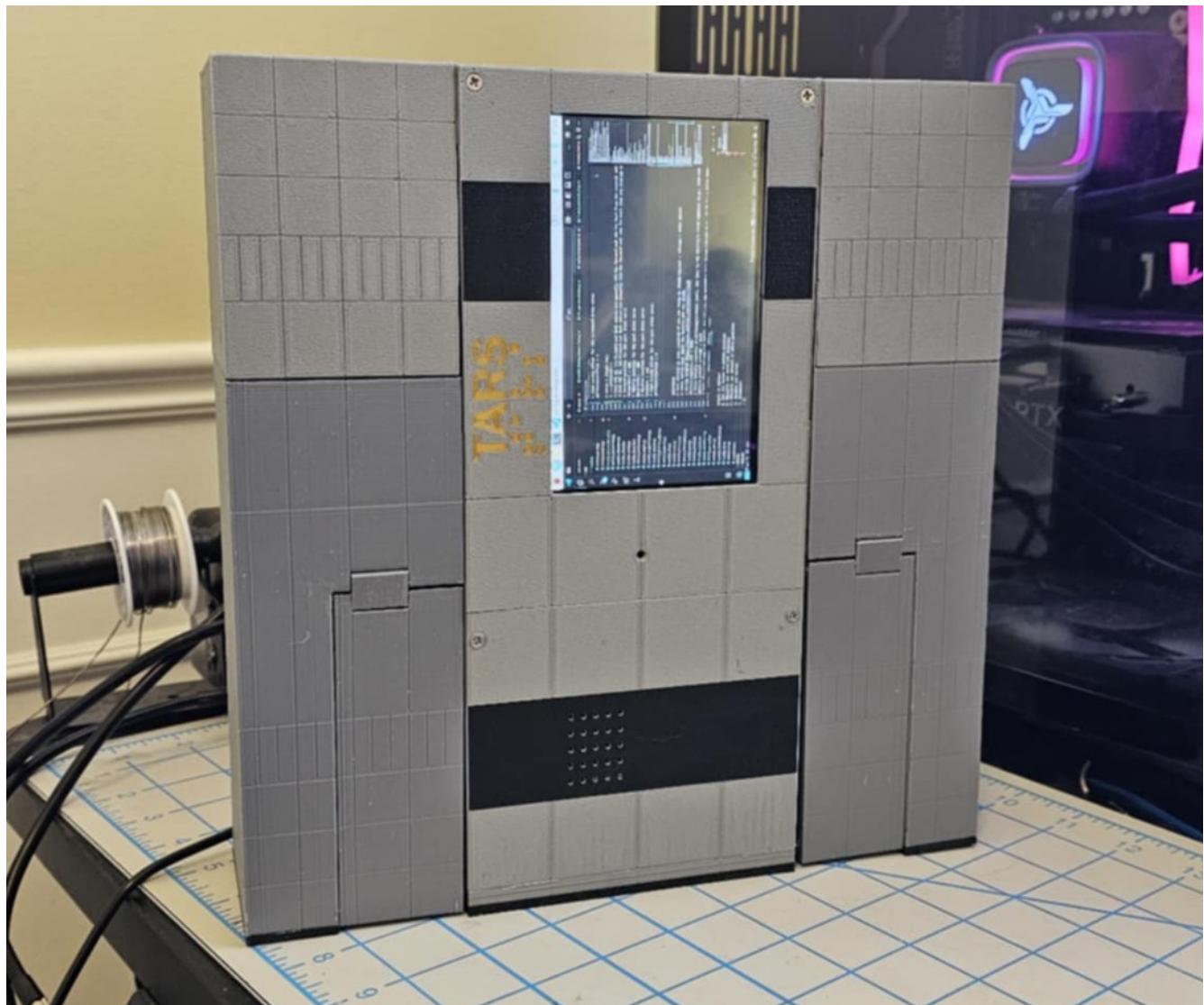


## Tars V2 – Assembly



### Setup Core Components:

NOTE: Whenever adding/removing components to the Raspberry Pi, make sure that it is shutdown AND unplugged to avoid damaging components.

