Modification of Pentax *istDL2 6.1

Nothing new here - just thought it wouldn't hurt to put more photos of the process out there.

Method:

Before starting, I shot an image using the pop-up flash and old AA's, and dropped out the batteries before it had time to recharge. Then I let the camera sit without batteries for a couple of days - in hope that this would discharge the capacitor. I didn't get shocked - this seemed to work - but there are better ways to discharge capacitors that you should consider:

http://camerarepair.blogspot.com/2007/11/important-warning-camera-flash.html

1. bought a cheap 49mm infrared pass filter on ebay (720nm) - was not very satisfied with long exposure times using the filter as-is

2. took a couple of ice-cube trays and numbered each compartment

3. did a rough sketch of the outer shell of the camera and the location of the screws

4. removed screws from outer shell, numbering the diagram and putting them in corresponding compartment of ice cube tray - many different sizes

5. did not cut any wires in this process, when you have access to back panel, you can carefully undo connector for the sensor and remove it

6. removed infrared blocking filter on the sensor, and used it as a template to fit the infrared filter

7. removed the 49mm filter from the metal ring and ground it down into a rectangle matching the size of the original filter over the sensor (there's probably a place where you can get infrared filters that are already rectangular, but I already had this one)

8. place infrared filter in rubbery holder over the sensor (careful about dust --- I should have done this step under "black light" to identify dust. My photos always have a couple of small dust spots that I missed... but it is less trouble to "heal" them than it is to take the whole camera apart again. Re-assemble - carefully!

9. adjust "factory" settings for autofocus using method from:

http://2k8.ch/xdeltax-alt/tutirmodding/index.html

method also here: http://forums.dpreview.com/forums/read.asp?forum=1036&message=22023704

STEP
1. Power OFF
While pressing [AE-L]+[INFO], turn the camera on.
Firmware is desplayed on LCD.
Press [MENU]->[MENU]->[INFO] within 5 seconds.

You can see DEBUG mode screen.
By pressing [Right key],Make [DEBUG MODE DIS] to [DEBUG MODE EN].
Then, Press [OK].

2. Press [MENU], you can see setup menu.
By pressing [Up key], select AF TEST.
By pressing [Right key], go into AF TEST menu.
By pressing [Down key], select FOCUS CORR.
now you can adjust shift amount by pressing [right key] or [left key].
(*Don't touch AF Area Test.)
after changing the value, Press [OK] to save.
3. Test your camera that Focus is corrected.
(repeat step 2. till you satisfy the result.)
4. Power OFF
While pressing [AE-L]+[INFO], turn the camera on.
Firmware is desplayed on LCD.
Press [MENU]->[MENU]->[INFO] within 5 seconds.
You can see DEBUG mode screen.
By pressing [Right key],Make [DEBUG MODE EN] to [DEBUG MODE DIS].
Then, Press [OK].

There's already a lot posted on how to do this process, but I figure it can't hurt to post my photos of the disassembly of the ***istDL2**. I can't recall if there were any differences compared to the photos of the *istDL - but someone doing this conversion might benefit from more photos to compare to.

In the sample photos that I've attached, I'm using Gimp image editor and raw "PEF" files. I open the files with "Automatic White Balance" option, run a second "Colours>Auto>White Balance" and then do "Colours>Auto>Colour Enhance." Finally I muck about with hue and saturation. Wouldn't mind doing a conversion on a body with higher resolution (but I was ok with gambling on the DIY with a humble *istDL2.)

Cheers,
SF1

I'm thinking of a UV mod next.


PENTAX


PENTAX


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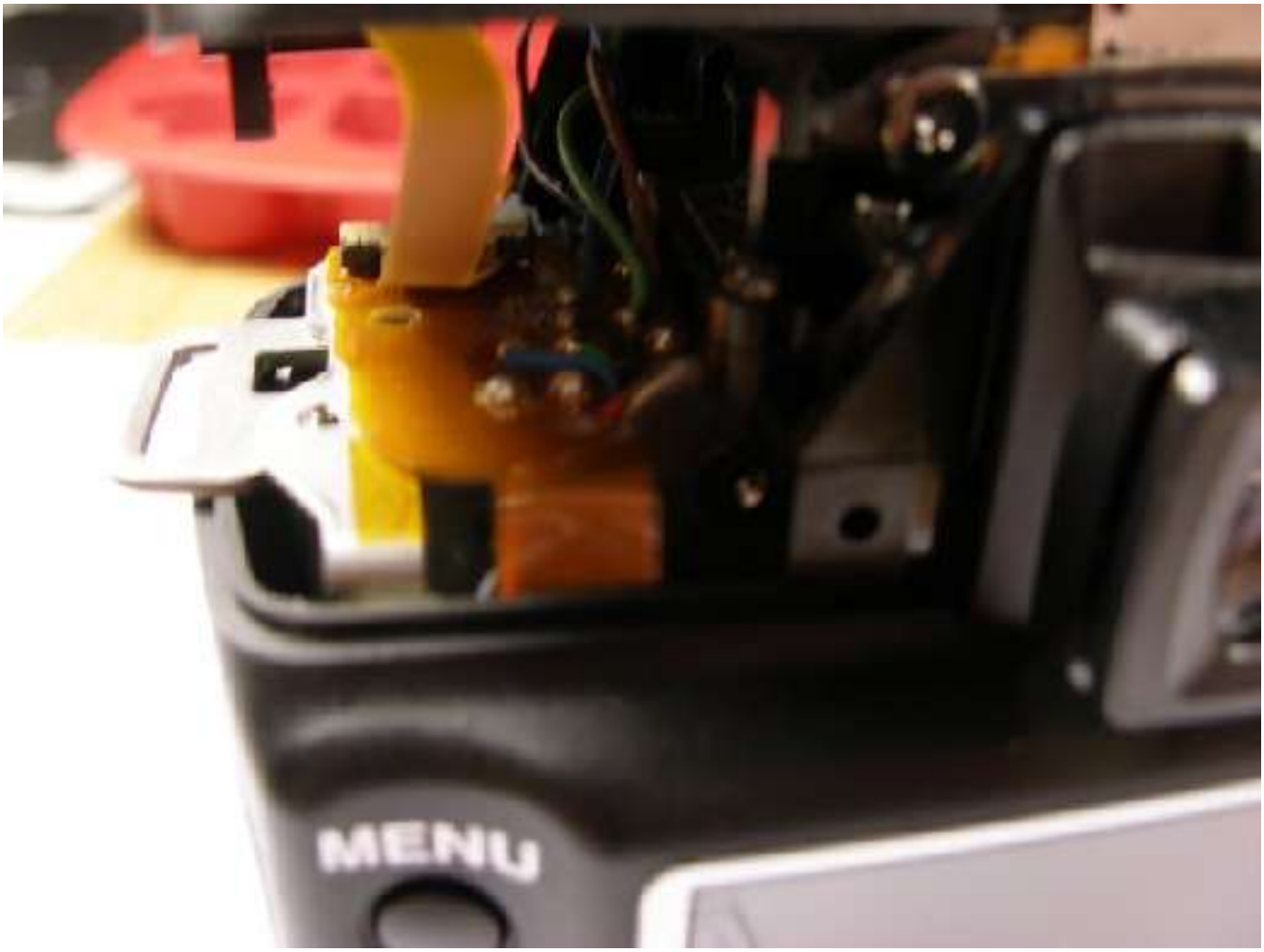
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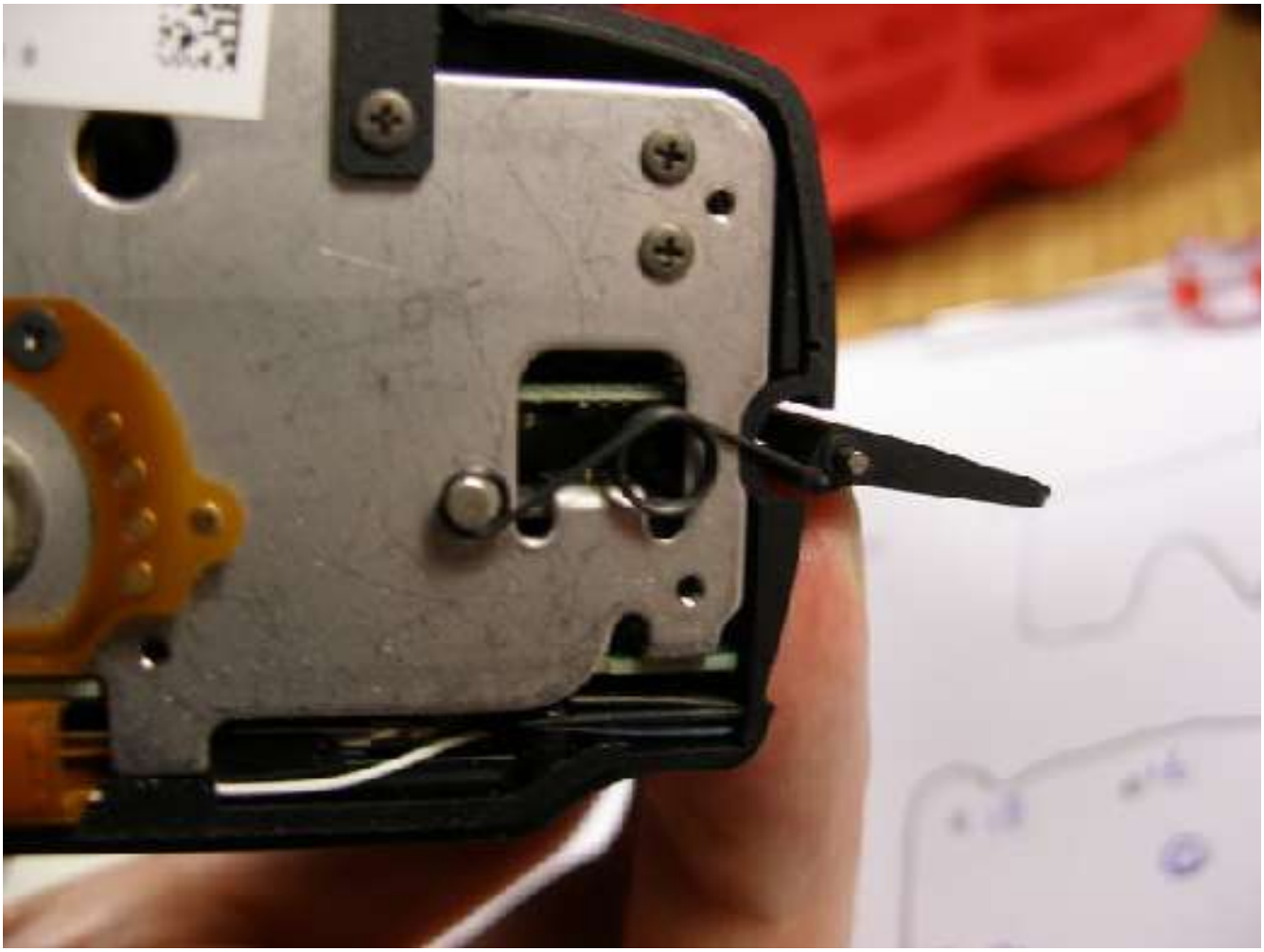

