



Nintendo 3DS Circle Pad Joystick Replacement

Is your 3DS not responding correctly to your...

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INTRODUCTION

Is your 3DS not responding correctly to your Circle Pad inputs? Replace the bottom joystick mechanism and get moving again.

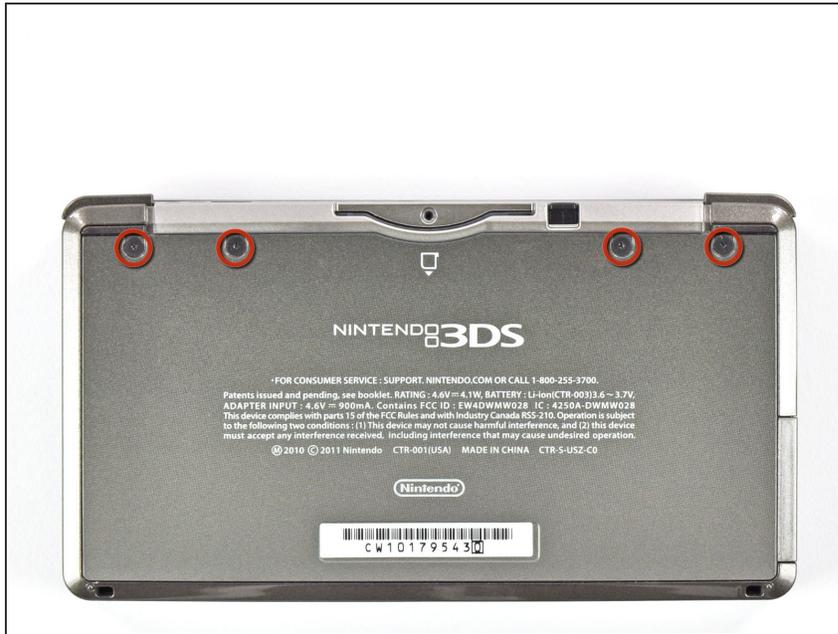
TOOLS:

- [iFixit Opening Tool](#) (1)
- [Spudger](#) (1)
- [Phillips #00 Screwdriver](#) (1)

PARTS:

- [Nintendo 3DS \(2011\) Circle Pad Control Board Assembly](#) (1)
- [Nintendo 3DS Circle Pad Joystick](#) (1)

Step 1 — Back Cover



- Unscrew the four Phillips #00 screws along the top of the back cover.

i The screws are held in place by locking washers, and will not come out of the back cover.

! The comments section is full of unlucky souls who will tell you that the screws here through step 4 will strip incredibly easily. Press down fairly hard, and go slow.

Step 2



- i Hold the device in one hand and turn it over.
- Grab the top edge of the back cover with your opposite hand so that the cover does not fall back into place.
- i Flip the 3DS over again so that the back cover is facing up.
- Pull the back cover up and away from the rest of the device to remove it.

Step 3 — Battery



- Insert a plastic opening tool into the notch in the lower case above the battery.
- Pry the battery up with the plastic opening tool.
- Grab the top edge of the battery and lift it out of the lower case.

Step 4 — Lower Case



- Remove the nine 6.3 mm black Phillips screws from the lower case.
- ⚠ These screws will strip very easily unless you use the correct size bit. Apply pressure to the screws while turning to avoid stripping them.
- Remove the 2.4 mm silver Phillips screw above the game cartridge slot.

Step 5



- Lift the bottom edge of the lower case off the rest of the 3DS.

⚠ There are still two ribbon cables connecting the mother board to the case, so be sure not to pull the lower case all the way off.

- Use a plastic opening tool to pry the shoulder button ribbon cables off their sockets on the motherboard.
- Remove the lower case from the device.

Step 6 — Circle Pad Joystick



- Remove the two 7.7 mm Phillips screws securing the back of the Circle Pad to the motherboard.

Step 7



- Use the flat end of a spudger to pry the back of the Circle Pad off the motherboard.
- Lift the Circle Pad joystick off the motherboard and lay it on its back so that the ribbon cable connector is accessible.

Step 8



- Use the flat end of a spudger or your fingernail to flip up the retaining flap on the Circle Pad ribbon cable ZIF socket.

⚠ Be sure you are prying up on the hinged retaining flap, **not** the socket itself.

- Lift the Circle Pad joystick off the motherboard.

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