



iPod Nano 7th Generation Teardown

iPod Nano 7th Generation teardown, conducted October 12, 2012.

Written By: iRobot



INTRODUCTION

Prepare to be *green with envy* as we tear down the new 7th Generation iPod Nano.

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TOOLS:

- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)
 - [iFixit Opening Tools](#) (1)
 - [Spudger](#) (1)
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Step 1 — iPod Nano 7th Generation Teardown



- What's lean, new, and green? The iPod Nano 7th Generation. The Nano is available in several colors, but we decided green was the way to go.
- Completely redesigned, the 7th Generation Nano takes after its iPod Touch and iPhone brethren.
- Tech Specs:
 - 16 GB storage capacity
 - 2.5-inch (diagonal) widescreen Multi-Touch display
 - Built-in accelerometer
 - Bluetooth 4.0

Step 2



- We're [beginning to think](#) that Apple doesn't trust us with unboxing their precious gadgets — so we tried it their way.
- Their unboxing procedure was neither comfortable nor ergonomic.
- We are happy, however, that there is minimal packaging between us and our [new green friend](#).

Step 3



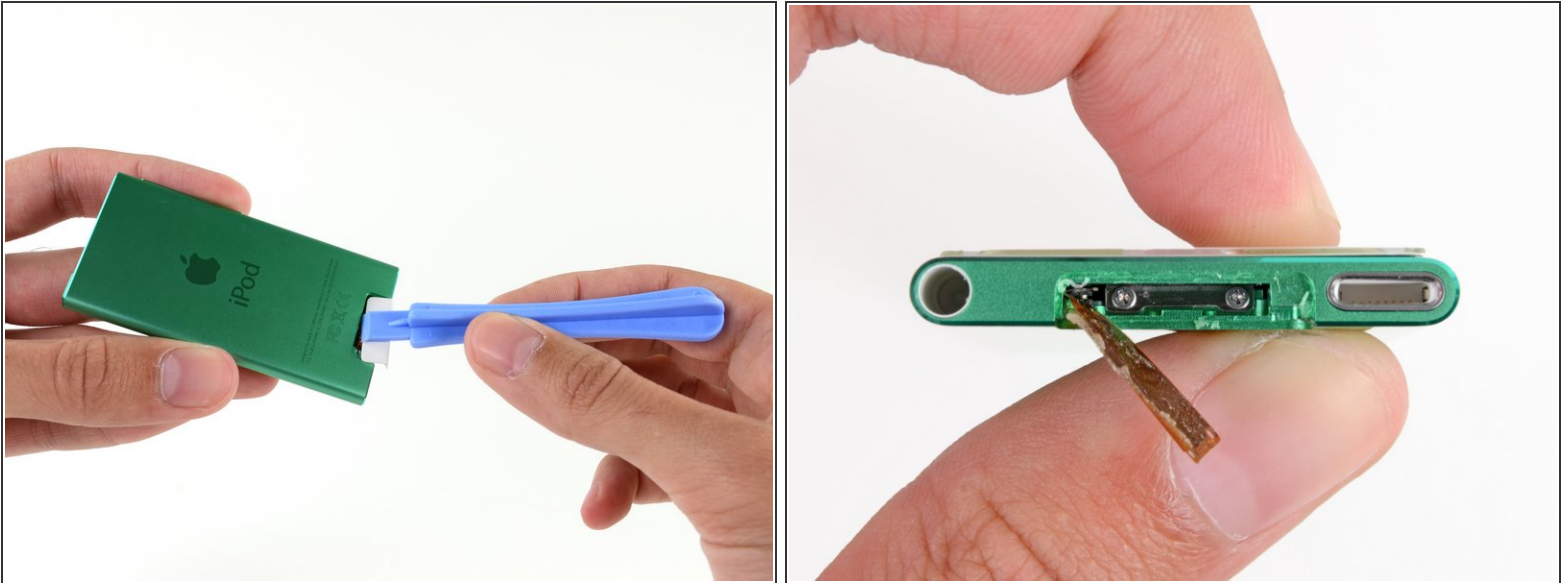
- Amidst the greenery we find the Nano's new model number: A1446.
- With the slow phasing out of the iPod Shuffle and iPod Classic, it seems that Apple is gravitating towards a line of products based solely on how large of a device you want around your home button.
- ① If you look closely, you'll see that the icon on the Nano's home button is round, rather than square, to match its circular icons.
- Cowabunga, dude! What do you do with twice the screen size of the old Nano? You load minimalist illustrations of Ninja Turtles, duh.

