



# Super Nintendo Entertainment System Controller Teardown

In this guide we take a look at the SNS-005, and tear it down into its basic components.

Written By: Foxlet



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## INTRODUCTION

This time we take a look at a classic part of retro gaming; the SNES (Super Nintendo Entertainment System) Controller. Often said to be one of the best designs of Nintendo's controllers, we'll tear it down to see exactly what makes this tick.



### TOOLS:

- [Essential Electronics Toolkit](#) (1)
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## Step 1 — Super Nintendo Entertainment System Controller Teardown



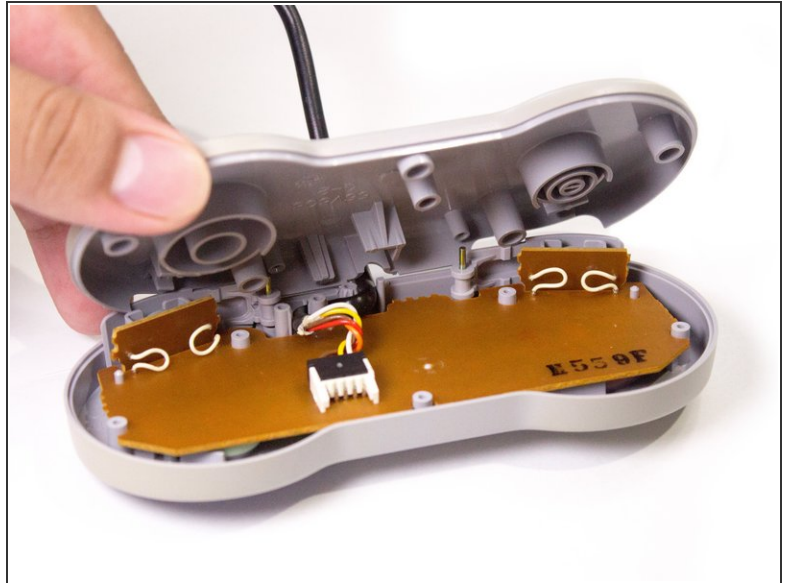
- It's your classic Super Nintendo controller.
- Notably, it's a wired controller (same as most of the controllers of the era), and has a very simple layout.
- The design is often called a "dogbone", due to the shape of the lower part.

## Step 2



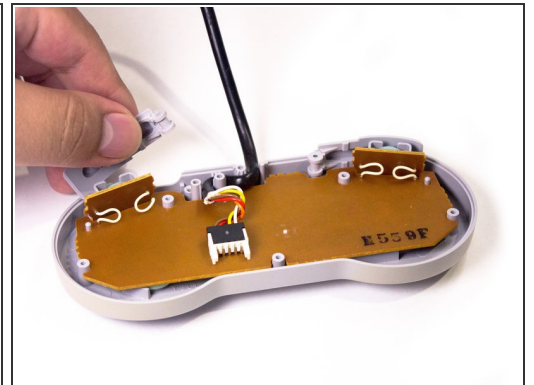
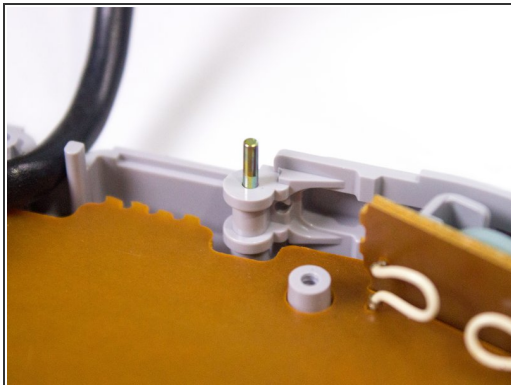
- Nintendo, unlike the Control Deck counterpart, did not use custom screws in the controller, therefore it's very easy to open and clean.
- We remove the 5 Phillips screws on the back of the controller.


## Step 3



- Open... the... controller.

## Step 4



 There are two metal rods that we have to take care of before removing the rest, otherwise they might get lost.

- We remove the two shoulder buttons.



## Step 5



- Now we can get onto the board! We first remove the cable from the slack poles.
- After that, it's only a matter of lifting the board out.

## Step 6



- Onto the rubber pads that represent the buttons, we'll have to remove those too.