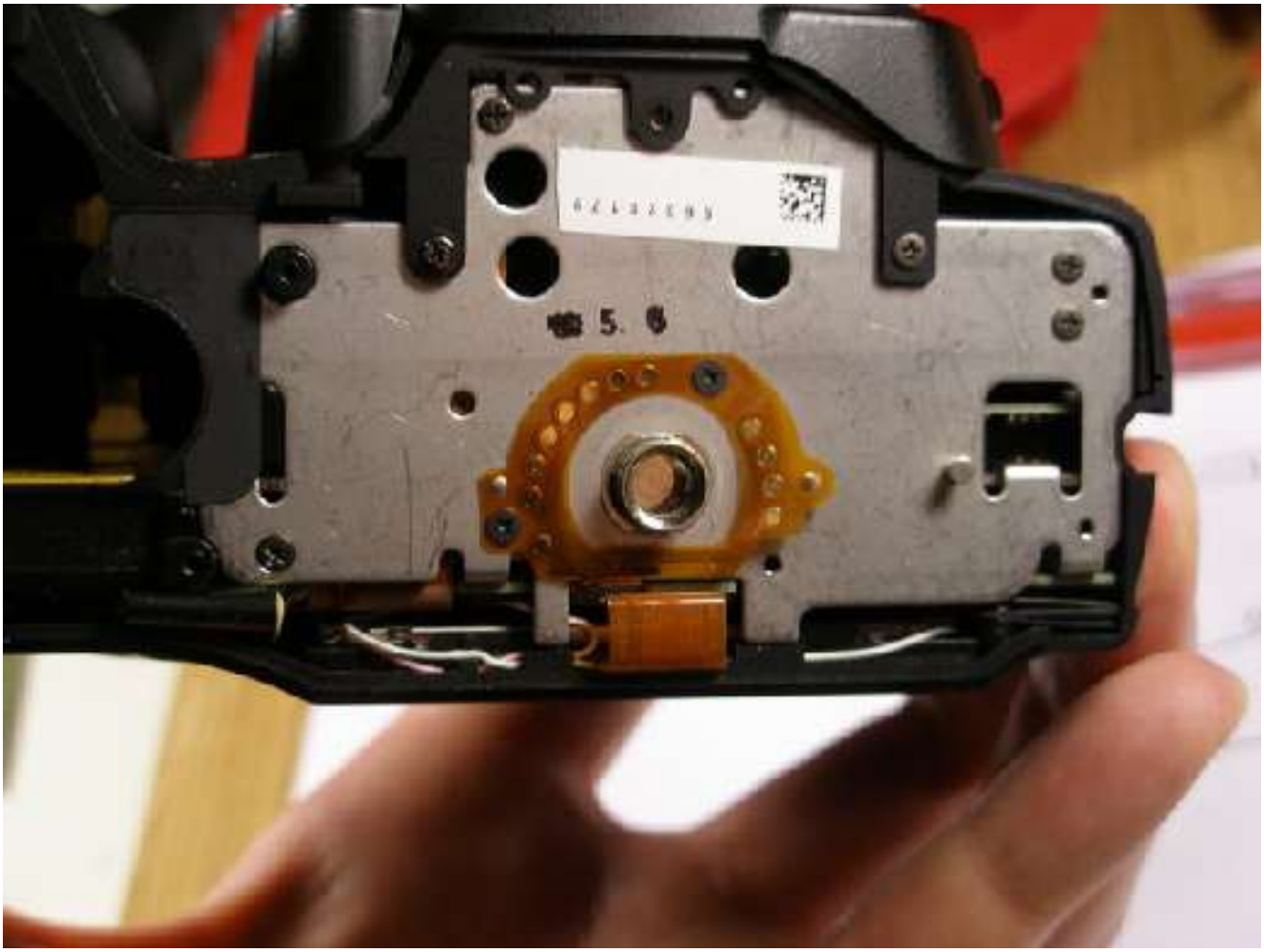

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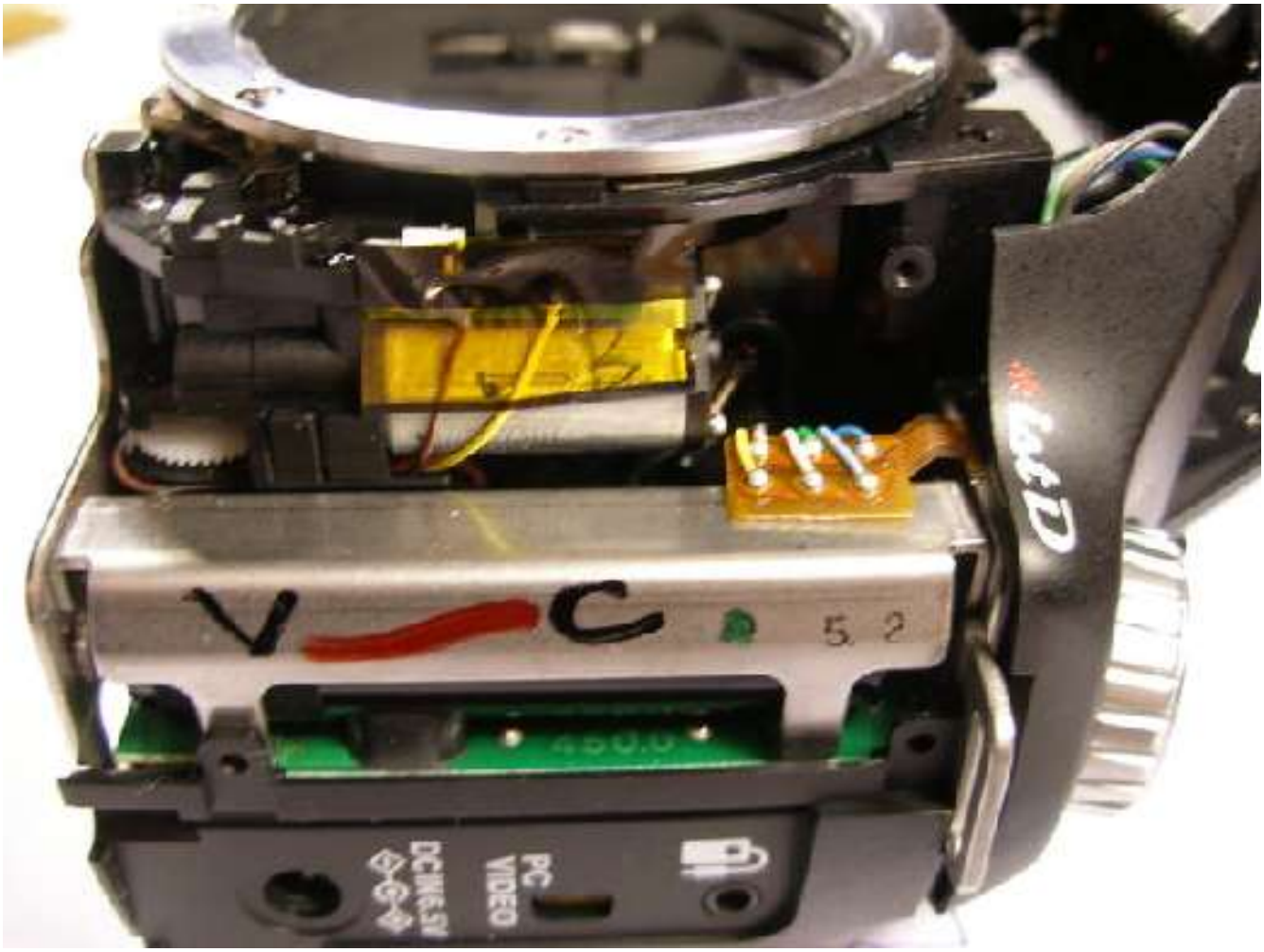
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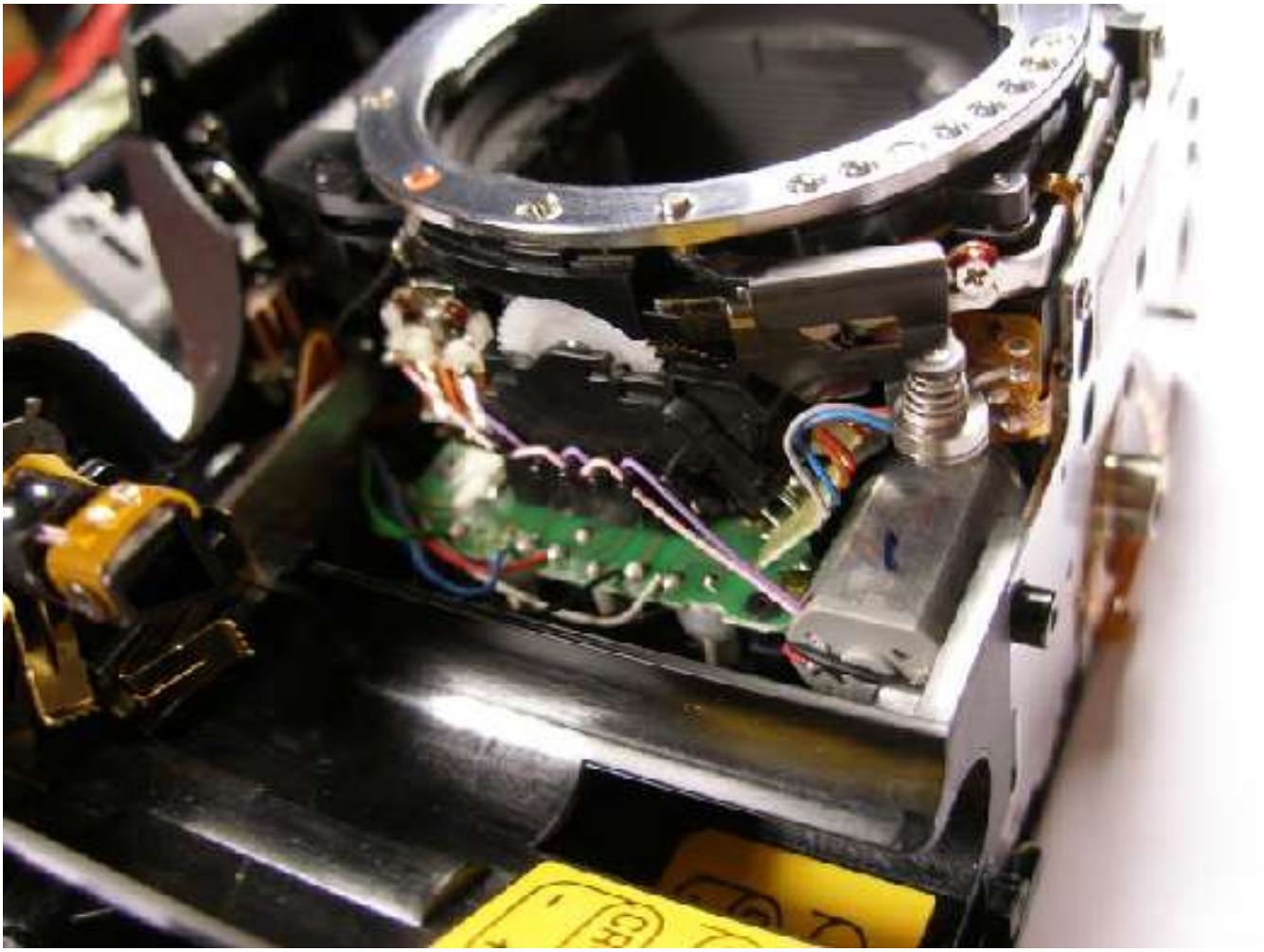