Step 4



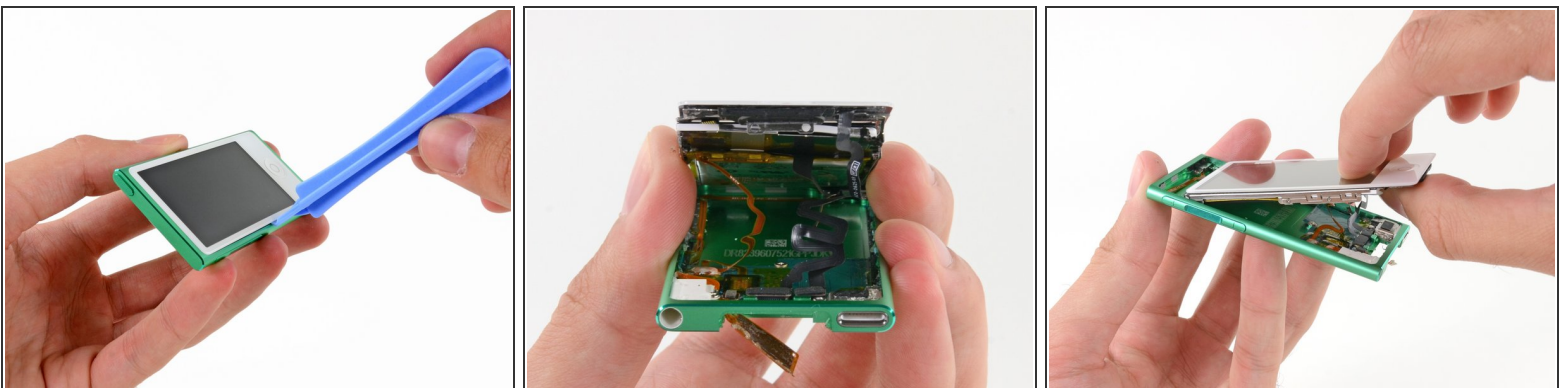
- Just how much bigger is it than the [previous Nano](#)? Oodles.
 - The 6th Generation Nano came in at 1.48 x 1.68 x 0.35 inches, and weighed 0.74 ounces.
 - The new 7th Generation is just over twice as tall, while also a little thinner and more narrow at 3.01 x 1.56 x 0.21 inches.
 - At 1.1 ounces, the newest Nano only gained an extra third of an ounce.
- Reverting to the tall design utilized in [previous generations](#) makes the iPod easier to grip, and thereby easier to use. The designers threw the 6th Generation's clip out the window, so the new Nano is that much thinner.
- Switching to the Lightning connector might have saved a little space in the [iPhone 5](#), but its impact on the iPod Nano is pretty profound.