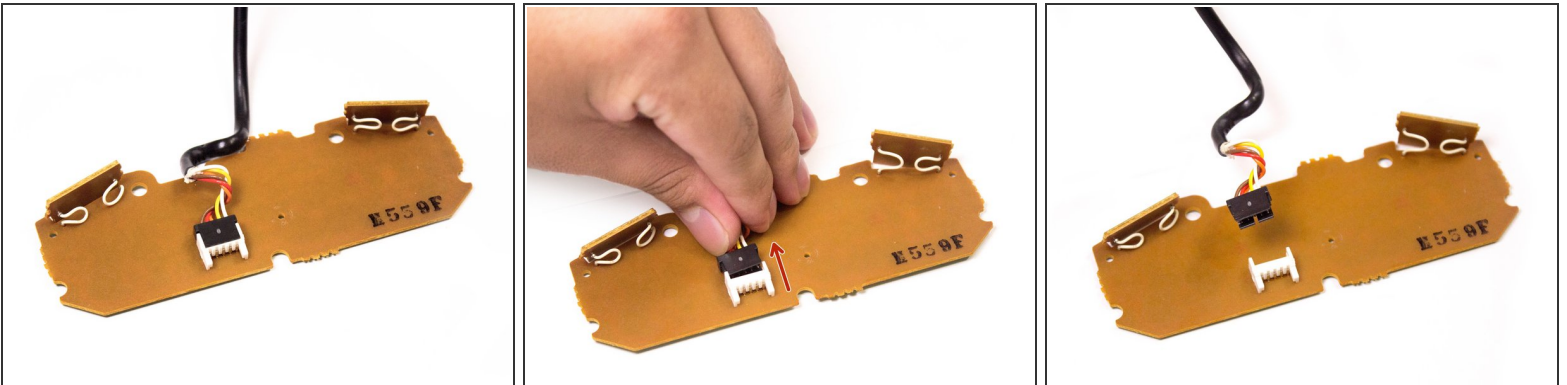
⚠ Many of these older controllers might have delicate rubber pads, they should be handled carefully.

## Step 7



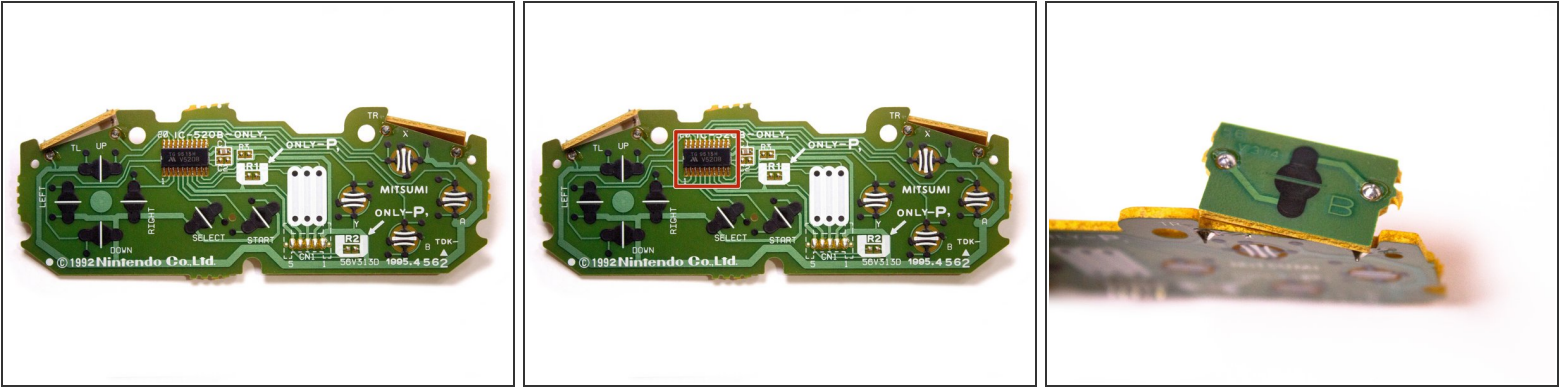
- Inching closer, we get to the shoulder button's rubber pads.
- We can finally remove the remaining plastic buttons from the D-Pad and face button areas.

## Step 8



- The board itself has the controller cable attached, we can remove that too.
  - ⓘ Not all controllers have a removable cable. Some models, such as the SNS-102, have soldered-on cables.
- ⚠ We make sure to pull away from the connector, and not up! It might be a little difficult depending on how long it's been attached.

## Step 9



- The SNES Controller board features a number of pads as well as a chip.
- The chip on the board is a 12-bit shift register, used to multiplex all the button signals on the controller into a more budget-friendly connector.

## Step 10



- Finally, we can see all the innards that make this little controller work.
- Maybe we should play a few rounds of Super Mario World...