



iPhone 7

iPhone 7 Plus

Apple Recycler Guide

June 2023

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About This Guide

Apple Recycler Guides provide guidance for electronics recyclers on how to disassemble products to maximize recovery of resources. The guides provide step-by-step disassembly instructions and information on the material composition to help recyclers direct fractions to the appropriate material recycler.

To conserve important resources, we work to reduce the materials we use and aim to one day source only recycled or renewable materials in our products. A key path to reaching that goal is resource recovery from end-of-life electronics.

Disassembly procedures are intended to be performed only by trained electronics recycling professionals. The recycler is responsible for independently evaluating and ensuring compliance with all applicable environmental, health, and safety laws related to the work. These include but are not limited to laws relating to the management, handling, shipping, and disposal of the outputs of this work as waste and laws in place to ensure the health and safety of all employees who support this work.

For questions or feedback about this guide, email contactesci@apple.com.

Note: This guide may show images from other similar models, but the procedures are the same.

Identification

You can find the model number on the back of the iPhone.



Model numbers:

A1660, A1661, A1778, A1779, A1780, A1784, A1785, A1786

Directive 2012/19/EU Annex VII Components

Directive 2012/19/EU Annex VII requirements apply to the following substances and components.

Substance/Component	Apple Part Name	Removal Instructions
Printed circuit board if the surface is greater than 10 square centimeters	Main logic board	Follow steps 1–10
External electric cables	Power adapter, charge cable	Follow step 1
Battery	Lithium-ion polymer battery	Follow steps 1–6
Cover glass and liquid crystal display (LCD) cell if the surface is greater than 100 square centimeters	LCD cell	Follow steps 1–5
No further substances or components as listed in Annex VII		

Safety Considerations

The recycler is responsible for independently evaluating all activities undertaken by its employees to perform or support the work and ensuring compliance with all applicable health and safety laws related to the work. These include but are not limited to laws relating to the health and safety of all employees who perform or support this work. The recycler is also responsible for evaluating the workspace and ensuring that the area in which the work is to be undertaken is designed using ergonomic best practices and meets all ergonomic requirements to ensure the protection of its employees.

Personal Protective Equipment

Personal protective equipment should be worn during the entire recycling process.



Wear hand protection



Wear protective clothing



Wear eye protection



Wear foot protection

Battery Safety

This product uses a lithium-ion polymer battery. Before beginning any disassembly work, ensure that a safe working procedure for handling lithium-ion batteries has been established, which could include discharging the batteries so that they can be more safely managed. The following considerations may also be included:

- Remove anything from your person that could conduct energy, such as jewelry and watches, to avoid electric shock to yourself or the logic board.
- To avoid the potential for thermal runaway and the release of potentially noxious fumes, don't puncture, strike, or crush lithium-ion polymer batteries or devices powered by them.
- Don't throw, drop, or bend the battery.
- Don't expose the battery to excessive heat or sunlight.
- Don't use tools that are sharp or conduct electricity.
- Keep your workspace clear of foreign objects and sharp materials.
- Dispose of batteries according to local environmental laws and guidelines.

Workspace safety guidelines

- Use heat-resistant gloves and safety glasses.
- Keep a sand dispenser within arm's reach (2 feet or 0.6 m) on one side of the workstation, not above the workstation. The dispenser should be a wide-mouthed, quick-pour metal container with a flip-top lid or tray that contains 8–10 cups (1.9–2.4 L) of clean, dry, untreated sand.
- Keep the battery at least 2 feet (0.6 m) from paper and other combustible materials.
- Work in an area with adequate ventilation.

Handling a thermal runaway

If you notice any of the following signs, a thermal runaway is likely underway, and you should act immediately:

- The lithium-ion polymer battery or a device containing one begins to smoke or emit sparks or soot.
- The battery pouch suddenly and quickly puffs out.
- You hear hissing or popping sounds.

Don't use water or an ABC/CO₂ fire extinguisher on a thermal runaway battery or a device containing one. Water and ABC/CO₂ fire extinguishers will not stop the reaction.

Do smother the battery or device immediately with plenty of clean, dry sand, dumped all at once. Timing is critical; the faster you pour all the sand, the faster the thermal runaway will stop.