## **Setup Display:**

### **Connect the Hardware**



- Use the provided DSI ribbon cable.
- Plug one end into the **DSI0 port** on the Raspberry Pi 5 (next to the Ethernet port).
  - See [this](#) if you don't know how to use DSI/CSI Connectors (IGNORE PAST 0:48)
- Plug the other end into the display.
- Ensure the ribbon is fully inserted facing the correct direction and the connectors are firmly latched (tug the cable to test).

---

### **Troubleshooting Tips**

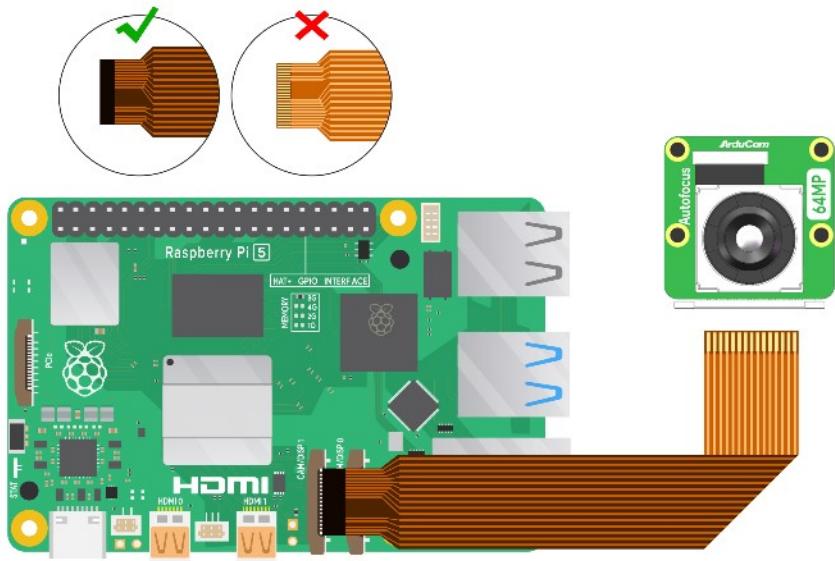
- If the screen stays black:
  - Recheck your ribbon cable connection (both ends).
  - Make sure you edited the correct DSI overlay in config.txt.
  - Try waiting ~2–3 minutes for the Pi to fully boot.
- If the boot still fails:
  - You can pull out the SD card, plug it back into your PC, and fix the config.txt. No need to reflash unless you corrupted the OS.

[Original Instructions](#)

## **Setup Camera Module:**

Stack the modules and plug the ribbon cable for the screen and camera.

- First power off the Pi 5 before connecting components.
- Connect the camera and pi with the ribbon cable according to the diagram below.
- Remember to do a tug test on the connections.



