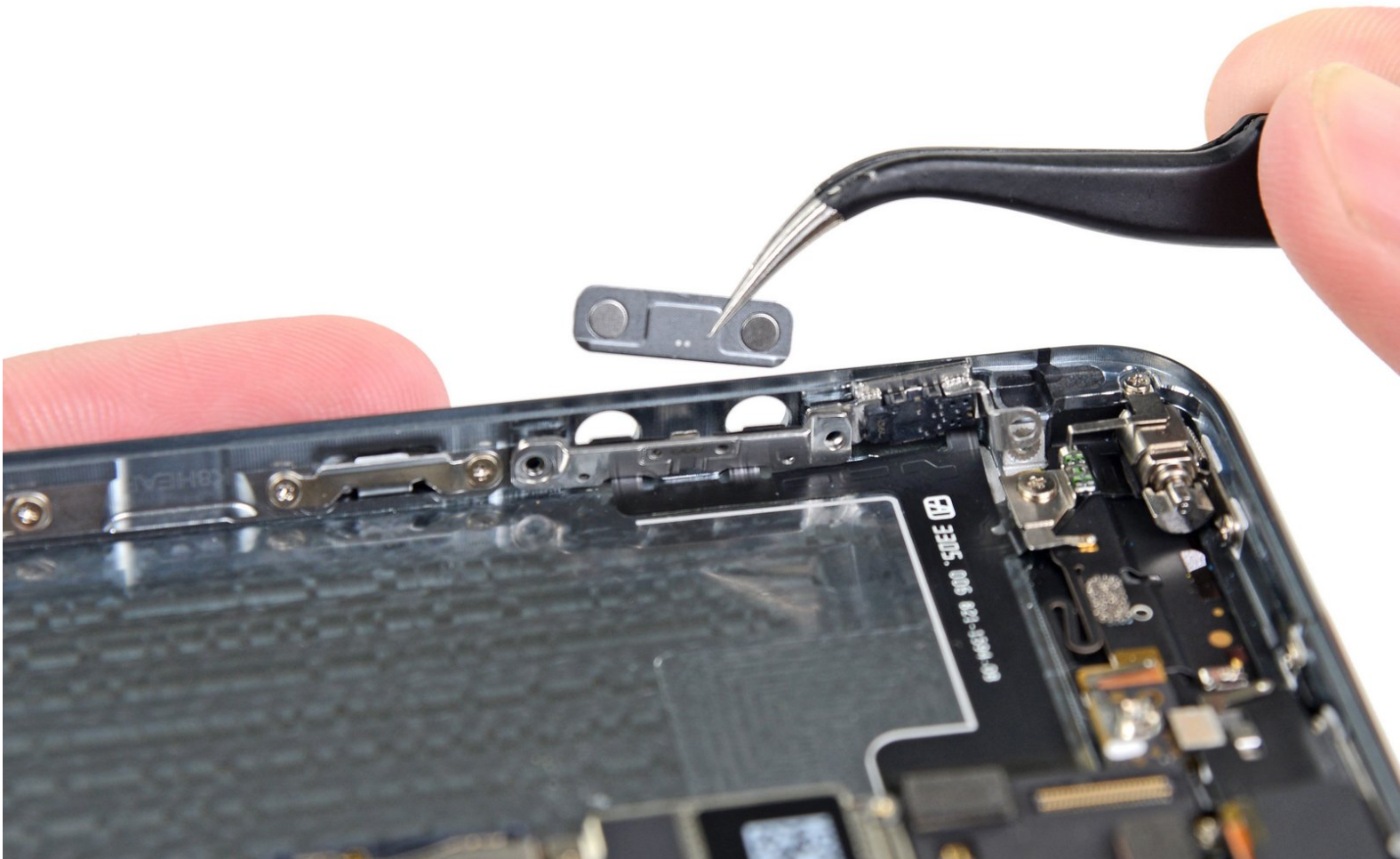# iPhone SE Volume Controls Replacement

Replace the button covers for the volume buttons and ringer switch in your iPhone SE.

Written By: Sam Goldheart

INTRODUCTION

Use this guide to remove the button covers for the ringer switch and volume buttons from your iPhone SE. This guide does not replace the physical switches, only the button covers.

This guide requires removing the battery. The adhesive strips securing the battery are not re-usable, so you'll want to have a supply of replacement adhesive strips on hand before you begin. Alternatively, you can secure the battery using a piece of double-sided tape. The battery is pretty tightly secured in the device, but the tape will keep it from rattling.

