iMac Intel 27" Retina 5K Display 2020 Display Adhesive Replacement

Follow this guide to apply a new set of...

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INTRODUCTION

Follow this guide to apply a new set of adhesive strips to your 2020 iMac display.

Removing the display requires cutting through the adhesive around the perimeter of the screen. After the adhesive is cut, it cannot be used to re-seal the display.

The 2012-2019 adhesive strips only have one cutout for the microphone. You will have to make a second cutout for the left microphone.

TOOLS:

iMac Intel 27" Cardboard Service Wedge (1)
Spudger (1)
Tweezers (1)
Ball Point Pen (1)
Scissors (1)
Painter's Tape (1)
Microfiber Cleaning Cloths (1)
Isopropyl Alcohol (1)

PARTS:

iMac Intel 27" (2012-2019) Adhesive Strips (1)

Step 1 — Stabilize the iMac

- Follow these assembly directions to put the service wedge together.

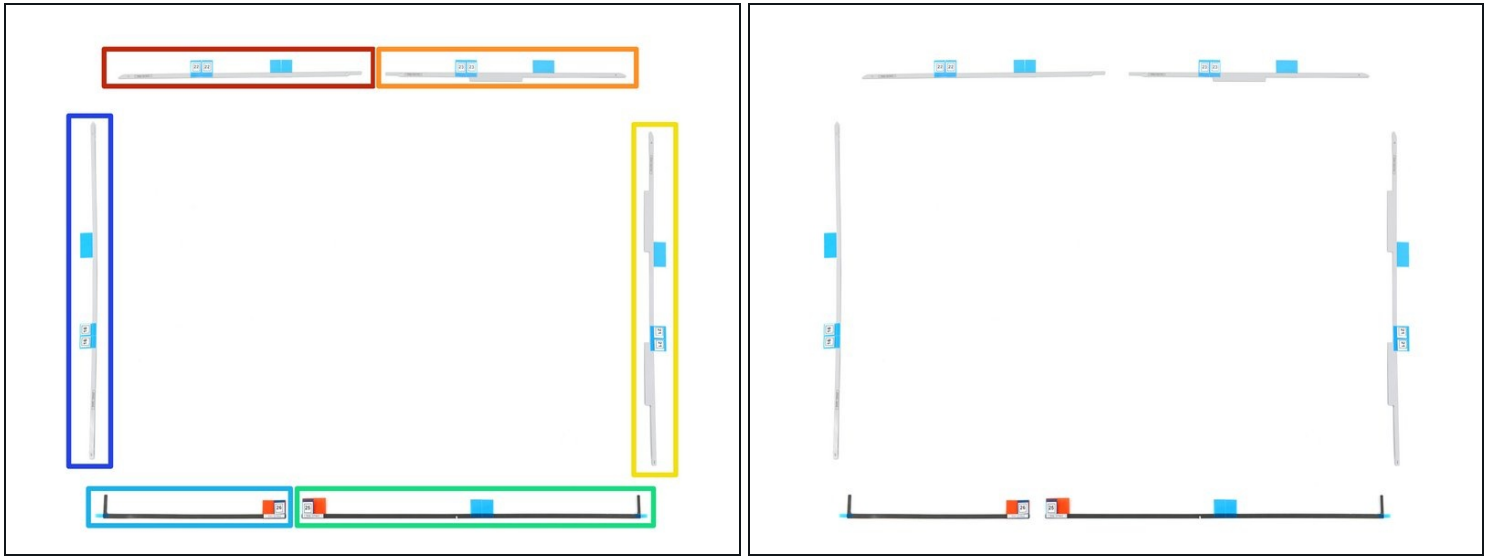- Insert the service wedge between the back of the display and the stand.

- ⚠️ If you are not using a service wedge, the iMac can shift unexpectedly during the repair. You **can** complete the repair without it, but the procedure will be easier with an iFixit cardboard service wedge.

Step 2 — Remove the old adhesive

ⓘ Before you install new adhesive strips, remove all of the old adhesive from the perimeter of the rear enclosure.

- If you are re-using your existing display, you must also remove the old adhesive from the back of the display.

- Peel off the adhesive strips using tweezers or your fingers. Start at the bottom and peel *upward* towards the top of the device.

- After all the old adhesive is removed, carefully clean the surface with 90% (or greater) isopropyl alcohol and a lint-free cloth. Wipe in one direction, not back and forth.

  ⚠️ **Don't skip this step**, or your new adhesive strips may not bond properly, and the display may fall out of your iMac.

Step 3 — Lay out the adhesive strips

- Lay out the adhesive strips to ensure you install them in the correct place:
  - Strip 22 on the top left

  - Strip 23 on the top right

  - Strip 21 on the right vertical

  - Strip 25 on the bottom right, dark side facing up—double check to make sure this strip has the necessary cutout for the microphone

  - Strip 26 on the bottom left, dark side facing up

  - Strip 16 on the left vertical

Step 4 — Install the right side adhesive

- Start with strip 21, which goes on the right vertical edge of the iMac frame.

- ⓘ Before you peel off any backing, line the adhesive strip up along the frame of the iMac to get an idea of where it goes.

- Peel the short piece of backing off the back of the strip.

