

Commodore VIC 20 Capacitor Replacement Kit Installation Guide

Thank you for your purchase of a Commodore VIC 20 capacitor replacement kit from Mortoff Games. We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you again in the future. This guide is intended to take you through the steps involved in the installation of your capacitor replacement kit. If you have any questions along the way please contact us at CustomerService@MortoffGames.com

Thing you will need

- Commodore VIC 20 capacitor replacement kit
- Philips head screw driver
- Soldering iron
- Solder
- Soldering braid
- Fume hood
- Patience
- A clean work area where small parts will not get lost
- About 1-2hrs of spare time

Safety

This repair requires hours of extensive soldering and unsoldering. Much of the old solder is composed of lead and other harmful toxins. In addition the board is covered in plastic and glue that will be melted during this repair. All of these substances should not be inhaled. Throughout this repair you should use a fume hood to protect yourself from the dangers associated with breathing these fumes in. Please do not try to do these repairs without one. We are more than happy to provide you with a full refund on this repair kit rather than have you endanger yourself because you lack the proper protection equipment.

Soldering Skills Needed

This repair requires extensive soldering skills and should not be attempted by a novice. You are more likely to damage the system if you don't have the proper skills. We recommend that if you are not completely comfortable with your soldering skills you return this repair kit for a full refund at this time.

Patience

This repair requires roughly one to two hours of intensive work. If you start to get tired we recommend that you stop and come back to the work at a difference time. Attention to detail is an absolute must during this repair.

Index of Capacitors in Kit

In case you are interested here is an index of all of the capacitors include in this repair kit. As you may notice the capacitors are packaged by type and labeled accordingly for ease of usage. If you ever find what you need more of a particular type of capacitor please contact us at

CustomerService@MortoffGames.com we are more than happy to sell them individually.

Specifications	Number
47uf 16V	1
1uf 16V	1
10uf 16V	2
2200uf 16V	1
100uf 16V	1

Index of Part Numbers and their Associated Capacitor

When looking at the circuit board you will notice there is a number next to each capacitor that identifies its part number. The part number will always start with the letter "C". This is an index of those part numbers and their associated capacitors.

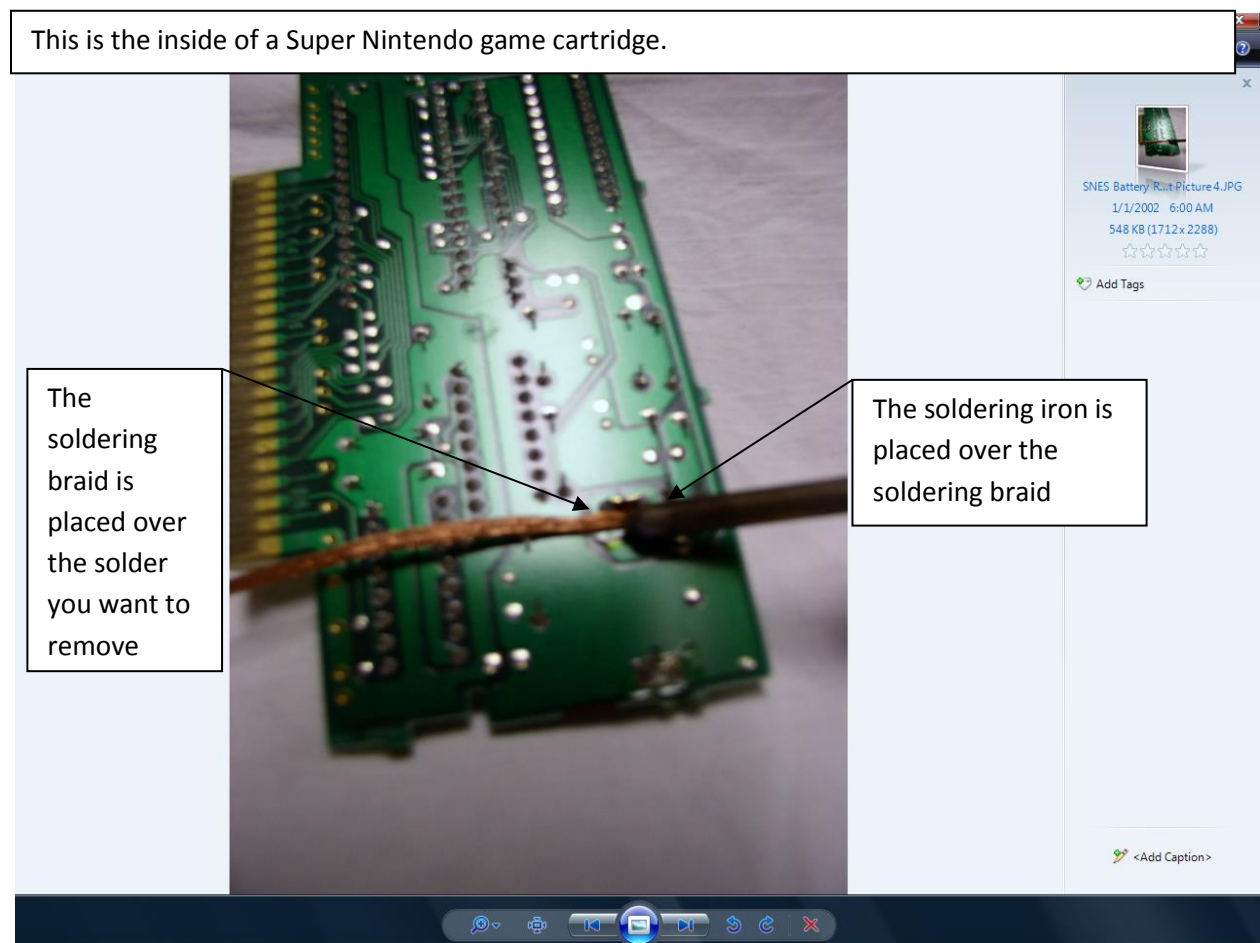
Part Number	Specifications	Mounting Type
C4	47uf 16V	Radial
C11	1uf 16V	Radial
C15	10uf 16V	Radial
C39	2200uf 16V	Axial
C40	100uf 16V	Radial
C42	10uf 16V	Radial