Do leave the room for 30 minutes if the thermal runaway causes any irritation.

Do wait 30 minutes before touching the battery. Wear heat-resistant gloves and safety glasses to remove the battery from the sand, or use a touchless thermometer to measure the battery temperature. Only touch the battery when the event has finished.

Do dispose of the damaged battery or device (including any debris removed from the sand) according to local environmental laws and guidelines.

Hazard Warnings



Broken glass hazard



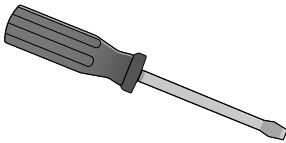
Rechargeable battery hazard



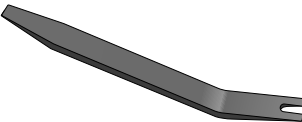
Chemical exposure hazard

Recommended Tools

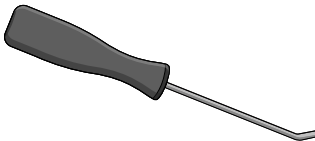
Flat-blade screwdriver



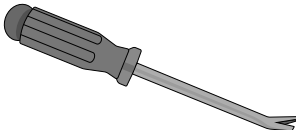
Miniature plastic pry bar



Miniature pry bar



Nail-pulling screwdriver



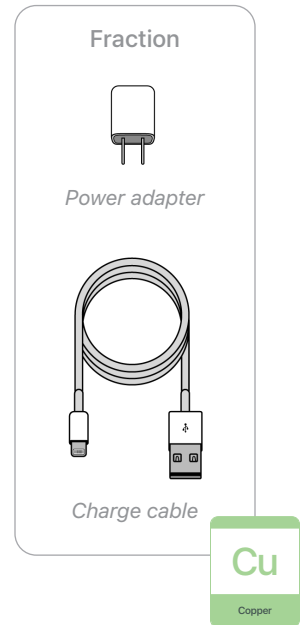
Tweezers



Disassembly Instructions

1. Remove the power adapter and charge cable.

- » *Ensure that the iPhone is turned off.*
- » *Unplug the power adapter. Disconnect both ends of the charge cable.*