Step 5

- Insert the tip of a spudger into the hole at the end of the strip where you just removed one layer of backing. Insert the spudger from the side that still has a layer of white backing on it.
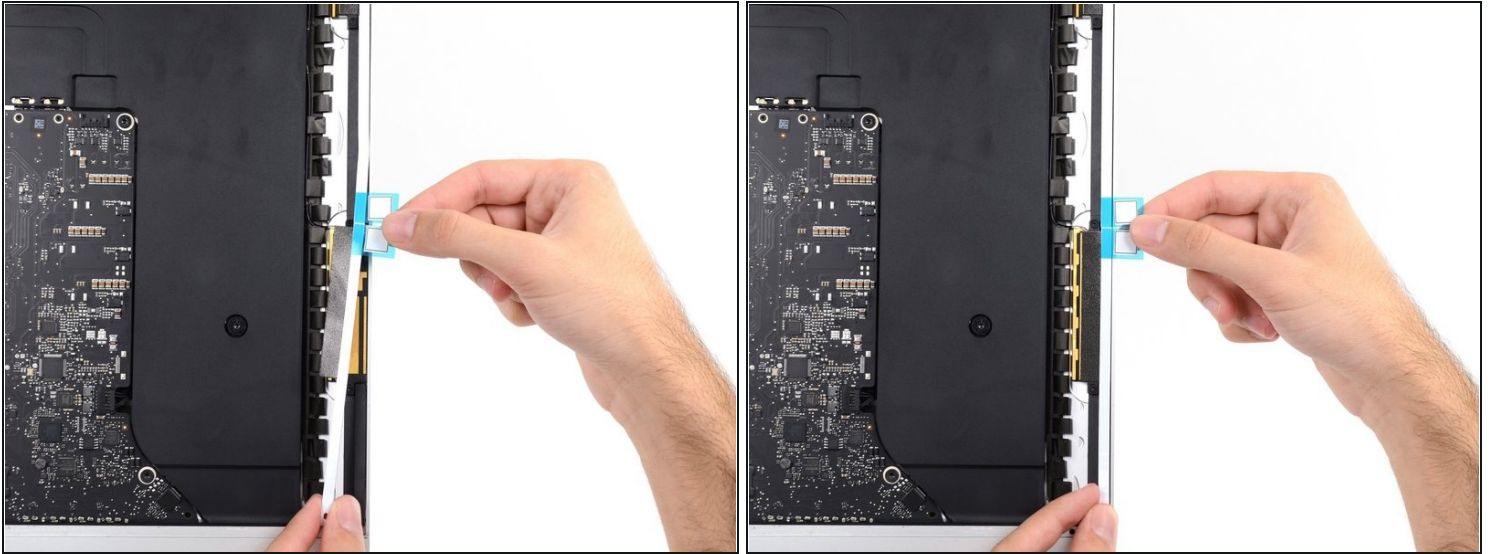
Step 6

- With the spudger still poking through the hole in the adhesive strip, push the spudger tip into the corresponding hole in the frame of the iMac.

- Using the hole and spudger to anchor the position of the adhesive strip, line the strip up against the right edge, gently pull down against the spudger to ensure the strip is taut, and stick it onto the frame.
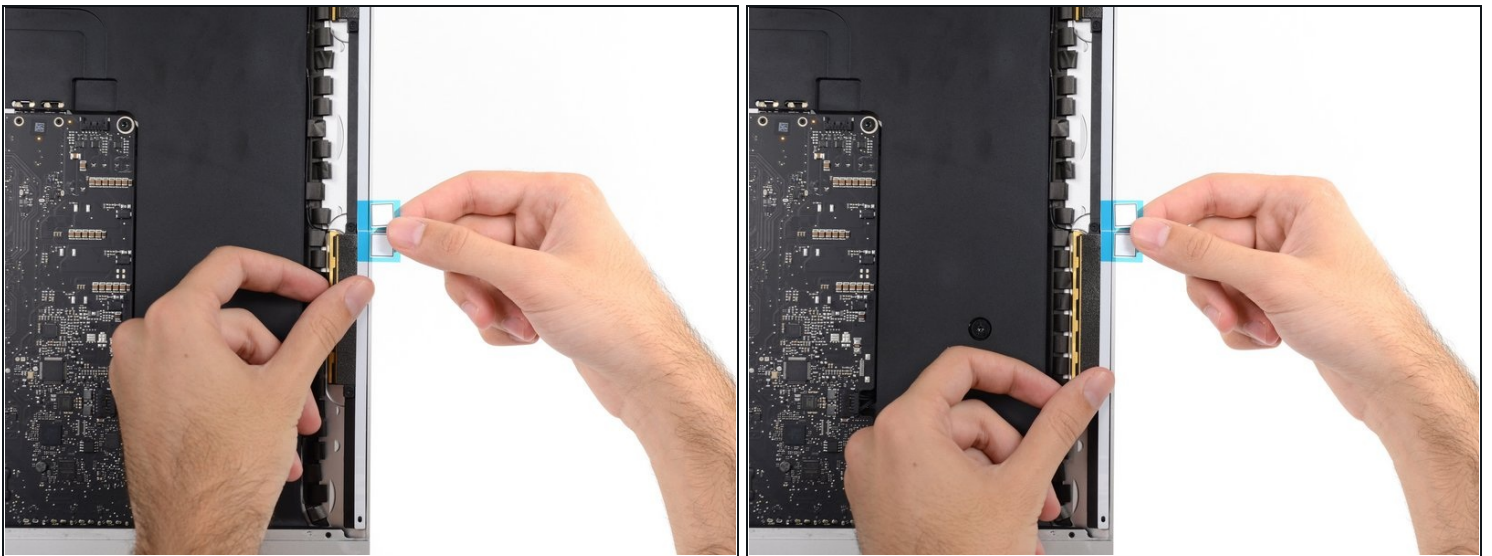
Step 7

- Once you're satisfied that the top half of the adhesive strip is neatly aligned, peel the longer blue piece of backing out from behind the strip.
  - ⓘ If the top half isn't aligned properly, you can carefully peel it up and re-stick it before peeling off the lower backing strip. Be sure to use the spudger tip to anchor the top.