- **Verify Camera:**

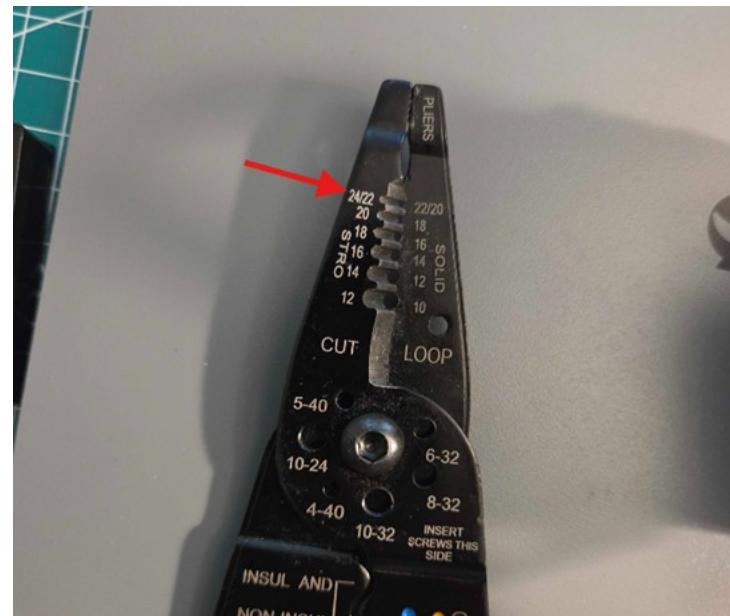
- Turn on the Raspberry Pi.
- In a terminal, list the detected cameras using:
  - `rpicam-hello --list-cameras`
  -

```
alex@raspberrypi:~ $ libcamera-hello --list-cameras
Available cameras
-----
0 : ov5647 [2592x1944 10-bit GBRG] (/base/axi/pcie@120000/rpi1/i2c@80000/ov5647@36)
  Modes: 'SGBRG10_CSI2P' : 640x480 [58.92 fps - (16, 0)/2560x1920 crop]
          1296x972 [46.34 fps - (0, 0)/2592x1944 crop]
          1920x1080 [32.81 fps - (348, 434)/1928x1080 crop]
          2592x1944 [15.63 fps - (0, 0)/2592x1944 crop]
```

- Should see the OV5647 Camera connected.
- Test the camera using:
  - `rpicam-hello -t 0`
- If you are having errors, check the ribbon cable face direction and connection.

## **Setup Speakers:**

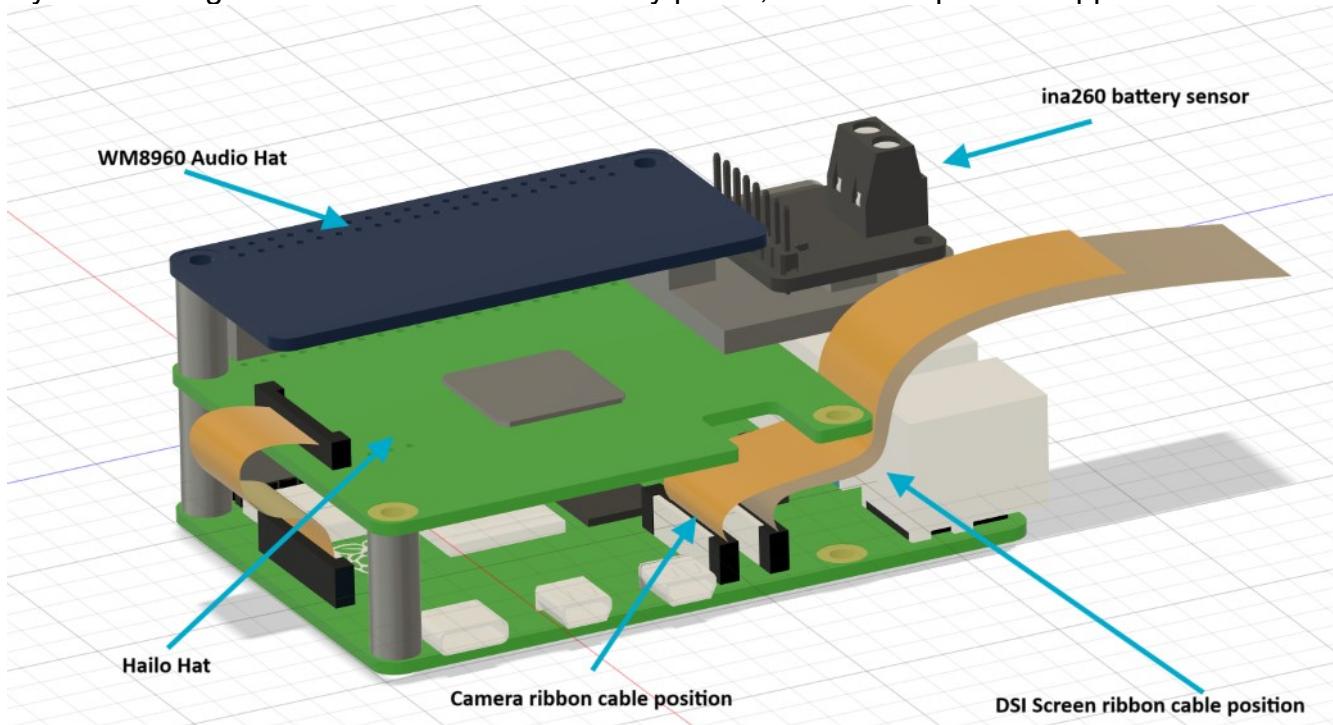
- We won't be using the speakers that come out of the box with the Audio HAT since they are too big.
1. Turn off and unplug the Raspberry Pi.
  2. On the PH2.0-N speakers, **cut off** the JST connector end on each speaker wire with a wire/flush cutter.
  3. **Strip** the ends of the wires (~5 mm) with your wire stripper.
    - **Use 24/22 STRD Gauge to strip.**



