

Replacing Digitizer on iPad 2

I thought I would share my experience in replacing a quite badly cracked digitizer screen on my iPad2.

I bought a screen, black bezel, and tool kit from **ZEETRON**. It came in very good condition well packed, and when installed worked very well. The screen comes with a metal spudgin for separating the digitizer from the iPad, The other tools were really unnecessary as I already have them.

So I used the metal spudgin, small screwdriver and X-Acto knife, plus a few old credit cards for separation purposes.

I looked at a number of text/picture guides and videos – all available on the internet.

The job took me about three hours – patience and care being the main ingredients!!

When viewing the Internet guides (**you must review these guides – before starting**) the one thing missing was a good description of the antennas and switch electrics that one must not damage. I also found that starting in the right place is also important. I attach a photo with captions of the iPad with the LCD screen and digitizer removed. The antenna and on/off electrics are identified.

In removing the digitizer I started at step 1 and finished at step 6. Note: because the digitizer was broken I was able during step 2 to cut the digitizer connecting cable and in step 6 heat the right side so that I could bend the digitizer back (like opening a book) following some heat treatment on the right hand edge, so I didn't have to put a blade in that area).

I was worried about a number of aspects of digitizer removal:

1. **How much heat to apply.** I used a workshop heat gun and found that about 20 seconds was enough over about a 4" strip. I also shielded the adjoining area that I did not want to heat, with some wooden strips.
2. **How to avoid damaging antenna and on/off switch electrical connections.** The problem was I had no idea what they looked like. The antenna turned out to be 0.5 inch wide black strips, and as long as one got the spudgin between the antenna and the digitizer there was no problem. By carefully lifting the digitizer one can see the start of the antenna. Don't try to separate from the glass until you can see quite clearly what you are separating!! If you pre heat and bend back the digitizer in step 6 (assuming that you have cut the digitizer connector ribbon) you will not have to come into contact with the on/off volume electrical stuff. Even if you have to use a separator – heat and care will do the trick..
3. **How wide is the adhesive that sticks the digitizer in place.** On the right side of the iPad the adhesive is about ¼" wide for the whole length. On the

left side it is 1/4 " for the upper part, and 1/2" for the lower part. The bottom left is 1/4". The top is mainly 1/2".

4. **Black bezel.** Although one can reuse the bezel it is better to replace it. Looks better. Replacement is not difficult.
5. **Cleaning off glass shards and old adhesive.** I found that an X-Acto Knife with a chisel type blade did an excellent job. I also used the sticky side of masking tape to pick up minute shards of glass.

That's it. Not overly difficult. Make sure you have a good light. I used a light with a magnifying glass in it - useful at times. This is the first time I have attempted anything like this - I am sure I can do it again, and without the tools it cost \$40.

Dick..Grimshaw

iPad 2 Digitizer Screen Replacement

Cellular and GPS antenna

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Step 3

Step 4

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lcd screen connector

Step 1

Digitizer connector

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Step 5

WIFI Antenna