2. Remove the display.

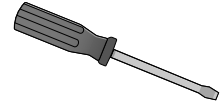


Broken glass hazard

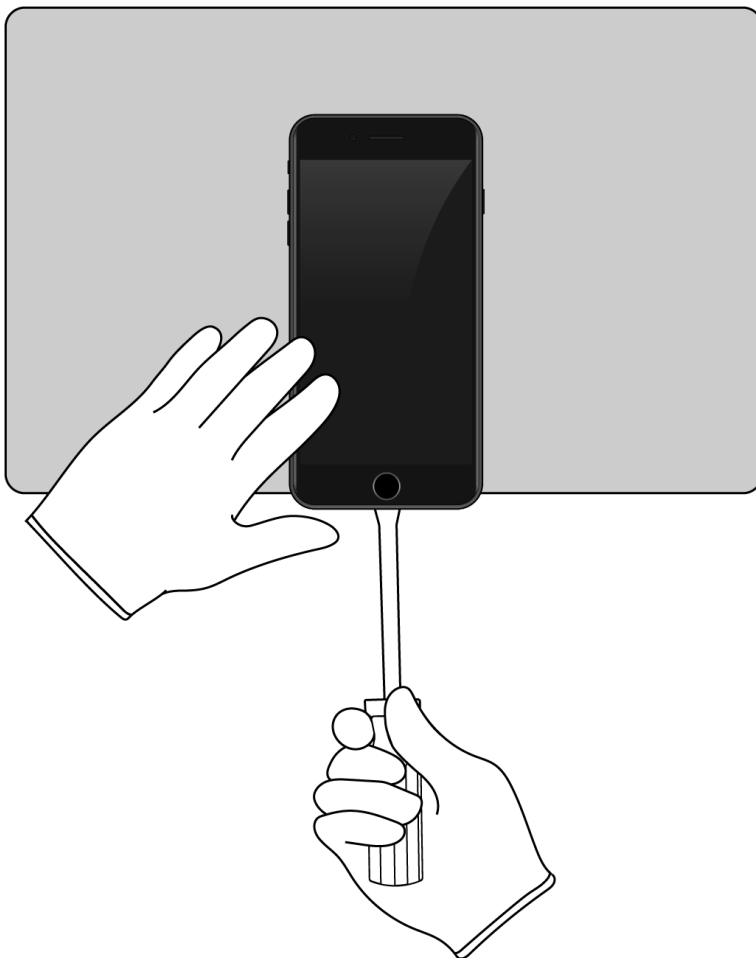


Chemical exposure hazard

Tools Used

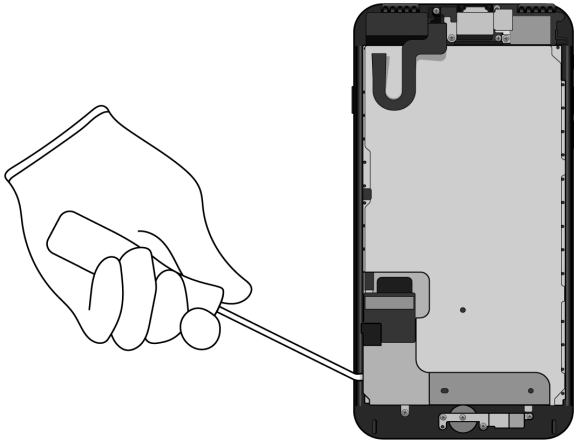


- » *Hold the iPhone at the edge of a counter with the display faceup and the Lightning connector toward the counter edge.*
- » *Insert the tool tip into the Lightning connector. Push the handle down to pry the display from the enclosure.*



- » *Remove the display by hand. Set the enclosure aside.*

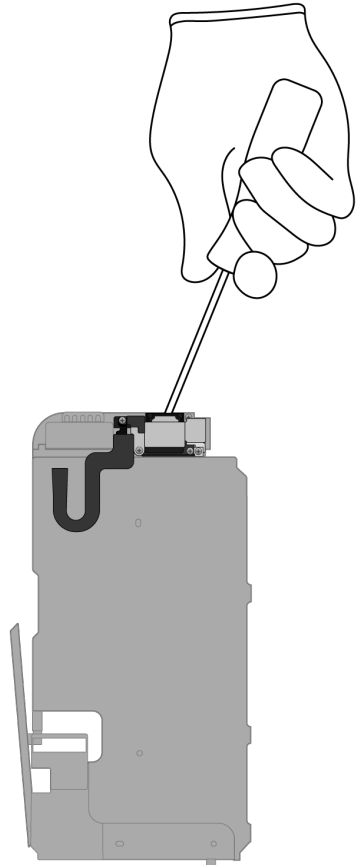
- 3.** With the display facedown, pry off the display cover. Set the LCD cell aside.



Tools Used



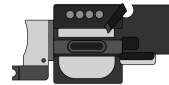
4. Pry the receiver and the front camera off the display cover.



Tools Used



Fraction



Receiver

REE

Rare Earth Elements

Fraction

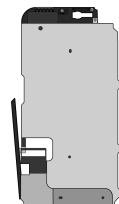


Front camera

PMs

Precious Metals

Fraction

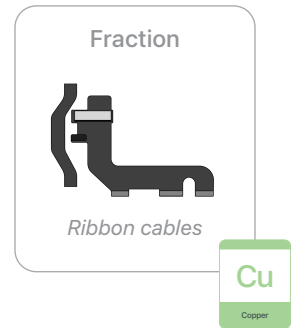
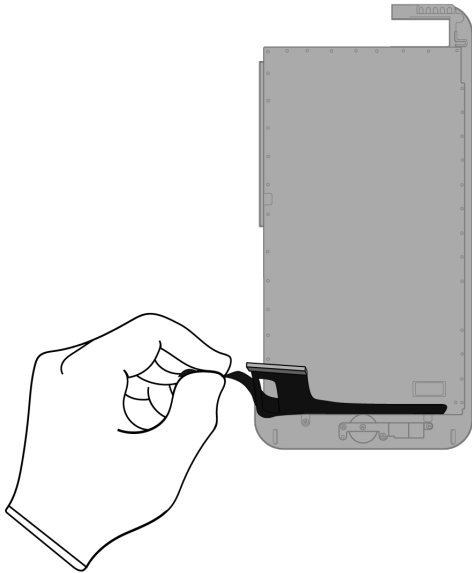