The button covers are compatible with the iPhone 5s parts.

TOOLS:

- iOpener (1)
- iSclack (1)
- P2 Pentalobe Screwdriver iPhone (1)
- Phillips #000 Screwdriver (1)
- Plastic Cards (1)
- iFixit Opening Tools (1)
- Suction Handle (1)
- Spudger (1)
- Tweezers (1)
- Utility Scissors (1)

PARTS:

- iPhone 5s/SE Volume Button (1)
- iPhone 5s/SE Case Button Set (1)

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Step 1 — Removing the Pentalobe screws

⚠ Before you proceed, discharge your iPhone battery below 25%. A charged lithium-ion battery can catch fire and/or explode if accidentally punctured.

- Power off your iPhone before beginning disassembly.

- Remove the two 3.9 mm Pentalobe screws from either side of Lightning connector.

Step 2 — Taping the display glass

- If your display glass is cracked, keep further breakage contained and prevent bodily harm during your repair by taping the glass.

- Lay overlapping strips of clear packing tape over the iPhone's display until the whole face is covered.

  ⓘ This will keep glass shards contained and provide structural integrity when prying and lifting the display.

⚠ Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from any glass shaken free during the repair.

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Step 3 — Display separation prevention

- ⓘ In the following steps you will be pulling the display up out of the phone body. The display is composed of a glass screen and a plastic bezel with metal clips.

- Regardless of the tool you use, **you need to be sure you pull up the entire display** .

- If the glass begins to separate from the plastic, as shown in the first image, slide a plastic opening tool between the plastic frame and the metal phone body to pry the metal clips out of the case.

- ⚏ If you are reassembling a phone with a separated display bezel, you may want to place a thin strip of adhesive between the plastic bezel and the glass to keep the phone closed.

Step 4 — Starting the iSclack Opening Procedure

ⓘ The next two steps demonstrate using the [iSclack](#), a great tool for safely opening the iPhone that we recommend for anyone doing more than one repair. **If you aren't using the iSclack, skip the next two steps.**

● Close the handle on the iSclack, opening the suction-cup jaws.

● Place the bottom of your iPhone in between the suction cups, against the plastic depth gauge.

  ● The top suction cup should rest just above the home button.

● Open the handles to close the jaws of the iSclack. Center the suction cups and press them firmly onto the top and bottom of the iPhone.

Step 5 — Finishing the iSclack Opening Procedure

- Hold onto your iPhone securely and close the handle of the iSclack to separate the suction cups, pulling the front panel up from the rear case.

- The iSclack is designed to safely open your iPhone just enough to separate the pieces, but not enough to damage the home button cable.

- (i) Peel the two suction cups off your iPhone.

- **Skip the next three steps and continue on Step 9.**

Step 6 — Manual Opening Procedure

- If you don't have an iSclack, use a single suction cup to lift the front panel:

- Press a suction cup onto the screen, just above the home button.

- ⓘ Be sure the cup is completely on the screen to get a tight seal.

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Step 7 — Start lifting the front panel assembly

⚠ The front panel is attached with clips, and there are several ribbon cables connecting it to the rest of the phone. Your goal here is to release the clips and **open the phone only enough to disconnect the cables**. Go slowly and carefully to avoid damage.

ⓘ Make sure the suction cup is firmly attached to the front panel assembly near the home button.

● While holding the iPhone down with one hand, pull up on the suction cup to slightly separate the home button end of the front panel from the rear case.

● With a plastic opening tool, gently pry the edges of the rear case down, away from the front panel assembly, while you pull up with the suction cup.

⚠ Take your time and apply firm, constant force. The front panel assembly is a much tighter fit than on most other devices.

Step 8

⚠️ Do not try to completely remove the front panel assembly from the rear case, as there are several delicate ribbon cables connecting them.

● Pull the plastic nub to release the vacuum seal on the suction cup.

