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LIMB FROM LIMB —

iFixit tears new iPhones apart, finds they're pretty easy to fix

Big phones, big batteries, relatively big repairability scores.

ANDREW CUNNINGHAM - 9/19/2014, 10:23 AM

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[Enlarge](#) / The iPhone 6 Plus, exploded.

When you want to know more about the stuff inside your phone without actually taking it apart, you can count on iFixit to make the sacrifice for you. Late last night, the site began (and eventually completed) its teardowns of the new [iPhone 6](#) and [iPhone 6 Plus](#), revealing slightly more detailed information about the insides of both devices, as well as how difficult to repair they'll be if you happen to break them.

Like the iPhone 5 and 5S, the first step toward dismantling an iPhone 6 is to remove a pair of Pentalobe screws flanking the Lightning port, then lifting up the screen with a suction cup. The TouchID button on the 5S relied on a cable routed between the display and the bottom of the phone, and would-be repairers had to be careful not to sever this while taking the phone apart. Both iPhone 6 models integrate this cable into the display assembly, removing one more potential point of failure.

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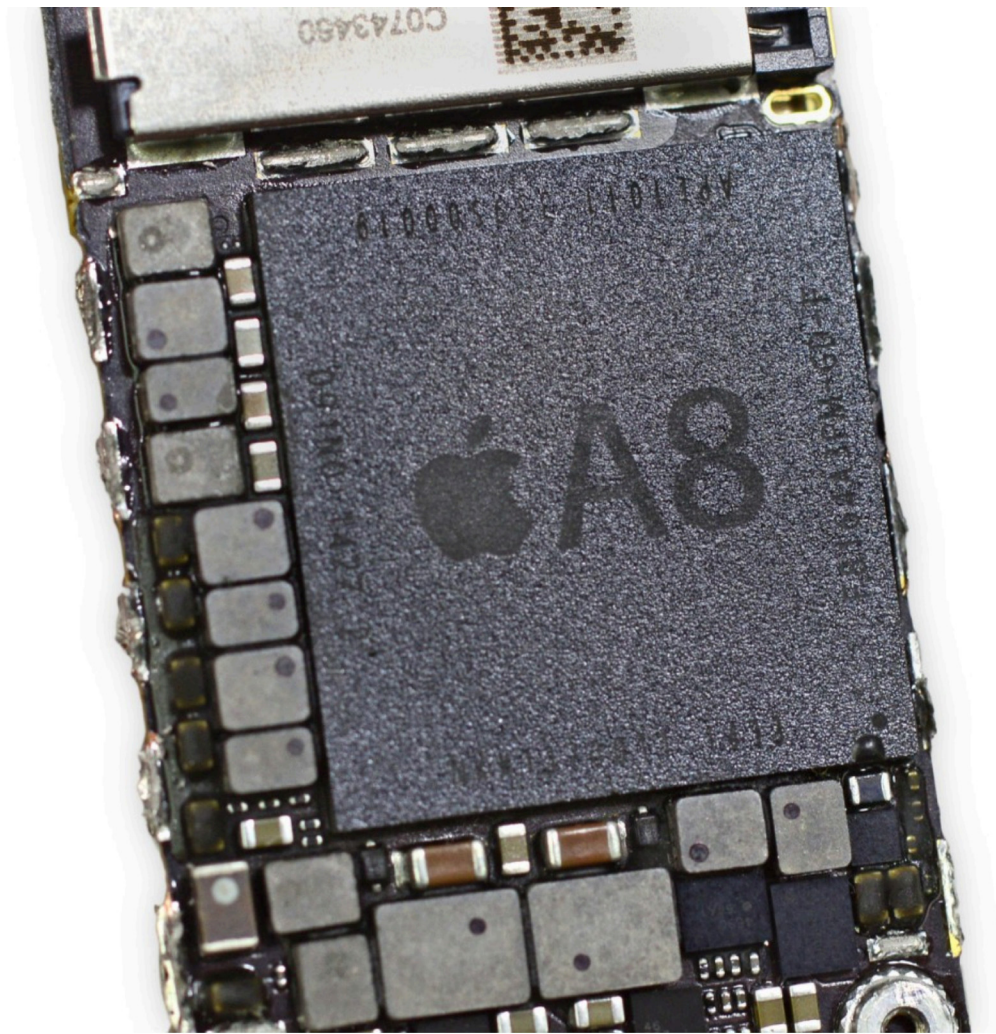
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Once opened, both phones prove to be substantially similar—the 6 Plus has a larger 2915mAh battery, while the 6 has an 1810mAh version, but this is the chief difference. Both phones include a Qualcomm MDM9625M LTE modem and WTR1625L transceiver, which collectively provide faster 150Mbps LTE speeds and wider support for different LTE bands (an additional WFR1620 chip provides carrier aggregation). The Apple A8 SoC is (still) paired with 1GB of RAM. The expected NFC, Wi-Fi, and M8 motion coprocessor, along with other power management and touch controller chips, are all present and accounted for.

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[Enlarge](#) / The Apple A8.

Both phones receive a "repairability score" of 7 out of 10, tied with the iPhone 5 for the best iPhone repairability score and miles ahead of the most recent iPads and iPod Touches (2 and 3 out of 10, respectively). While screws and retention clips are all that's holding the display to the body of the iPhones, the iPads and iPod Touches use a substantial amount of glue to hold everything together. While glue can help make products thinner and less prone to coming apart, removing it requires a heating pad and a lot of patience. iFixit knocks points off the iPhones' scores for use of Pentalobe screws and Apple's unwillingness to publish repair instructions for use by the general public, but people in [the aftermarket iPhone repair business](#) will be happy to know that the new phones aren't any more difficult to get into than older versions.

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jayfehr wrote:

Are pentalobe screws really a drawback any more? You can pick up pentalobe screw drivers for \$2 on Amazon.

iFixit definitely likes to harp on that one. Perhaps not coincidentally, you can also buy them from iFixit (although their price is closer to \$10).

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Andrew is a Senior Technology Reporter at Ars Technica, with a focus on consumer tech including computer hardware and in-depth reviews of operating systems like Windows and macOS. Andrew lives in Philadelphia and co-hosts a weekly book podcast called [Overdue](#).

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