Display cover

Fe

Ferrous

5. On the LCD cell, pull off the ribbon cables.

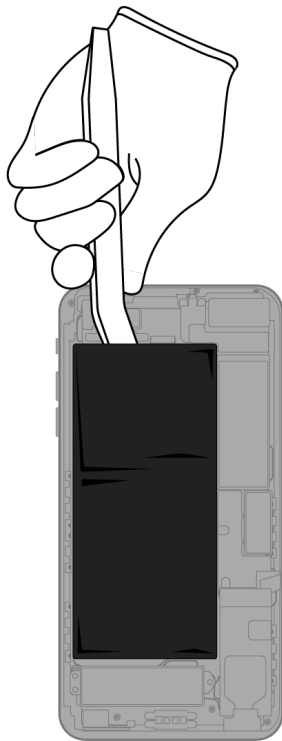


6. Inside the enclosure, carefully remove the lithium-ion polymer battery.



Rechargeable battery hazard

- » *Using tweezers, gently peel one of the battery adhesive tabs away from the battery.*
- » *Twist the tab around the tweezers until white adhesive appears. Continue twisting until the entire adhesive strip is removed.*
- » *Repeat this process for any remaining battery tabs. Continue with the miniature plastic pry bar if needed.*



Tools Used



Fraction

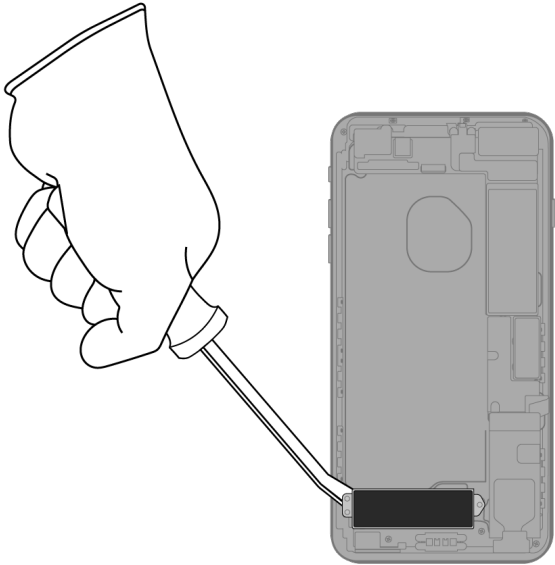


Lithium-ion
polymer battery

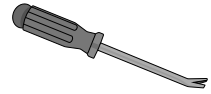
BT

Battery