● Remove the suction cup from the screen.
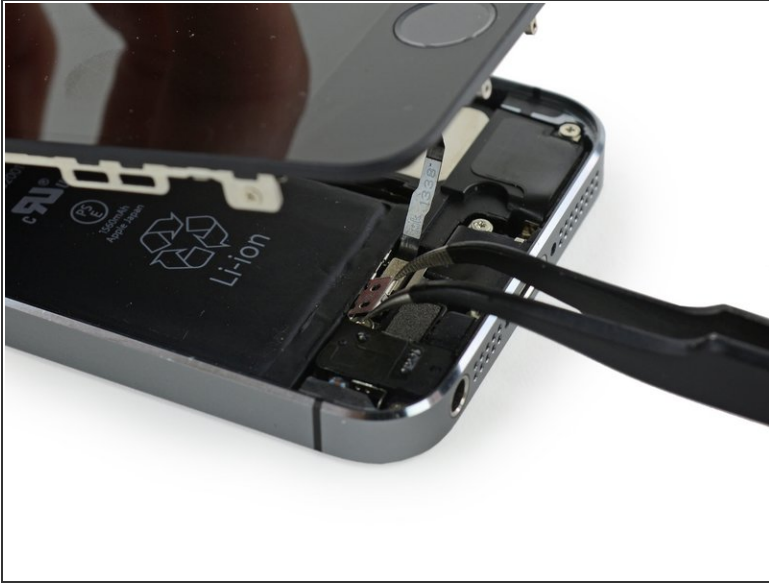
Step 9 — Removing the Touch ID cable bracket

- Open the phone just enough to reveal the metal bracket covering the home button cable.

⚠ Do not open the phone too far or you risk damaging the home button cable, or the socket it plugs into. **Keep the cable loose—if it is stretched taut, that's too far.**

  - Only the phone's original home button assembly will be capable of using the Touch ID functionality. **If you rip the cable, installing a new home button will only restore ordinary home button functions, not the Touch ID features.**

- Use the tip of a spudger to push the bracket free and remove it with tweezers.

ⓘ The next two steps apply to reassembly. Skip them and continue to Step 12 until reassembly.

Step 10

- ⊙ During reassembly, you will need to reinstall the Touch ID cable bracket. The top of the bracket needs to slide between the battery and Touch ID cable connector, in front of the metal tab. The bottom must latch down over the connector.

- ⊙ Slide the top of the bracket over the Touch ID cable connector from left to right.

Step 11

- 📌 During reassembly, use the flat end of a spudger to snap the front portion of the Touch ID cable bracket down over the cable connector.

- ⓘ If the bracket does not snap down flush, you may need to remove the bracket and slide it over the cable connector again for a better fit.

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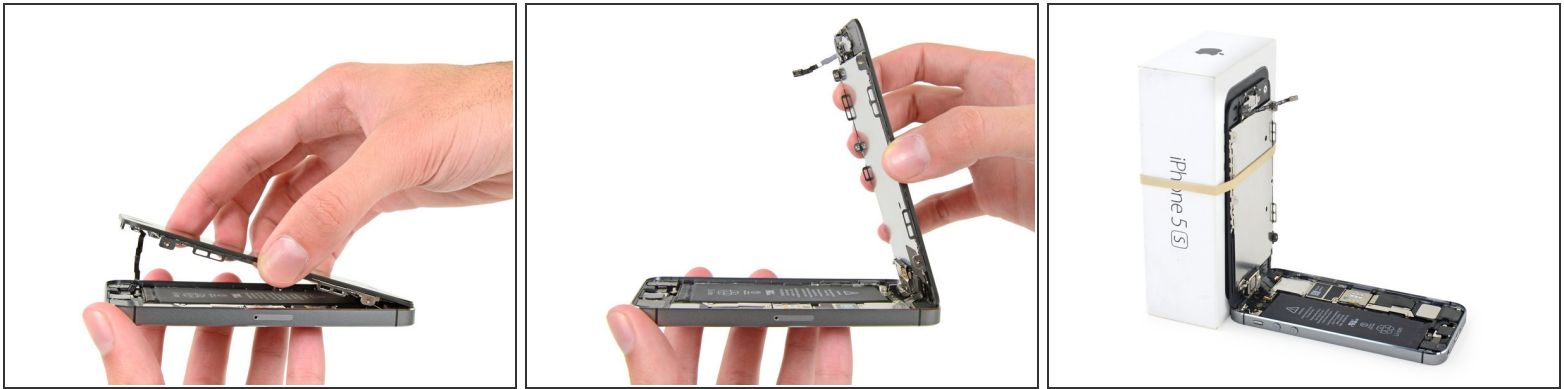© iFixit — CC BY-NC-SA www.iFixit.com Page 12 of 28

Step 12 — Disconnecting the home button cable connector

- Use the tip of a spudger to pry the home button cable connector up out of its socket.

- ⚠️ Be sure you're separating the cable connector from its socket, and not prying the entire socket up. The socket is on its own glued-down cable that can be pried up if you aren't careful.

