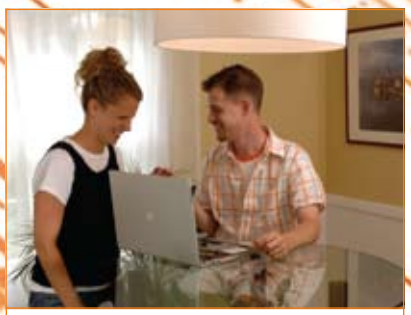
# What can you fix?

Join the iFixit global repair community.

## everyone can contribute



### What we 're all about

Repair parts & tools
Troubleshooting problems
Free repair guides

### Who we are

How we started
Writing repair guides
Building a repair community

### The e-waste problem

Where electronics go to die
How to reduce e-waste
Proper recycling

iFixit

iFixit provides everything you need for do-it-yourself repair.

# What we're all about

Things break. You drop your iPod, trip over your Mac's power cord, or your display wears out. Wear and tear is normal, but throwing away almost-functional devices shouldn't be. Our goal is to provide you with everything you need to fix things yourself. You can fix it. We make it easy.

## Troubleshooting

### Diagnose what's wrong with your device

So your iPod Video doesn't turn on. But what's really wrong with it? Well, our iPod Video troubleshooting page says that it could be either the hard drive, the logic board, or the battery. Let's dig a little deeper. What happens when you plug the iPod into a power adapter? Ah, it starts up fine now! Great, then you just need a new battery. Buy a new battery, and then go to our repair section to view instructions on how to install it.

## Parts & tools

### Get the repair parts and upgrades you need

We fund our mission of helping people fix things by selling useful parts and tools on iFixit.com.

### Learn about tools

What the heck is a spudger? Is a Phillips #0 screwdriver bigger or smaller than a #00? Answers to these questions are easy to find in our tool database. Tool pages have photos, useful background information, tips for use, and sources for finding the tool online.

## Free repair guides

### Step-by-step photographic repair instructions

If a picture is worth a thousand words, why are you still reading this? It turns out that a little bit of text helps as well. Our repair guides combine great, high-resolution photos with helpful instructions. Color-coded bullets and markup help connect the instructions to the device in front of you. Thousands of people have successfully used our guides to repair their electronics, and you can too!

# Where we're coming from

### Who we are

iFixit was started in 2003 by Luke and Kyle in a dorm room at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. Since then, we've grown a bit.

### How we started


Luke


Kyle

We started out fixing an old iBook together. There were no instructions on how to do it, so we started the way everyone does: the hard way.

We tinkered. We fiddled. We broke some tabs and lost a few screws. But we fixed it!

We attempted to fix some other laptops but had trouble finding parts. So we bought a broken computer on eBay and stole parts from it. Then we decided to start selling the parts ourselves, and iFixit was born.

But that's not the whole story. All of our customers still had to do things the hard way, just like we did. Easy-to-use repair instructions didn't exist – yet.

### Writing repair manuals

It bugged us that most consumer devices lacked repair instructions. We think it should be easy for people to learn how to fix things.

So we wrote some instructions the first chance we got. And we posted them online, for free. For the first time, it was easy for someone with no technical background or experience to take apart a Mac. Our step-by-step instructions were enabling people to repair Macs they wouldn't have been able to repair on their own.

We thought the instructions would be useful to our customers – and they were. But it turned out that they were useful to a lot of other people as well! We've heard repair success stories from forensic detectives, field translators, and even kids. From New York to Alaska, Tibet to the Faroe Islands, people have used our guides to fix their stuff. They saved money, they kept their Macs out of the landfill, and they did it completely by themselves.

And the amazing thing? They enjoyed doing it. It's fun to take stuff apart. It's interesting to see what's inside that magic iPod you carry around every day. It's gratifying to fix it with your own hands. Don't believe us? Try it! Fix your Mac yourself. Show a friend how to fix something.

We're all in this thing together, and if we work together we can fix the planet. Join us.

# Calling all Tinkerers

**Are you obsessed with working on cars?**

**Have you ever fixed a washing machine?**

**Do all your friends ask you to fix their stuff?**

We're going to show the masses how to fix all sorts of things. We believe that with the right information, materials, and a little time, anyone can repair things themselves.

**And we need your help.**

It's surprisingly easy to create a step-by-step repair guide and incredibly rewarding to see it used by people to fix things. You can show your friend three states away how to reattach a broken chair leg, or showcase your Honda-fixing abilities for all to see. Join our community of tinkerers and hardware hackers and help us show the world how to fix just about anything.

Visit iFixit.com to learn how to create a repair guide. Working together, we can teach people how to fix the world.

# Do-it-yourself repair

Most people consider their electronics to be "black boxes." We simply expect them to work, and when they fail we throw them away and buy a replacement. Without repair instructions there doesn't seem to be any other option.

We've talked with countless people who assumed they'd have to buy a whole new iPod when the battery died. We decided to do something about it. iPod repair used to be a formidable task reserved for experts, but our freely available, comprehensive repair manuals have changed that. It is now possible – even easy – for a mom with no prior experience to repair her child's iPod. That repair knowledge is incredibly empowering.

Our online repair guides make it easy for you to fix things; many repairs are not difficult at all once you have easy-to-follow directions. No one cares about fixing your device more than you do. There's a great sense of accomplishment that comes with pulling something apart, fixing it, and putting it back together. Repairing a device benefits you, the environment, and your wallet.

# The problem with e-waste

### What is e-waste?

Many people don't know that electronics have all kinds of nasty chemicals in them. For example, the glass in a typical CRT has about ten pounds of lead in it. Most flat panel displays contain significant amounts of mercury. Plastic cases come coated with fire-resistant chemicals called poly-brominated flame retardants, some of the nastiest chemicals around. You can't just throw these kinds of chemicals into a landfill because they contaminate soils and leach into the water supply.

### What happens to e-waste?

To recycle electronics properly, they have to be disassembled and separated into each type of material. The raw materials can then be safely used to make new products. Unfortunately, that doesn't happen as often as you'd think. Many of the electronics that we think are "recycled" are simply shipped to the third world.

Why? It turns out that it's expensive to recycle e-waste properly. It's expensive because the process is labor-intensive and environmental laws require e-recyclers to use environmentally friendly processes (in the US, at least). Rather than disposing of old electronics correctly, a tremendous amount of electronic waste is exported to developing countries.

The United Nations Environmental Program is very aware of this problem: "In many countries entire communities, including children, earn their livelihoods by scavenging metals, glass and plastic from old computers.

To extract the small quantity of gold, capacitors are melted down over a charcoal fire. The plastic on the electrical cords is burnt in barrels to expose the copper wires. According to the Basel Action Network, all in all each computer yields about US $6 worth of material. Not very much when you consider that burning the plastic sends dioxin and other toxic gases into the air. And the large volume of worthless parts are dumped nearby, allowing the remaining heavy metals to contaminate the area."

### How you can save the planet

Maintaining and repairing devices dramatically improves their usable lifespan. If we worked together and doubled the length of time the average piece of electronics was used, we could halve the amount of e-waste created. We could do a lot better than that if we take care of our devices and fix them when they break. We have a responsibility to humanity to keep things working as long as possible and dispose of them properly.