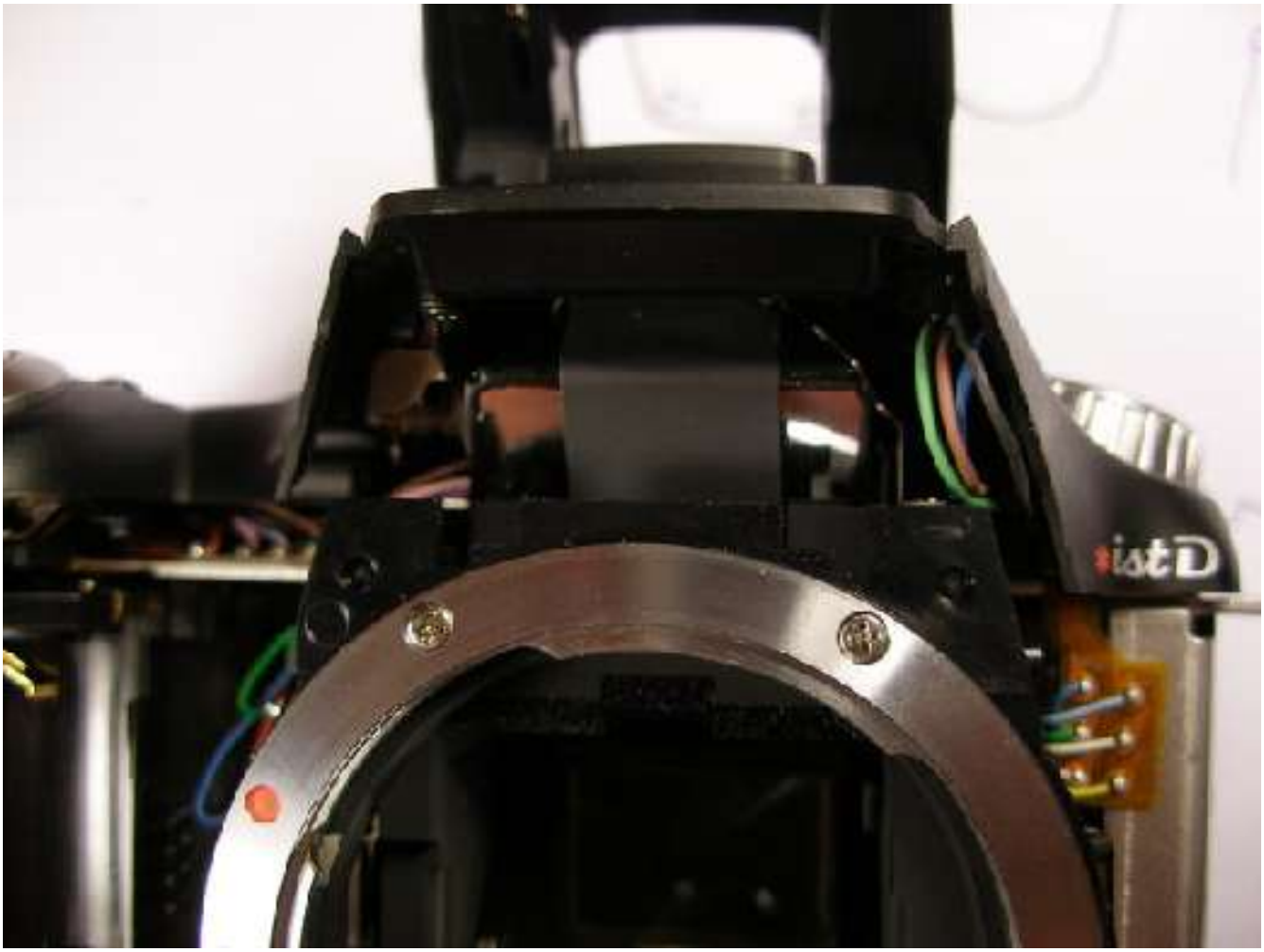
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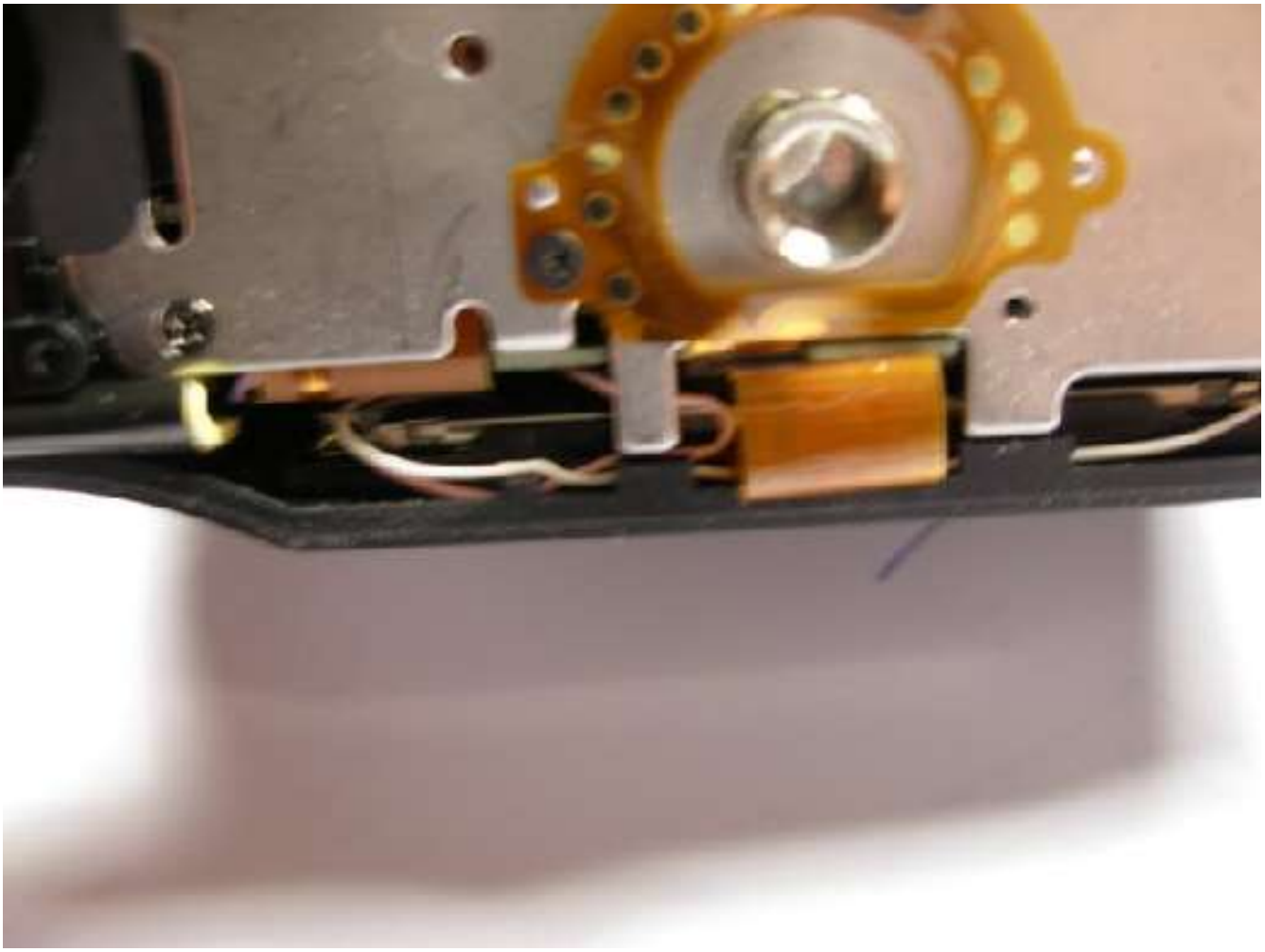