Step 8

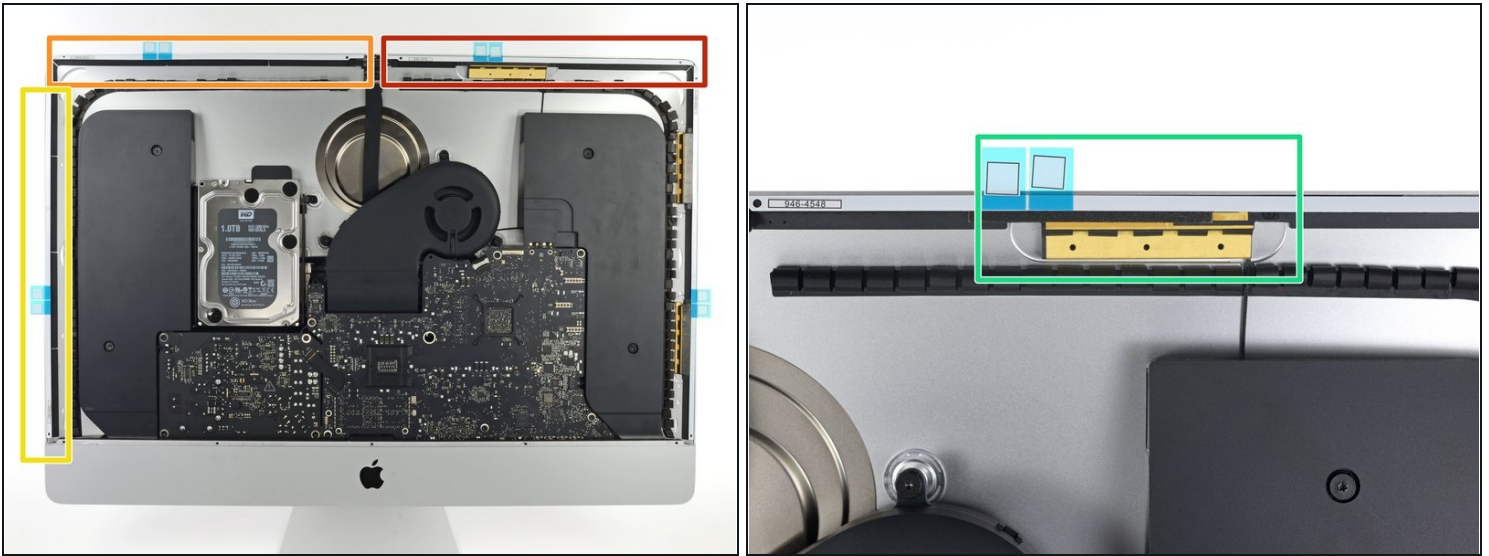- Align the lower portion of the strip with the right edge of the frame, and stick it down.

Step 9

- Use your finger to smooth out the strip. Make sure it is neatly aligned with the right side of the frame and that it sits flat.
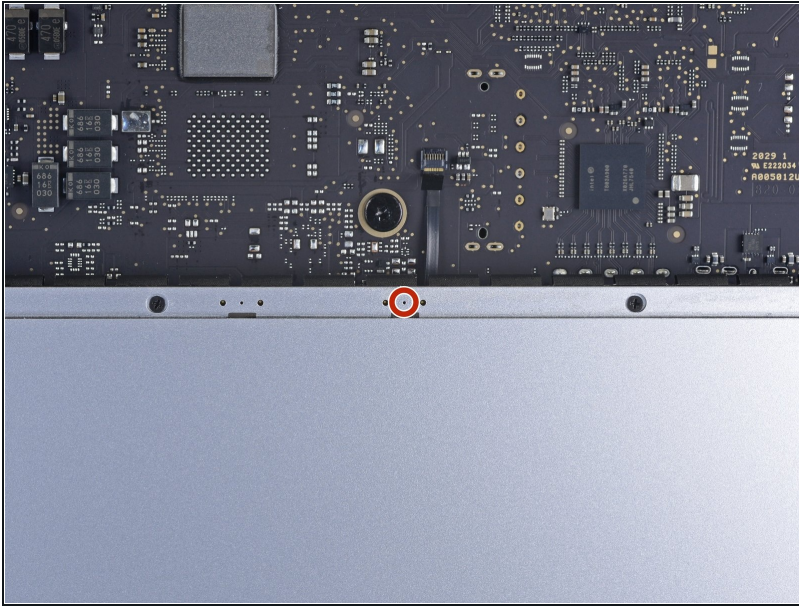
- ⓘ **Do not peel off the front adhesive backing yet.**

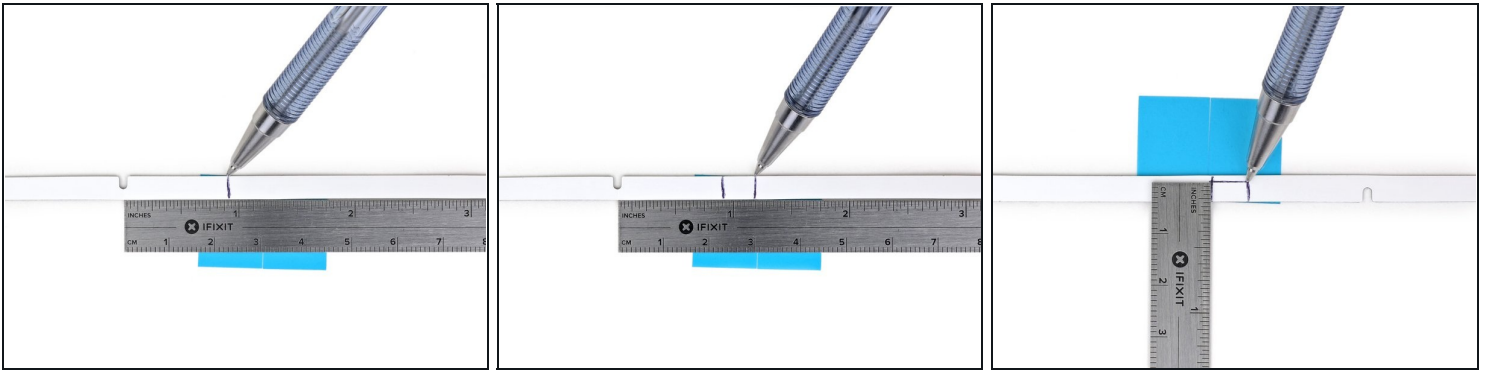## Step 10 — Install the top and left adhesives

- Work your way counter-clockwise around the perimeter of the iMac, adding three more adhesive strips in the same manner:
  - Strip 23 on the top right

  - Strip 22 on the top left

  - Strip 16 on the vertical left

  - ⓘ These three strips have a hole at each end—always use the smaller hole for alignment for more precise placement.

