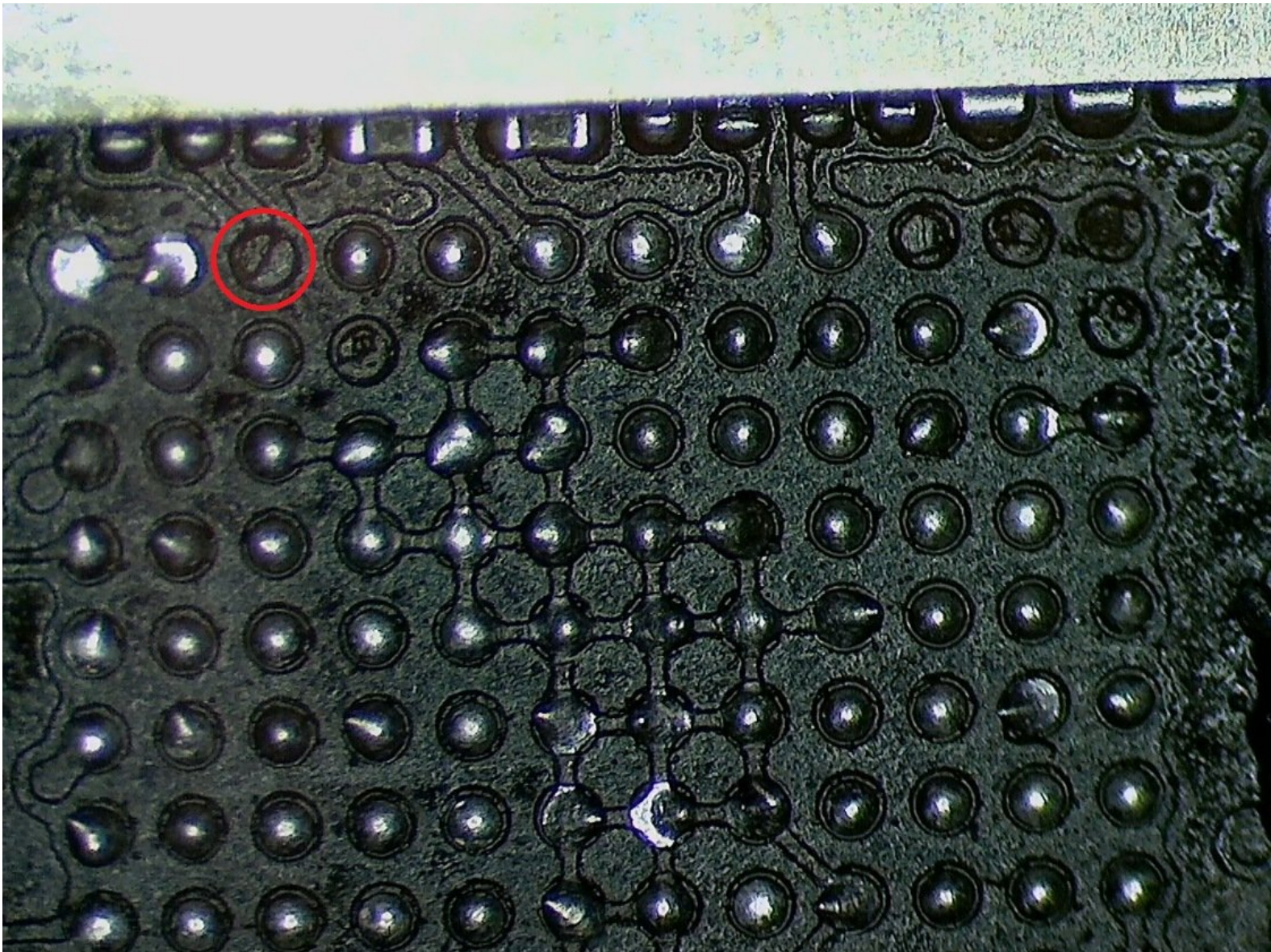




iPhone 7 - U3101 Audio IC Replacement

Fix audio problems that affect the iPhones 7 and 7 Plus with this method! Requires soldering.

