Apple iPod nano Take Apart Repair Manual

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Tools Needed for Take Apart:

Philips head screwdriver (size #00, available from PowerbookMedic.com)
Flat pry tool (such as the iPod Take Apart Tool available from our store)

For all of your iPod needs, visit Powerbookmedic.com

Introduction:

       Welcome to the iPod nano Take-Apart manual. Nanos are small and fragile, so you have to handle them with care. The inside is pretty much one piece including the logic board, battery (which is soldered on), RAM (2 or 4GB), headphone jack, and data port.

       There is one slight difference between the design of the 2GB and 4GB models. The 2GB model in the revisions seen so far have a socketed daughterboard. This allows for easy replacement of the RAM by just removing a couple of screws. The 4GB models have the RAM chip soldered directly to the logic board making it nearly impossible to change RAM chips without the proper soldering equipment. This manual will show a comparison between the two models a little bit later.

Opening the Case:

It is a good idea to stick some tape around the edge of the metal back casing right up next to the groove between the metal back casing and the plastic top case. It is quite easy to slip while you are using your flat tool and scratch the metal case. The tape will help shield the case from most accidental slips. The best place to start is wherever you feel most comfortable. It is recommended to not start near the headphone jack, hold button, and data port.

The trick is finding a tool flat enough to be able to slide between the cases such as the iPod Take Apart tool available on the Powerbookmedic.com website.

If you have an extremely flat screwdriver, small putty knife, x-acto blade, those seem to work best. Sometimes it is good to slip one tool in between the cases to get some room and use another flat tool so you have more of a gap to work with.
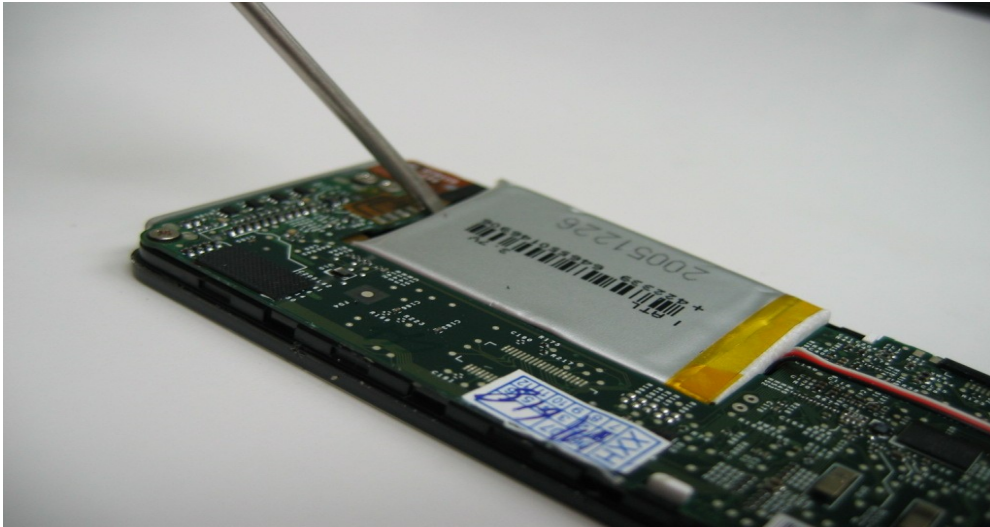

Work your way around gently prying up until the top case pops off. Don't remove the back case with force or you may break some vital internals
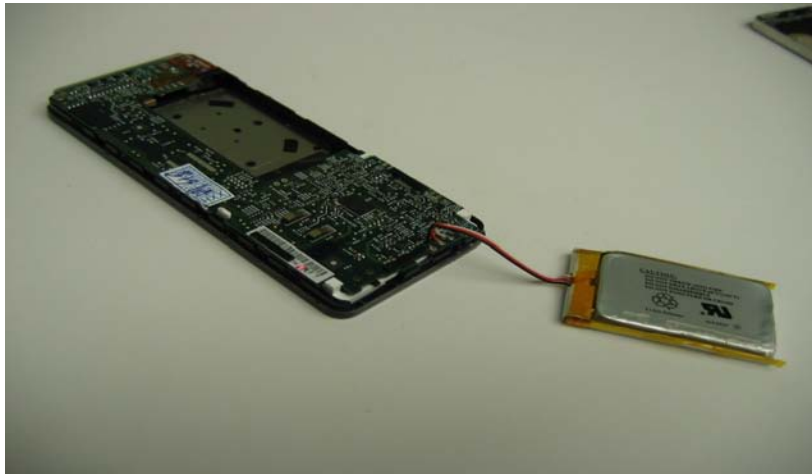

You should now have the back case removed. There aren't any cables connected to the back case. You can now see the back of the logic board.