- On the iMac Intel 27" Retina 5K Display, the top-right strip's blue tabs will not line up with the top antenna in the same way as the non-5K model. This is perfectly acceptable and won't impact the performance of the strips or antenna.
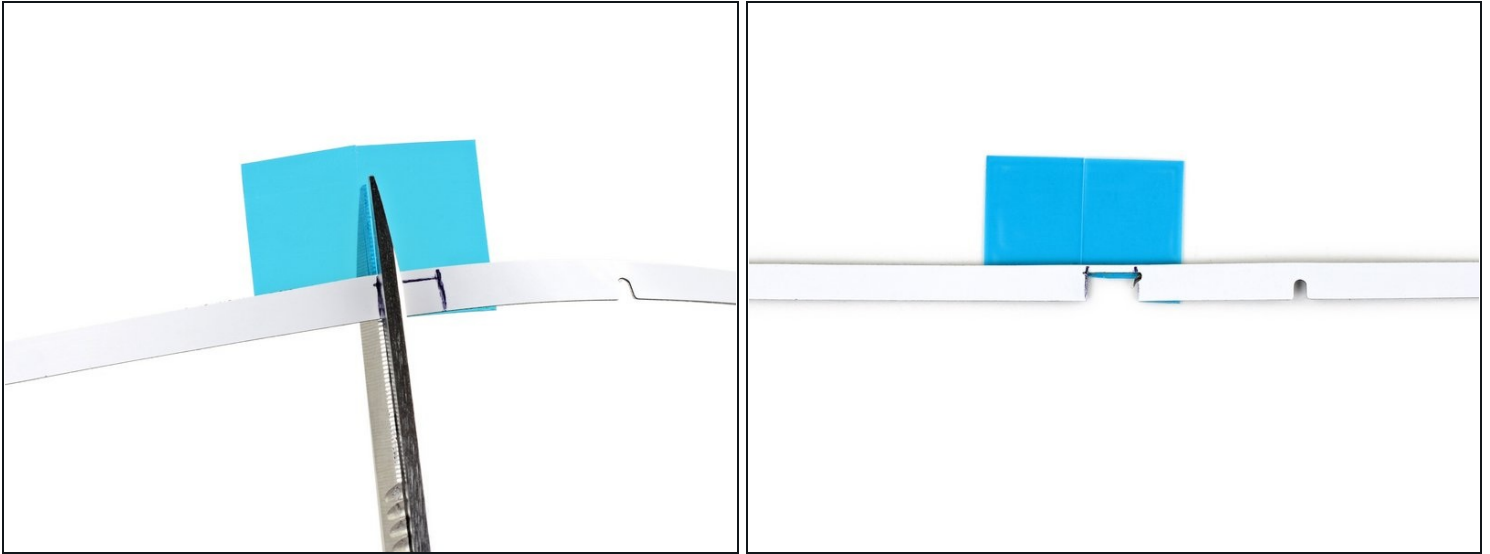
Step 11 — Install the bottom adhesives

ⓘ The next few steps will show you how to modify and install the bottom right adhesive strip (strip 25), which includes a notch that must be aligned with the left microphone and a notch that you must cut to accommodate the right microphone.

● The microphone is a small hole located between two larger holes.
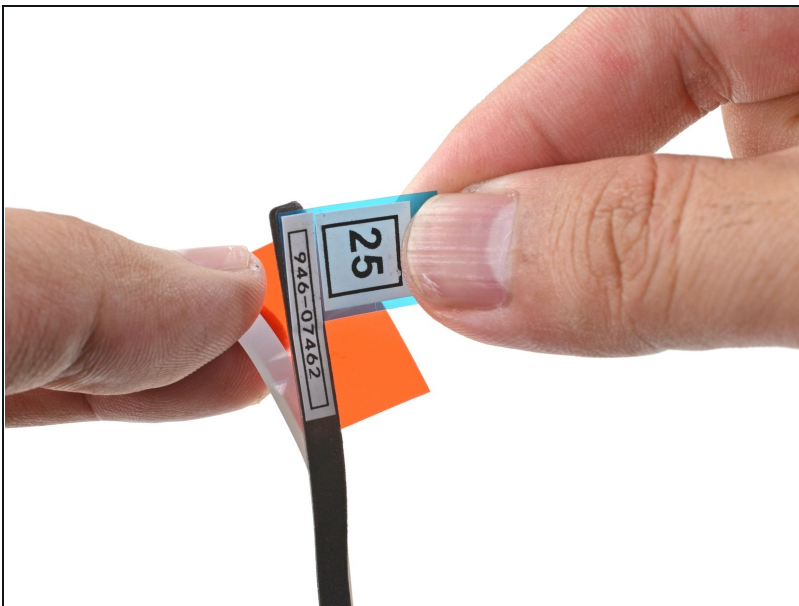
Step 12

- Place adhesive strip 25 on your work surface with the white side facing up and the opening of the microphone notch facing away from you.