Soldering Techniques:

In order to solder and unsolder correctly you will need a soldering iron, solder and soldering braid. Once you have these items it is safe to proceed forward. For the duration of this project it is not recommended that you use a cold heat or any other instantaneous heating soldering gun, since these guns use an electrical current to melt the solder. Passing a strong electrical current through your games or systems is not recommended and as such should be avoided. We recommend that you use a typical soldering gun, the type that you have to plug in and wait to heat up. In addition it is recommended that you set your soldering iron to 30watts for the duration of this project.

Unsoldering:

Correctly unsoldering a joint is rather easy once you get the hang of it. In order to unsolder a joint place soldering braid over the solder you wish to remove and then place the soldering iron over the soldering braid. The soldering iron will heat the braid and in turn the solder will liquefy, which will be sucked up by the braid. Please see the picture below.



Picture Introduction: Proper usage of solder braid

Although it might take a little while to completely remove all of the solder, patience and persistence will pay off in this case. Every 10-15 seconds remove the soldering braid and check to see if the solder have been fully removed. As soldering braid is takes up solder periodically cut off these used sections as needed.

Soldering:

Now that the solder has been removed you can now remove the object that the solder was holding in place and you are now ready to solder something new into place. During this project it is not safe to use excessive soldering material as bridging between joints is very easy due to their close proximity to each other.

The two most important things to keep in mind are:

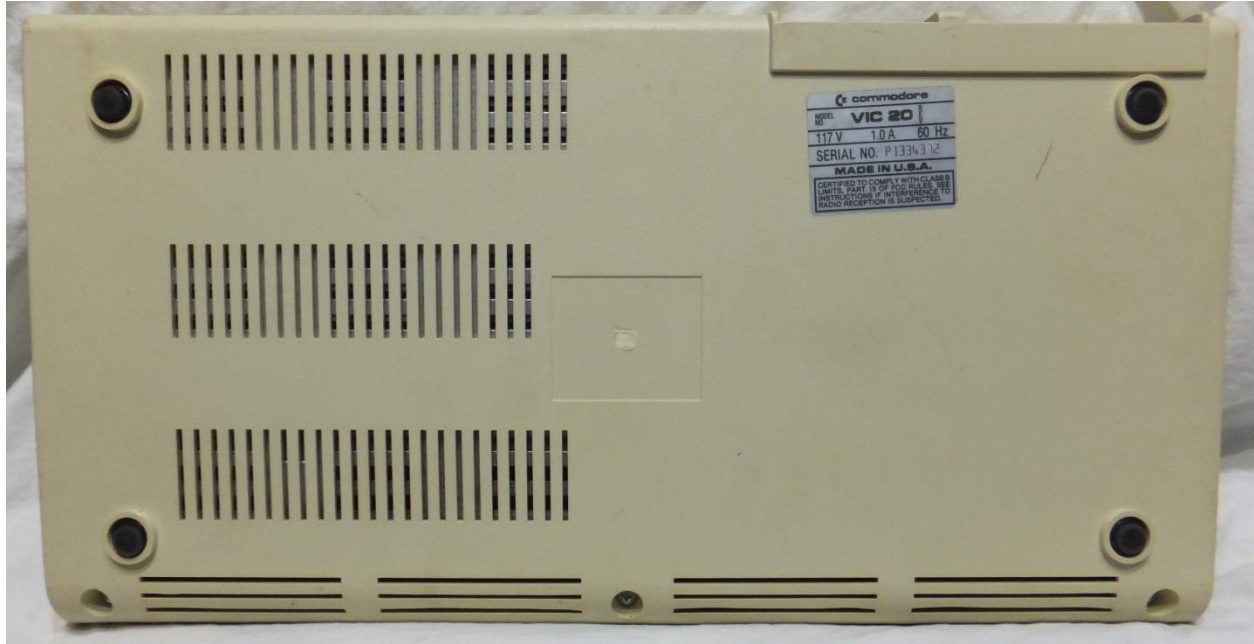
- 1) Never allow patches of solder to overlap or touch, doing so creates a short, thereby rendering the circuit inoperable.
- 2) Make sure to use enough solder to securely attach whatever it is you are soldering, do not be afraid to test the joint out.

Keeping these items in mind lets continue with our demonstration. To apply the solder take it and place it over the soldering joint and then lightly place the soldering iron over the solder. This is just like unsoldering, although this time you are soldering and not unsoldering. This part is a little tricky when you first start and is hard to describe with words alone. It is recommended that you test out melting solder first to get an idea of how it behaves.

