

# A Guide to Disassembling and Reassembling the XeDK.



Written/Compiled By: Gamerfreak1727

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# In this guide:

- How to disassemble a XeDK.
- An explanation to how the XeDK can accept foreign DVD drives without any modification.  
(Written by ConsoleFun)
- Replacing a laser in the DVD drive.
- Replacing the hard drive inside a XeDK's sidecar.
- Appendix with proper model numbers for DVD laser repair, also including information for finding replacement Xbox 360 parts.

# Recommended Tools

- Xbox unlock kit.
- Paperclip (alternate to Xbox unlock kit.)
- Torx 10 screwdriver
- Torx 12 screwdriver (optional, for sidecar)
- Torx 15 screwdriver (optional, for sidecar)
- Phillips screwdriver
- Flat ended screwdriver (optional, for sidecar)
- Labels



# Read before proceeding!



- The Xbox 360 Development kit is a very fragile piece of equipment, take great care in every step, so you don't break anything.
  - If you feel that you are unable to accomplish any of these steps, then do not proceed with disassembling the XeDK
- Always remember to ground yourself, so you don't release harmful static into the system, and wind up frying the components.
  - You can protect your Xbox by using either an ESD wrist strap, or by continually touching the metal cage that the motherboard is housed in.

## Step 1: Removing the faceplate.

The easiest way to remove the face is to use the finger hole at the bottom of the console and simply pull forward.

Break the seal if it hasn't been done before, this will save time in the future when you are trying to open the case.

The picture to the right shows the XeDK with it's faceplate removed.



## Step 2: Remove the sides and unclip the sidecar.

Remove the bottom grey piece, by looking for the grey plastic locks through the holes. (These are also circled in yellow on the image to the right.) Also, you will need to remove one of the grey feet that is on the bottom of the unit. The foot you need to remove is at the top (HDD side) and is the one closest to the back. Find these, and use a small object to press them down, while trying to pull the piece off. Do this six times (three on each side), for each clip, and it should just come off, no different than a retail Xbox 360.

The sidecar will not come off all the way, just enough so you can get the case off. **DO NOT** try to pull the sidecar all the way away from the main XeDK unit!!

Note\* I get the two front tabs of the sidecar unclipped by rocking the sidecar back and forth gently. If you have another way to unclip them, please let me know so I can add it instead.



### Step 3: Removing the casing.

You need to be VERY careful with this, or you can break the case.

Make sure that the clips that are right under the faceplate are unclipped.

Then go to the back of the XeDK. There should be about 10 small holes at the crack, where the two pieces come together.

Behind these small holes are clips that run the entire length of the unit. To unclip these, I recommend using the Xecuter unlock kit. This is the most easiest way.

If you don't have a kit like this, you can use anything that will fit in the holes (paper clip, etc.) If using a sharp object, be very careful, as these are very sharp, and may damage you, and/or the XeDK's case.

While using what ever to press against the clips, pull up on the case as if you were trying to pull it apart. When you unclip one clip, it will make a pop noise, when you hear this, just go to the next hole and do the same thing, when finished pull the case apart, but be very careful, because the sidecar's clips barely comes out of the holes at the top.



## Step 3 ctd: Removing the casing.

Now that you have the bottom section of the casing removed, you will be presented with a rather ugly metal casing.

You will need to remove the six screws that are holding the other section of the case on. These screws are circled in yellow.

When you have all six screws removed, you will need to gently, and carefully flip the XeDK upside down, so that it looks like the bottom image at the right.

Next, remove the DVD eject button by using a small flat object to pry (gently) behind the piece that is attaching the DVD eject button to the DVD drive.



## Step 4: Removing the Sidecar.

Once you have removed the top section of the casing, you will be exposed to the motherboard, DVD drive, and wires.