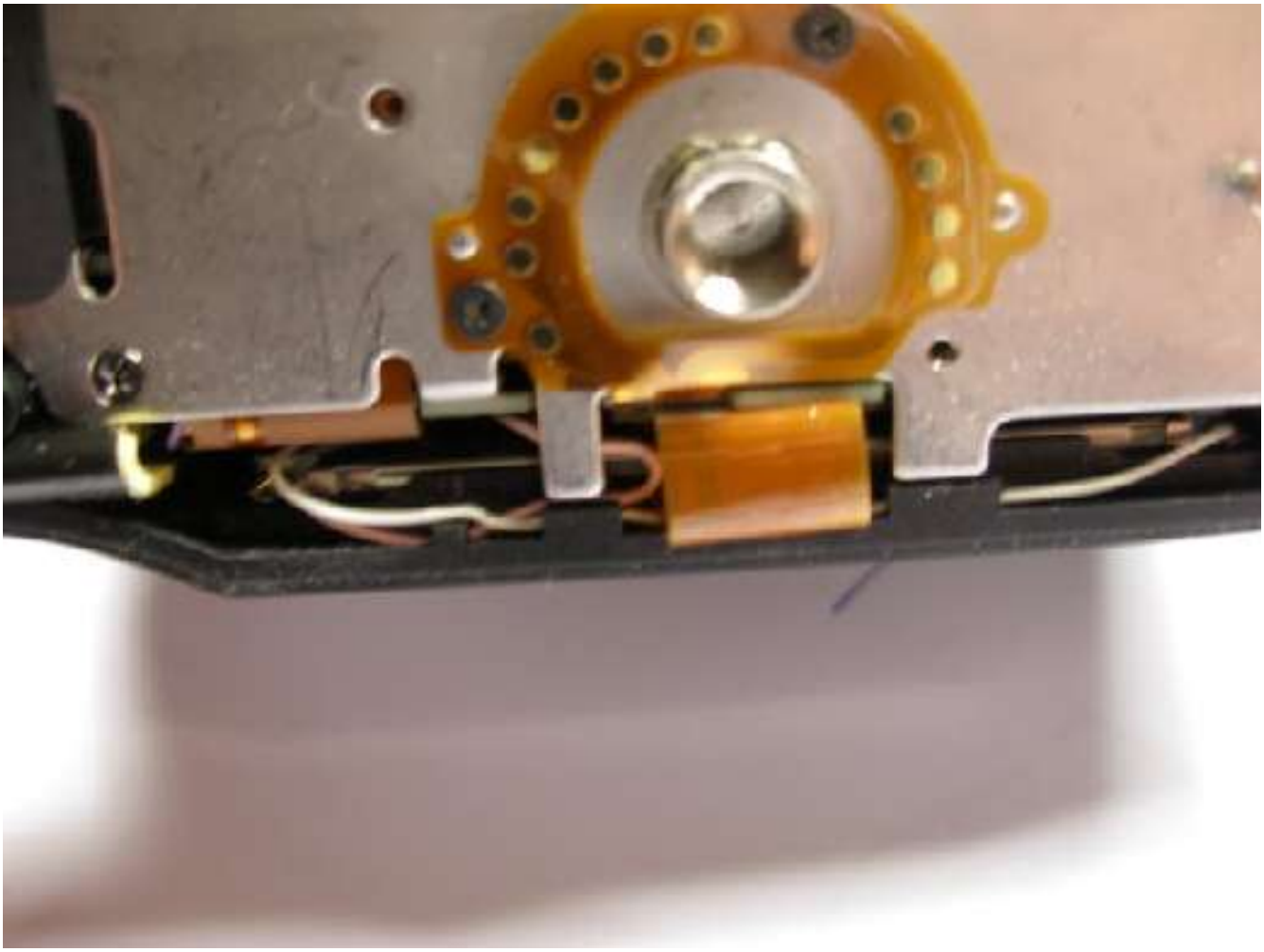

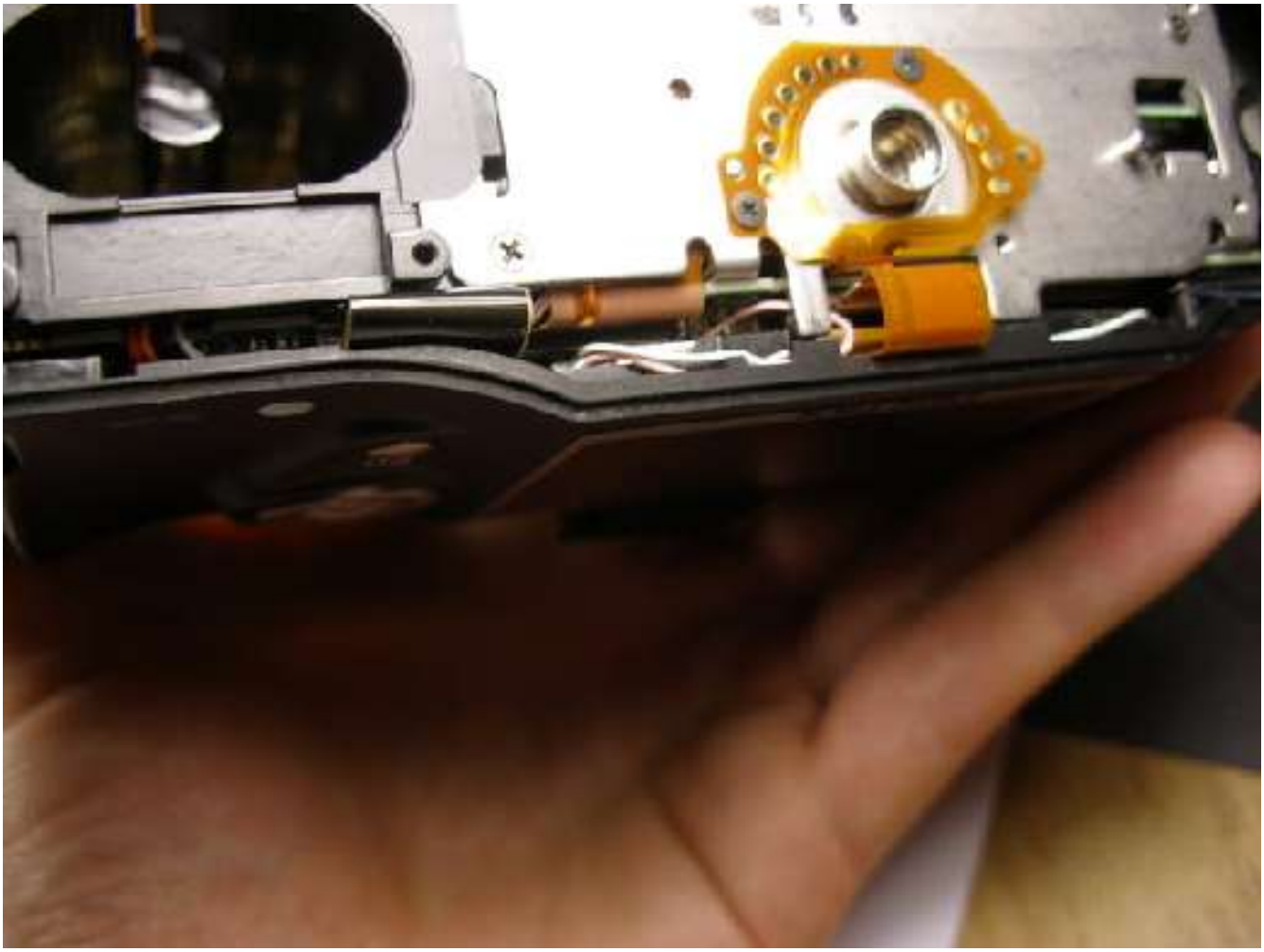


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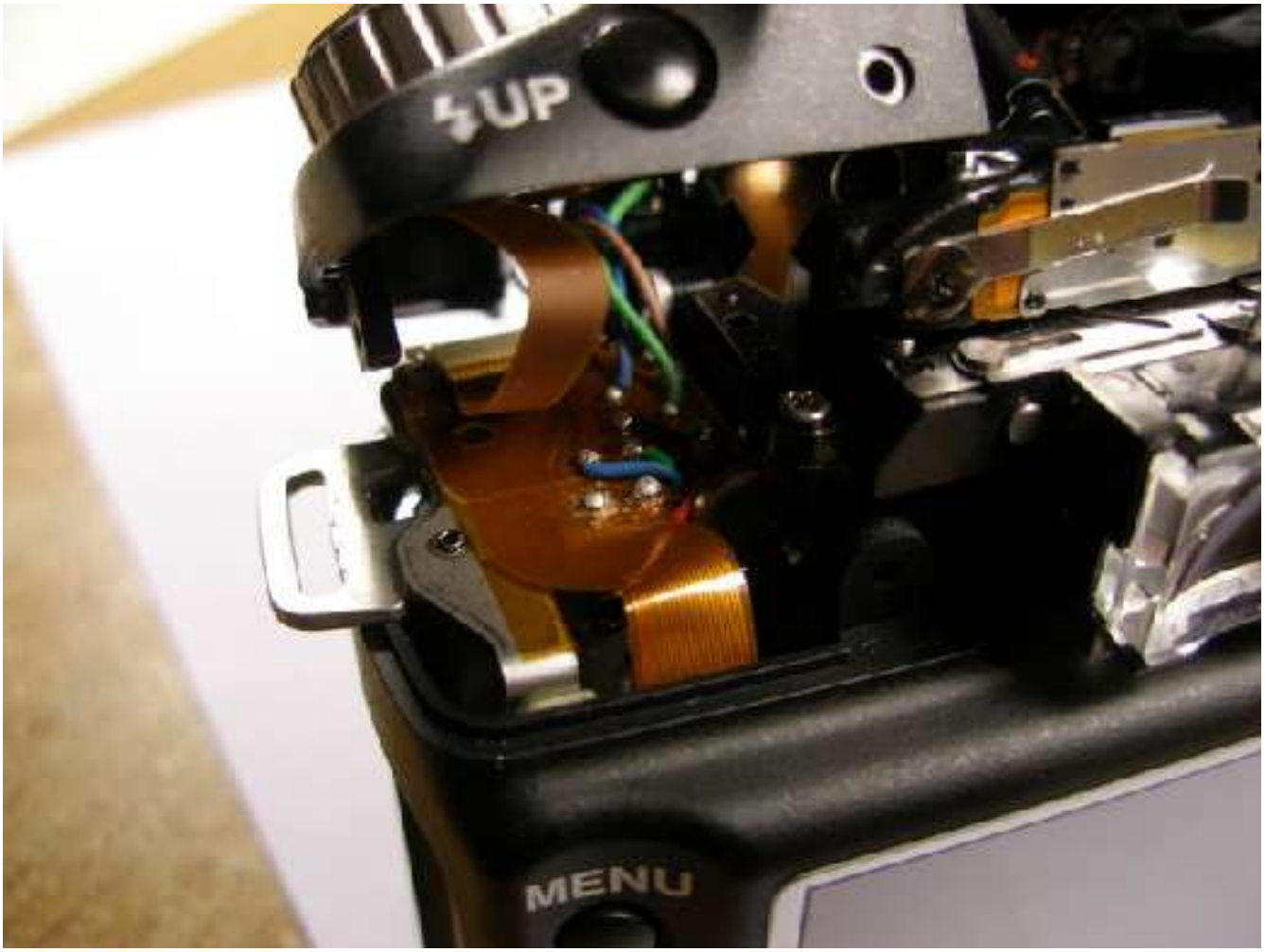
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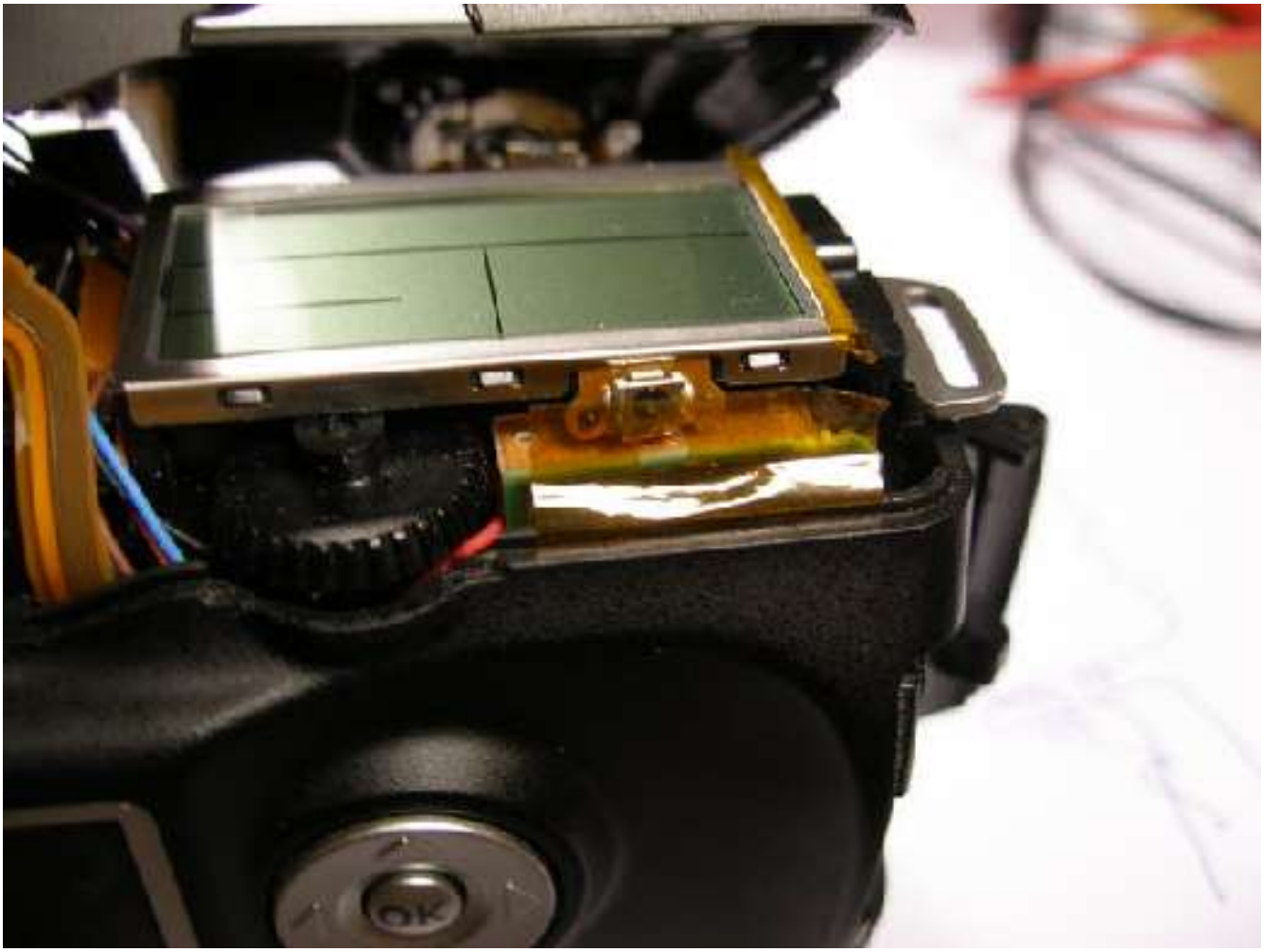
