



iPhone 12 Pro Max Screen Replacement

If your iPhone 12 Pro Max screen is cracked,...

Written By: Adam O'Camb



INTRODUCTION

If your iPhone 12 Pro Max screen is cracked, not responding to touch, or not showing a picture when your phone is powered on, use this guide to restore your iPhone to working order with a new screen, a.k.a. display assembly. This guide only covers steps for replacing a full display assembly that comes with a shield plate preinstalled.

The combined earpiece speaker + sensor assembly affixed to the back of the display is paired to your individual iPhone from the factory, so you must transfer it from your old display to your new one during any display replacement. It contains the flood illuminator, which is part of the biometric Face ID security feature. If it is damaged or replaced, Face ID will cease to function, so take extra care not to damage any of these components during this procedure. If damaged, only Apple or an Apple-authorized technician can restore Face ID function.

Note: On iOS 17.6 and earlier, True Tone functionality is disabled after a screen replacement, even when using an original Apple screen. On iOS 18 and newer, you can calibrate your new screen using Apple's [Repair Assistant](#) to restore True Tone functionality on genuine screens purchased from Apple.

TOOLS:

[P2 Pentalobe Screwdriver iPhone](#) (1)
[Clampy - Anti-Clamp](#) (1)
[Hair Dryer](#) (1)
[Heat Gun](#) (1)
[iOpener](#) (1)
[iFixit Opening Picks \(Set of 6\)](#) (1)
[Suction Handle](#) (1)
[Tri-point Y000 Screwdriver](#) (1)
[Spudger](#) (1)
[Tweezers](#) (1)
[Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)

PARTS:

[iPhone 12 Pro Max Display Assembly](#)
[Adhesive](#) (1)
[iPhone 12 Pro Max Screen](#) (1)

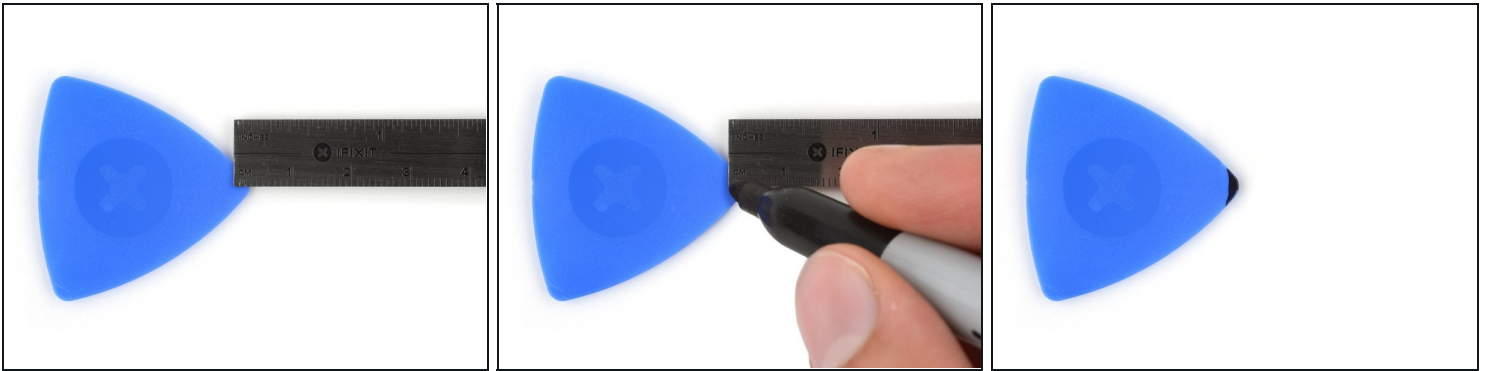
Step 1 — Remove the pentalobe screws



⚠ Caution: Before you begin, 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 6.7 mm-long pentalobe P2 screws at the bottom edge of the iPhone.
- i** Opening the iPhone's display will compromise its waterproof seals. Have replacement seals ready before you proceed past this step, or take care to avoid liquid exposure if you reassemble your iPhone without replacing the seals.

Step 2 — Mark your opening picks



- ① If inserted too far, an opening pick can damage your device. Follow this step to mark your pick and prevent damage.
- Measure 3 mm from the tip and mark the opening pick with a permanent marker.
- ① You can also mark the other corners of the pick with different measurements.
- ① Alternatively, [tape a coin to a pick](#) 3 mm from the tip.

Step 3 — Tape over any cracks



- ① If your iPhone has a cracked screen, keep further breakage contained and prevent bodily harm during your repair by taping over the glass.
- Lay overlapping strips of clear packing tape over the iPhone's screen until the whole face is covered.
- ⚠ Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from any glass shaken free during the repair.
- If you can't get the suction cup to stick in the next few steps, fold a strong piece of tape (such as duct tape) into a handle and lift the screen with that instead.
- ① If all else fails, you can superglue the suction cup to the screen.

Step 4 — Anti-Clamp instructions



- ① The next three steps demonstrate the [Anti-Clamp](#), a tool we designed to make the opening procedure easier. **If you aren't using the Anti-Clamp, skip down three steps for an alternate method.**
- ① For complete instructions on how to use the Anti-Clamp, [check out this guide](#).
- Pull the blue handle backwards to unlock the Anti-Clamp's arms.
 - Slide the arms over either the left or right edge of your iPhone.
 - Position the suction cups near the bottom edge of the iPhone—one on the front, and one on the back.
 - Squeeze the cups together to apply suction to the desired area.
- ① If you find that the surface of your iPhone is too slippery for the Anti-Clamp to hold onto, you can [use tape](#) to create a grippier surface.

