

FIRST REMOVE THE BATTERIES! Carefully remove the “Rubber band” (A) from around the case. The adhesive is gummy and messy so take care. I used a knife blade to carefully lift and remove the band ... taking care not to cut the band during the process. There will then be a residue of the adhesive covering a clear vinyl tape around the joint (B).



Next carefully remove the gummy adhesive and the clear vinyl tape from around the seam. This will leave you with a pile of “gunk” (B). Care should be used not to get this mess everywhere ... this would be a good time to use something to clean your hands to keep from smearing this everywhere.



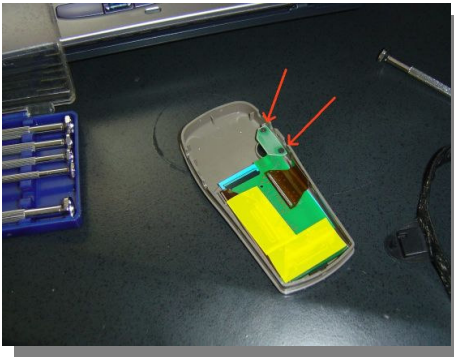
You will now be left with the basic case ... on each side there are two holes exposing the clips that hold the halves together ... and a single hole on the bottom of the unit for a total of five holes. Use a paper clip to gently release the clips and separate the halves. Slowly separate the halves to expose the electronics.



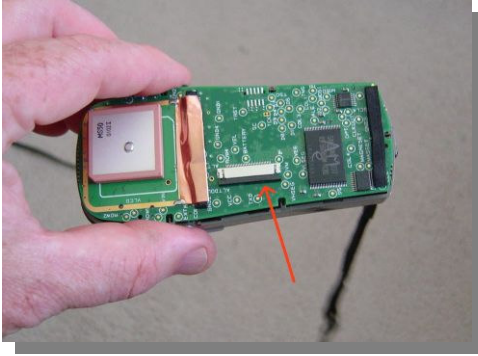
This photo shows the unit laid open. Care should be used in handling the unit while it's open like this. Gentle is the operative word.



Here's the problem area ... access the pressure bar at the areas marked with the red arrows. This will release the ribbon connector from the circuit board.



As shown in the photo by the red arrows ... you will need to remove the two screws holding the LED to the front of the unit. Be careful because under this is the joystick itself. Once off ... clean the contact end of the ribbon with an electrical contact cleaner.



What you want to do now is take the bottom half of the unit with circuit board in place and locating the pressure bar shown to the left by the red arrow ... make sure it is in the open position.

Reverse the process. Insert the ribbon back into the connector. Gently push the pressure bar back in the locked position.

Now comes the tricky part. Holding the halves you will need to replace the LED and secure the two screws you had previously removed. This must be done while being careful not to put pressure on the ribbon connection. It is not easy but can be done. It is critical not to torque or twist this ribbon during the process. A second set of hands will help, but it can be done alone.

Next carefully reassemble the sections aligning the clips and snapping the halves together. To complete the process you will need to seal the joint and the buttons. What I found to work was a high quality vinyl electrical tape ... color is not important ... only that it is flexible and has a good adhesive. You might need to trim the width. I placed the tape on a piece of glass and using a straight edge and a razor knife ... trimmed to the correct width to cover both the joint and the openings for buttons and clips ... while staying inside the recessed area.

Now comes the replacing of the rubber band. Two points ... you will need to reapply a flexible cement to attach it ... and you will need to make sure you properly align the pressure points of the buttons to the actual buttons.

With a little patience you should be able to successfully fix this annoying little problem.