One ideal exercise you might want to try is to attempt to solder together two pieces of wire. Take two pieces of wire, strip the ends, twist the ends together and then practice applying solder over this twisted joint. During the course of this project if you run into trouble remember you can always back track and remove the solder and try again, using the soldering braid. Soldering braid and solder are very cheap and as such are worth playing around with to get comfortable with before you go ahead and try to solder in a replacement battery. Now that we have covered the basics of soldering and unsoldering, let's get started with the replacement of those capacitors.

Step One:

To start please flip over your Commodore VIC 20 and locate the three Philips head screws seen in picture one below. Once located please remove them.



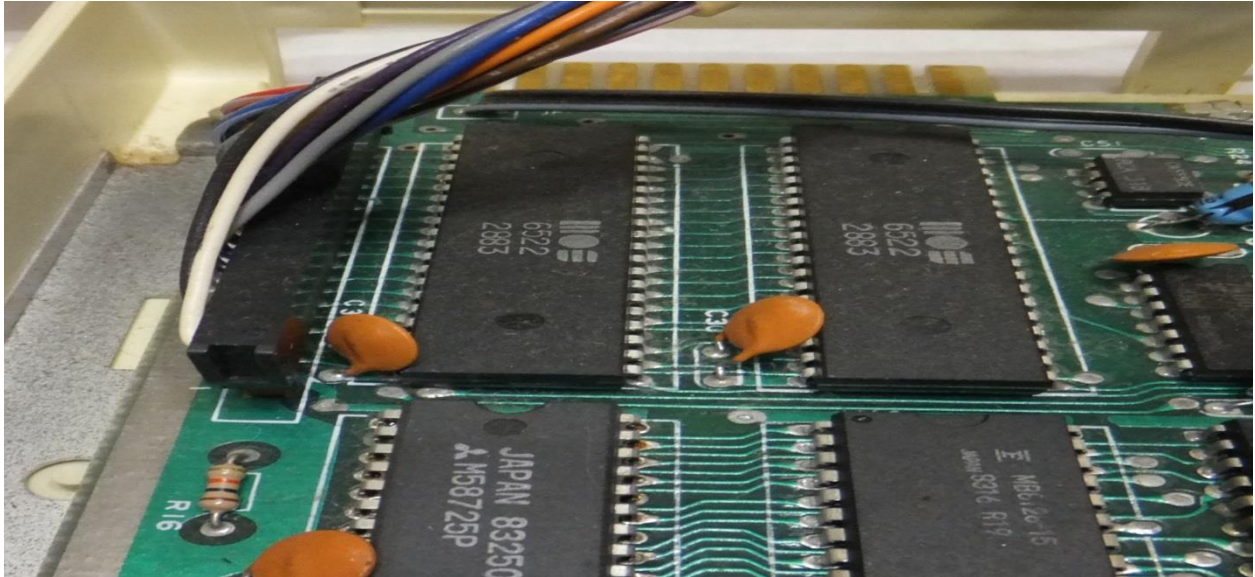
Picture One: Commodore VIC 20 System Bottom

Once you remove the three Philips head screws carefully lift the side upwards that you unscrewed. The other side is held together with snaps that should unsnap once the casing is lifted; however with any plastic device please use caution to prevent from cracking the casing.

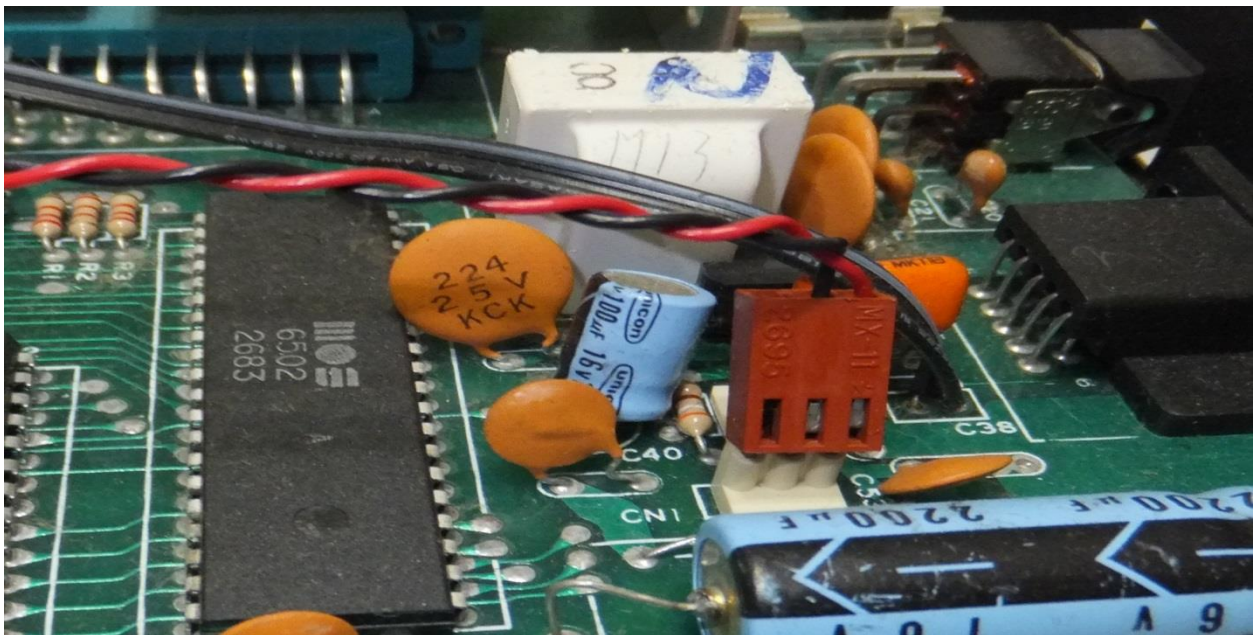
Once the two halves are separated please proceed to step two.