Step 5



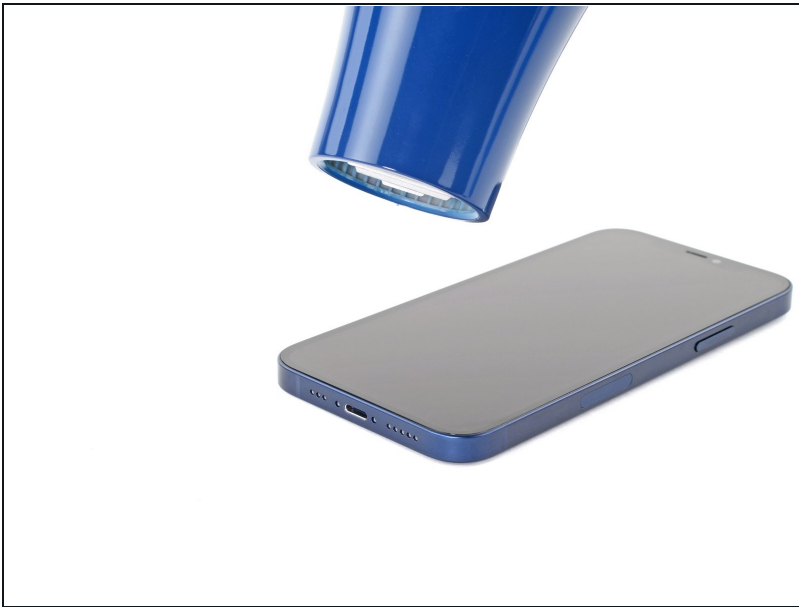
- Pull the blue handle forwards to lock the arms.
- Turn the handle clockwise 360 degrees or until the cups start to stretch.
- Make sure the suction cups remain aligned with each other. If they begin to slip out of alignment, loosen the suction cups slightly and realign the arms.

Step 6



- Support your iPhone on something sturdy such as a hardcover book so it rests hands-free and parallel to the ground; this makes it easier to work with in the following steps.
- Use a hair dryer to heat along the bottom edge of the iPhone. The screen should feel slightly too hot to touch.
 - ① For complete instructions on how to use a hair dryer, [check out this guide](#).
- Wait one minute to give the adhesive a chance to release and present an opening gap.
- Insert an opening pick under the screen's plastic bezel when the Anti-Clamp creates a large enough gap.
 - ① If the Anti-Clamp doesn't create a sufficient gap, apply more heat to the area and rotate the handle a quarter turn.
- ⚠ Don't crank more than a quarter turn at a time, and wait one minute between turns. Let the Anti-Clamp and time do the work for you.
- **Skip the next three steps.**

Step 7 — Heat the bottom edge



- Use a hair dryer or heat gun to heat the bottom half of the screen until it's slightly too hot to touch. This softens the adhesive securing it.

⚠ Improper use of a heat gun can destroy the display and/or battery—review [this guide](#) for instructions. To prevent screen damage, keep your heat source moving rather than focused on one spot.

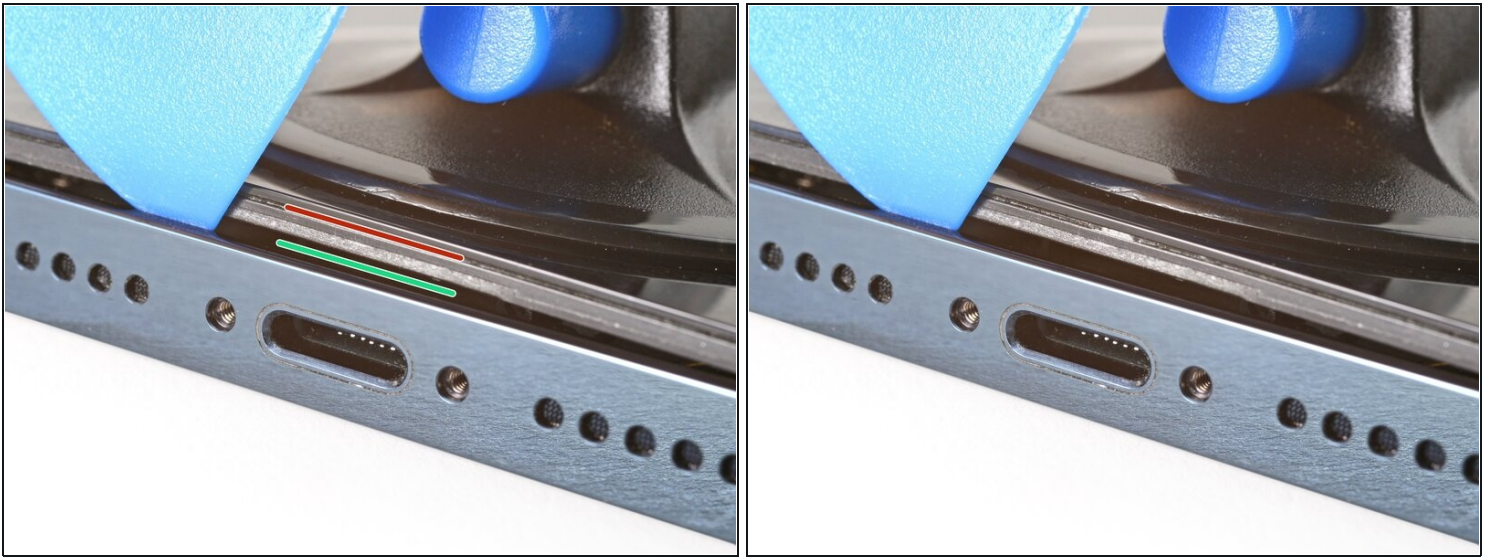
- ① For tips on using a hair dryer to soften adhesive, check out [this guide](#).