Step 5



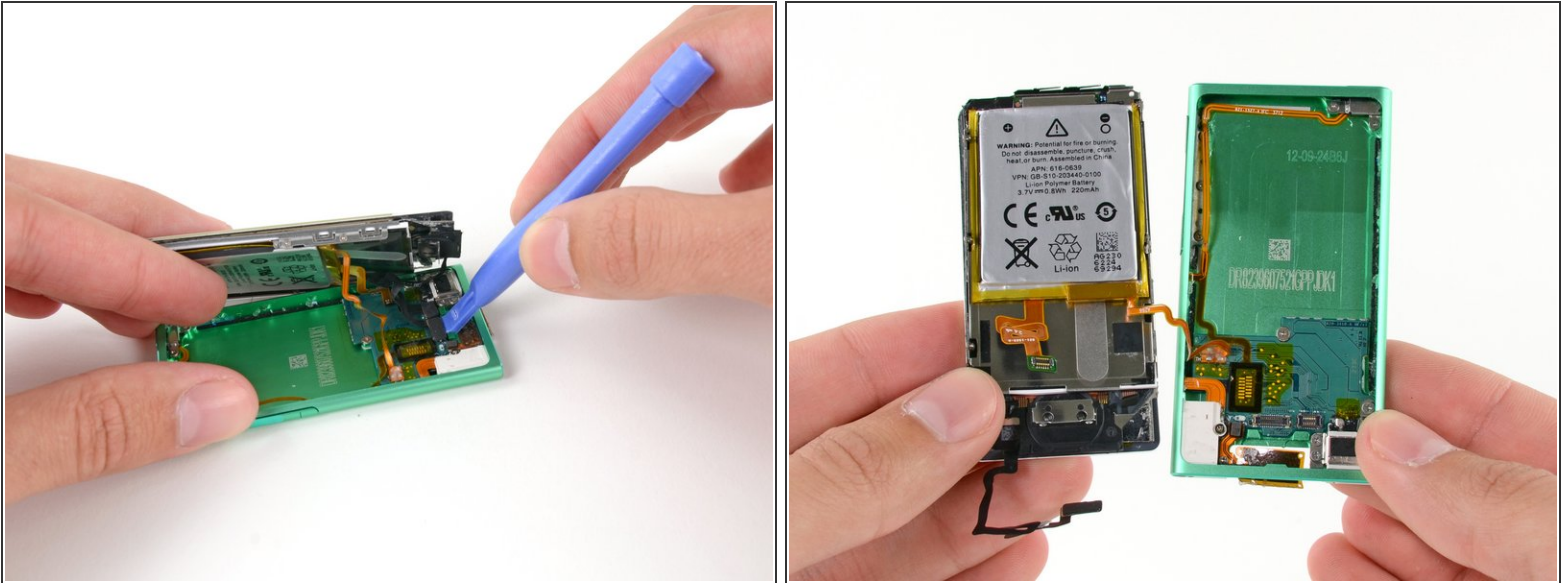
- Guided by the ~~sword~~ plastic opening tool of our father, we were led to the ~~knob~~ tab that [opened](#) the [pit of despair](#).
- Hiding beneath the tab we find the Bluetooth antenna, which sneakily covers two Phillips screws that unlock the magic lurking within the Nano.

Step 6



- With the screws removed, we grab a plastic opening tool—our favorite way to crack open a [new iPod](#).
- After a bit of wiggling, we manage to pry the display assembly up from the rear case, only to be met with several cables blocking its complete removal.

Step 7



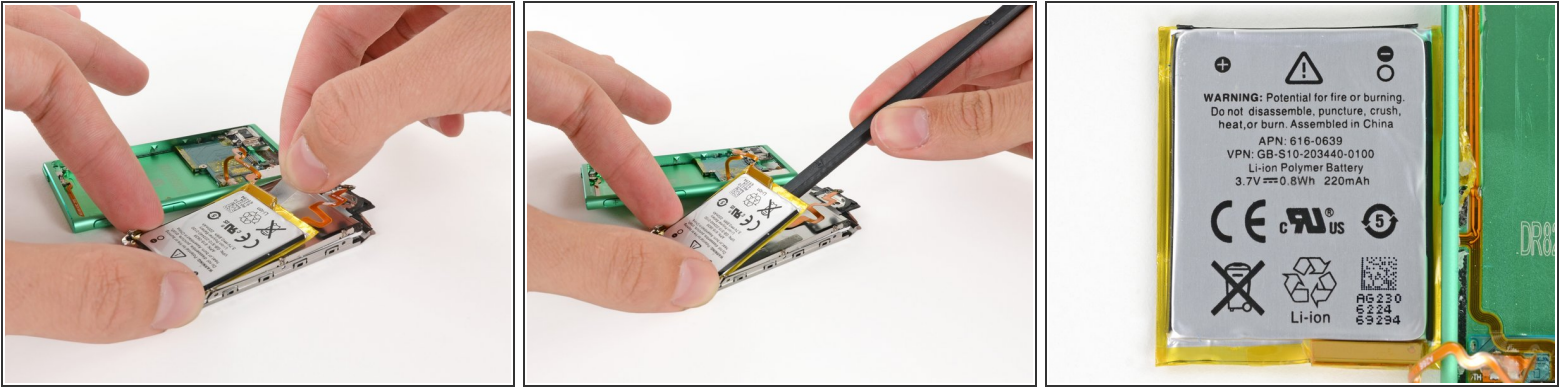
- Two quick flicks disconnect the LCD and digitizer cables, leaving only the battery cable as a final umbilical cord between the two halves of the device.
- The battery is both adhered to the back of the display assembly and soldered to the logic board.
- Unfortunately, the connivance and cost savings of adhesive come at the cost of repairability.