Step Two:

Now that the bottom casing is removed you should see the mother board. Please locate the two cables located in pictures two and three and unplug them.



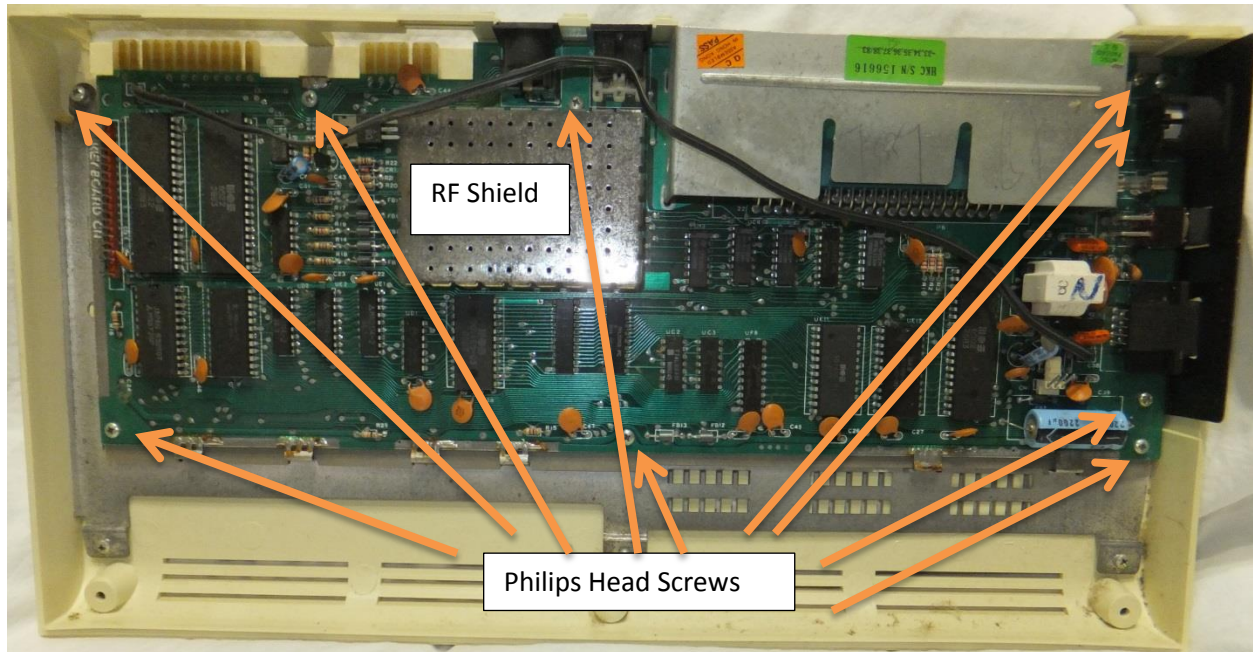
Picture Two: First Plug to Unplug



Picture Three: Second Plug to Unplug

Step Three:

Now that the cables have been unplugged there are two steps remaining to access the mother board. Please locate the nine Philips head screws that are holding down the mother board and remove them. Once you remove the screws next remove the RF shield over the power supply. In order to accomplish this take a flathead screw driver and pry the cover off. Once the shield is remove the mother board.