Step 8 — Apply a suction cup



- If you're using a single suction handle, apply it to the bottom edge of the screen.

Step 9 — Screen information



- To avoid damaging your screen in the next step, note the following:
 - There's a plastic bezel on the underside of the screen. **Your opening pick will go underneath this bezel.**
 - There's a seam between the plastic bezel and the display panel. **Don't insert your pick here** or you'll damage the screen.
- ① Sometimes the display panel separates from the bezel before you even get a chance to insert a pick. This may be unavoidable depending on the condition of the adhesive. In this case, you'll most likely need to replace your entire screen.

Step 10 — Lift the screen slightly



- Pull up on the suction cup with firm, constant pressure to create a slight gap between the screen and the frame.
- Insert an opening pick at a steep angle into the gap.
 - Remember to insert the opening pick **under the thick plastic bezel** to avoid damaging your screen.

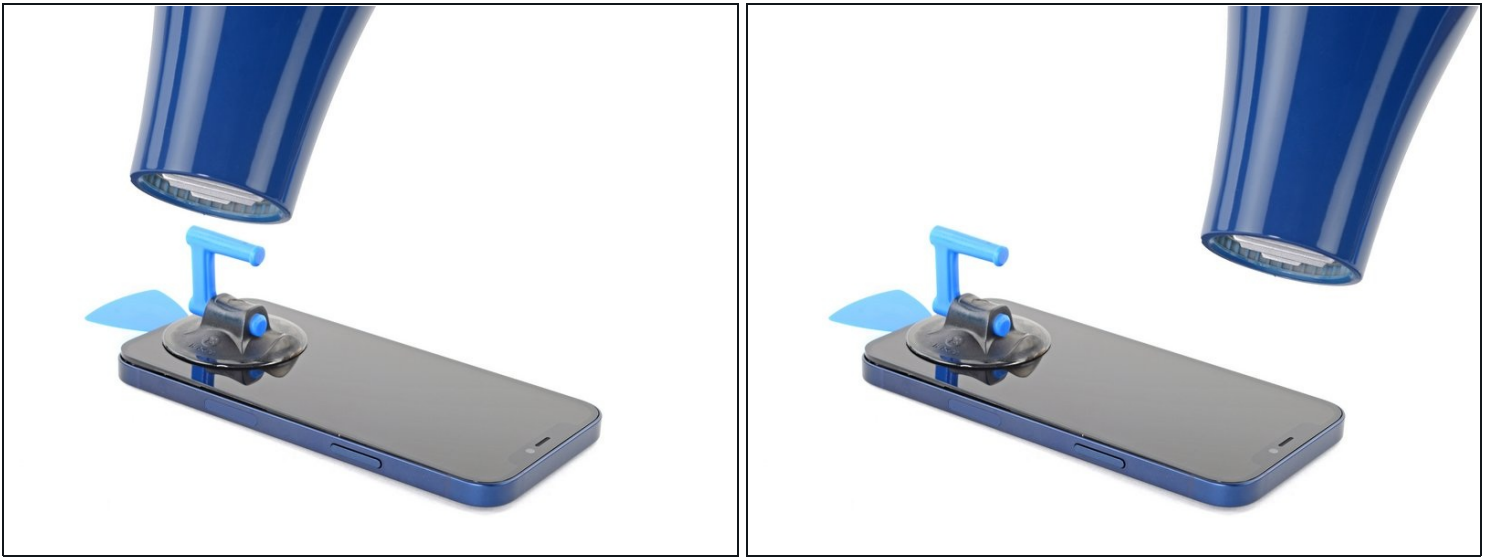
Step 11 — Separate the bottom edge adhesive



⚠ Don't insert your opening pick deeper than **3 mm along the bottom edge.**

- Slide your pick back and forth along the bottom edge to separate the adhesive.
- Leave your pick inserted in the bottom right corner to prevent the adhesive from re-sealing.

Step 12 — Heat the right edge



- Use a hair dryer to heat the right edge of the iPhone (the edge with the power button) until the screen is slightly too hot to touch.

Step 13



- Slide the opening pick around the bottom right corner of the iPhone to separate its adhesive.
- Continue sliding up the right edge of the iPhone until you reach the top right corner.
⚠ Don't insert your pick more than 3 mm, as you may damage internal components.
- Leave the pick in the top right corner before continuing.