1. Twist the copper stranded wire end to prevent fraying.
4. Use a **small flathead screwdriver (i.e. 5/64")** to open the screw terminals on the HAT.
5. Insert the:
  - **Left speaker's wires** into LP and LN.
  - **Right speaker's wires** into RP and RN.
    1. **Red (power)** wire goes to XP (for positive).
    2. **Black (ground)** wire goes to XN (for negative).
6. **Tighten** the screws to secure the wires.

## **Setup Battery Monitor:**

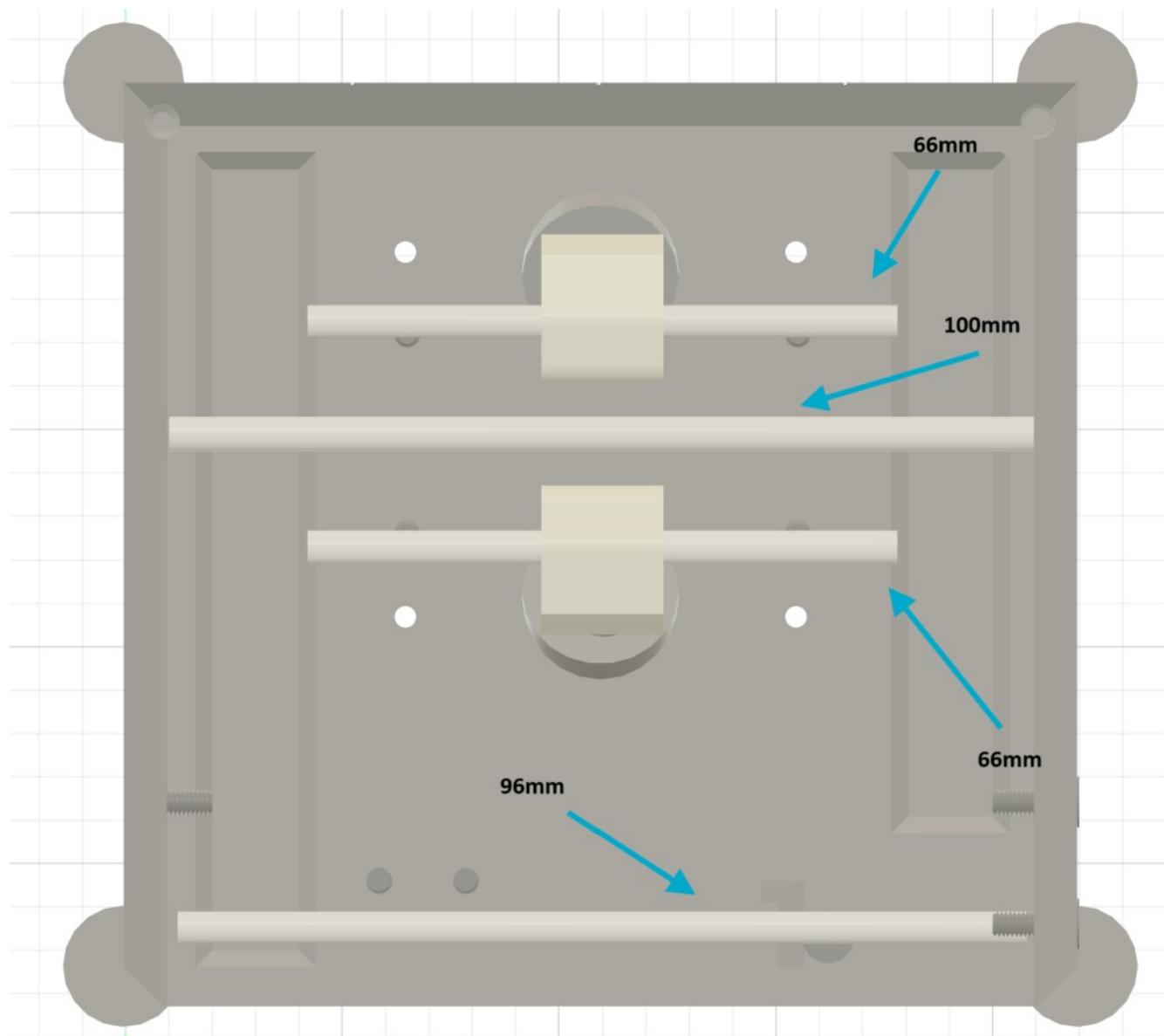
if you are using a ina260 to monitor the battery power, use the 3d printed supports to secure it