Step 8



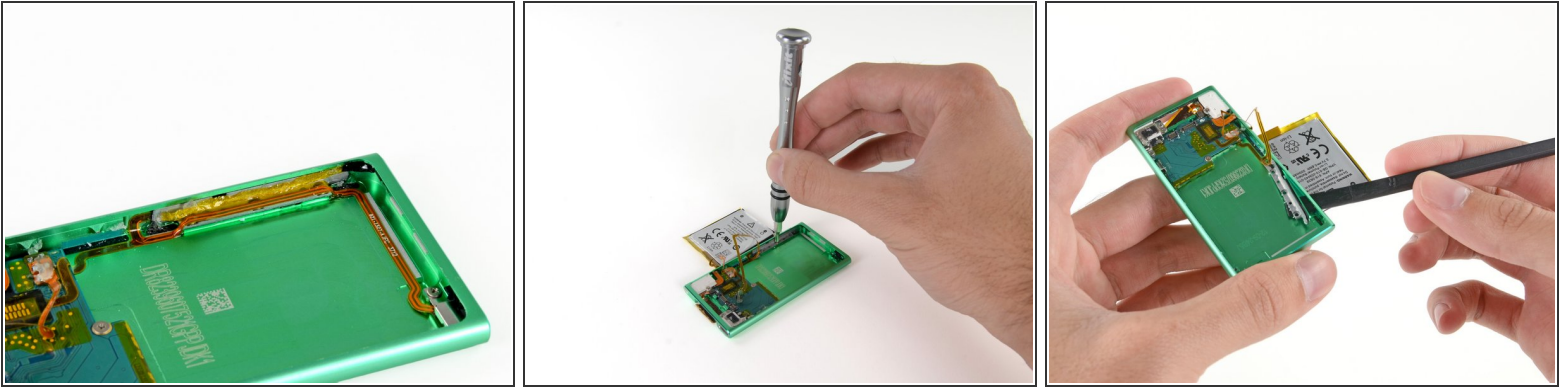
- Pop goes the digitizer!
 - ❗ With just light adhesive around the edge, it's nice to have a part that finally comes off easily.
- We've got a full house in our hand with the bezel, logic board and battery assembly, and the rear case.
- We hope that the minds at Apple aren't as twisted as their cables. Cables with this much form probably come out of engineering efforts to make this iPod as thin as possible.