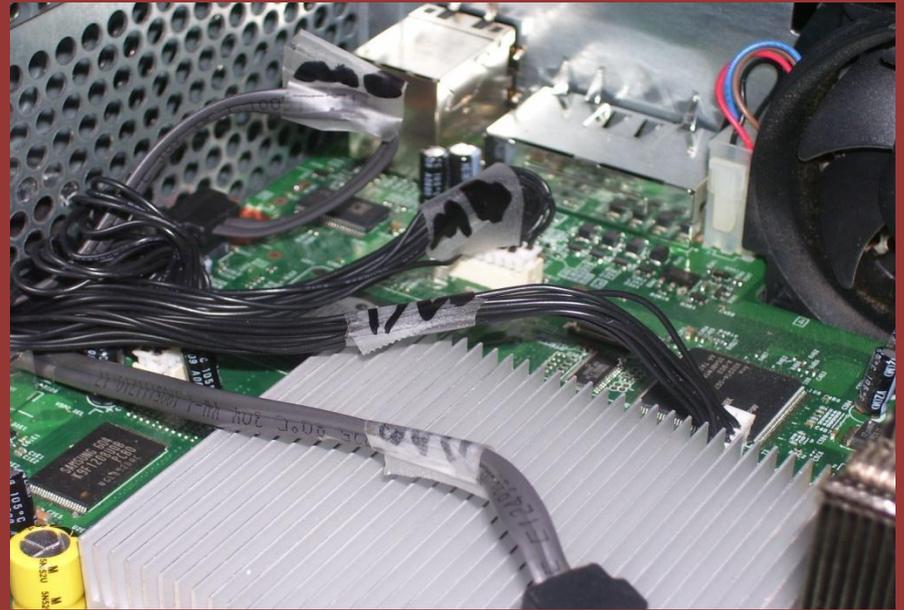
To remove the side car, you need to remove the DVD drive. Make sure that you label which wire goes where, because both the motherboard side, and DVD side of the wires go into the sidecar.



## Step 4 ctd: Removing the Sidecar.

After removing, and labeling the wires, you will need to remove the white air duct. You can do this with a small flat head screwdriver, by gently prying on it where it connects to the metal above the fans.

Next, you will need to remove the wires from the motherboard. If you haven't already done so, you should label the SATA and power wires that go to the motherboard, so you don't confuse them while reassembling the XeDK.



## Step 4 ctd: Removing the sidecar.

Don't forget to unplug the sidecar's power connector. It's a red 2-pin connector, and is located near the power supply plug-in.

Now that you have all the wires unplugged, you should be able to carefully pull the sidecar away from the XeDK's main unit.

There you have it! The XeDK has been disassembled.





# DVD Drive Maintenance Read before proceeding!



- The Xbox 360 DVD drive contains a Class A laser, which can damage your eyesight if handled incorrectly. For your own safety make sure that there is no power going into the DVD drive while you are working on it.
- As with any electronic device, make sure to take electrostatic discharge prevention measures before, and during maintenance.

## How the XeDK's DVD drive can be interchanged without changing the DVD key.

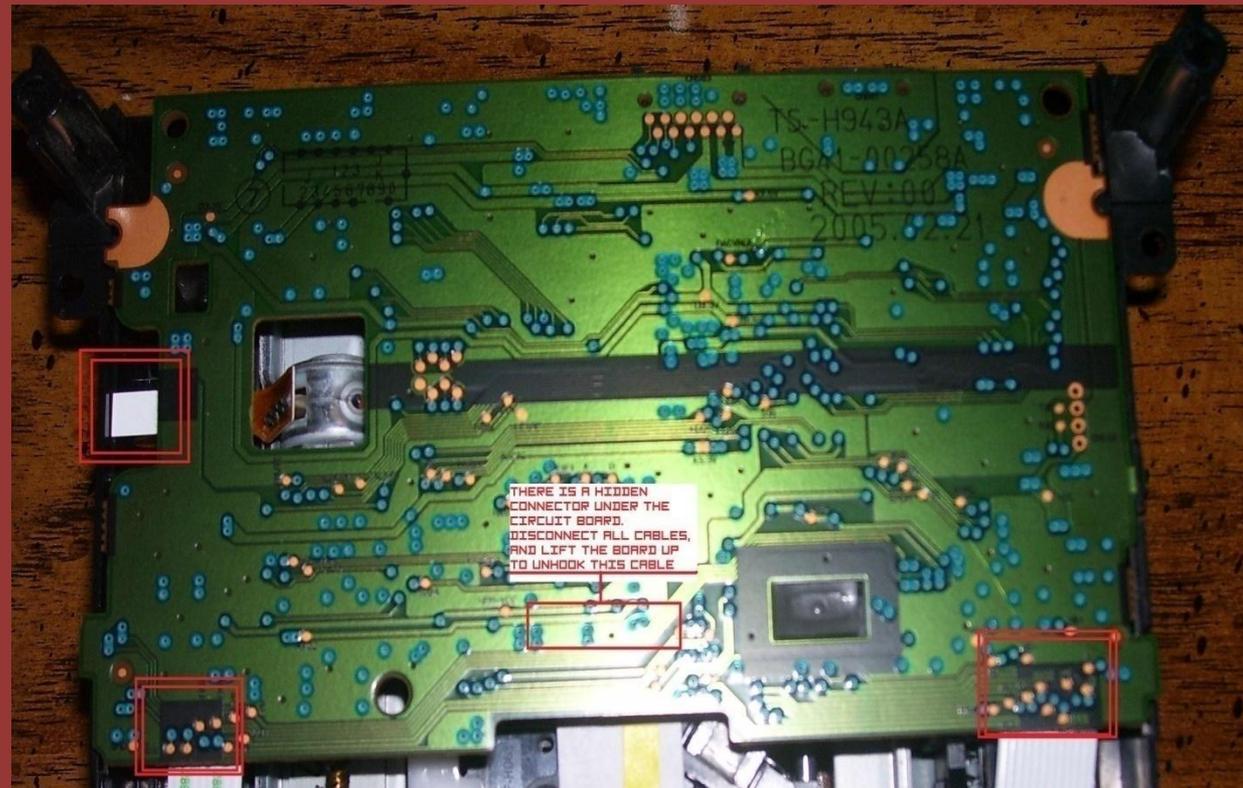
Since debug games are on DVD-R (DL) media, and not on protected 360 retail discs (with a security sector and a special 360 game partition that needs to be "unlocked") the drive key is normally not needed. The drive key only protects the ATAPI communication for retail 360 discs.

