

DIY Fix Broken iPod!

by [bryceronie](#) on June 21, 2007

Table of Contents

intro: DIY Fix Broken iPod!	2
step 1: Easy does it	2
step 2: careful	3
Related Instructables	3
Advertisements	3
Customized Instructable T-shirts	3
Comments	3

intro: DIY Fix Broken iPod!

If you have a broken ipod , with a business card and five minutes it will be fixed!

I enjoy instructionables that are easy to do , short to complete, and will work for anyone!

!!Please VOTE for me so I can win a prize!!

This is a common problem among many, many people that have a warranty that has expired.

Now you could just send it back to apple to get a new one, but if your warranty expired, like mine did, they wont give you a new one. You need to fix this pretty 350\$ piece of apple!!

Instead of having a nice paperweight (hopefully you didnt throw yours out) , you will need these with three things before starting:

1. a flathead screwdriver
2. a broken ipod and 5 minutes
3. a new and or old, but crisp, business card

p.s. No memory loss either, all songs, data, ect will still be on the iPod.



Image Notes

1. lol

step 1: Easy does it

The first thing is to take the iPod apart.

This is not a big deal, there are little plastic holds around the iPod, and the flat head screwdriver will allow you to pry it open at the plastic parts.

(see pic)

Once completed, you can just snap the ipod back together so it looks exactly the same, just dont get too frustrated if it takes a few minutes to get the first clip.

Use a MICRO flat head screw driver. Go in from the side as shown in the demo, but to get it started angle the screwdriver down so that it slides in between the plastic and metal, then take a bigger sized micro screw driver to open it the rest of the way.



Image Notes

1. This is the blue sponge inside. The folded up business card slides on top on the sponge.



step 2: careful

When all the plastic parts are un-snapped , you can pull the ipod apart an inch or so , you only need to do one more step Here is where this gets neat:

Fold the business card twice. So it is still springy.

Put the folder business card in the iPod on top of the blue sponge that is inside.

shut and snap the iPod back together.

So now it your iPod is back to normal, and all you needed was a folded business card!!

The blue sponge needed a little more pressure over time.

Hope you enjoy ! Digg to get maximum iPods fixed lol



Related Instructables



Add INTERNAL Bluetooth Capability To Your iPod 4G by fstedie



Make an iPod Video Projector by tantraad



getting music off your fancier newer ipods (windows XP) by teeson



Microdrive Madness: \$15 solution for your extra microdrives by Brennn10



How to repair bad sectors on an iPod (3G) by kurt.hewett



360 Degree Panoramas on your iPod by DainiusGB



To Install Themes On A Jailbroken iPhone or iPod Touch by tugharris



Install RockBox on an iPod (easy steps) by tin701



Comments

50 comments [Add Comment](#)

[view all 139 comments](#)



ronchaboncha says:

does anyone know if there is a trick to fixing the input jack on the ipod (specifically the video ipod). i can listen to music, but not through both sides of the headphones, only one (and yes, i've made sure that its not my headphones)

Nov 9, 2008. 10:38 PM [REPLY](#)



savageegg says:
totally worked! thanks

Nov 9, 2008. 6:44 PM [REPLY](#)



prof1988 says:
A good web site is <http://www.ipod-repair-guide.com> to fix one's ipod. It has a easy to understand guide one can download to fix an ipod.

Oct 29, 2008. 7:13 PM [REPLY](#)



jpr2x says:
It Didn't Work....But Thanks Anyway.
Interesting Trick For When My Next One Inevitably Breaks...Apple Have A Habit Of Making Things Break Just Outside Their Warranty.

Oct 29, 2008. 3:42 PM [REPLY](#)



windster says:
I had to sign up just to say HOLY SHIIIIIIITTTTTT! This actually worked and I am so thrilled.

Oct 25, 2008. 9:56 PM [REPLY](#)



antgrant02 says:
Now I have to admit. I thought that this was BS. I almost went out and bought the 120GB because i was so desperately lost without my ipod. But wanting to give my 5th Gen, 30GB another shot at life, I figured i'd give this fix a chance. I am VERY impressed and seriously applaud the genius that figured this out. My ipod works wonderfully. And to think...i almost chucked it outta the window cuz i thought it was dead for sure...LOL. Shame on me. :-)

Oct 20, 2008. 4:56 AM [REPLY](#)



ah1 says:
I've had a broken ipod for ages and fixed it in seconds with this. Brilliant tip. Thanks.

Oct 19, 2008. 8:59 AM [REPLY](#)



sprx41 says:
This is an amazingly easy fix. My iPod has been broken for about 2 1/2 years and I had mostly moved on, but had some rare albums and music from a past computer on my iPod I didn't feel like losing. So HAPPY this worked. Thanks.

Oct 6, 2008. 7:46 PM [REPLY](#)



royalbombshell says:
I tried the tutorial & it didnt work for my 30 gb video ipod, Im not sure if maybe i put the business card on the right side. Can someone reply and say whether its the side facing the back face plate or the side where the parts are. I wished this would have been successful, Im so disappointed..help please

Oct 4, 2008. 7:35 PM [REPLY](#)



sagenhoney says:
Thanks for posting. Your tutorial/solution was quick and painless. Not only do I have a working ipod, I also have all my music.