Step 9



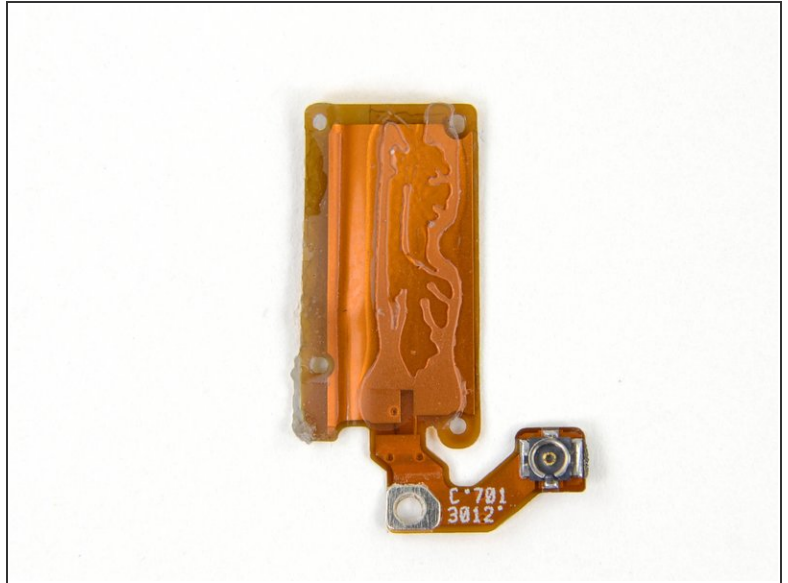
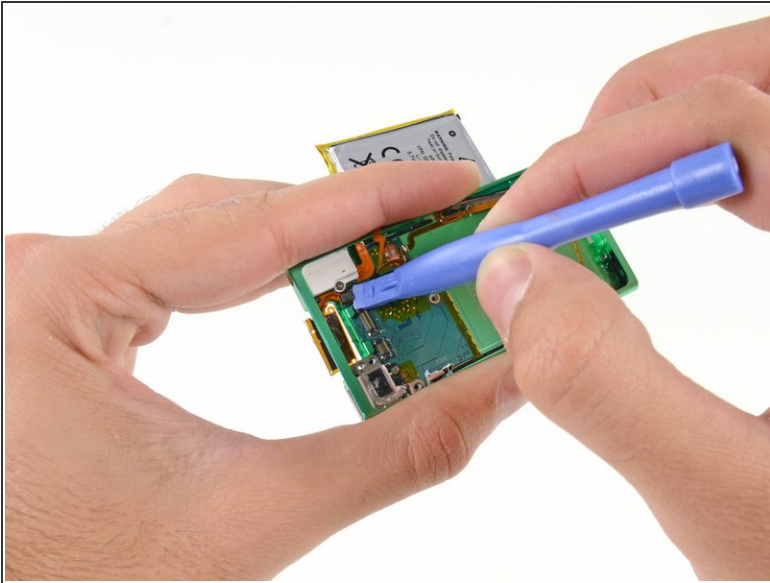
- There's an adorable plastic pull tab underneath the battery. It's likely there for battery removal, but we aren't sure it's up to the task.
- ⓘ It seems the adhesive holding down the battery is much too strong for the feeble pull tab to break through.
- Forgoing the tab in favor of some spudgering, we're able to pry the 3.7 V, 0.8 Wh, 220 mAh battery off the back of the display assembly.
- 0.8 Wh is more than twice that of the iPod Nano 6th Generation's 0.39 Wh rating.

Step 10



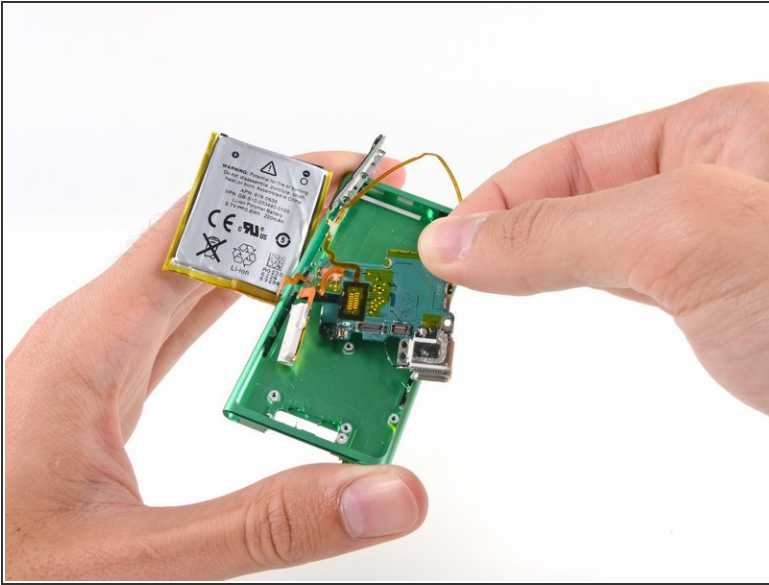
- By now, we are getting pretty anxious to pull out the logic board and get a look at what makes this Nano tick.
- Alas, with all of the peripherals both soldered to the board and adhered/screwed to the case, we're still a couple steps away.
- We're able to unscrew the bracket securing the volume buttons to the rear case and pull out the button cable.