- Measuring from the center of the microphone notch, make two marks on the adhesive strip as guides for where to cut:
  - Make the first mark 13/16 inch (23 mm) right of the notch

  - Make the second mark 1 & 5/16 inch (29 mm) right of the notch

- Rotate the adhesive strip so that the notch is now facing toward you.

- Measuring from the bottom edge of the strip, make a third mark in between the first two 5/32 inch (4 mm) up from the bottom edge.

- ⓘ This cut will be very close to the top edge of the adhesive strip, but it's important that you leave material over top of the adhesive strip for proper sound isolation. When in doubt, remove less material than you think you need to. If the adhesive still covers the microphone you can always make the notch bigger.
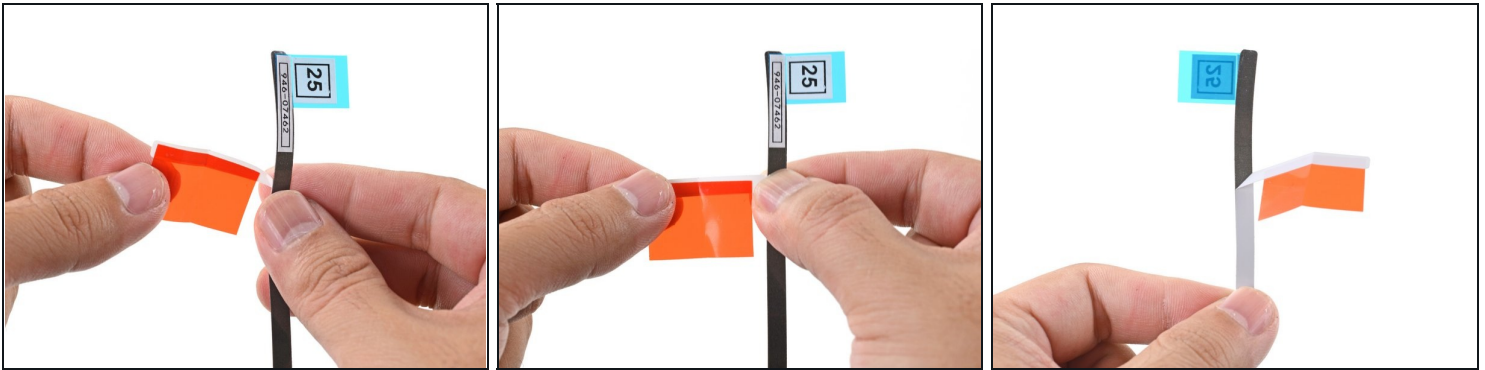
Step 13

- Very carefully cut along the marks you made with a pair of scissors or a razor blade.
  - ⓘ After cutting, your microphone notch should look like the one in the second photo.

- Before removing the backing, place your adhesive strip on the iMac and make sure the notches line up with the microphones.

Step 14

- Grasp the red pull tab on strip 25 and pull to separate about 2 inches (5 cm) of white backing from the strip.
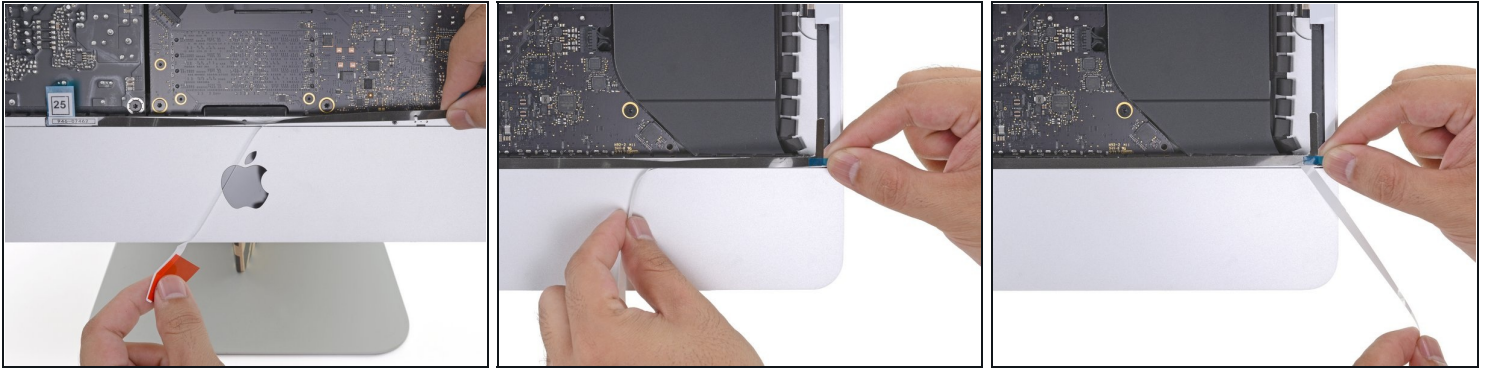
Step 15

- Fold the loose white backing to a right angle and pinch the crease with your fingers.
- ⓘ This exposes 2 inches of adhesive while folding the red tab out of the way.

Step 16

ⓘ The microphone hole is [the center hole](#) flanked by two larger holes.

- Align the adhesive strip to the bottom edge by positioning the microphone notch over the microphone hole.
  - If your iMac does not have a microphone hole, align the right end of the strip such that the L-bend [sits next to the right vertical adhesive](#). **The L-bend should not overlap the right vertical adhesive.**

  ⓘ The adhesive tears easily. Be careful not to pull on the strip with too much force.

- Once you have aligned the strip, carefully set the left exposed edge onto the iMac to secure the alignment.

Step 17

- Peel away the white backing behind the strip to expose the remaining adhesive.