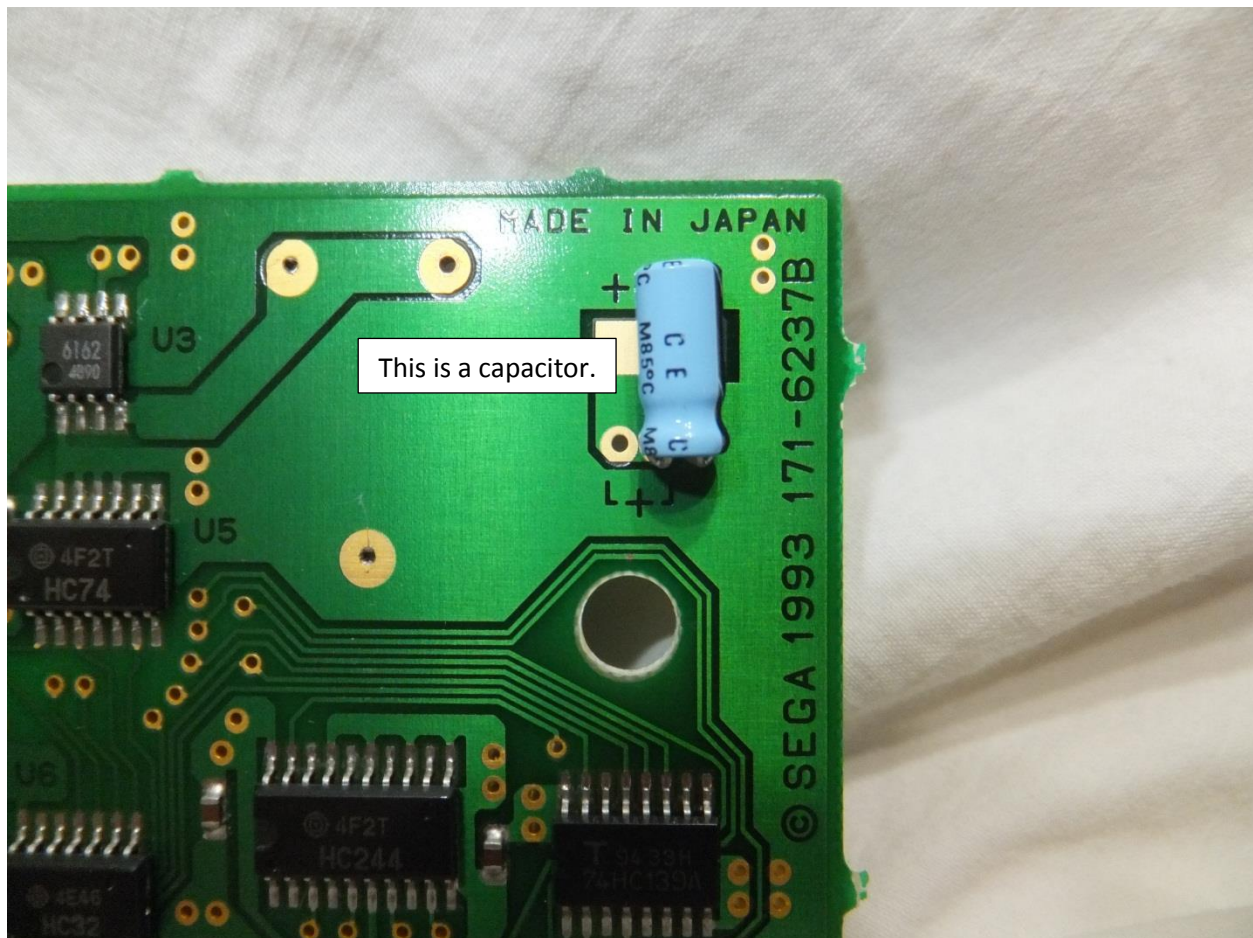
Picture Four: Commodore VIC 20 Mother Board

Now that the system is fully disassembled you are ready to start replacing the capacitors; however it is important for us to familiarize you with the basics of how capacitors work.

An Introduction to Capacitors

Before we jump into the capacitor replacement it's important to understand the basics first. A capacitor is used to store electrical energy. It has two listed measurements microfarads (μF) and voltage (V). You will notice when you look at your replacements capacitor it has the microfarads and voltage listed on it. It is important that you replace each capacitor with the same ratings as the original for optimal performance.

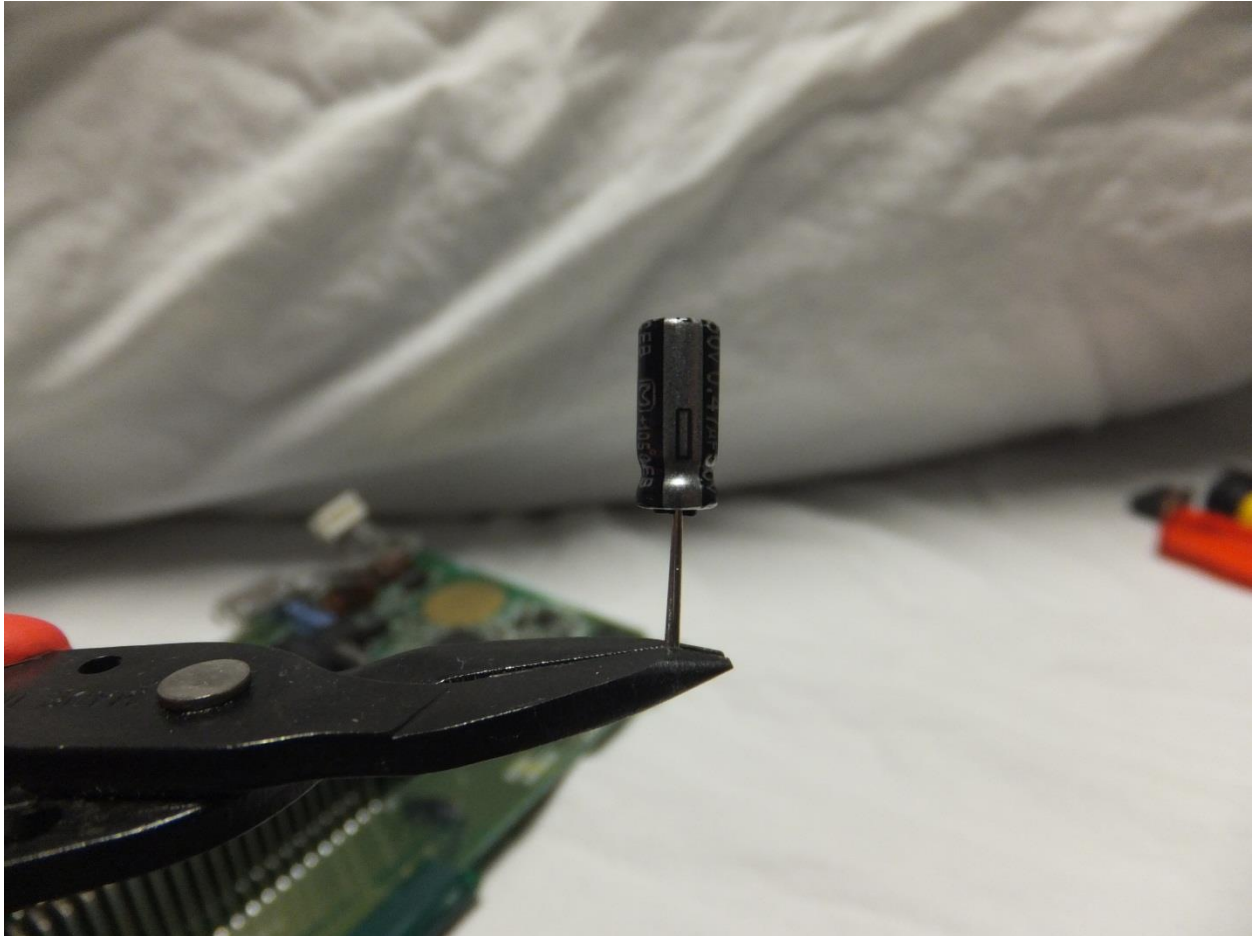
Next you will notice that the capacitor two leads. One is the positive lead and one is the negative lead. It is very important to make sure that you don't get these backwards. The positive terminal should be soldered to the positive terminal on the circuit board and the negative terminal to the negative terminal on the circuit board. Fortunately the positive terminal is marked on the circuit board; however the terminals on the capacitor are not marked. This is discussed on the next page.