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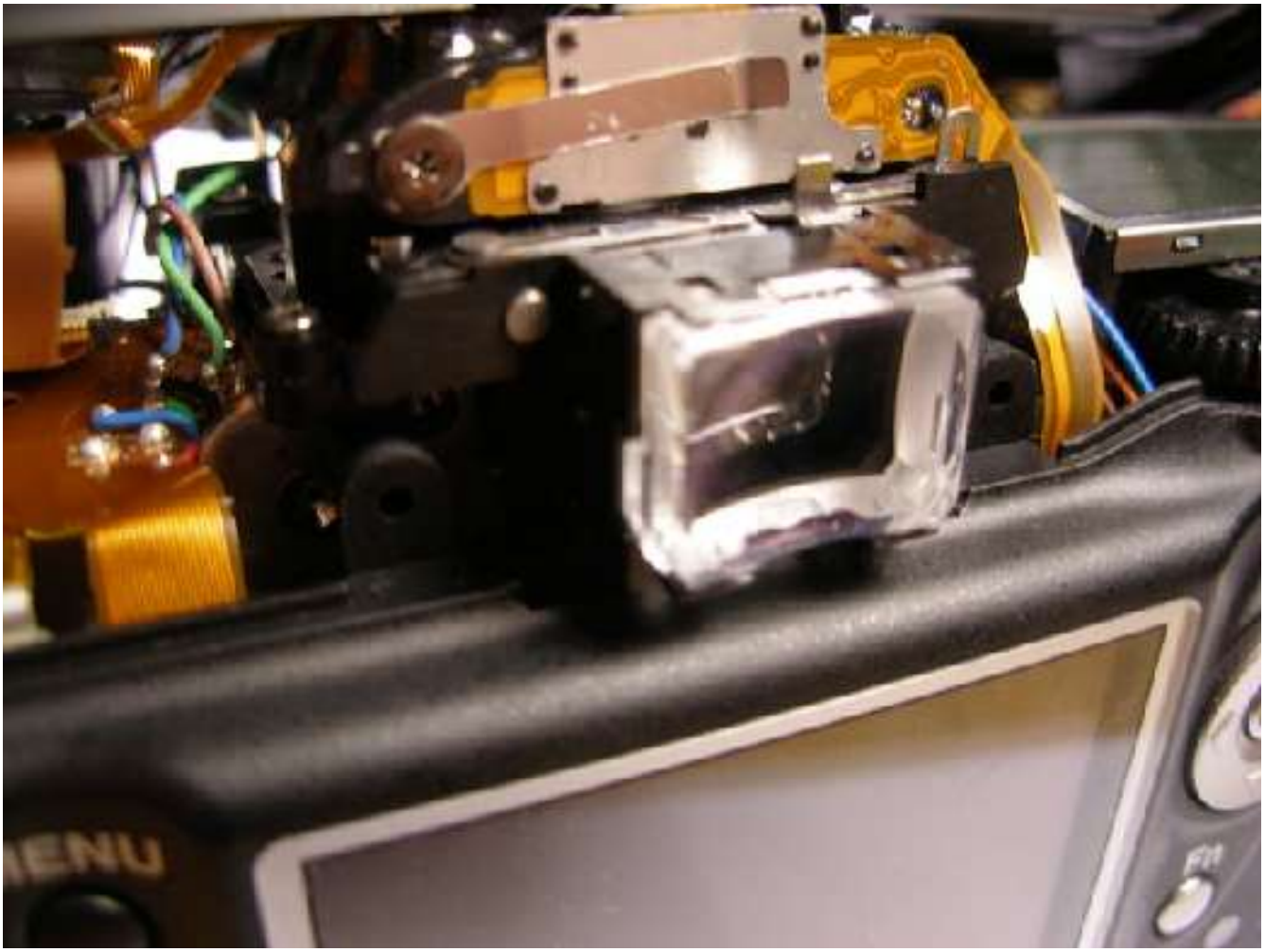
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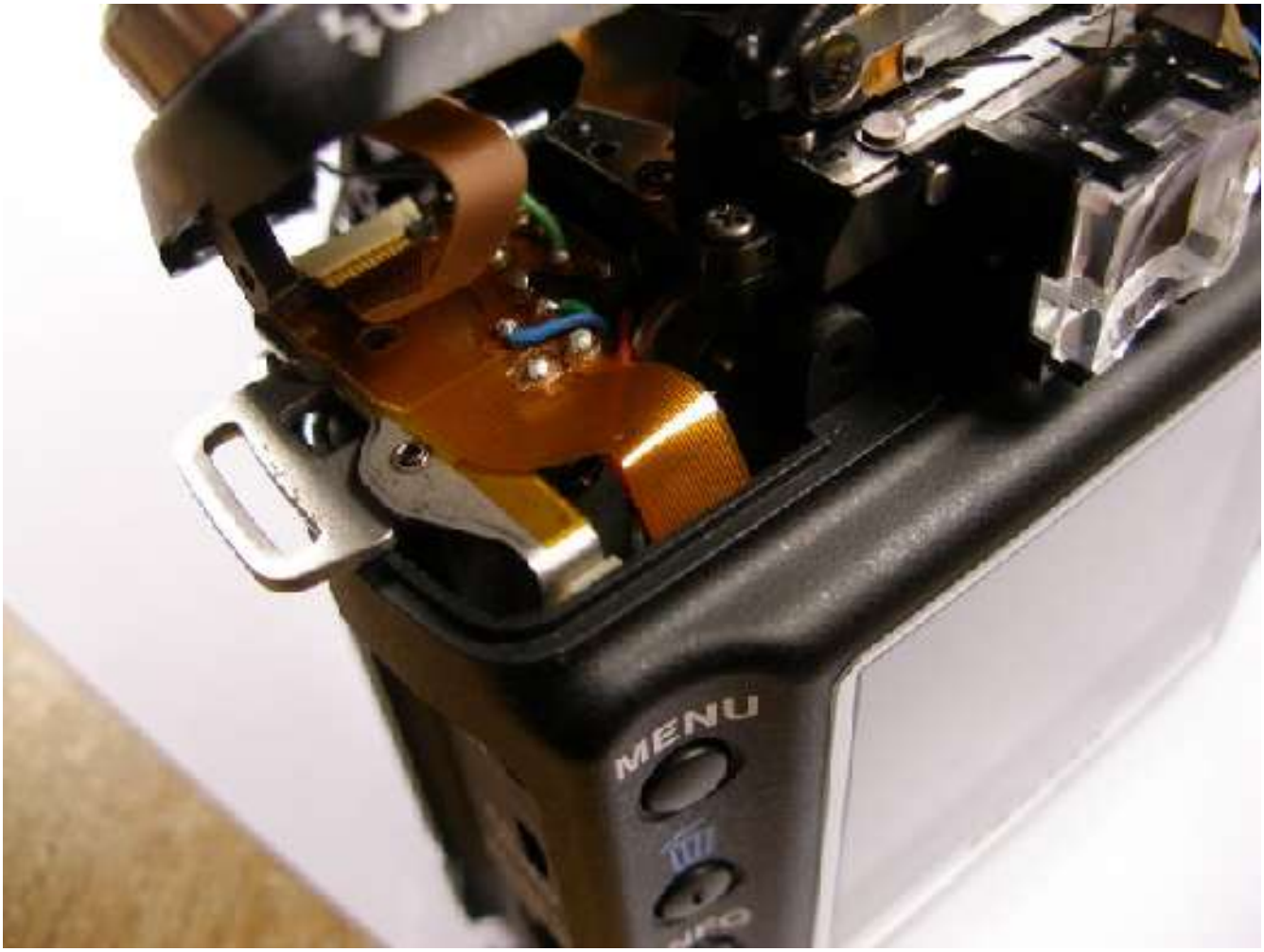
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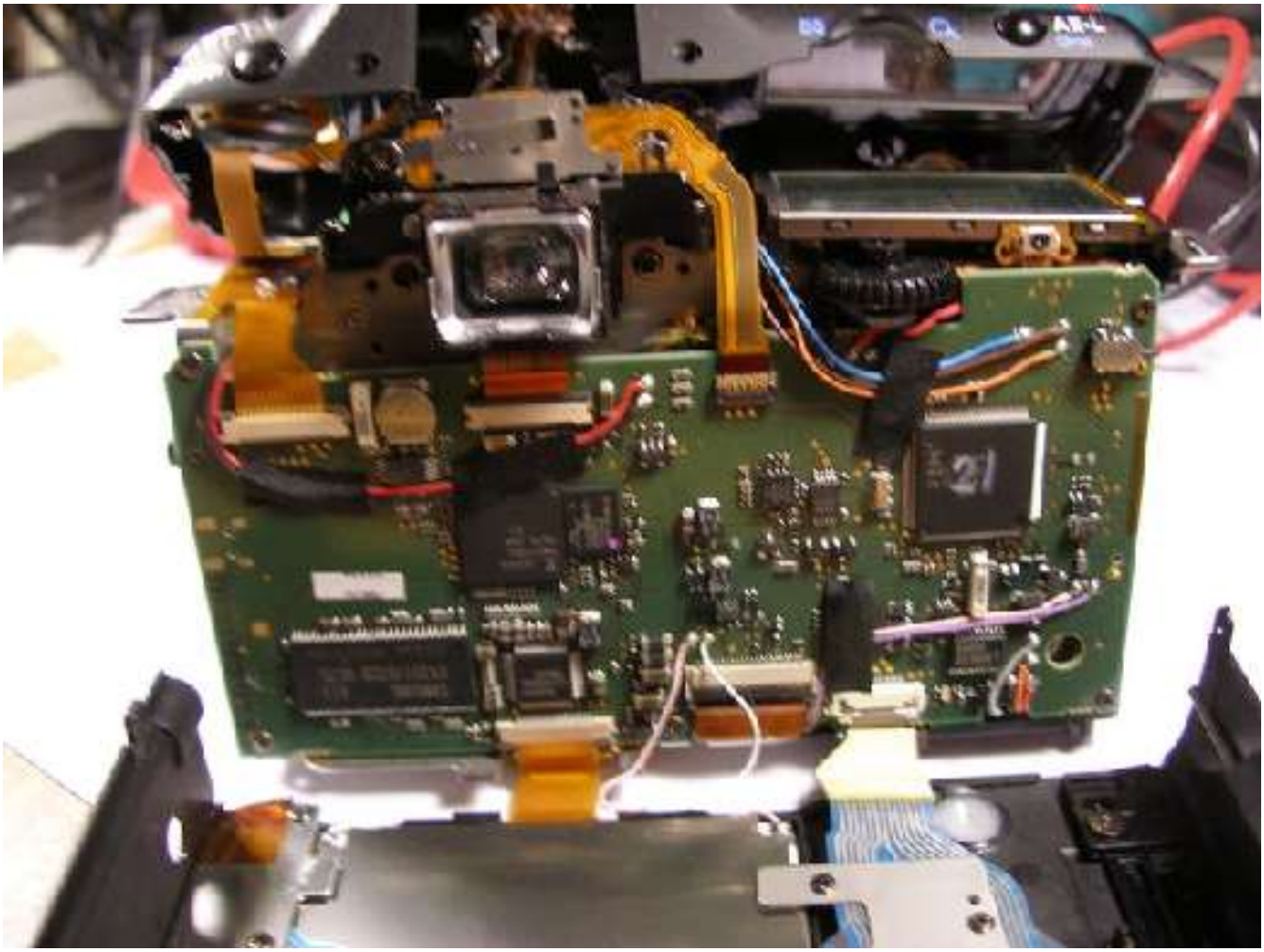