Step 14 — Heat the top edge



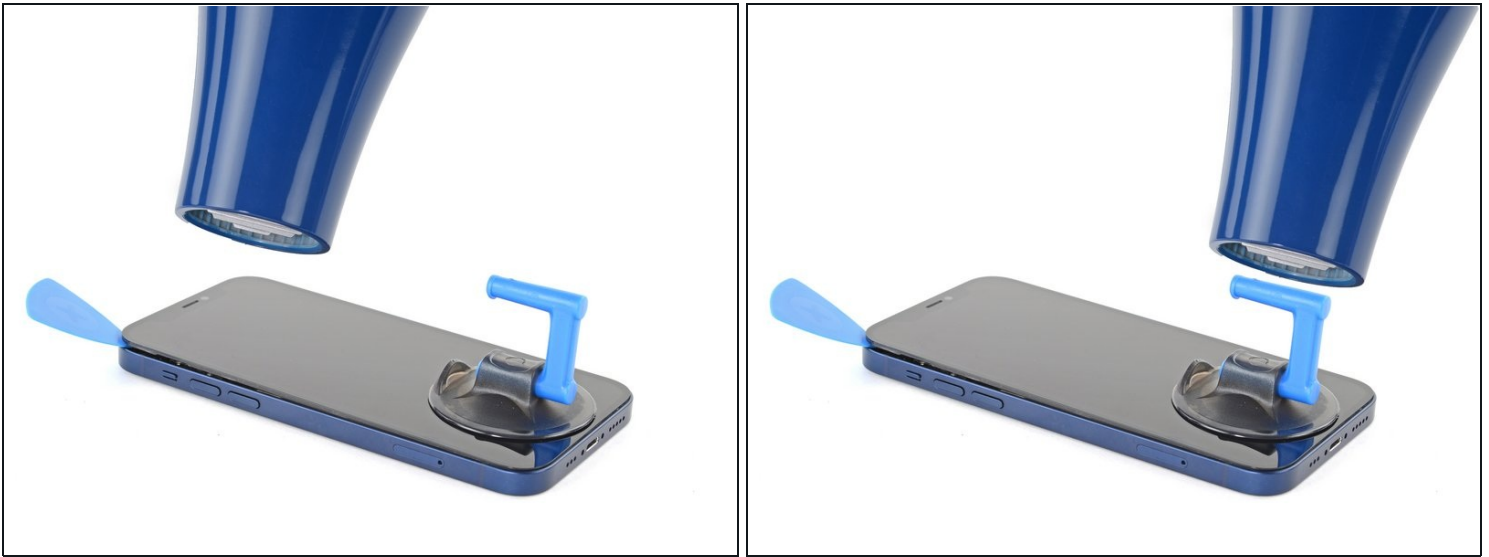
- Use a hair dryer to heat the top edge of the iPhone until the screen is slightly too hot to touch.

Step 15 — Separate the top adhesive



- Slide the opening pick around the top right corner of the iPhone to separate the top adhesive.
⚠ Don't insert your pick more than 3 mm, as you may damage the top sensors.
- Leave the pick in the top left corner before continuing.

Step 16 — Heat the left edge



- Use a hair dryer to heat the left edge of the iPhone until the screen is slightly too hot to touch.

Step 17 — Separate the left adhesive



⚠ Don't insert your pick deeper than **2 mm along the left edge to avoid the two cables connecting the screen to the phone.**

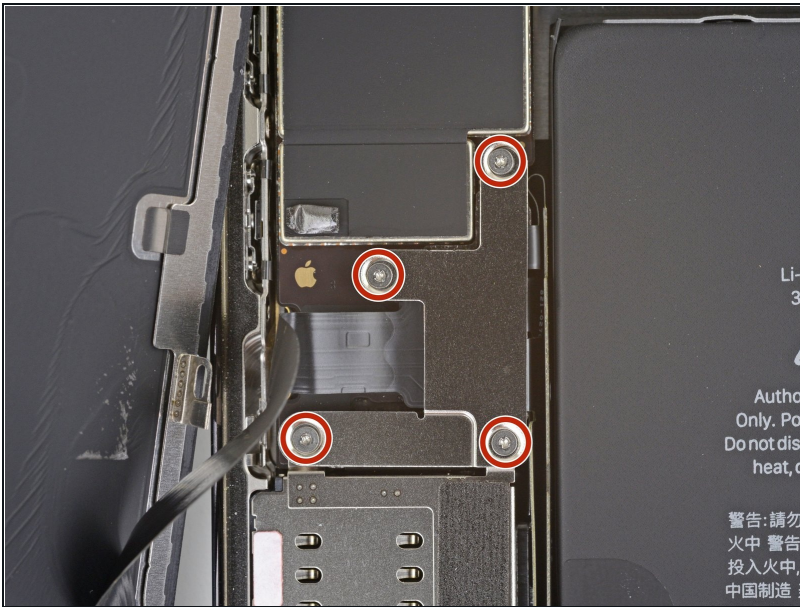
- Rotate your pick around the top left corner of the screen.
 - Slide your pick to the bottom left corner of the screen to separate the adhesive.
- i** If you're having trouble separating the adhesive, reheat the left edge.

Step 18 — Open the iPhone



- Rotate your iPhone so the right edge faces you.
- Open the iPhone by swinging the display up from the right side, like the front cover of a book.
- ⚠ Don't try to fully separate the display yet, as several fragile ribbon cables still connect it to the iPhone's logic board.
- Lean the display against something to keep it propped up while you're working on the phone.
- ☑ During reassembly, lay the display in position, align the clips along the top edge, and carefully press the top edge into place before snapping the rest of the display down. If it doesn't click easily into place, check the condition of the clips around the perimeter of the display and make sure they aren't bent.