Step 18

- Run your finger from left to right along the length of the adhesive strip to ensure it is straight and unwrinkled, pressing down as you go to adhere the strip to the iMac.
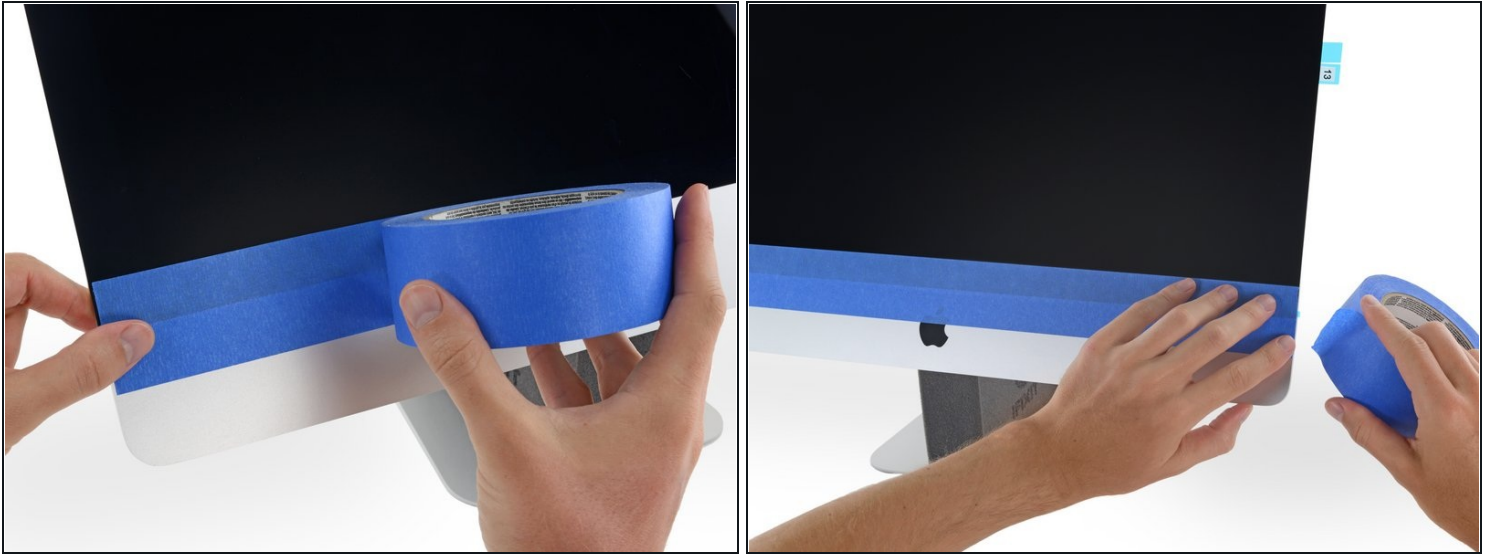
Step 19

- Repeat the previous steps for the bottom left adhesive strip (strip 26), aligning and placing it along the bottom left edge of the iMac.
  - ⓘ The strip should be positioned such that the L-bend sits next to the left vertical adhesive. **The L-bend should not overlap the left vertical adhesive.**

- ⓘ Once you've applied all the adhesive strips, the iMac should look as shown in the second photo.

Step 20 — Replace the display

- Gently set the display in place over the iMac and align it carefully.
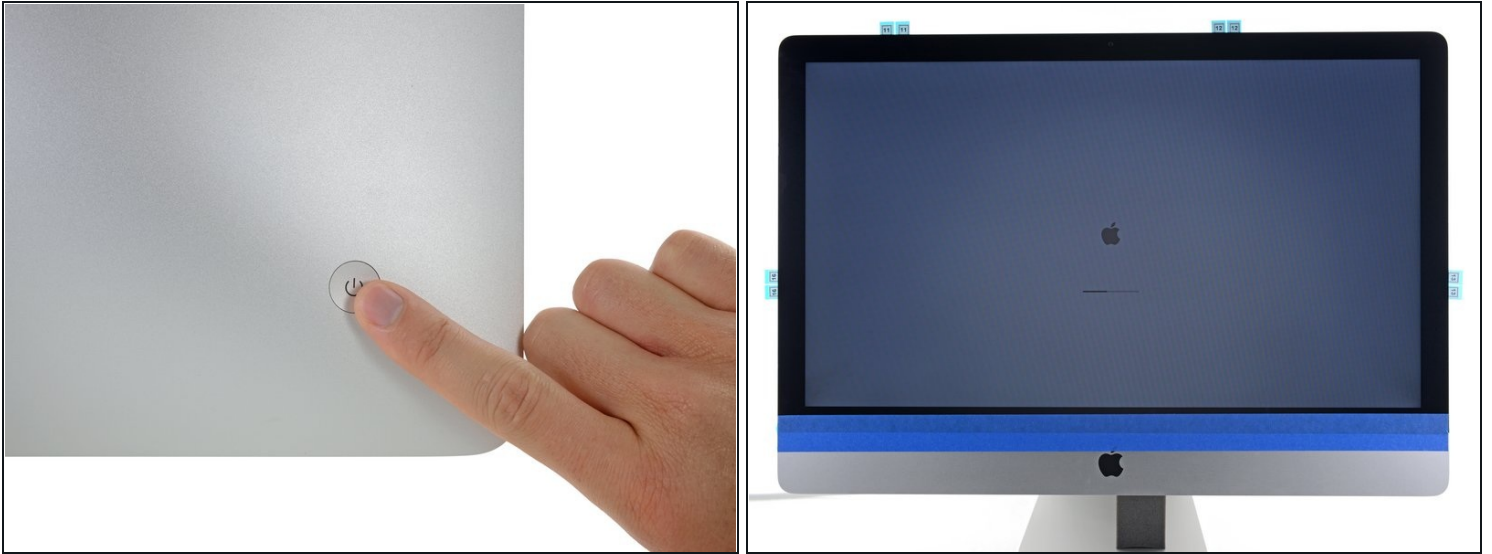
Step 21

- Use painter's tape or masking tape to temporarily secure the bottom edge of the display to the iMac's enclosure.
  - ⓘ The tape preserves the display's alignment, and allows you to safely swing the top edge of the display open to access the display cables.