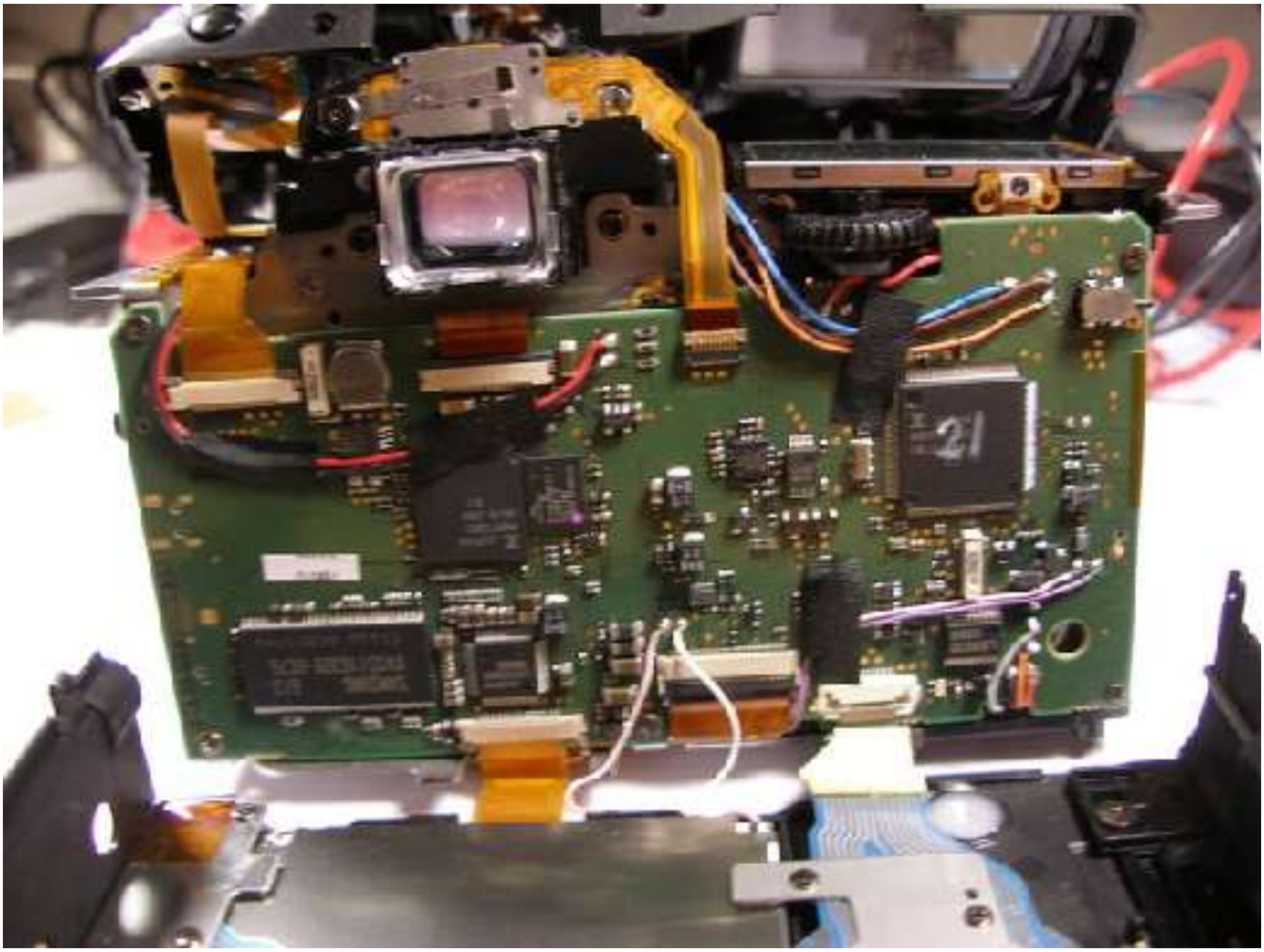

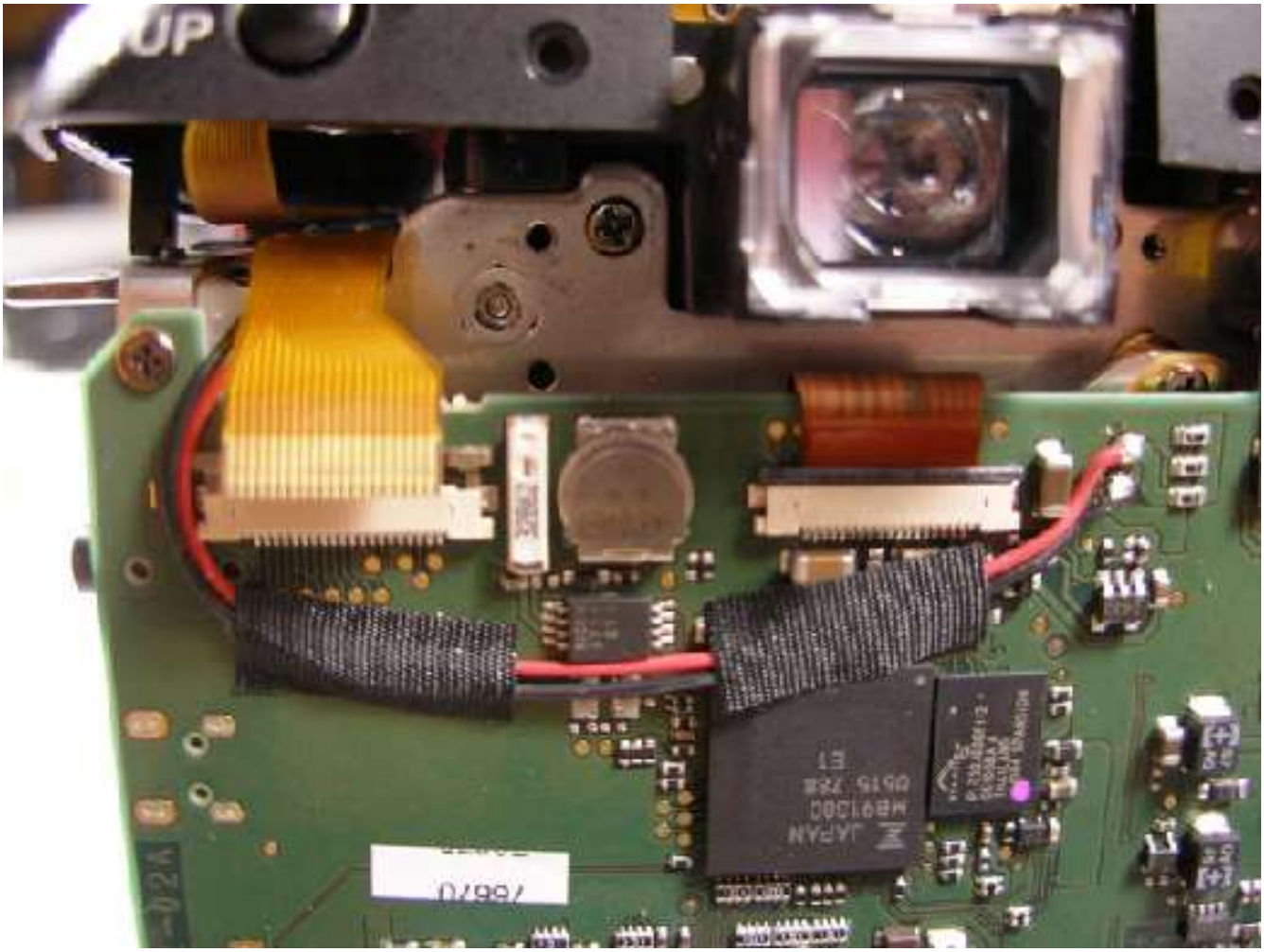
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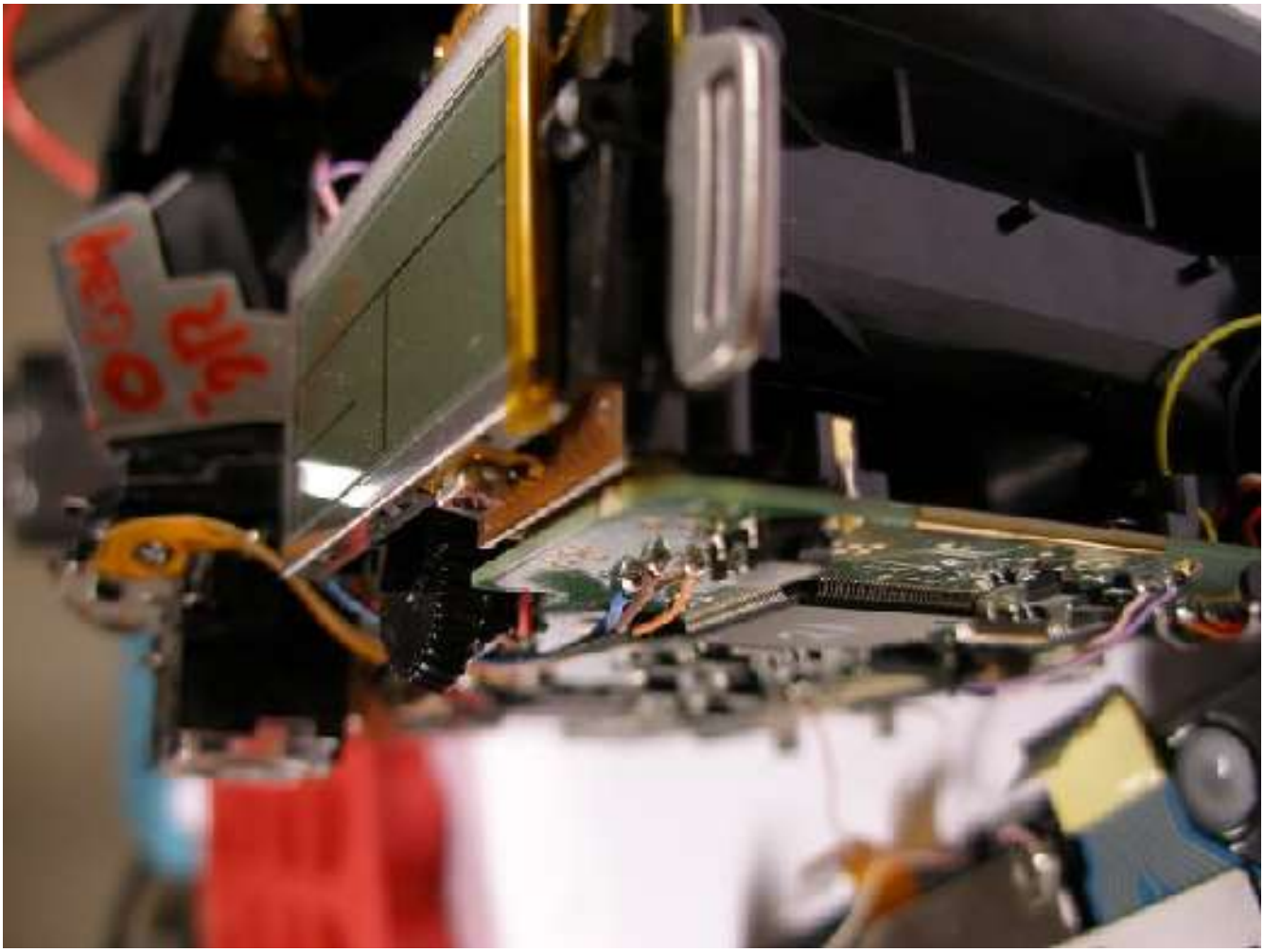