7. Pry off the Taptic Engine.



Tools Used



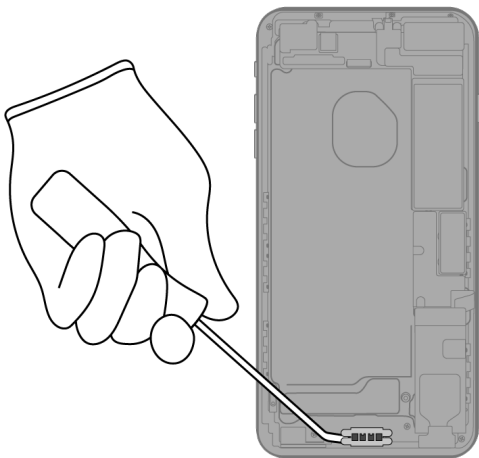
Fraction



Taptic Engine



8. Pry off the Lightning connector.



Tools Used



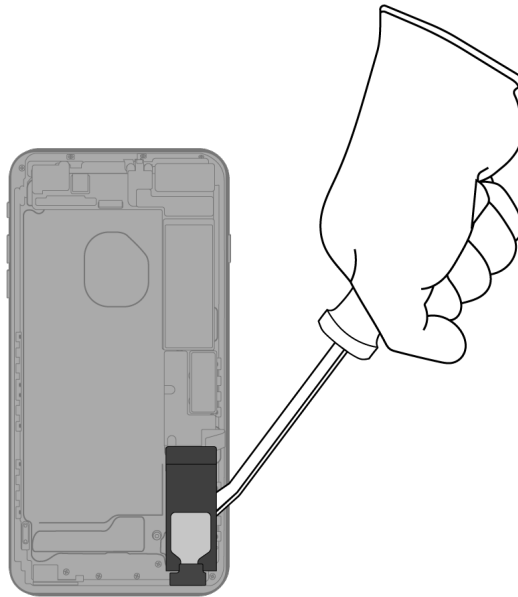
Fraction



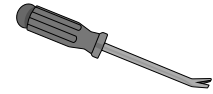
Lightning connector



9. Pry off the speaker.



Tools Used



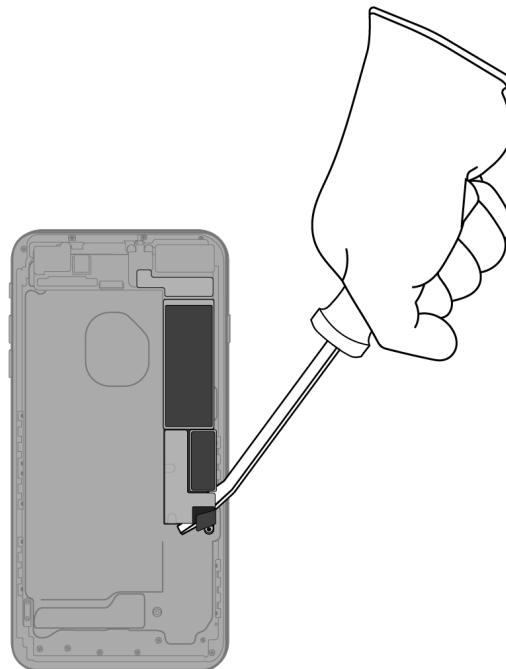
Fraction



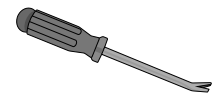
Speaker

REE
Rare Earth
Elements

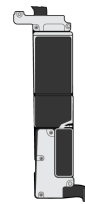
10. Pry off the main logic board.



Tools Used



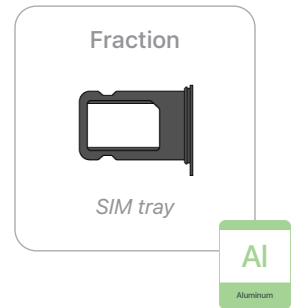
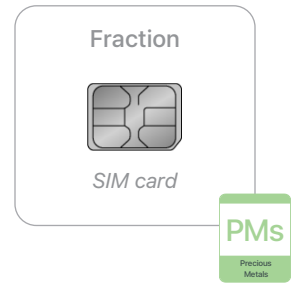
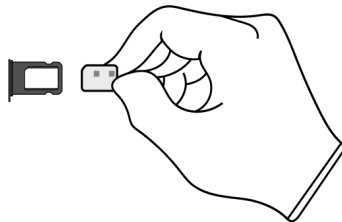
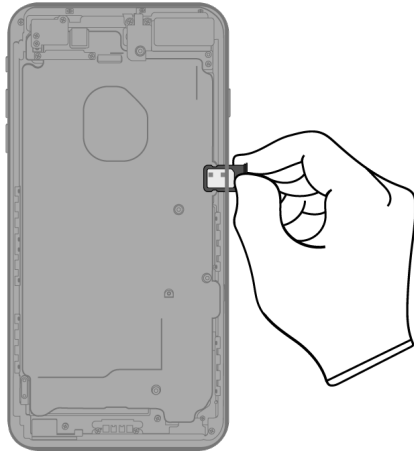
Fraction