Step 11



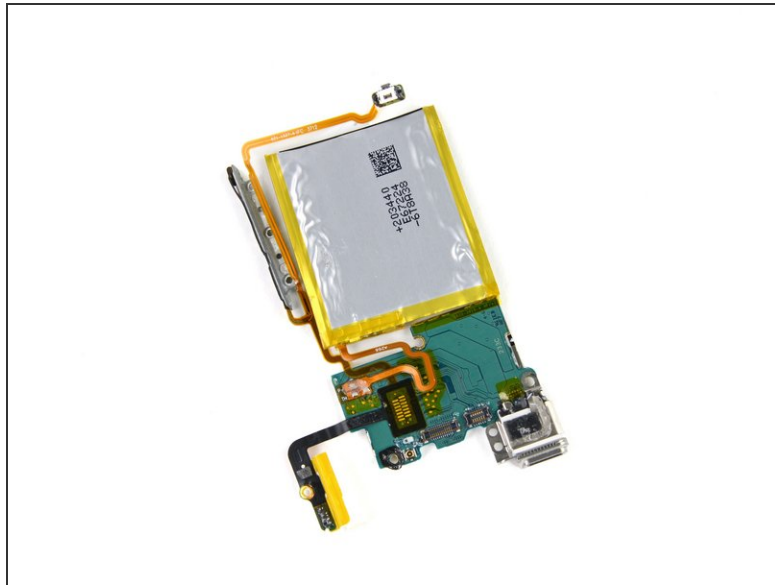
- Putting Bluetooth 4.0 in the iPod Nano means putting a Bluetooth 4.0 antenna in the iPod Nano.
- We found this Nano's Bluetooth antenna easy to remove with a plastic opening tool—provided you've already got the case open.
- Bluetooth connectivity in the Nano allows you to access your music wirelessly with Bluetooth-enabled speakers, headphones, and car stereos.

Step 12



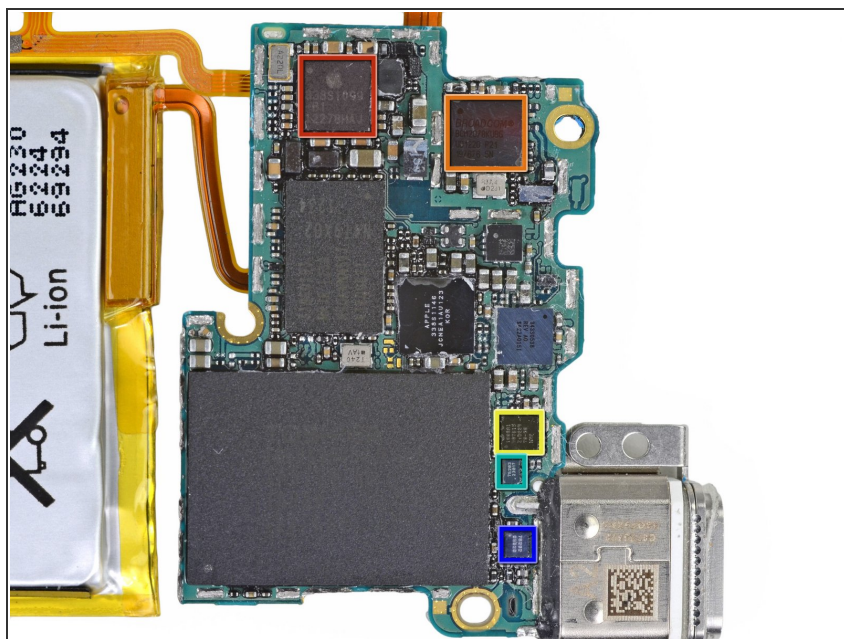
- After enough poking and prying to earn ourselves certification as plastic surgeons, we finally gently yank out the logic board!
- As in the [iPod Touch 5th Generation](#), many of the important components—including the battery, Lightning connector, and volume controls—are soldered to the logic board.
- With the logic board gone, the rear case is left all alone with no friends to keep it company. [It's not easy being green](#), you know.