Removing the Logic Board:

(previous steps required: Opening the Case)

The first step is to dislodge the battery. It is held on by some adhesive along the sides. Just use your flat tool and gently pry up on the battery until it comes loose.
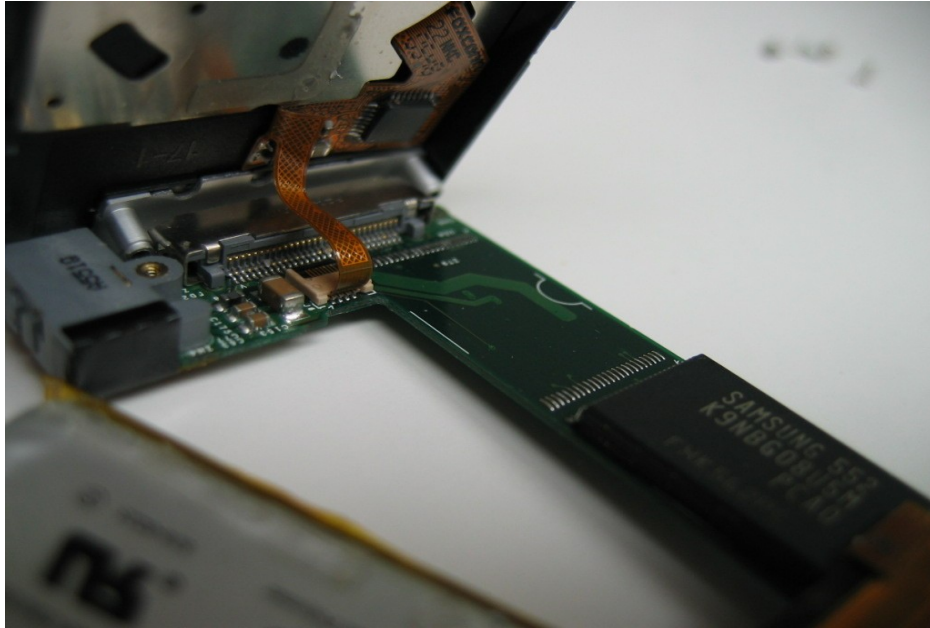

Once it is unstuck, you should be able to just flip the battery out. Be careful with the wires on the battery. They are soldered onto the logic board. If you pull to hard you could rip the cables and have to resolder.

There are four screws that need to be removed on the logic board. There are three near the sync port and headphone jack. They may be covered with a sticker or tape.

The fourth screw is near the middle of the board from top to bottom. It may also be covered by a sticker or tape. Once those four screws are removed, you can begin gently lifting the logic board. Be aware, there are some connections on the underside that can be easily torn.

The picture above shows the clickwheel cable. It is held on by a connector to the logic board. The first step is to flip up the black piece on the opposite side of where the cable is going into the logic board. This will unlock the connector so you can pull the cable out.

You should now be able to remove the front case from the logic board.

Disconnecting the LCD is the same way you disconnected the previous cable. Flip up the black locking mechanism, and gently pull the cable out.

You should now have the LCD freed. At this point you should be done with the disassembly unless you have a 2GB iPod nano. They have one more removable piece.

Removing the RAM module:

(previous steps requires: Opening the Case, Removing the Logic Board)

A 2GB model is pictured above. As you can see there is a daughterboard connected near the sync port. This daughterboard has the RAM on it. There are two screws holding it down.

Remove the two screws and pull up on the module. There may be some adhesive on the board so you may need your flat tool to gently pry up the board.

The daughterboard can now be separated from the logic board. Be careful on the socket connector. You can easily bend pins so remove it as straight up as possible.

The rest of the repairs on the iPod nano would require soldering which will not be covered in this version of the take-apart manual. It may be covered in a later revision if there is a large demand for it.

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