.
  - Despite alleged durability, the back glass is breakable and next to impossible to replace when cracked.
  - The iPhone's lower components, once readily removed, now lie trapped under a fussy combination of brackets and delicately folded flex cables.