Oct 3, 2008. 5:15 PM [REPLY](#)



kawale17_ says:
BETTER & FASTER IDEA BUT WITH DATA LOSS!!! ----- This could be good but I didn't had a screwdriver and business card so I just pressed OK and PLAY for 5 sec to get in disc mode and then opened iTunes and pressed RESTORE in my iPod main menu. THAT SIMPLE;)

Sep 25, 2008. 6:40 AM [REPLY](#)

Sorry 4 my english i'm from Poland



lazy annie says:
I can't believe it worked! My ipod was even making a clicking sound when I shook it, like there was a screw loose. In popped the card, and whammo! It works! Thanks so much.


Sep 18, 2008. 11:14 PM [REPLY](#)





ChrisMusician says:
Thanks dude! My U2 special has been broken for 3 years! My fiance saw it in our Goodwill pile and found your site. I popped it open and it works! Brilliant!


Sep 6, 2008. 6:57 PM [REPLY](#)



 **Tertullian** says: Sep 5, 2008. 6:09 PM [REPLY](#)
Ha, it worked!!!! Can't believe it was that simple! My 60gb iPod died some months back and now it's ALIVE! (a well timed lightening strike and clap of thunder would be good at this point). Very impressed, many many thanks!


 **Awomeseries** says: Aug 20, 2008. 9:52 PM [REPLY](#)
does it work for all types? ive got a broken ipod mini 1st gen, so i don't want to pay s**t loads of money on it, when its a peice of crap


 **sarahh** says: Aug 16, 2008. 9:29 AM [REPLY](#)
Absolutely brilliant! Just about to spend MORE money on Apple - but no, you saved the day!!
MANY thanks!!!!


 **tdelap** says: Aug 15, 2008. 6:07 PM [REPLY](#)
You ROCK Dude! I was just about to go buy my wife a new iPod (\$249 - 80GB model) and I thought... What the heck! I tried the business card and it TOTALLY worked! UNBELIEVABLE!





bryceronie says: Aug 16, 2008. 7:29 AM [REPLY](#)
I am glad you replied about this !
You are very welcome !!
I was suprised it worked as well , but I thought what the heck too since it didnt work might as well try!


 **Gendreavus** says: Aug 13, 2008. 11:12 PM [REPLY](#)
Any idea if the same general principle will work on an iPod Mini? I know that opening it will be very different (I'll look for an instructable on that), but is that same sponge pad thing in a mini?

 **cutiebitsofangel** says: Aug 5, 2008. 2:06 PM [REPLY](#)
how would i do this on a 16 gb ipod touch??? Im got over heated is this good for that?????


 **Ian+Siobhan** says: Jul 22, 2008. 2:45 PM [REPLY](#)
Ok,
So I cannot yet attest to whether this works or not yet, as I've only just done it...and this ipod is the Bin-Laden of ipods....It gives the sad ipod face almost all the time...and then it pops up here and there as to say " f-u...I'm still here" and then goes sad again. I originally found a way a while back that was just as crude, but worked well for me for a little while.
Basically open the ipod the same way, but give the HD a good shake or smack (ONLY if you really have a "no hope" ipod.). I swear it worked for a while, brought it right back to life. What I've read is that the little arm the swipes the HD to read it will over time get stuck with age, and all it needs is a good shake....anyway it worked for a bit in my case but im looking for a more permanent solution. Just popped the card it, working just fine :) let's see if it stands the test of time!
Thanks keep up the good work!

 **kjohannese** says: Jul 22, 2008. 5:38 AM [REPLY](#)
OMFG, this is unreal, it really works. My 60G ipod g4 had been in my drawer for at least a year, now it works perfectly. How did you find out this little wonder?

 **devzin98** says: Jul 19, 2008. 9:38 PM [REPLY](#)
This is one of the craziest fix scams I've ever seen....BUT IT WORKS!!!!!! I have no idea why...I have no idea how...but it definitely works. My 4th Gen iPod has worked on and off for about a year now, and I was about to cave in and buy a new one because it just stopped working all together (sad iPod face). This little trick somehow fixed the problems. THANKS!!!

 **eupoth** says: Jul 12, 2008. 10:04 AM [REPLY](#)
tried it, kinda worked, wouldnt close and didnt totally fix the problem. Where, exactly, did u put it? can you perhaps take a picture of the paper inside the ipod

 **magnet1** says: Jul 3, 2008. 6:30 PM [REPLY](#)
Thank you, amazing fix!

 **roverspinne** says: Jun 26, 2008. 7:51 AM [REPLY](#)
Does the card go between the blue sponge and the wires, or the wires and the other side?



bryceronie says:
Thank you all for commenting!

Jun 25, 2008. 1:50 PM [REPLY](#)

I am glad it has worked for so many of you!!



heffng says:
I'm so glad I found your link! This works great. My old iPod is new again. Thanks! You rock!!