Step 19 — Unscrew the battery and display connector cover

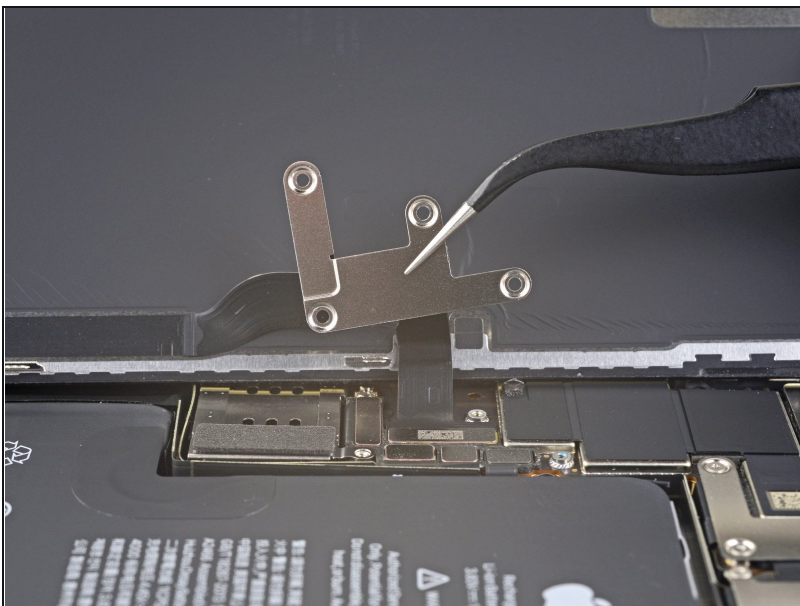


- Remove four 1.1 mm-long Y000 screws securing the battery and display connector cover.

ⓘ Throughout this repair, [keep track of each screw](#) and make sure it goes back exactly where it came from to avoid damaging your iPhone.

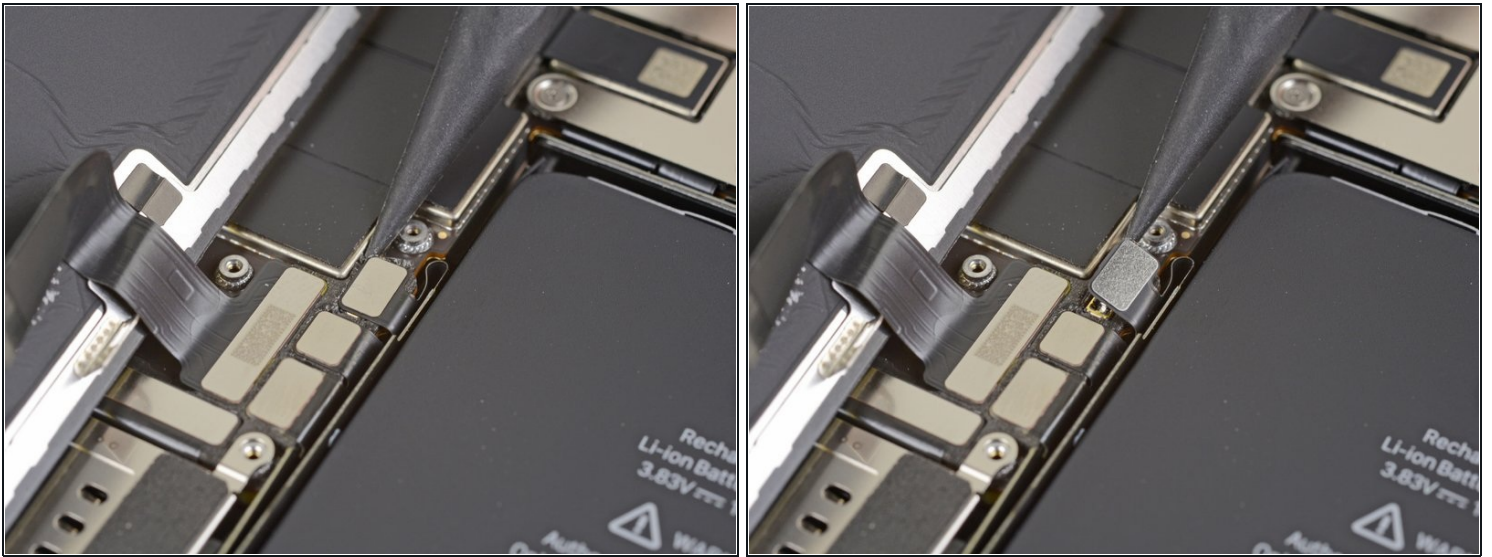
★ During reassembly, this is a good point to power on your iPhone and test all functions before you seal the display in place. Be sure to power your iPhone back down completely before you continue working.

Step 20 — Remove the battery and display connector cover



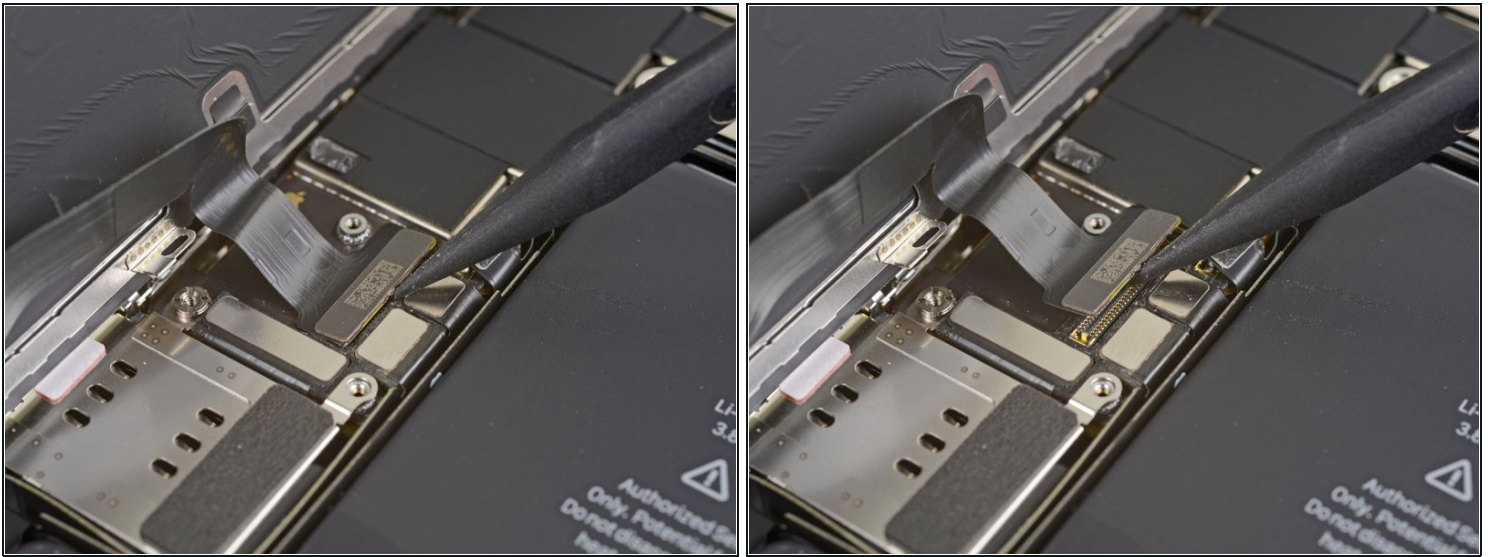
- Remove the battery and display connector cover.