## **Parts Modification:**

### **Axel Rods:**

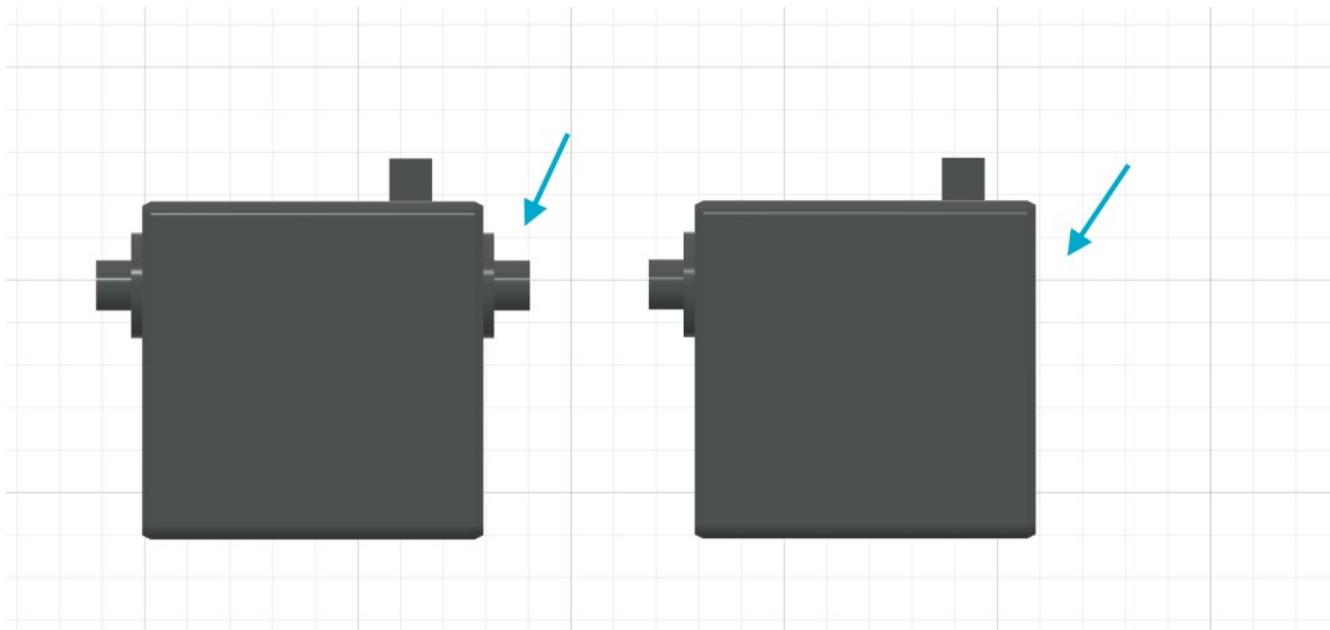
Cut the 4mm axel rods to these dimensions.



