Our first device to be dismantled, the Karma, was chosen because dust had begun to accumulate between the screen and the LCD display.

The first step is to remove the two screws on the base of the Mp3 player. Order is not important this time, but as usual, be careful not to scratch the device.



After the screws are removed and stored safely (in a cup or other such vessel), the next step can be performed. Pinch the dark gray thumb rest near the screen and pull out to the right, to remove it from the device.



Now the innards of the Karma are exposed, you will see another small screw located to the right of the RioStick (the red trackpoint.) Remove it.

This next step is to be performed very **carefully**. Gently wiggle a small flathead screwdriver or device between the two main halves of the Karma. Be careful not to force it too much, or to push it in too far, as this may cause permanent damage. Continue wiggling the wedge, and slowly sliding it down the seam until the two halves totally separate.



**It is important that the battery is not removed at this point.** Doing so will tear the wires and ruin the Mp3 player.

If the battery is lifted *lightly*, you can see the hard drive resting underneath.



**Do not** remove the two screws holding the hard drive together. Notice that there are now two screws sitting *outside* the perimeter of the hard drive, **Not the screws attached to it!!!**

Removing the screws near the edge of the PCB screws will allow the entire PCB-HDD-Battery module to be removed from the case.



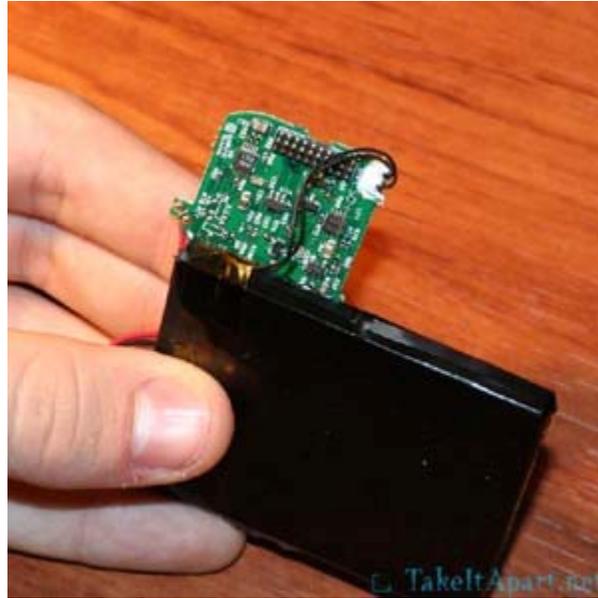The RioStick can now be removed, but it is not necessary to do so.



To remove the battery, *gently* separate the PCB located on the top left from the main PCB. To do this, use both thumbs and forefingers, and pinch the PCB on both sides. Rotate your fingers towards the PCB, so that they push against the main chip and separate it from the main chip. (In effect, use your fingers to pry it up, using the main PCB as the fulcrum.)
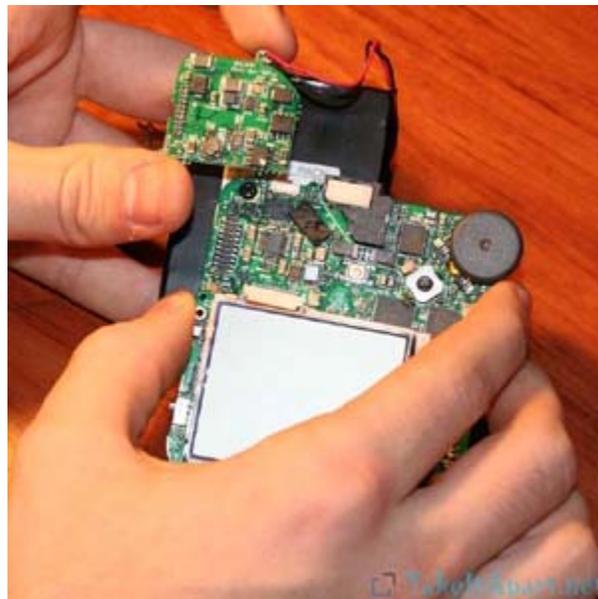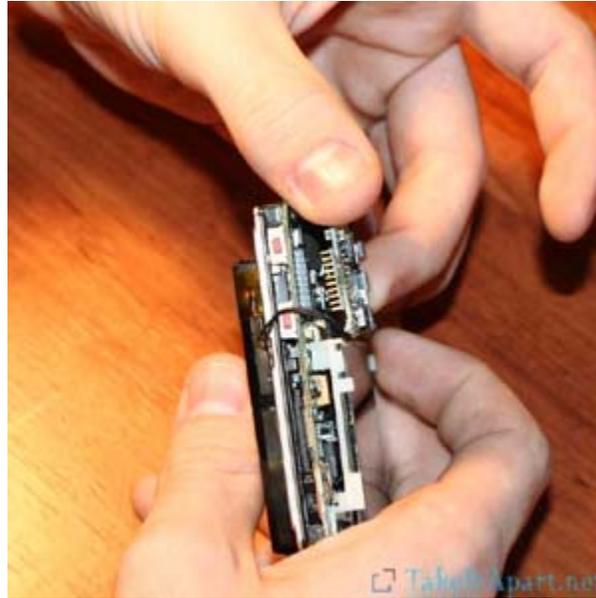
That's it!

To reassemble, align the pins on both PCBs and gently press them together, the rest is pretty easy. **Note: Make sure the hold and volume buttons are properly aligned between the case and the PCB.** If they are not, it will cause damage. Also, **the positioning of the Riostick is important to proper function; it must be replaced in the same way it was taken off**.

When closing Karma's case, the two halves should be first joined at the top, and closed in the same manner used to close a pizza box.



# 5 Comments for 'Rio Karma'

1.

    Sigi

    July 23, 2006 | 11:14 pm

    It should be noted that it's really, *really* important to be careful when removing the bottom half of the casing. I've damaged the lock switch when removing the case, since it's hooked into the gray slider on the case. So take special caution here.

2.

    Sigi

    July 23, 2006 | 11:16 pm

I got that wrong: the slider is on the top half, so the above applies when removing the circuit board from the case.

3.

[Look It Over dot Net » Blog Archive » Good Karma](#)

August 22, 2006 | [12:27 pm](#)

[…] Overall, its a very good hard drive based mp3 player, and I've never had it skip. Its nice to have a good alternative to the iPod everyone already has, and if you can find this one on E-Bay, I highly suggest picking it up. Here is the Karma TakeItApart page […]

4.

Marc

August 27, 2006 | [8:09 am](#)

Hi,
the advice regarding the lock slider is a little late for me, already broke it 😃
Other bad thing happened was that the round button on top came off and I can't fix it short of glueing. Is there any other way?
I have exchanged the 20 GB (broke) for a 40 GB drive which unfortunately is 2,5 mm thicker. Did anybody do this before and get the thing to close again?
Marc

5.

Tymlee

September 7, 2006 | [5:25 pm](#)

IF you Replace the battery with a SONY CLIE NX70VL Battery Pack it will help