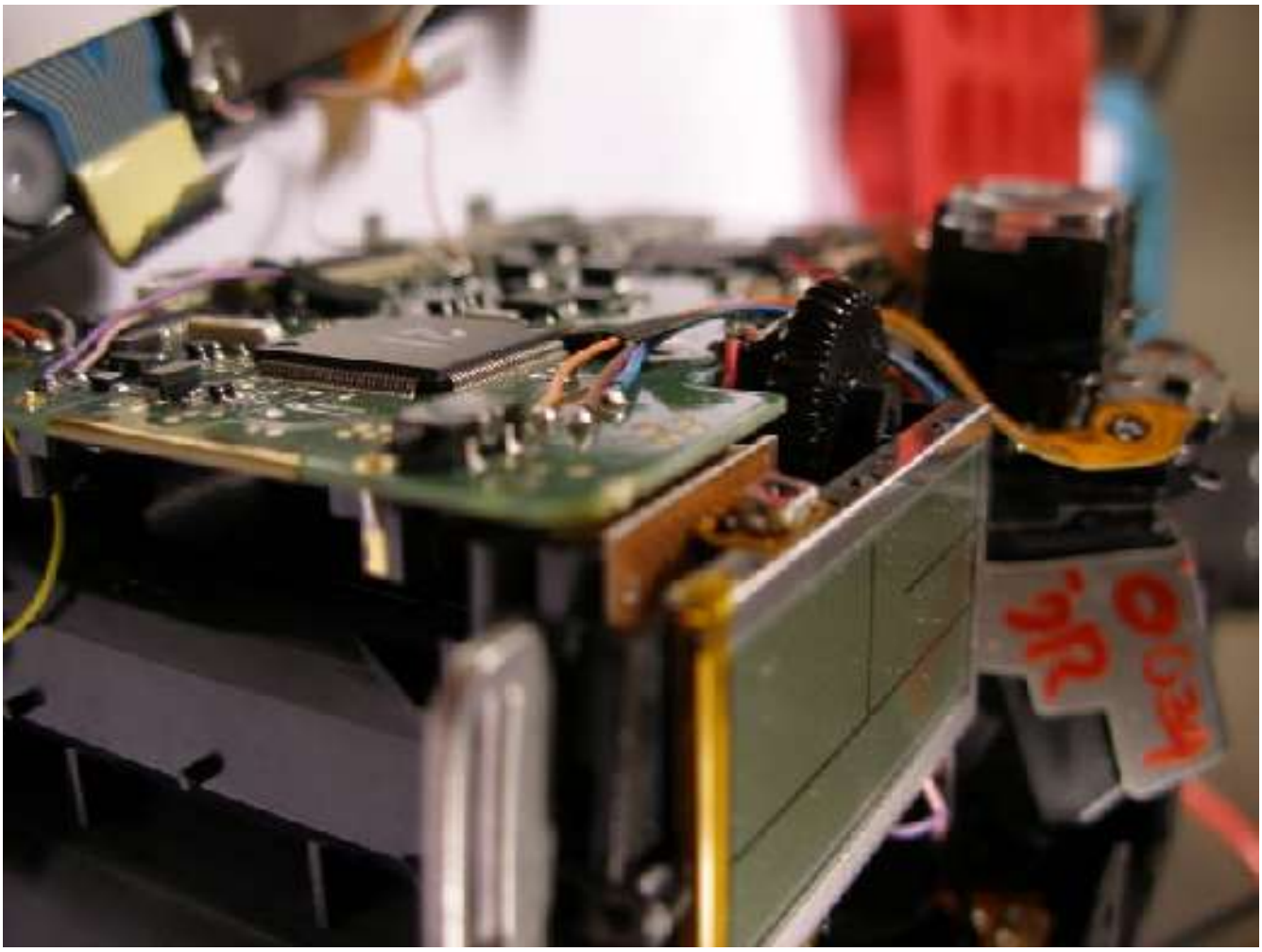


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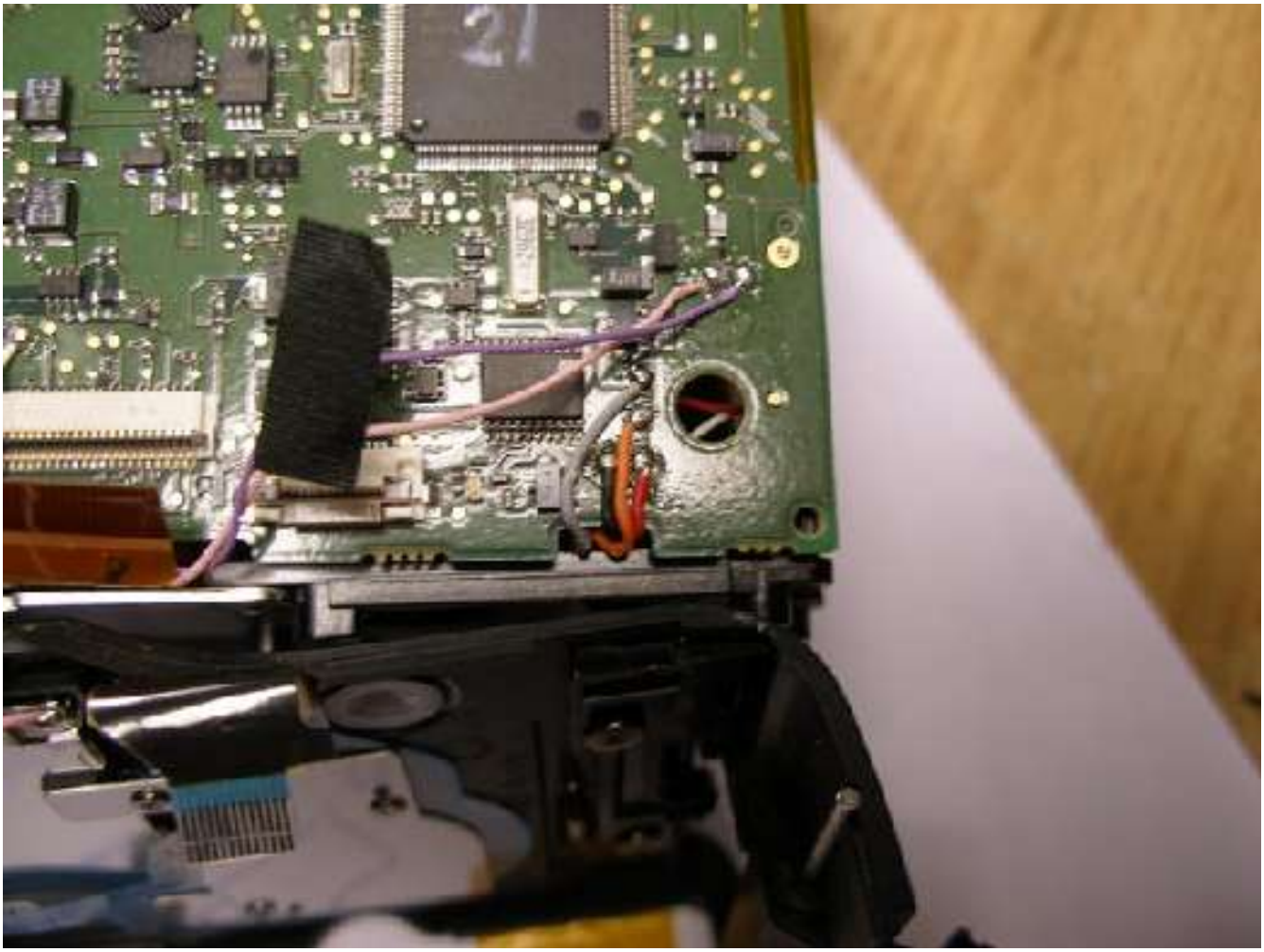
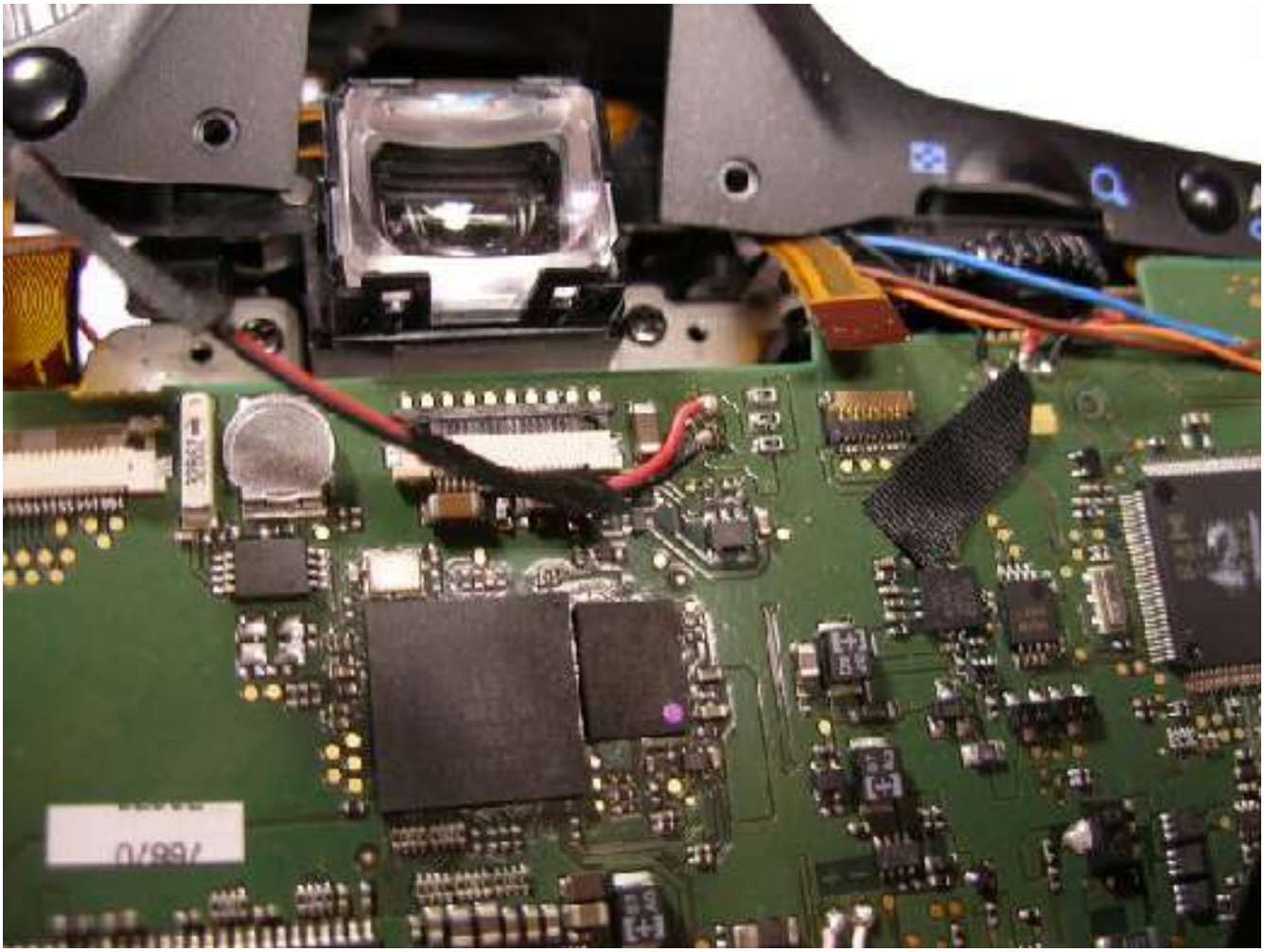
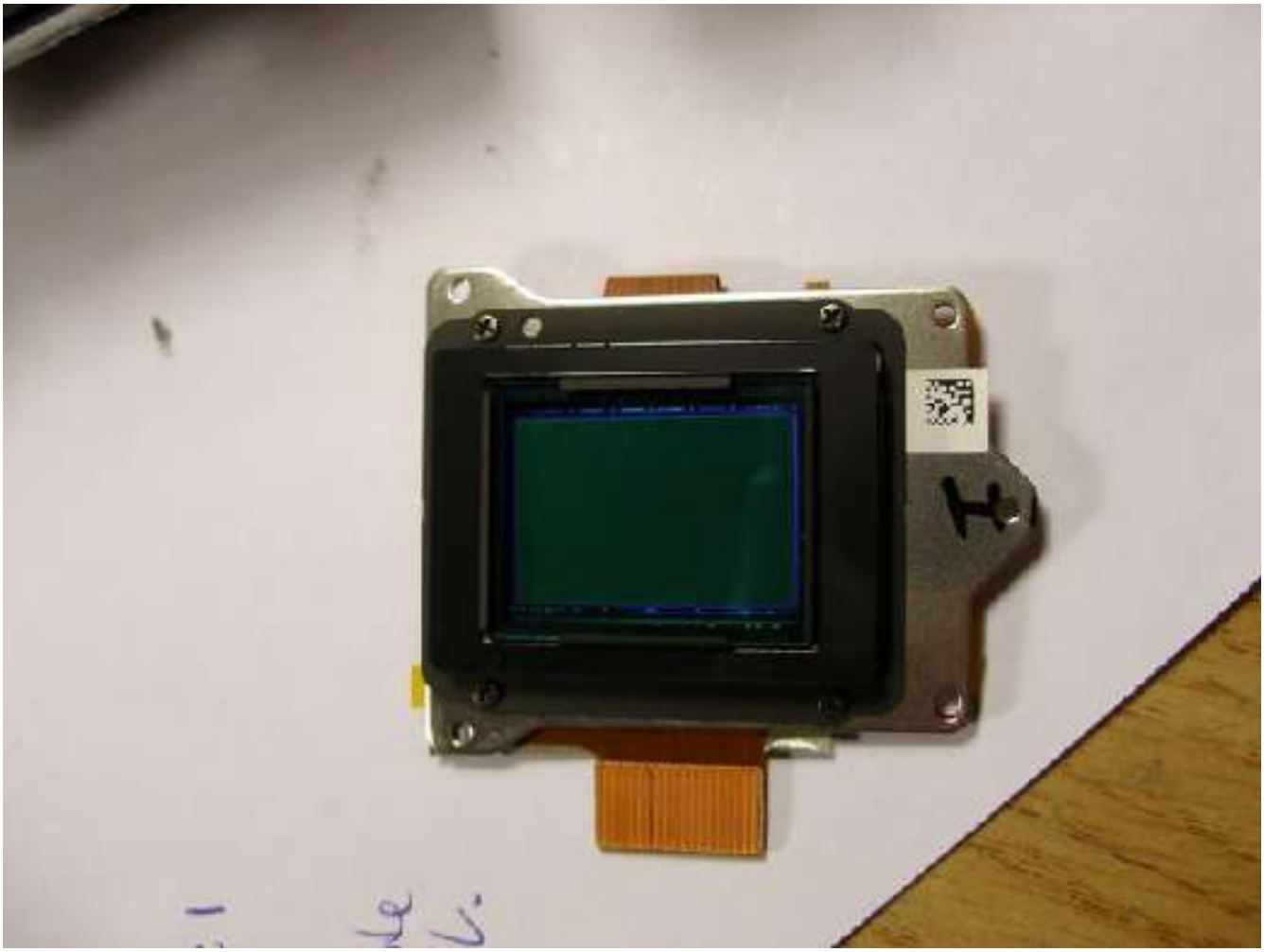