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Step 13 — Opening up the phone

- Once the connector has been released, pull the home button end of the assembly away from the rear case, using the top of the phone as a hinge.

- Open the display to about a 90º angle, and lean it against something to keep it propped up while you're working on the phone.

  - Add a rubber band to keep the display securely in place while you work. This prevents undue strain on the display cables.

  - (i) In a pinch, you can use an unopened canned beverage to hold the display.

Step 14

- Remove the two 1.6 mm Phillips #000 screws securing the metal battery connector bracket to the logic board.

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Step 15

- Remove the metal battery connector bracket from the iPhone.

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Step 16

- Use the flat end of a spudger to gently pry the battery connector up from its socket on the logic board.

- ⚠️ Be very careful to only pry up on the battery connector itself and not the socket on the logic board. If you pry up on the logic board socket or the board itself, you may destroy the socket or damage nearby components on the board.

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Step 17

- Remove the following screws securing the front panel assembly cable bracket to the logic board:
  - One 1.7 mm Phillips #000 screw
  - One 1.2 mm Phillips #000 screw
  - One 1.3 mm Phillips #000 screw
  - One more 1.7 mm Phillips #000 screw
    - (i) This 1.7 mm screw tends to not be attracted to a magnetized screwdriver. Take care not to lose it when removing.

  - ⚠️ It is especially important to keep track of your screws in this step for reassembly. Accidentally using the 1.3 mm screw or one of the 1.7 mm screws in the bottom right hole will result in significant damage to the logic board causing the phone to no longer boot properly.

  - ⚠️ Be careful not to over-tighten the screws, and don't force them. If they don't fit easily when you are securing them, they may be the wrong size.
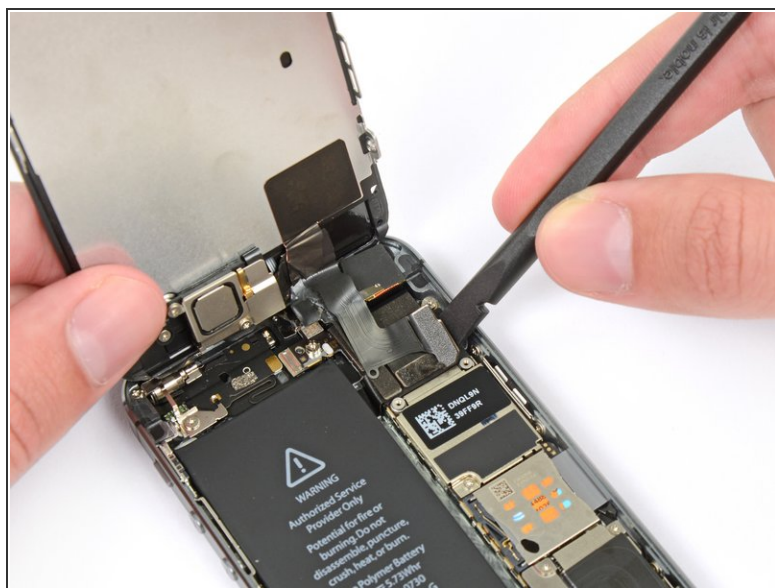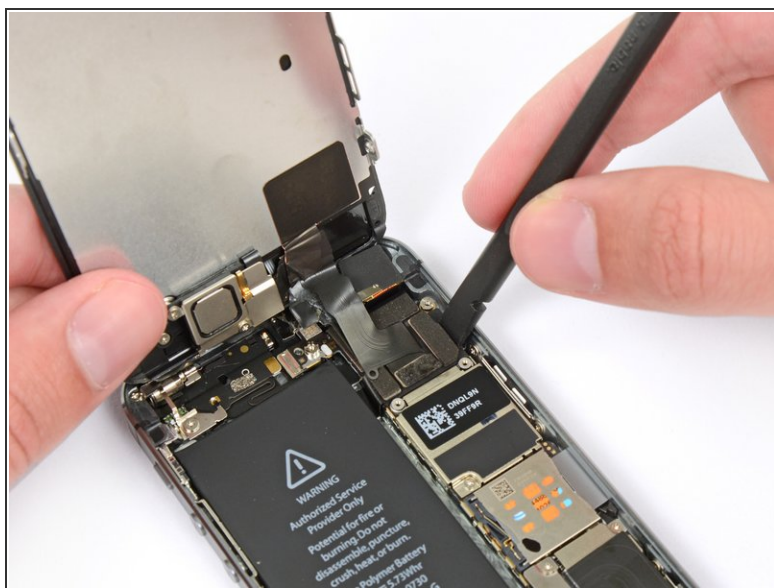
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Step 18