Step 13



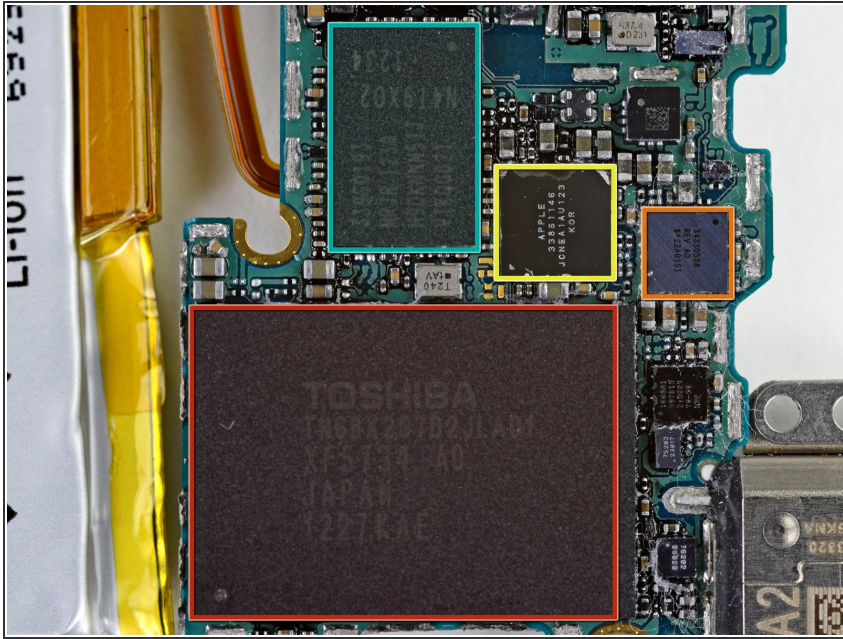
- Pulling out the logic board really feels like pulling out the entire iPod—the battery, button cable, Lightning connector, and headphone jack all come with it.
- On the flip-side we found an intriguing fibrous tape covering the EMI shields on the ICs. It's probably there to insulate against contact with the rear case.

Step 14



- A rundown of the ICs on the logic board:
 - Apple 338S1099
 - Broadcom BCM2078KUBG Bluetooth + FM radio
 - NXP Semiconductors 1609A1
 - 75203 23017
 - 75292 98820

Step 15



- Even more ICs:
 - Toshiba THGBX2G7D2JLA01
128 Gb (16 GB) NAND flash
 - Texas Instruments [343S0538](#)
touchscreen controller
 - Apple 338S1146
 - 339S0193

Step 16



REPAIRABILITY SCORE:



- iPod Nano 7th Generation Repairability: **5 out of 10** (10 is easiest to repair).
- An easy-to-open case only requires unscrewing two screws and a plastic opening tool.
- Only standard Phillips #00 screws are used—no security or pentalobe.
- The LCD and digitizer glass are not fused together, allowing replacement of either component separately.
- "External" screws hidden behind the antenna mean less adhesive holding down the display assembly.
- The battery, Lightning connector, button cable, and headphone jack are all soldered to the logic board.
- The battery is adhered to the back of the display assembly.

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