Step 22 — Test your repair

ⓘ *At this point it's a good idea to test your repair, in order to make sure your iMac works properly before you seal it back up. Follow the next three steps to temporarily reconnect the display cables and boot up your iMac prior to pulling the protective film off the adhesive strips.*

- Gently insert the display data connector into its socket on the logic board. Be sure to press it straight into the socket, and insert it completely.

- Flip the display data connector lock down onto the socket.

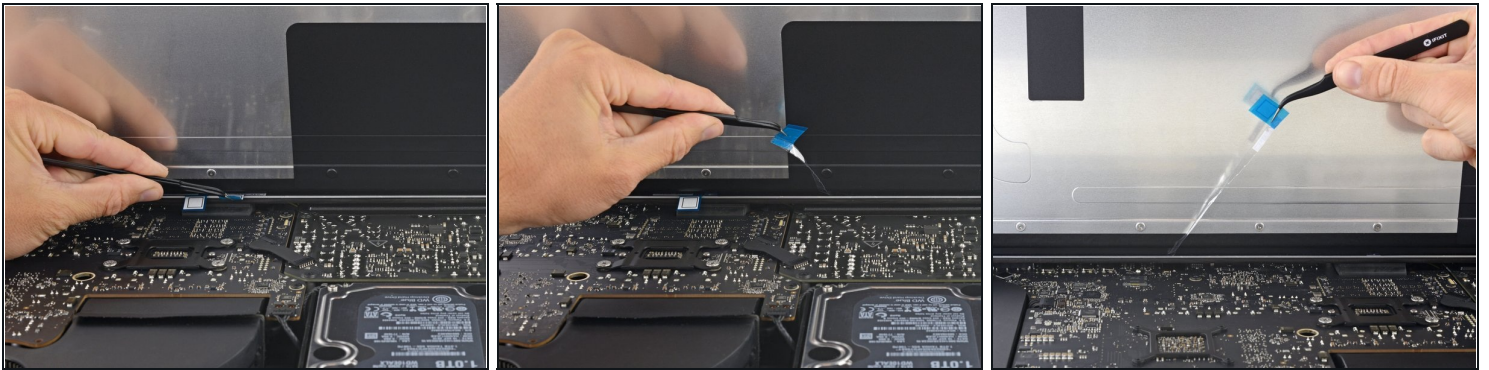- Insert the display power connector into its socket on the logic board.

Step 23

- Set the display back on the iMac's rear enclosure.

- Plug in your iMac, power it on, and test your repair before sealing up the computer. Be sure to check for full functionality of any hardware you removed or disconnected.

⚠ When you are finished, shut the iMac down and **unplug the power cord** before you continue.

Step 24 — Seal the iMac

⚠ Verify that your iMac is turned off and unplugged from power before you continue.

- After confirming that your iMac functions properly, disconnect the display cables and carefully lean the display forward.

- Remove the film from the two bottom strips by reaching in from above with a pair of tweezers and pulling the blue tabs straight up from the bottom edge of the display.
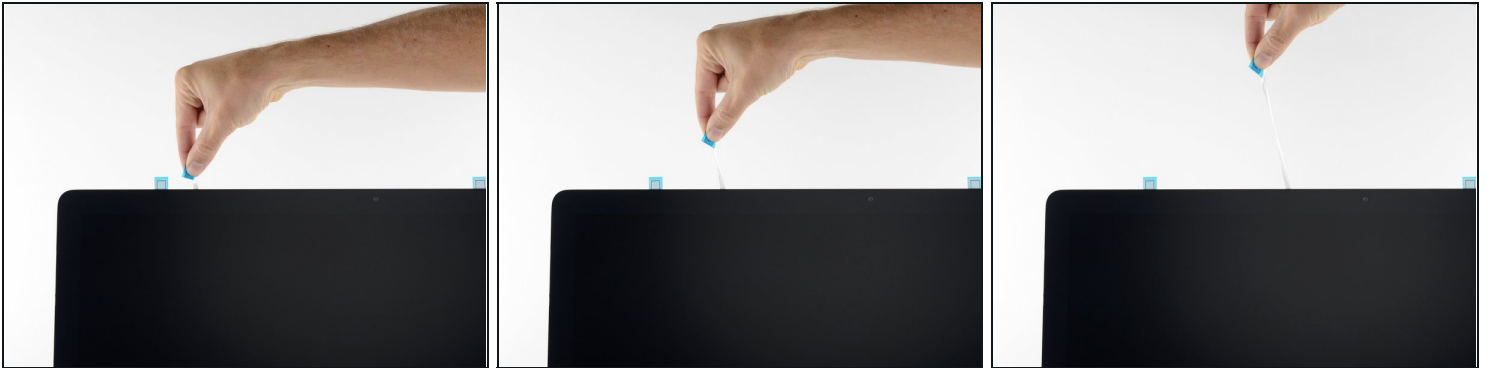
Step 25