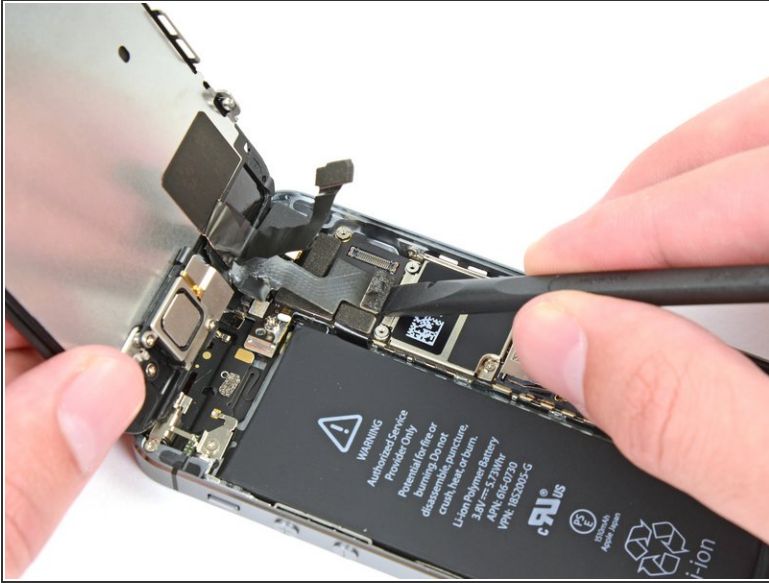- Remove the front panel assembly cable bracket from the logic board.

Step 19

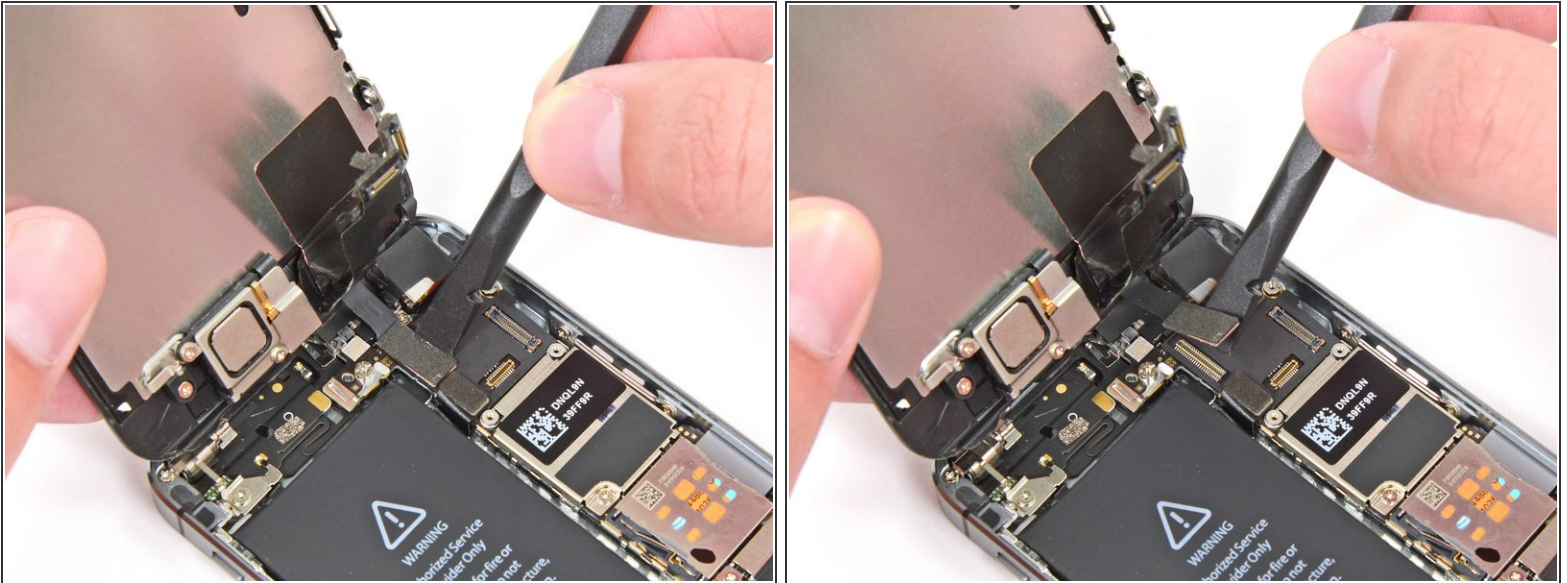- Use a spudger or a fingernail to disconnect the front-facing camera and sensor cable.