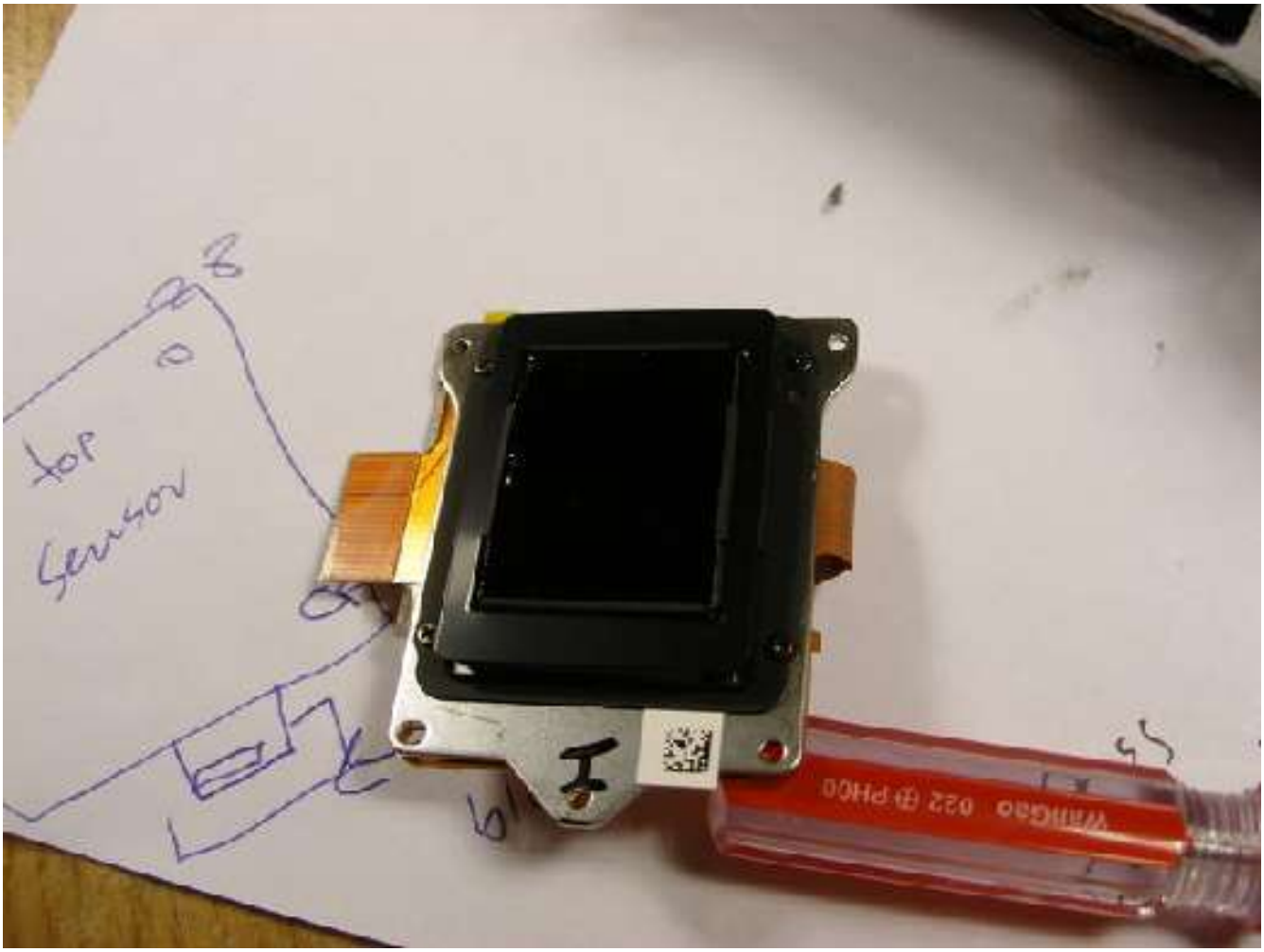






Takes a bit of wiggling - but you don't have to cut any wires to get the sensor out.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