To play retail games on a retail console, or to play retail games using hacks on a dev console, the keys need match - meaning the key in the drive firmware needs to match the key in the key vault (in the NAND) on the motherboard. To play normal CD-R and DVD-R (DL) discs on a retail console you don't need/use the drive key.

In example you can put the files in the famous HD\_DVD\_10-2006.zip on a CD-R or DVD-R and they will boot even if there is a drive key mismatch. The reason is that the executables are not bound to 360 retail media like most retail executables. The famous kiosk disc is another exception...

## Replacing the DVD laser.

1. Remove the DVD drive from the XeDK.
2. Flip the DVD drive upside down, and remove the four silver screws that are right beside each of the four supports.
3. Gently remove the bottom and top section of the DVD drive's casing.
4. Now that the casing is off, you need to remove the circuit board. BE CAREFUL, please remember to unhook all IC cables (red squares), or you could damage them!!!
  - If the text in the white box on the picture to the right is too small, it says: "There is a hidden connector under the circuit board. Disconnect all cables, then lift the board to disconnect the laser's cable."



# Replacing the DVD laser

## Ctd.

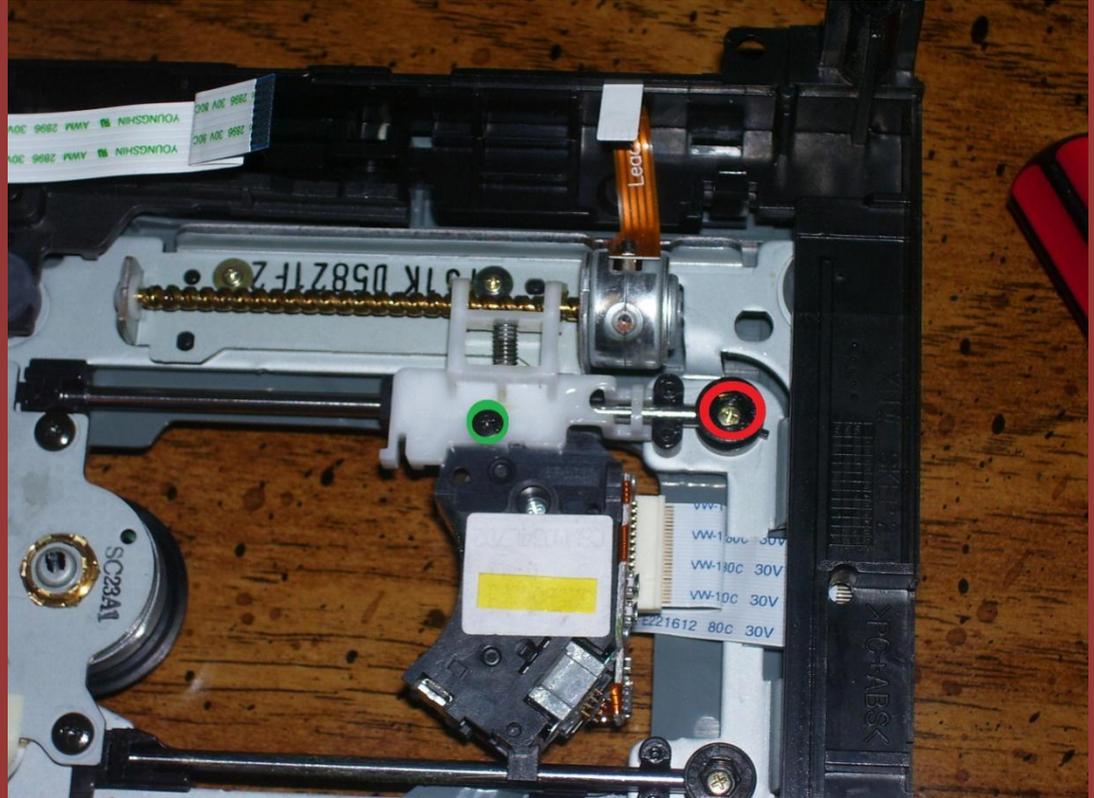
5. To remove the piece of plastic that connects the laser to the main motor, remove the one screw (green circle) that attaches it to the laser. Set the plastic piece, and it's screw to the side.