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Step 20

⚠️ Make sure the battery is disconnected before you disconnect or reconnect the cable in this step.

● Disconnect the LCD cable connector.

📌 When reassembling your phone, the LCD cable may pop off the connector. This can result in white lines or a blank screen when powering your phone back on. If that happens, simply reconnect the cable and power cycle your phone. The best way to power cycle your phone is to disconnect and reconnect the battery.
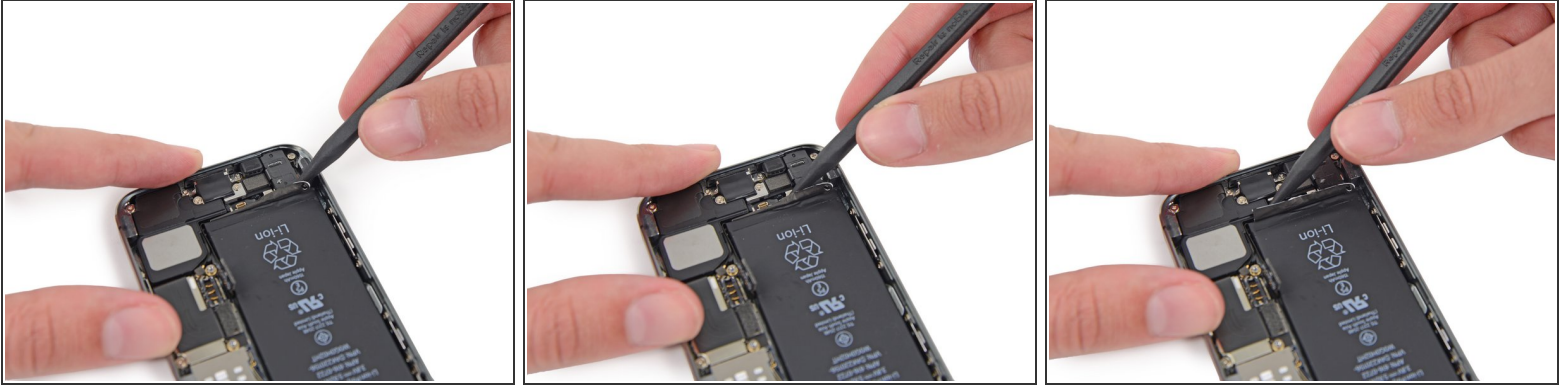
Step 21

- Finally, disconnect the digitizer cable connector.

Step 22

- Remove the front panel assembly from the rear case.

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Step 23 — Battery

- Run the tip of a spudger between the battery and the headphone jack to unfold the battery adhesive tab.

- Important: Apply heat to the bottom of the iPhone case using an iOpener or similar heating pad to soften up the battery adhesive strips and make them more flexible, otherwise they will probably break when you pull on them.

Step 24

- Pull the battery adhesive tab away from the phone.

- Cut the black battery adhesive tab between the two white adhesive strips, separating them.

Step 25

⚠️ Try to keep the strips flat and unwrinkled during this procedure; wrinkled strips will stick together and break instead of pulling out cleanly.

- Slowly pull one of the battery adhesive strips away from the battery, toward the bottom of the iPhone. Pull the white portion of the strip when possible, the black tab may fall off.

- Pull steadily, maintaining constant tension on the strip as it slips out from between the battery and the rear case. For best results, pull the strip at a 60º angle or less.

- Be careful not to snag it on any of the other internal iPhone components.

ⓘ The strip will stretch to many times its original length. Continue pulling, re-grabbing the strip near the battery if necessary, until the entire strip comes free.

Step 26

- Repeat for the second strip.

- If you removed both strips successfully, skip the next two steps.

⚠️ If either of the adhesive strips break underneath the battery and cannot be retrieved, try to remove the remaining strip, and then proceed to the next step.

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Step 27

- If any of the adhesive strips broke off and the battery remains stuck to the rear case, prepare an iOpener or use a hair dryer to heat the rear case directly behind the battery.

  - Alternatively, use a syringe to apply some high concentration isopropyl alcohol (90% or greater) underneath the edges of the battery.