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INTRODUCTION

There are sometimes some audio issues on the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus

Since the release of the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus in 2016, we have seen many strange issues affect these models. Most of them are audio problems. In appearance, the phone looked in good condition: no oxidation, it was never disassembled before, no water damage, no overheating and the replacement of all the usual parts such as the earphones and speakers did not solve not the problem.

However, there was indeed an issue, most likely linked to the logic board of the phone. Unfortunately, after a year the phones were out of warranty, so Apple no longer wanted to replace them. It was therefore necessary to call on *super-repairers*: the experts in micro soldering.

An inspiration to everyone on this issue was Jessa Jones of iPad Rehab who identified the problem and came up with a solution fairly quickly. The American micro-soldering community is very developed, which is not the case in France.

This guide shows how to identify and solve the problem.

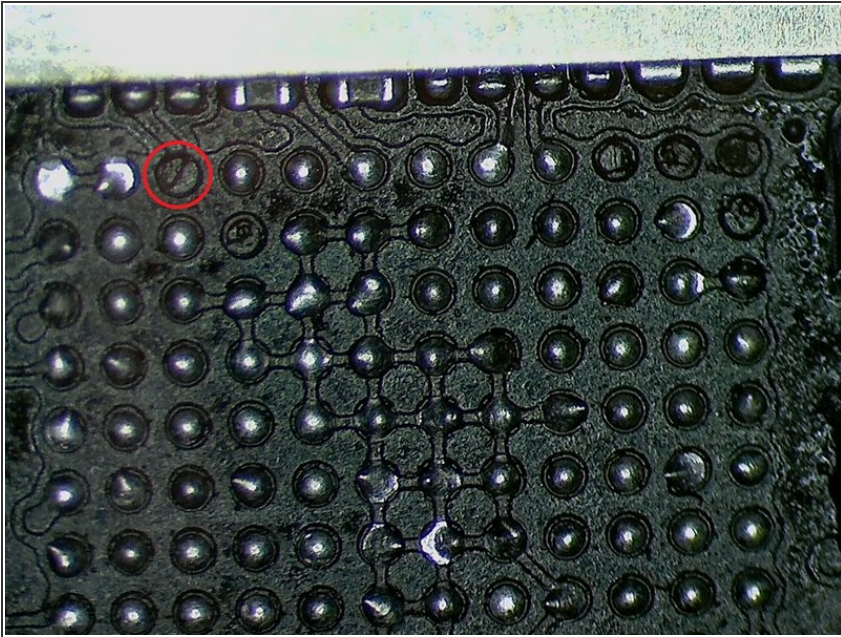
Possible symptoms:

- No audio device detected
- Microphone that does not work
- Loudspeaker that does not work
- Sound of videos not working
- No sound during a call
- The phone takes a long time to start
- Headphones that do not work
- Dictaphone that does not work

The problem: the audio chip U3101

It is disconnected from the logic board. The iPhone 7's logic board may be slightly twisted and often results in a broken track.

Step 1 — Remove U3101



- Remove the chip cleanly, with hot air. On my Quick 861DE rework station, I use as settings 400 °C and 100L/min. For you to decide which settings you prefer, you can find the Quick 861DW on the shop.
- Clean the tracks with a soldering iron, tin and flux. I use a tip about 1mm in diameter with my JBC Nase 2C, at 360 ° C.
- Clean the map.
- Inspect the card under the microscope. We can see on the picture below that a track is missing!

Step 2 — Verification with the schematics



- If we compare to the diagram on the PhoneBoard software;
- We observe very clearly that we will be able to put a wire to redo this connection, focusing on R1103.