Step 21 — Disconnect the battery



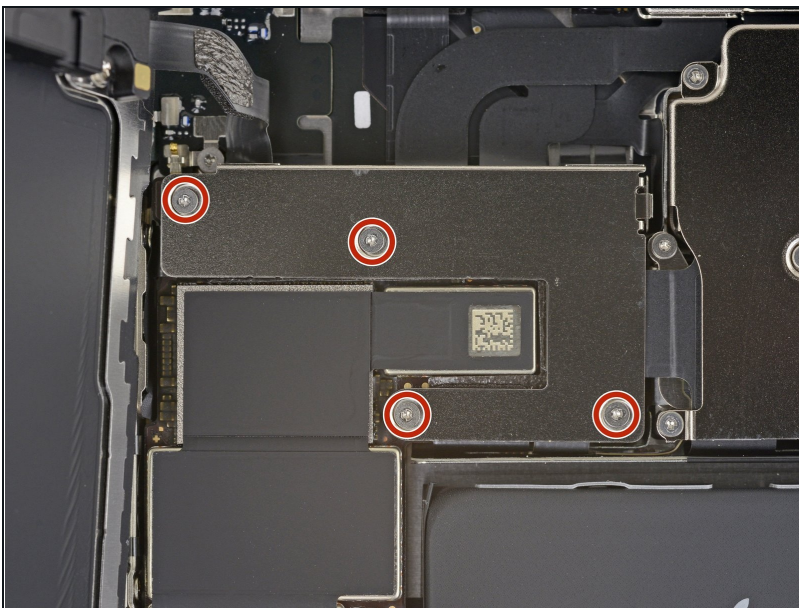
- Use a spudger or a clean fingernail to pry the battery connector up from its socket on the logic board.
 - ⓘ Try not to damage the black silicone seal surrounding this and other board connections. These seals provide extra protection against water and dust intrusion.
- Bend the connector slightly away from the logic board to prevent it from accidentally making contact with the socket and providing power to the phone during your repair.

Step 22 — Disconnect the display cable



- Use a spudger or a fingernail to disconnect the display cable connector.
 - ☑ To re-attach [press connectors](#) like this one, carefully align and press down on one side until it clicks into place, then repeat on the other side. Do not press down on the middle. If the connector is misaligned, the pins can bend, causing permanent damage.

Step 23 — Unscrew the front sensor connector cover



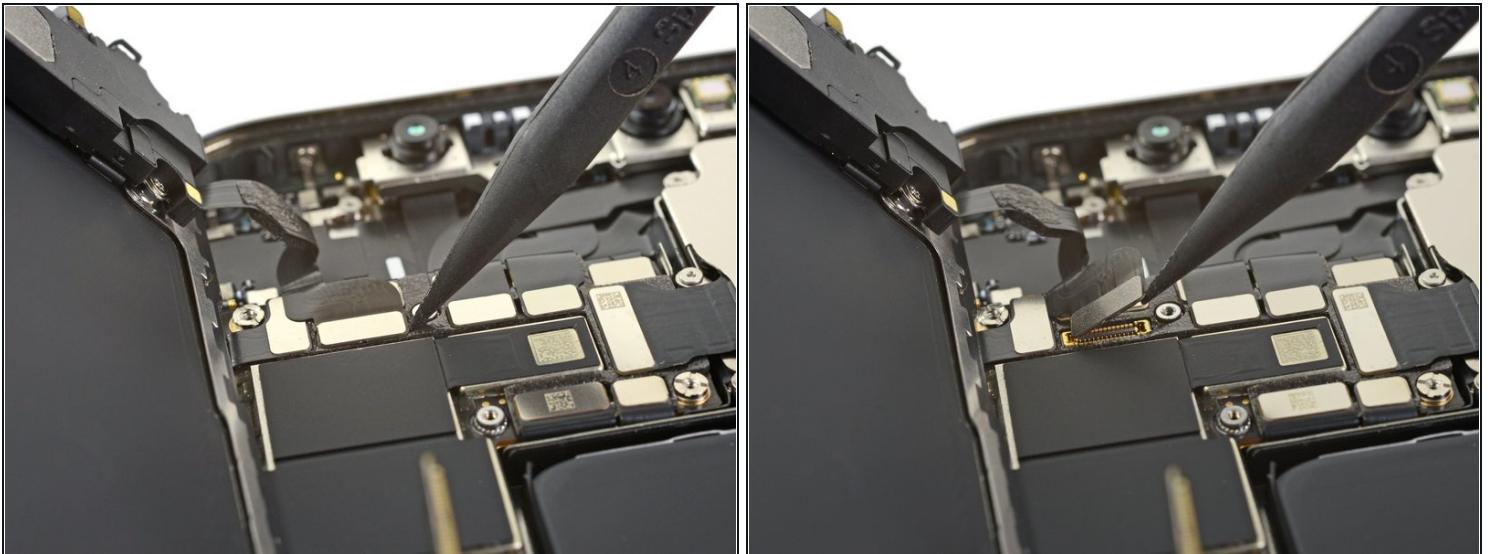
- Use a Y000 driver to remove the four 1.1 mm-long screws securing the front sensor connector cover.