## **LDX-227:**

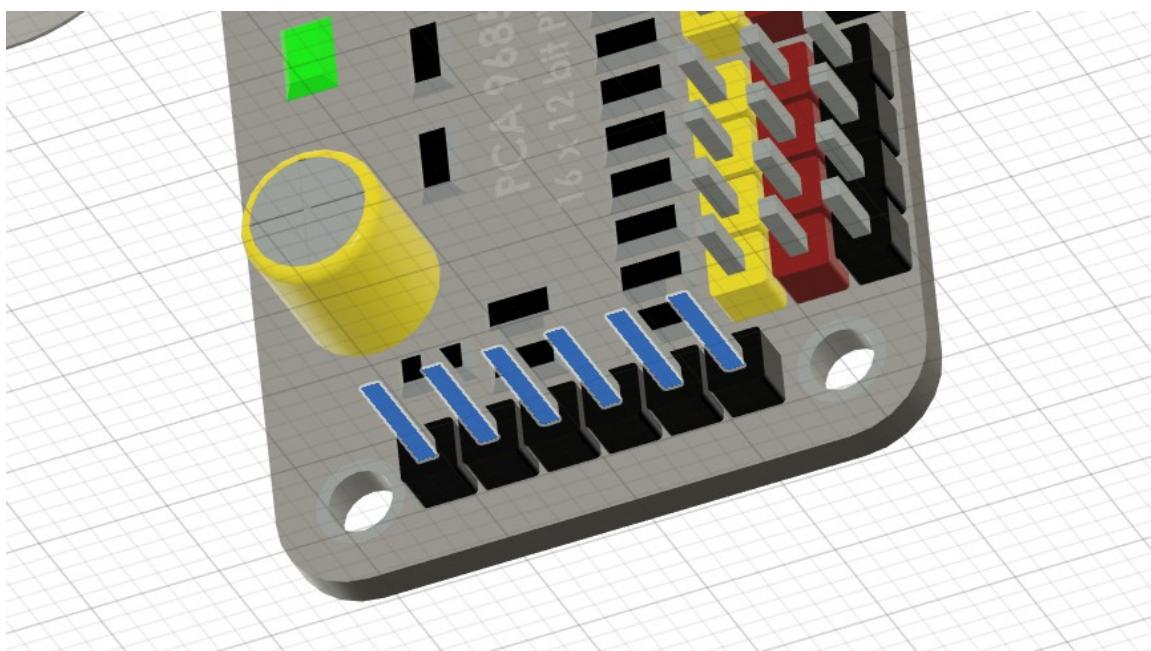
Cut the protruding plastic part on one of the LDX-227 servo if you are using them.

- You can use a flush cutter or knife to cut through the plastic bit by bit.