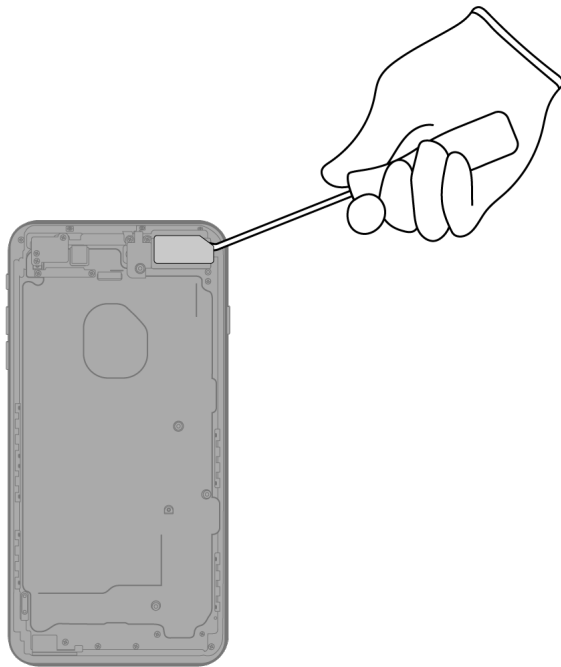
Main logic board

PMs
Precious
Metals

- 11.** Remove the SIM card and SIM tray. Separate the SIM card from the SIM tray.



12. Pry off the rear camera cover.



Tools Used



Fraction

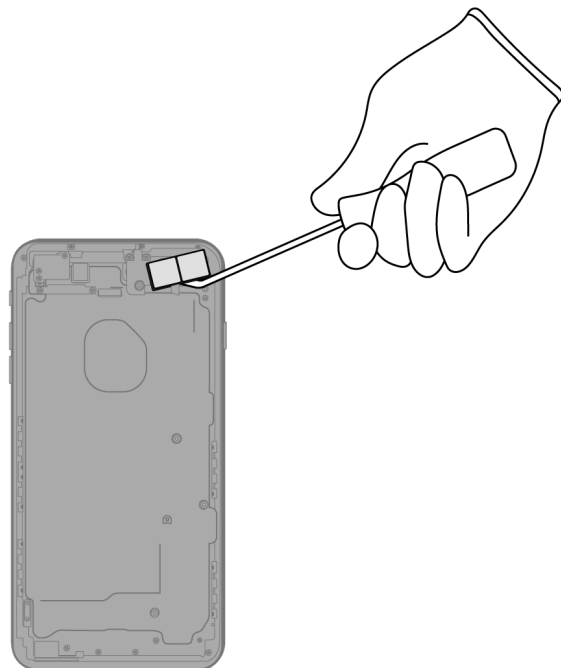


Rear camera cover

Fe

Ferrous

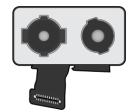
13. Pry off the rear camera.