- Reconnect the display power and data cables for the final time.
  - ☑ Remember to secure the metal retaining bracket on the display data cable.
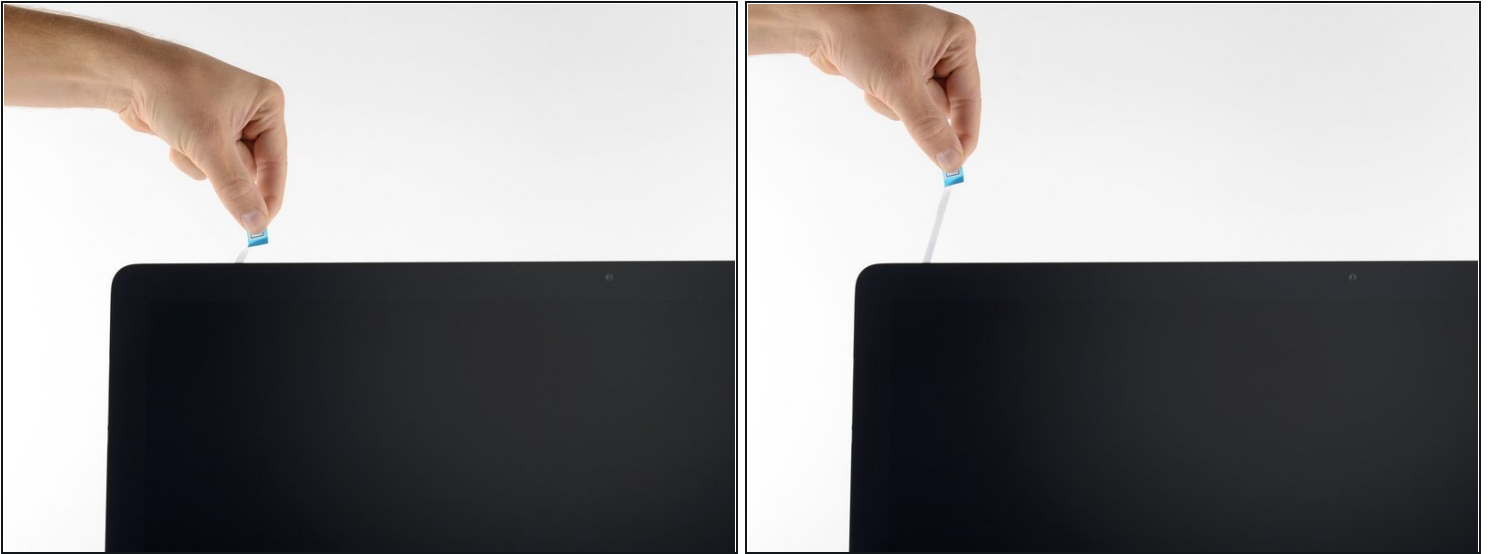
Step 26

- ⊡ Check the glass directly in front of the webcam for dust and other contaminants. If necessary, wipe it down with a [microfiber cloth](#) before you seal up the display.

- Steady the display with one hand as you remove the protective film in the following steps, or rest it lightly against the iMac's enclosure.
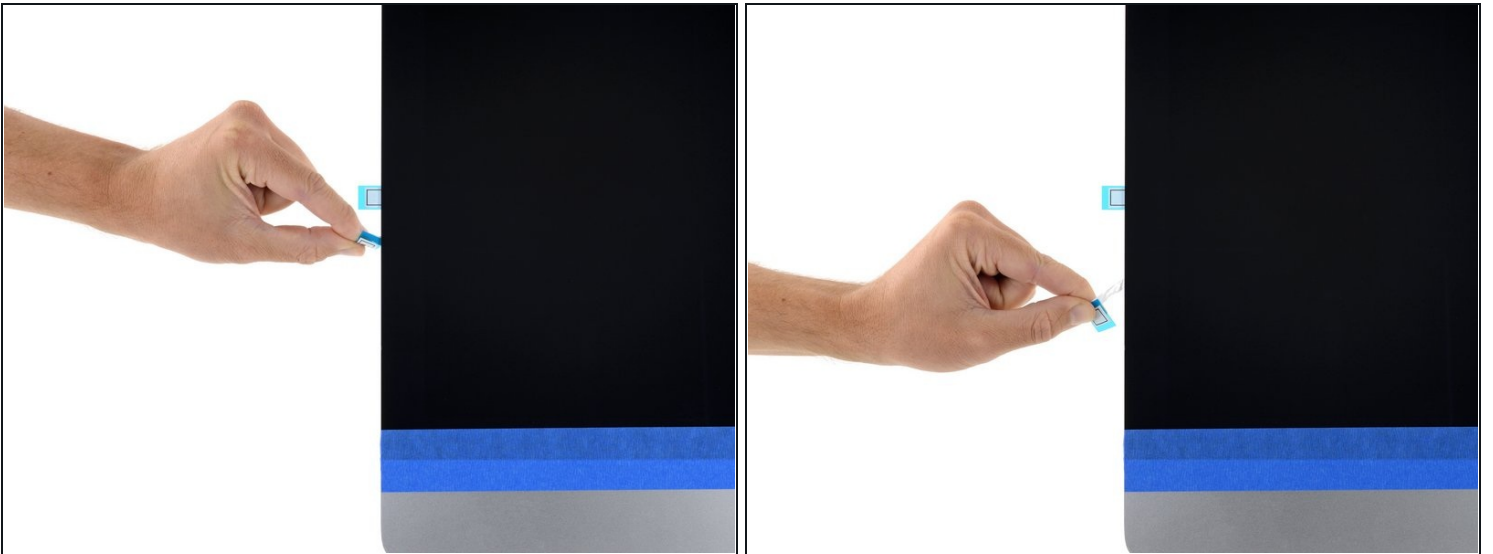
Step 27

- Remove one side of the protective film from the top left strip by pulling its tab straight up.

Step 28

- Remove the other side of the protective film from the top left strip.

Step 29

- Repeat the previous steps to remove the protective films from all the remaining adhesive strips.

Step 30

- To ensure a strong bond, carefully tip the iMac flat on its back (with the screen facing straight up) and press carefully but firmly around all four edges of the display.

- Remove the tape securing the display to the rear enclosure.

📌 Check the display after 24 hours to make sure that it is not loose on the iMac.

To reassemble your device, follow the above steps in reverse order.

Take your e-waste to an [R2 or e-Stewards certified recycler](#).

Repair didn't go as planned? Check out our [Answers community](#) for troubleshooting help.