Step 24 — Remove the front sensor connector cover



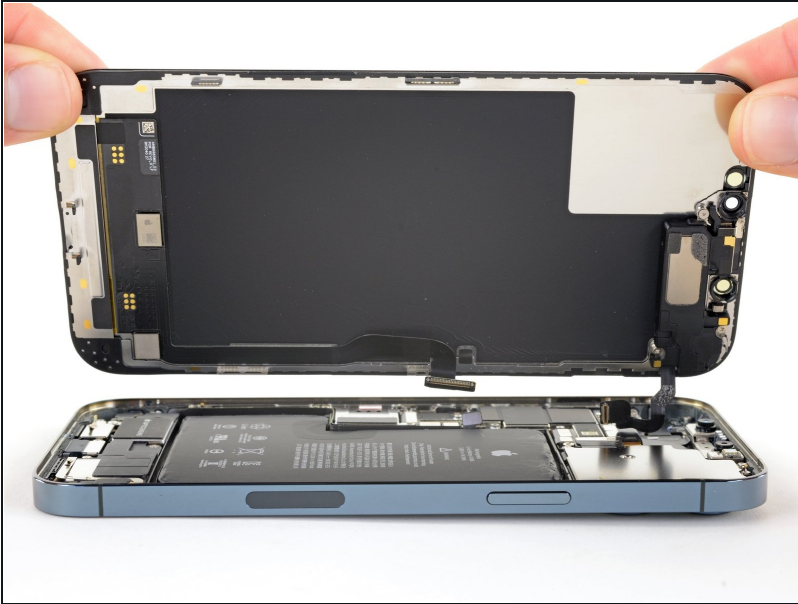
- Swing the cover up from the left until the small clip on the right unhooks.
 - Remove the cover.
- ☒ During reassembly, insert the clip on the right edge into its slot first, then hinge the rest of the cover into place.

Step 25 — Disconnect the front sensors



- Use a spudger or a fingernail to disconnect the front sensor assembly cable connector.

Step 26 — Remove the display assembly



- Remove the display assembly.
- ✦ During reassembly, pause here if you wish to [replace the waterproof adhesive around the edges of the display](#).

Step 27 — Unscrew the speaker/sensor assembly



- Remove the four screws securing the speaker/sensor assembly to the back of the display.
 - Two 1.3 mm Phillips screws
 - One 1.8 mm shouldered Y000 screw
 - One 1.1 mm Y000 screw

Step 28 — Flip the speaker assembly over



ⓘ The earpiece speaker is lightly adhered in place.

- Use [tweezers](#) or the point of a spudger to gently pry up the top edge of the speaker.
- Flip the speaker assembly over—down and away from the top edge of the display.

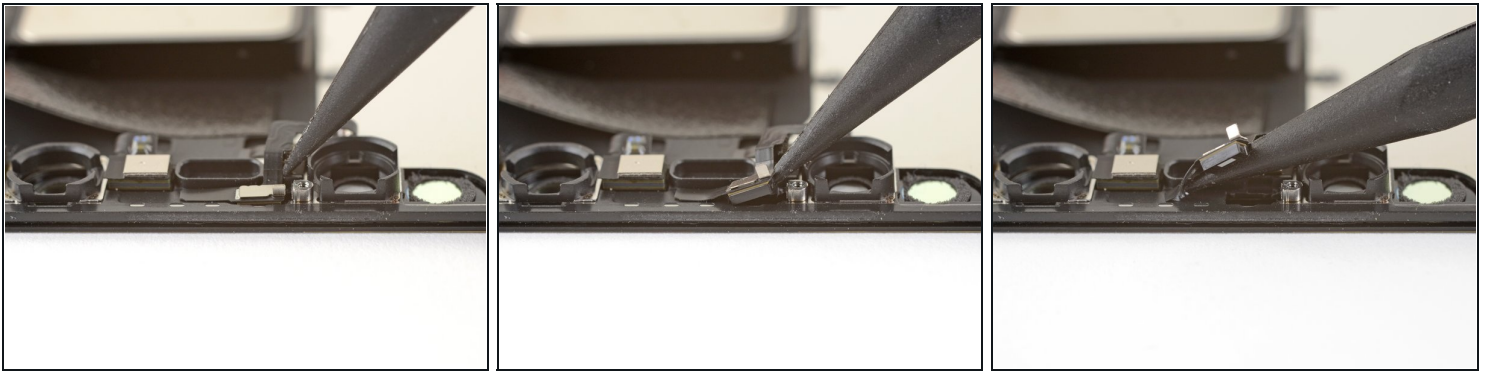
⚠ The speaker remains attached via a very thin ribbon cable. Be careful not to strain or damage the cable.