Jun 24, 2008. 9:44 PM [REPLY](#)



terrie33 says:
omg i spent like 500 bucks on my 80GB ipod and i was about to throw it out I LOVE YOU this totally saved me

Jun 21, 2008. 9:35 PM [REPLY](#)



bisrae says:
This is fantastic... thank you very much. I was about throw my iPod out but it's now fixed. Cheers.

Jun 18, 2008. 3:49 AM [REPLY](#)



Teslacoil says:
=D, dude I can't thank you enough! I was following your steps and when I got to then end and it said fold the buissness card underneath, I was thinking is this some kind of practical joke? But it totally worked! I love you I love you I love you. And to think I was about ready to pay 200 bucks to fix it!

Jun 17, 2008. 1:09 AM [REPLY](#)



XaiofDren says:
Does anyone know how to fix a 2nd gen nano iPod that has been short-circuited? If not, do you know what I can do with it (salvage, etc.)?

Jun 15, 2008. 11:15 PM [REPLY](#)



mexican_pride213 says:
what type of ipod is this anyways it doenst look normal
i have a 2nd generation nano.....

Jun 15, 2008. 1:59 PM [REPLY](#)



theredproject says:
Worked for me. I also unplugged and replugged the HD cable. I had quite a bit of trouble getting the case open, though. These pix helped me a bitThese pix helped me a bit, but the general idea is go slow, and then at some point it will all just pry open.

Jun 14, 2008. 2:24 PM [REPLY](#)



tater killer says:
i dont have a ipod but this worked with my meizu miniplayer(its been dead for 6 months)all i did was reconnect 2 cables and plug it in to charge

Jun 11, 2008. 10:48 AM [REPLY](#)



Coolio212121 says:
Yeah I have the newest iPod nano so how do I do that?

May 30, 2008. 8:42 PM [REPLY](#)



expo86 says:
i was very skeptical..... but i have no idea why this worked, but it totally did!!

May 23, 2008. 9:25 AM [REPLY](#)



GODDESSDIKE says:
PLEASE help...any suggestions? FOR IPOD MINI FIX? always unhappy face! :(

Apr 27, 2008. 1:09 PM [REPLY](#)



pmac93 says:
didn't work for me.....the hard drive is all clicky-clicky when i start it up

Mar 17, 2008. 7:37 PM [REPLY](#)



Gjdj3 says:
Try this.

Apr 12, 2008. 1:17 PM [REPLY](#)

Open up the ipod.

Find the hard drive. It's the big silver thing.

(Gently) Remove the blue rubber padding from the hard drive.

(Gently) Pull out the thing that connects to the hard drive. (You'll need to put it back later).

Put the rubber thingys back on the hard drive.

Put the connector back into the hard drive.

Explanation

Sometimes when your iPod takes a lot of abuse the connector becomes loose and needs to be put back in.



pmac93 says:

yeah i took it apart a few times trying to fix it but ended up just replacing the hard drive.....you can use zune hard drives for the iPod video....i got one and it was a third of the price apple wanted

Apr 12, 2008. 3:29 PM [REPLY](#)



bryceronie says:

Thank you all for the comments !
I have so far been the winner of two contests! (Two t-shirts and a nice engraved stapler.)
I appreciate and read all comments, I am glad to save you all some \$\$\$!!

Nov 4, 2007. 5:12 PM [REPLY](#)



Gjdj3 says:

What contests did you win?

Apr 12, 2008. 1:19 PM [REPLY](#)



big_perm360 says:

With nothing to lose, I was about to open my ipod and see what kind of damage I could do. Googled tricks to just open it... read this and said "why not"
Happened to have guitar pick and business card at my computer desk. In 2 minutes my ipod was back from the dead. If you have other ways to save \$300 in 2 minutes, I'm all ears.

Apr 9, 2008. 9:22 PM [REPLY](#)



katehalm says:

Can anyone help? Replaced ipod mini 2nd gen battery. Charged up fine, but wheel not functioning. Tried opening and reseating everything, no joy. All help welcome.

Mar 15, 2008. 8:31 PM [REPLY](#)



nipchee says:

Hey, you probably broke your mini's click wheel ribbon cable when you pried the connector out of the main board. I found a work-around that works for me, and the cost is pretty sweet (the price of a business card).

Mar 24, 2008. 12:55 PM [REPLY](#)

Yes, yet another fix for an ipod that can be accomplished w/ a business card:
<http://forums.ipodlounge.com/showthread.php?p=1233668#post1233668>



spamerhi says:

it works

Mar 21, 2008. 9:39 PM [REPLY](#)



woofboy111 says:

I thought this was too good to be true. I tried this out with no luck. I still get the sad face...

Feb 22, 2008. 6:56 PM [REPLY](#)

Oh well, at least I've seen the inside of an ipod first hand now!



brichards says:

Would this work for my ipod mini?

Feb 14, 2008. 7:01 AM [REPLY](#)

if so how do I open it?



bookmonkey123 says:

Just opening it a little bit and then shutting it again has fixed the sad ipod face for me, twice.

Jan 25, 2008. 5:51 AM [REPLY](#)

Thanks!

[view all 139 comments](#)