Step 3 — Put a jumper



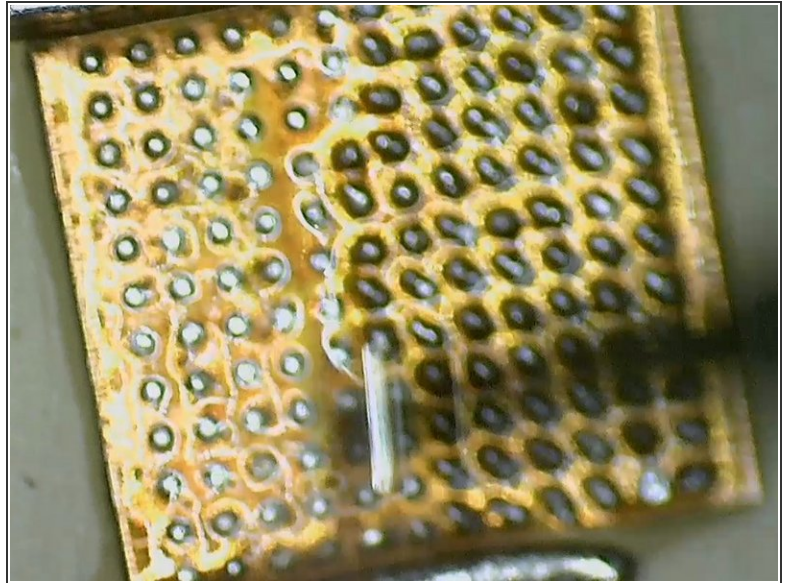
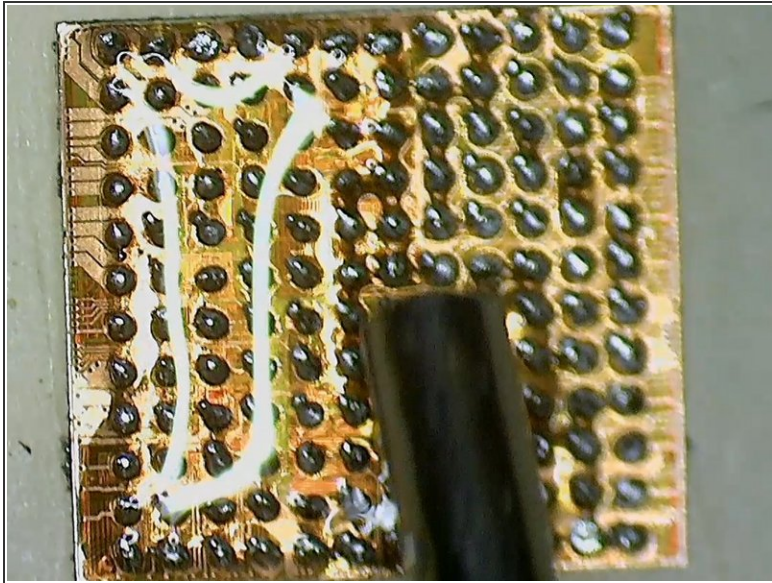
- Take copper wire with a diameter of 0.02mm
- Apply flux and tin the wire with an iron.
- Scratch the trail from C12 to R1103.
- Laminate this track with tin.
- Solder one end of the wire to the resistor. I used a 0.01mm diameter tip.
- Solder the wire along the previously tinned track.
- Bring the wire into the C12 slot and try to wrap it to be sure that the chip ball will stick to it.

Step 4 — Connect the remaining jumpers



- The procedure is the same for F12, H12, J12. A12 and B12 are grounded and are not used for U3101 operation, no need to jump.
- E12 is in contact with C1, if C1 is present no need to redo the jumper. D12, G12, J11 and A5 are connected to each other, if only one is still connected the phone can work. K12, L12, M12 are "No Connection" so no need to replace.

Step 5 — Reballing the U3101



- Put on some flux.
- Take a soldering iron with tin at the end.
- Pass over the chip to smooth the balls.
- Clean.
- Put on a reballing stencil.
- Spread some soldering paste.
- Heat with hot air to form the balls.

Step 6 — Check the balls



- Extract the chip by pushing with a thin tweezers.
- Check the size of the balls.

Step 7 — Replace the chip



- And we end up putting the chip back. Flow, position and solder with hot air.
- We let the phone cool, we go back and the problem is solved!

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