Step 29 — Heat the top edge of the display



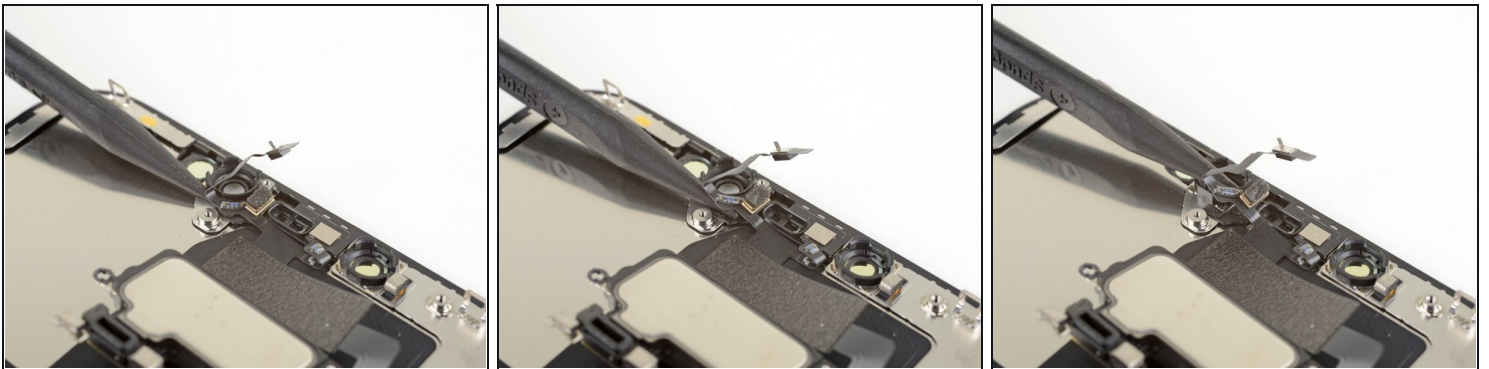
- [Prepare an iOpener](#) and apply it to the top front of the display for 1-2 minutes, in order to soften the adhesive securing the sensors.
- ⓘ A hair dryer, heat gun, or hot plate may also be used, but be careful not to overheat the display.

Step 30 — Separate the ambient light sensor



- Use the point of a spudger to lift and separate the ambient light sensor from its notch in the front panel.
⚠ Take care not to damage the light sensor ribbon cables while prying.
- Continue sliding the spudger underneath the ambient light sensor and its cable to separate the adhesive securing the cable.

Step 31 — Pry up the microphone



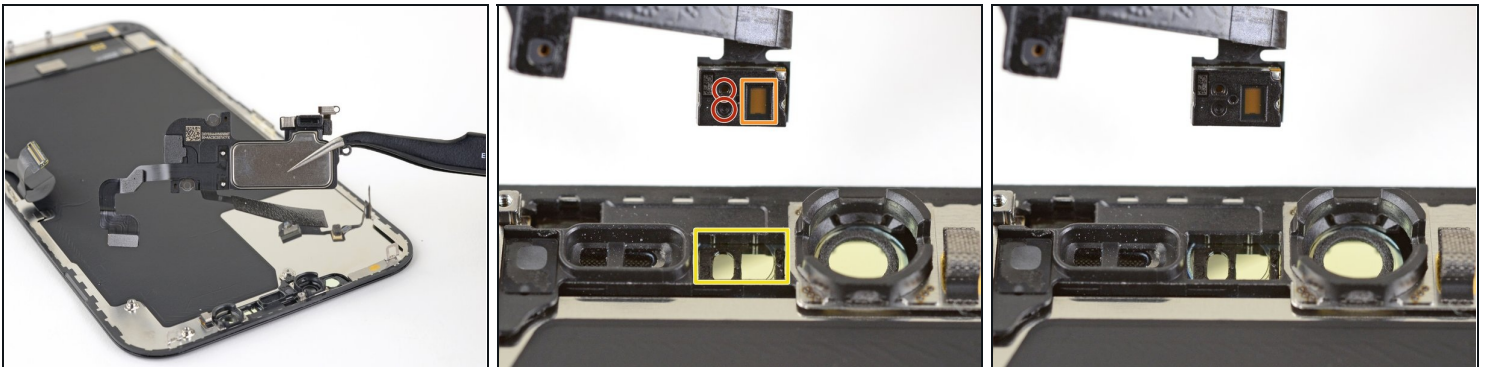
- Use the point of a spudger to lift and separate the microphone from its notch in the front panel.

Step 32 — Pry up the proximity sensor and flood illuminator module



- Use the point of a spudger to lift the proximity sensor and flood illuminator module out of its notch in the front panel.

Step 33 — Remove the speaker and front sensor assembly



- Remove the earpiece speaker and front sensor assembly.
- ☑ During reassembly, check the position of the black plastic module containing these components:
 - Proximity sensor
 - Flood illuminator
- The module must be positioned so that these components are not obstructed by any adhesive.

Compare your new replacement part to the original part—you may need to transfer remaining components or remove adhesive backings from the new part before installing.

To reassemble your device, follow the above steps in reverse order.

After your repair, depending on the replacement part, you may be able to [calibrate it using Apple's Repair Assistant](#), available as of iOS 18. Update your device, navigate to Settings → General → About → Parts & Service History, tap Restart & Finish Repair, and follow the onscreen prompts.

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

Repair didn't go as planned? Repair didn't go as planned? Try some [basic troubleshooting](#), or ask our [iPhone 12 Pro Max Answers community](#) for troubleshooting help.