Picture Five: Sample capacitor

An Introduction to Capacitors Continued

Most capacitors do not have the positive and negative terminals marked with symbols, but instead the negative terminal is defined by the terminal that originates from the part of the capacitor that has a strip running down it. This strip can vary in color.

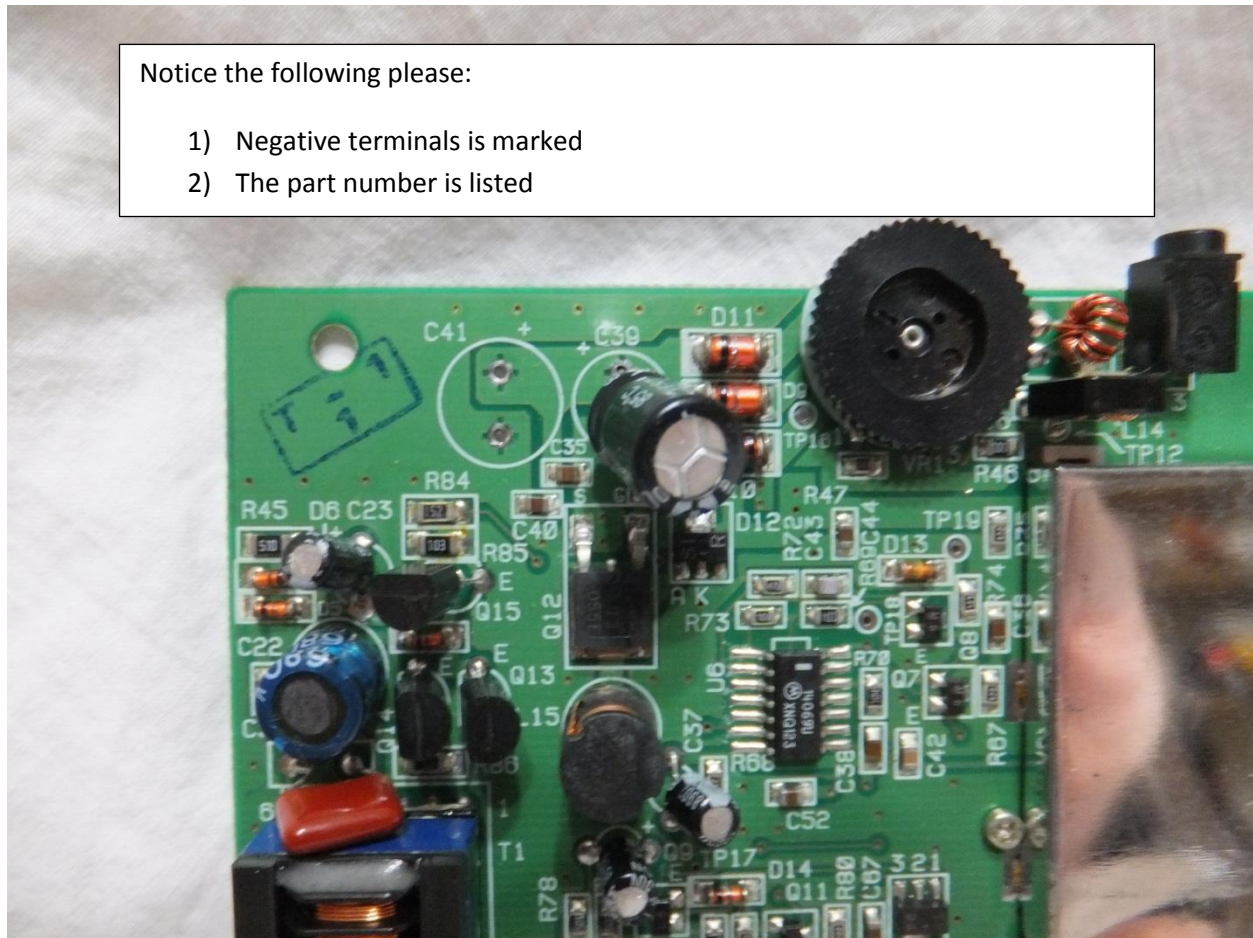


Picture Six Replacement capacitors

In this case the strip is silver in color. Please don't be fooled as the strip can be different colors. Just remember that the strip always denotes the negative terminal of the capacitor. Now that you have a general understanding of what capacitors are and how to properly identify their microfarad and voltage rating it is time to start replacing them.

Step Four:

