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Opening Procedure

How to open your Apple Watch Series 4 for repairs.

Written By: Dominik Schnabelrauch

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INTRODUCTION

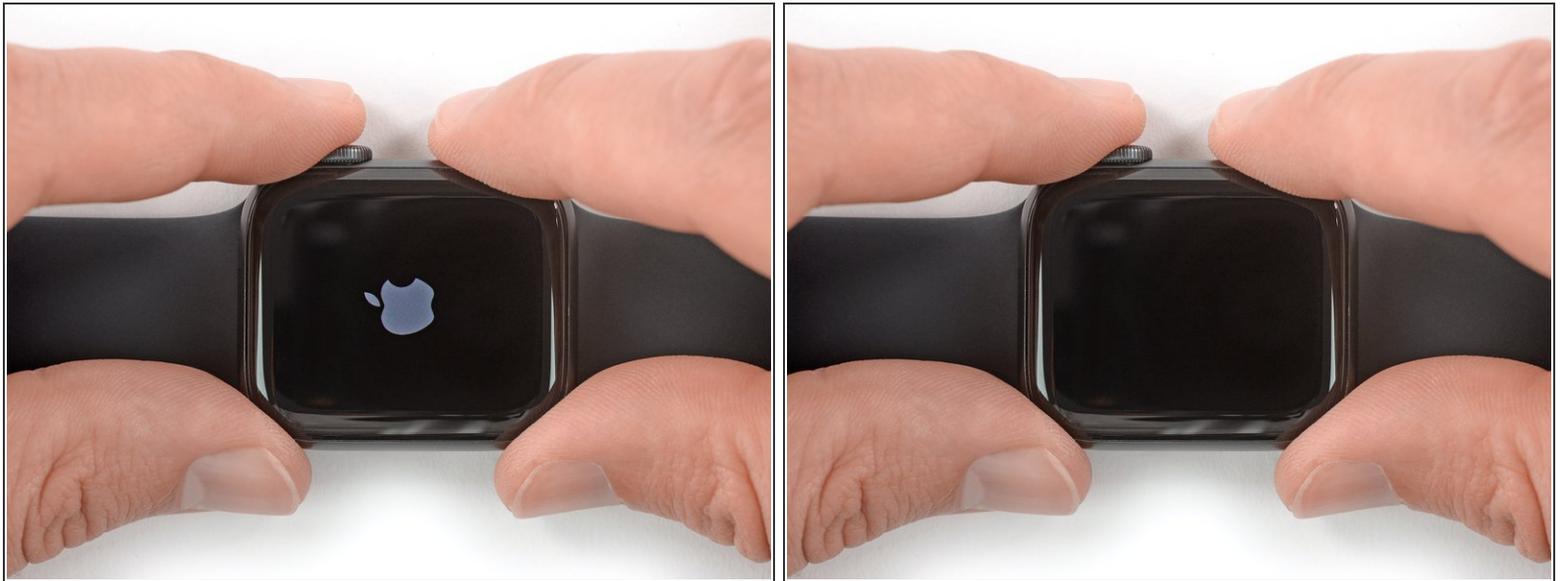Use this guide to open your Apple Watch Series 4 for repairs.

During the display opening procedure of the Apple Watch it is likely to damage the Force Touch gasket. If you separate the gasket layers or cut the cable, you'll also need to replace the Force Touch gasket itself.

You'll need **replacement adhesive** to reattach components when reassembling the device.

🔧 TOOLS:

- iOpener (1)
- iFixit Opening Picks set of 6 (1)
- iFixit Opening Tools (1)
- Tweezers (1)
- Curved Razor Blade (1)
- Safety Glasses (1)
- ESD Gloves (1)

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Step 1 — Display Opening

- Before starting repairs, take your watch off the charger and power it down.

- If your touchscreen is broken and prevents powering off the watch, use this alternate method to power it down.

Step 2 — Safety Requirements

- Because the gap between the screen and watch body is so thin, a sharp blade is needed to separate the two. **Read the following warnings carefully before proceeding.**

  ⚠️ **Protect your fingers** by keeping them completely clear of the knife. If in doubt, protect your free hand with a heavy glove, such as a leather shop glove or gardening glove.

  ⚠️ Be careful **not to apply too much pressure,** as this might cause the knife to slip and cut you, or damage the watch.

  ⚠️ **Wear [eye protection.](#)** The knife or glass may break, sending pieces flying.

- ⓘ Feel free to attach or remove the watch band as needed to provide more control as you make repairs.

Step 3

- [Prepare an iOpener](#) (or use a hair dryer or heat gun) and heat the face of the watch to loosen the display adhesive.
  - Leave the iOpener on the watch for at least two minutes to fully heat the screen and soften the adhesive holding it to the case.
- (i) You may need to reheat the iOpener and repeat this procedure several times until the display adhesive gets loose enough.

Step 4

- Place the edge of a curved blade into the thin gap between the display and the outer case. Start at the short side of the display, closest to the digital crown.
- Press firmly *straight down* into the gap.
- Once inserted, tilt the blade to pry the display open slightly.
  - ⚠ Do not insert the knife more than 1/16th of an inch (~2 mm) to avoid damaging the Force Touch sensor.

Step 5

- Once you've opened a small gap with the curved blade, remove the blade and insert the thinner edge of an opening tool into the gap.

- Push the opening tool into the gap, using your thumb as a pivot to lift the display open a bit farther.

⚠ Don't try to fully open or detach the display yet.

Step 6

- It's likely that the Force Touch sensor will stick to the display frame instead to the watch's body. In this case, insert an opening pick under the display and carefully separate the Force Touch gasket from the display.

  ⚠ To preserve the Force Touch gasket, pry carefully under the edge of the display. If the Force Touch gasket splits when lifting the display, or if you separate the gasket layers, you'll also need to replace the Force Touch gasket itself.

- Slide the pick around the display to separate the adhesive between the Force Touch gasket and the display.

  ⚠ Don't insert the opening pick deeper than 1/16th of an inch (~2 mm) to avoid damaging other components.

Step 7

⚠️ To avoid straining the display cables, don't open the display all the way yet.

- Open the display at max. to an 45° angle, and use tweezers to peel off the adhesive between the display and the Force Touch gasket.

- Thread the adhesive around and behind the display cables to get it off completely. Since the adhesive needs to be replaced anyway, you can cut it if that makes removal easier for you.

📌 Make sure to return to this point during the reassembly of your watch and then continue with the [Resealing Procedure](#).

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

Take your e-waste to an [R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler](#).

Repair didn't go as planned? Check out our [Answers community](#) for troubleshooting help.