Tools Used



Fraction

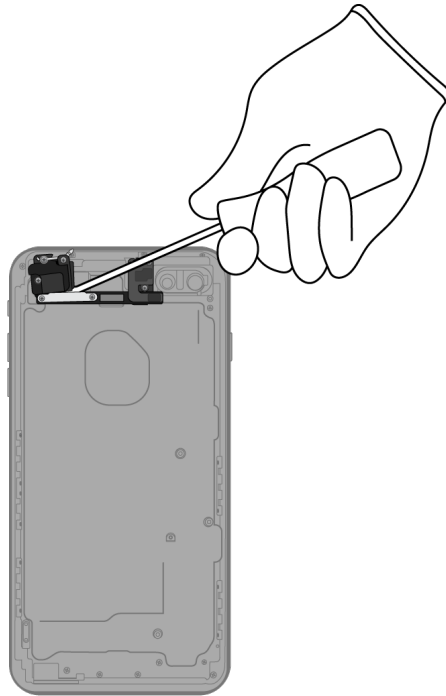


Rear camera

PMs

Precious Metals

14. Pry off the Wi-Fi antenna and strobe.



Tools Used



Fraction

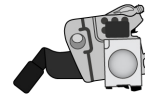


Wi-Fi antenna

Cu

Copper

Fraction

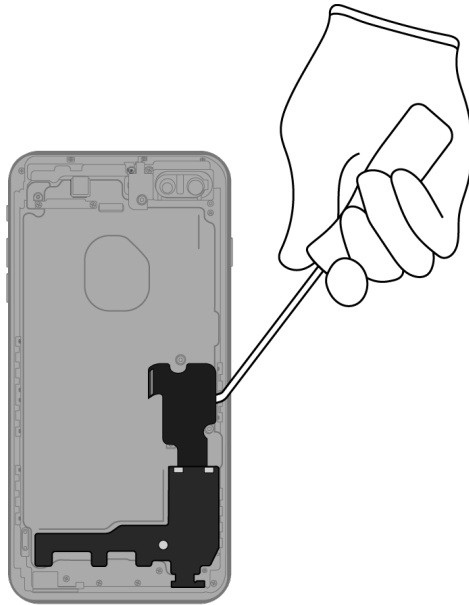


Strobe

Cu

Copper

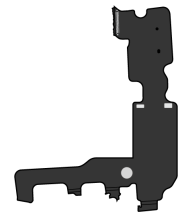
15. Pry off the ribbon cable.



Tools Used



Fraction

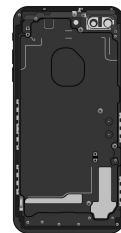


Ribbon cable

Cu

Copper

Fraction








Enclosure



Al

Aluminum

Material Categorization of Output Fractions

All outputs from this process must be managed, handled, and disposed of in accordance with applicable waste laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Waste Framework Directive and its national enactments in Europe.

Fraction	Downstream Processing
<p data-bbox="435 554 570 579">Aluminum</p> <div data-bbox="446 625 553 716">  </div> <p data-bbox="461 728 539 751"><i>SIM tray</i></p> <div data-bbox="440 800 560 1037">  </div> <p data-bbox="451 1054 548 1077"><i>Enclosure</i></p>	<p data-bbox="966 554 1276 579">Primary Target Material</p> <div data-bbox="1081 625 1156 716">  </div> <p data-bbox="927 753 1315 779">Potential Additional Materials</p> <div data-bbox="1029 821 1104 911">  </div> <div data-bbox="1135 821 1209 911">  </div>

<p data-bbox="440 1178 563 1203">Batteries</p> <div data-bbox="440 1249 565 1524">  </div> <p data-bbox="367 1541 634 1564"><i>Lithium-ion polymer battery</i></p>	<p data-bbox="966 1178 1276 1203">Primary Target Material</p> <div data-bbox="1081 1249 1156 1339">  </div>
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Fraction

Downstream Processing

Ferrous



Display cover



Rear camera cover

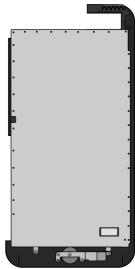
Primary Target Material



Potential Additional Materials



Glass



LCD cell

Primary Target Material



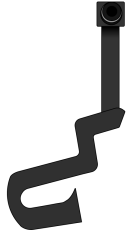
Potential Additional Materials



Fraction

Downstream Processing

Logic Boards



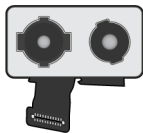
Front camera



Main logic board



SIM card



Rear camera

Primary Target Material



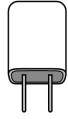
Potential Additional Materials



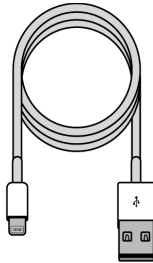
Fraction

Downstream Processing

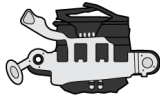
Mixed Electronics



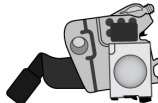
Power adapter



Charge cable



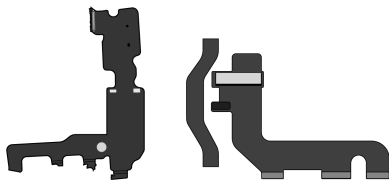
Lightning connector



Strobe



Wi-Fi antenna



Ribbon cables

Primary Target Material



Potential Additional Materials



Fraction

Downstream Processing

Rare Earth Magnets



Receiver



Taptic Engine



Speaker

Primary Target Material



Rare Earth Elements

Potential Additional Materials



Copper



Ferrous



Plastics



Tungsten