This guide does not cover the installation of each capacitor as this would be redundant. Instead the installation of one capacitor is covered instead. For the purposes of this guide we shall replace C41 on a sample system. While this capacitor does not exist on your system this is intended as an example only.



Picture Seven: Replacement of C41

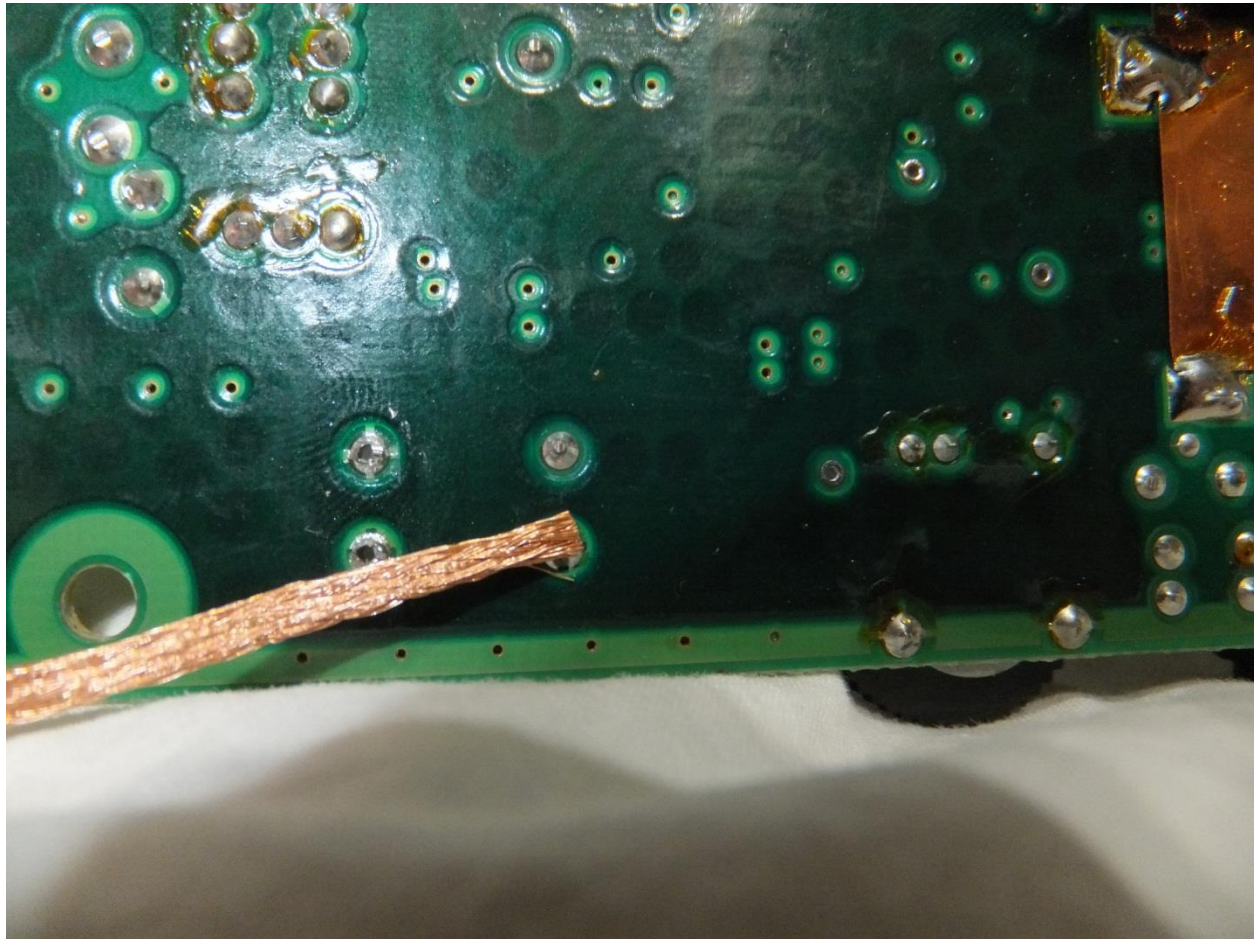
You may notice that the capacitor has already been removed. This is intentional as it allows for better visualization of important information on the circuit board. Please notice the following:

- 1) Negative terminals is marked
- 2) The part number is listed

Alrighty now that we have familiarized ourselves with what all the information on the circuit board means lets continue onwards.