6. You now need to remove the guide rails. To do this, you need to remove the screw at the end of the rod on the right side. (red circle) Once removed, set the screw and washer to the side.

7. Remove the metal rod by gently pulling it toward the front of the DVD drive. Once you have this loose, slide the laser off of the rail.

8. To put the new laser on the drive, reverse the steps above.

1. Before attaching the laser, be sure to de-solder the anti-static point on the side of the laser!!!





# Sidecar Disassembly Read before proceeding!



- The sidecar unit for the XeDK is very, very fragile. It is important that you take the upmost care when performing maintenance on the sidecar.
  - Before attempting the following steps, please thoroughly read them first.
    - If you feel uneasy about any of the following steps, do not perform them.
- And, as always, use a wrist strap, anti-ESD mat while attempting this to prevent from bricking a very rare and expensive piece of equipment.

## Step 1: Uncasing the Sidecar.

1. To remove the outer shell of the sidecar, you have to use a flat ended screwdriver, and push it between the base, and the outer shell, then twist the screwdriver sideways, and up to get the first piece out of it's socket, do this for the next seven clips as illustrated in the picture to the right.
2. Once you have all the clips on the base out of the sockets in the sidecar's shell, gently, and carefully remove the shell.



## Step 2: Removing the top circuit board.

1. To remove the top circuit board, you will need to remove the four Torx 15 screws that are holding it in place (circled in red).
2. After removing the screws, you will need to bend the metal back (just a little, I bent it too much, and it was very hard to get back on), so you can pull the top board off without breaking it, due to two huge connectors, connecting the top and bottom boards.
3. Now that you have the metal cage bent back, and the screws out, gently pull the two boards apart. There will be a white plug connects at the front-left corner, you will need to unplug this as well!



## Step 3: Removing and Replacing the Hard Drive

1. To remove the hard drive, remove the four Torx 12(?) screws.

2. Once the screws are removed, flip the circuit board over, and slide the hard drive from its connector.

3. To replace the hard drive, all you need to do is use a blank SATA laptop hard drive. (The XeDK's Hard drive isn't signed, so you can interchange the hard drive with any standard SATA hard drive.)

*4. That's it! To reassemble the Sidecar, repeat the steps in reverse order.*



## Appendix A: Replacement Part's Model Numbers and Links

DVD Laser #'s

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Hitachi-LGGDR 3120L

Laser Model #: SF-HD63 [Link](#)

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SamsungTS-H943

Laser Model # SF-HD67 [Link](#)

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If your DVD drive is not on this list, the model number will be printed on a sticker that is located on the bottom of the laser. Also, please contact me, so I can update the list.

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**\*\*Note: Regardless of what type of Xbox 360 you have, the internals will be the same.\*\***

Misc. Replacement parts:

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DVD drive connectors:

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If you've lost the DVD power or SATA cables, or if you're removing the sidecar permanently, you can find replacements here: [Link](#)

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Internal Fans :

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In the unlikely event that one, or both of your fans dies, finding a replacement can be quite a challenge, if you don't want a replacement fan from Talismoon, you can find replacements on eBay.

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RF Boards:

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Once again, the most common place to find these are on eBay.