- ⓘ After several minutes, the alcohol will significantly weaken the adhesive, making the battery easier to remove.

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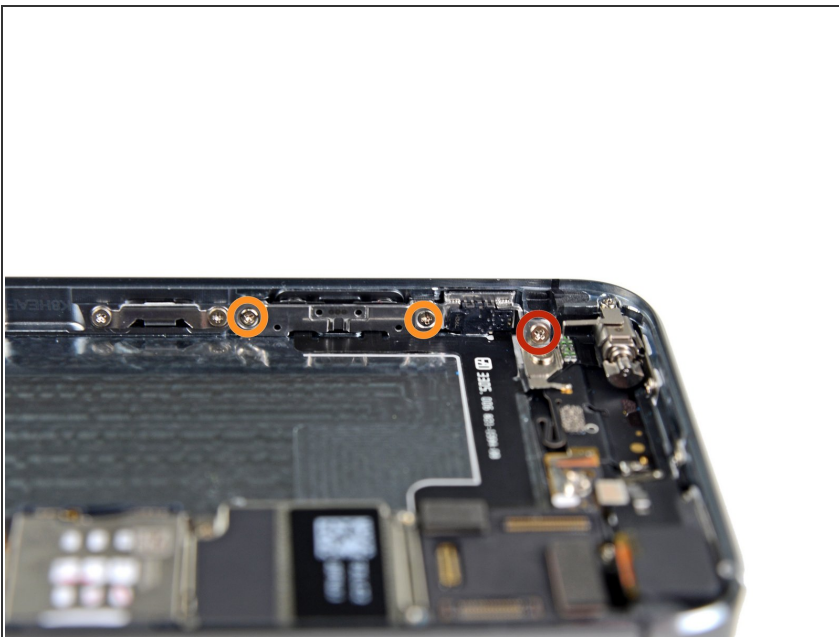© iFixit — CC BY-NC-SA

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Step 28

- Flip the iPhone back over and insert a plastic card between the case side of the battery and the rear case.

  ⚠ Do not pry against the logic board or you may damage the phone.

  ⚠ Avoid prying at the top left near the volume controls, or you may damage the volume button ribbon cable.

⚠ Keep the card as flat as possible to avoid bending the battery, which may damage it and cause it to release dangerous chemicals or catch fire. Do not use any sharp tools to pry at the battery.

- Press the card in farther to break up the adhesive behind the battery.

ⓘ Alternatively, a piece of dental floss may be used to separate the battery from the rear case. A stronger alternative to dental floss is an unwound guitar string, such as a 0.009 E string from a 12-string set.

  - Thread the floss or string behind the upper battery corners, bring the ends together, wrap them around a folded cloth, and pull evenly.

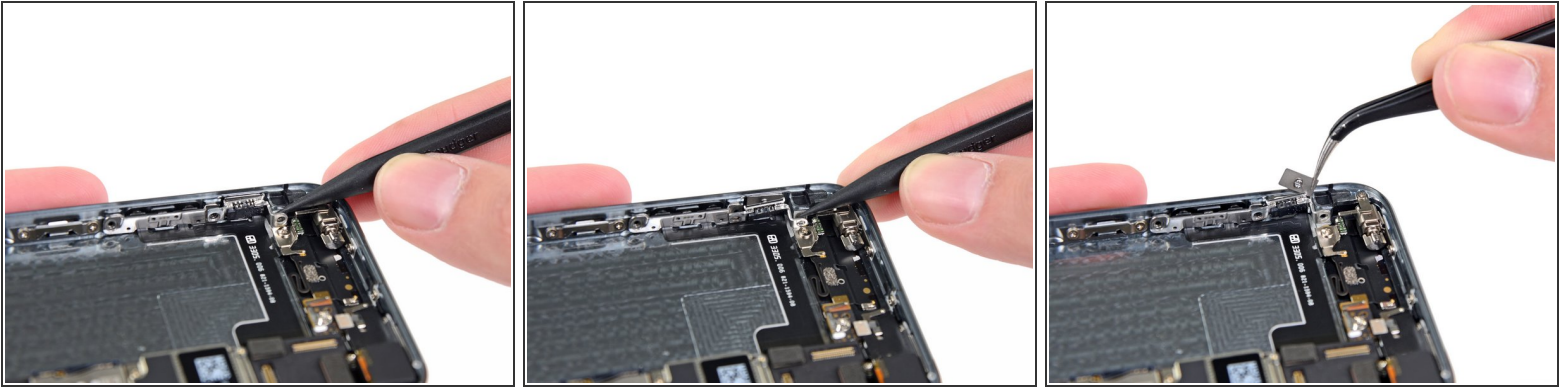This document was generated on 2019-12-01 08:32:30 PM (MST).