Step Five:

Unsolder the capacitor of interest. We recommend the following strategy.



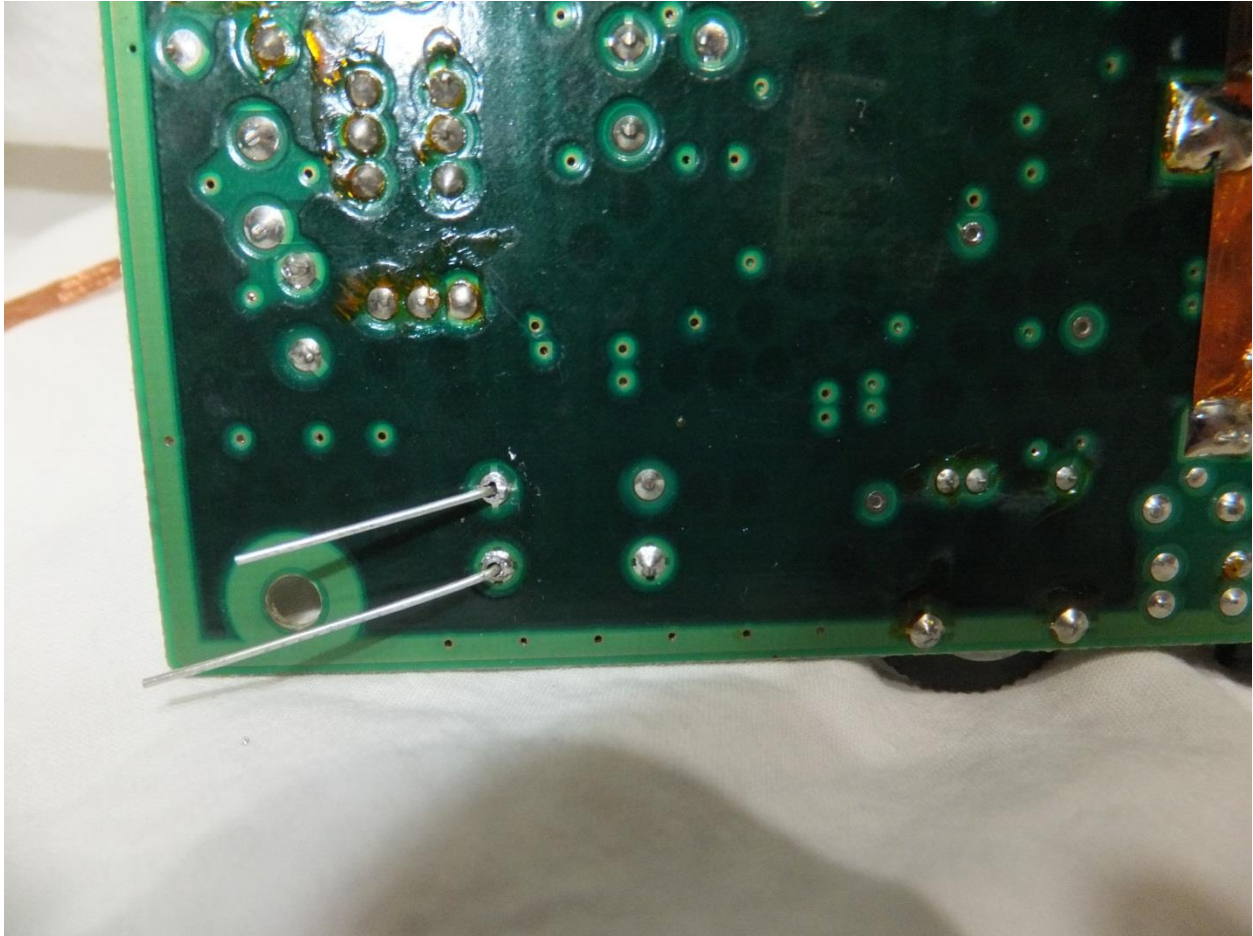
Picture Eight: Proper usage of soldering braid

Place the soldering braid over the solder joint and then heat the joint with your soldering iron. The braid will suck up the solder and free the lead. You can also apply a small amount of traction on the lead by grasping the lead from the other side with a set of needle nose pliers and pulling if needed.

Once the leads are unsoldered please proceed to the next step.

Step Six:

Next you need to solder the replacement capacitor into place. Remember negative to negative and positive to positive. We recommend the following strategy.



Picture Nine: Lead soldering

Insert the leads and then bend them at a ninety degree angle. Then cut the leads down to the desired length. Finally solder the leads into place.

Please continue replacing the capacitors as needed. Here are some very important points not to forget.

- 1) Make sure you do not bridge any terminals
- 2) Make sure the leads of the capacitors don't touch each other.
- 3) Don't be afraid to bend the capacitors leads. You will have to flatten them anyways to get the casing to close.

Troubleshooting Section

We are sorry to hear that you ran into complications from your repair. Unfortunately this particular repair is difficult to troubleshoot due to the complexity of the repair job, although here are some general guidelines.

- 1) Make sure that the terminals of each capacitor are firmly soldered in place.
- 2) Make sure that none of the terminals are bridge with solder
- 3) Make sure that none of the leads of the capacitors touch each other.

We do apologize that we can't be more helpful than this.