Steam Controller Disassembly

Complete disassembly of the Steam controller for repairs and replacement. Each screw will be mentioned. One Steam Controller was harmed during writing.

Written By: Ben Klein
INTRODUCTION

Background: My left analog stick started having drift and left-right phantom input problems, so this controller was already on the deathbed.

For disassembly, I drilled two screws out because I didn't want to wait for a longer T6 driver, so this controller is permanently damaged now both physically and (already was) electronically.

TOOLS:

- T6 Torx Screwdriver (1)
- Cordless Drill (1)
- Hex Key/Allen Wrench (1)
- Razor Blade (1)
- Metal Spudger (1)
- ESD Safe Tweezers Blunt Nose (1)
Step 1 — Beginning

I did not have one on me, (the pro tech toolkit does not have one long enough) so I ended up **drilling out** two of the four side screws.

- Go ahead and take off the back plate and remove the batteries.

Step 2 — Remove 4 side external screws

- Start by taking out the 4 obvious screws, two on each side.
  - You'll need a long-necked T6 driver if you want to get these out cleanly. (At least 1" / 25mm.)
  - The pro tech toolkit does not have one long enough, so I used a slightly hacked hex key on two of them (stripping the heads) and ended up drilling out the other two because the hex key is not a good fit.
Step 3 — Remove 3 center inner screws

- These are hidden under the label, simply use a sharp blade or just punch through the label with something sharp.
- There are two at the top just outside the holes showing metal, and one near the bottom center.
- The two at the top are much deeper in, but my normal T6 fits just fine.

Step 4 — Carefully pry off backplate

- Starting at the bottom center seems easiest and leaves the least amount of visual scratches.
- Go all the way around, going below/behind the USB port. (see second picture)
Step 5 — Watch for loose plastic parts

- Upon removing the backplate, there will be two battery hinges that may come off on either side.
  - I recommend keeping them on the backplate for reassembly later.

- Next there is the backplate release switch, composed of two plastic parts and two springs.
  - See the 3rd picture of those parts.

Step 6 — Four Motherboard screws

- Two screws near the top center.

- Two screws on the far sides on top of the battery holder plastic backings.

⚠️ Don't take the motherboard off yet - there are ribbon cables attached underneath.
Step 7 — Four touchpad bracket screws

- Two screws hold each touchpad in place. They are mirrored across.
- You might need to lift the motherboard by a finger's width to reach two of the four screws. (They are slightly underneath the battery holder plastic.)

Step 8 — Take the motherboard out

- The only thing attached to the trackpads are the ribbon cables, be careful when lifting the motherboard off the front face plastic.

ℹ️ Watch out for the buttons falling out if you flip the front face over. There is a rubber/conductive silicone part that covers them all.
Step 9 — Optional: detaching ribbon cables

This step is only needed if you are replacing a trackpad.

- These ribbon cables are actually really easy to take out, just tug gently straight away from the board.

- ESD-safe tweezers are recommended for re-insertion, as the stiff ends are very small and difficult to grasp.
Step 10 — Optional: Front USB I/O panel, top bumper buttons

- This thing literally just pops off using two plastic pressure-based latches. Just pull it in the direction the USB cable would go from the motherboard.

- When the USB I/O panel comes off, so will the two bumper buttons. The two top bumpers are actually one long plastic part, who knew?

Step 11 — Optional: Bumper Triggers / Buttons

- The screw for the bumper setups is on the opposite side of the motherboard, under the trackpad location.