Step 29

- Pull the battery out of the rear case.

- ⓘ If your replacement battery came in a plastic sleeve, remove the sleeve before installation by pulling it away from the ribbon cable.

- ★ If your new battery doesn't have adhesive preinstalled, refer to this guide to replace the adhesive strips.

- ★ Perform a hard reset after reassembly. This can prevent several issues and simplify troubleshooting.
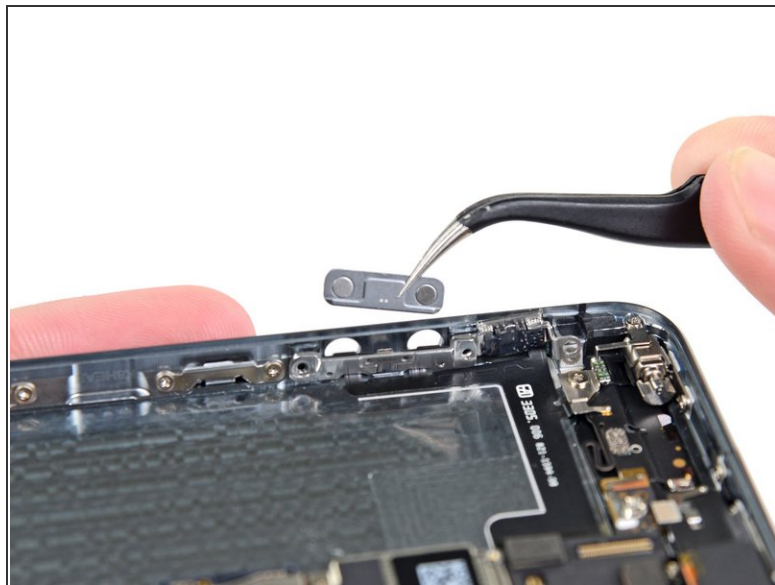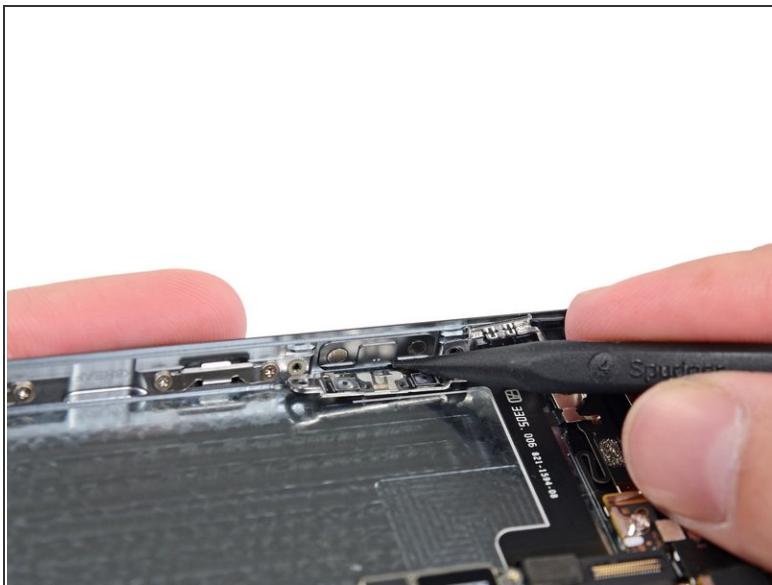
Step 30 — Volume Controls

- Remove the following screws securing the volume button and ringer switch brackets to the side of the rear case:
  - One 1.9 mm Phillips screw
  - Two 1.6 mm Phillips screws

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Step 31

- Use the tip of a spudger to pry the ringer switch bracket away from the side of the case.

- Remove the ringer switch from its recess between the ringer switch bracket and the case.

- Note the orientation for reassembly: The red line should be at the top of the button. The notch in the back of the ringer switch button should be in the same position as, and mate with, the mechanical switch on the cable.

Step 32

- Use a spudger to pry the volume button bracket from the side of the rear case.

- Remove the volume buttons.

- 📌 During reassembly, make sure the '+' (volume up) button is in the hole closest to the ringer switch.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.

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