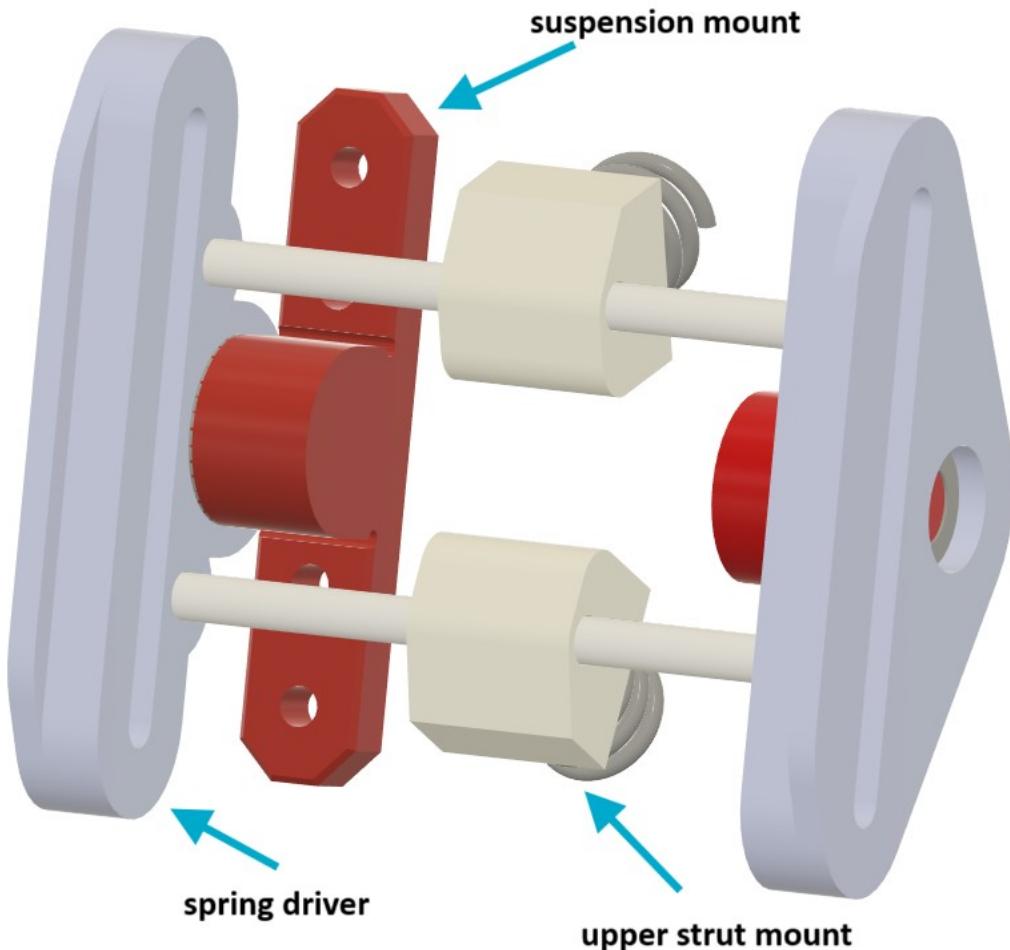
## **PCA9685:**

If the pins on your PCA9685 (servo controller) are bent, use some pliers to carefully make them straight.



# Assembly

## A. Install the Suspension:



### 1. Insert Bearings into Spring Drivers

- Press-fit the ball bearings into the central circular recesses on the **left and right spring driver** parts. Ensure they sit flush and rotate smoothly.



## 2. Slide Strut Mounts onto Axles

- Take the two **66mm axles** and slide one **strut mount** onto each axle.
- With threaded rods, you should be able to spin the strut mounts into place.
  - It might take some effort. You may need to clamp the axles and screw the strut mounts in.
  - 1. An easy way to do this is to move to Step 3 and once an axle is tightly inside a spring driver, you can start screwing the strut mount to the center.

## 3. Attach Axles to Spring Drivers

- Firmly press both **axles** into their designated holes on the **spring drivers**. This should lock the axles into the outer edges of the assembly, spanning across the middle section.
- Tug and pull both spring drivers apart to confirm that the axles are tightly in place.



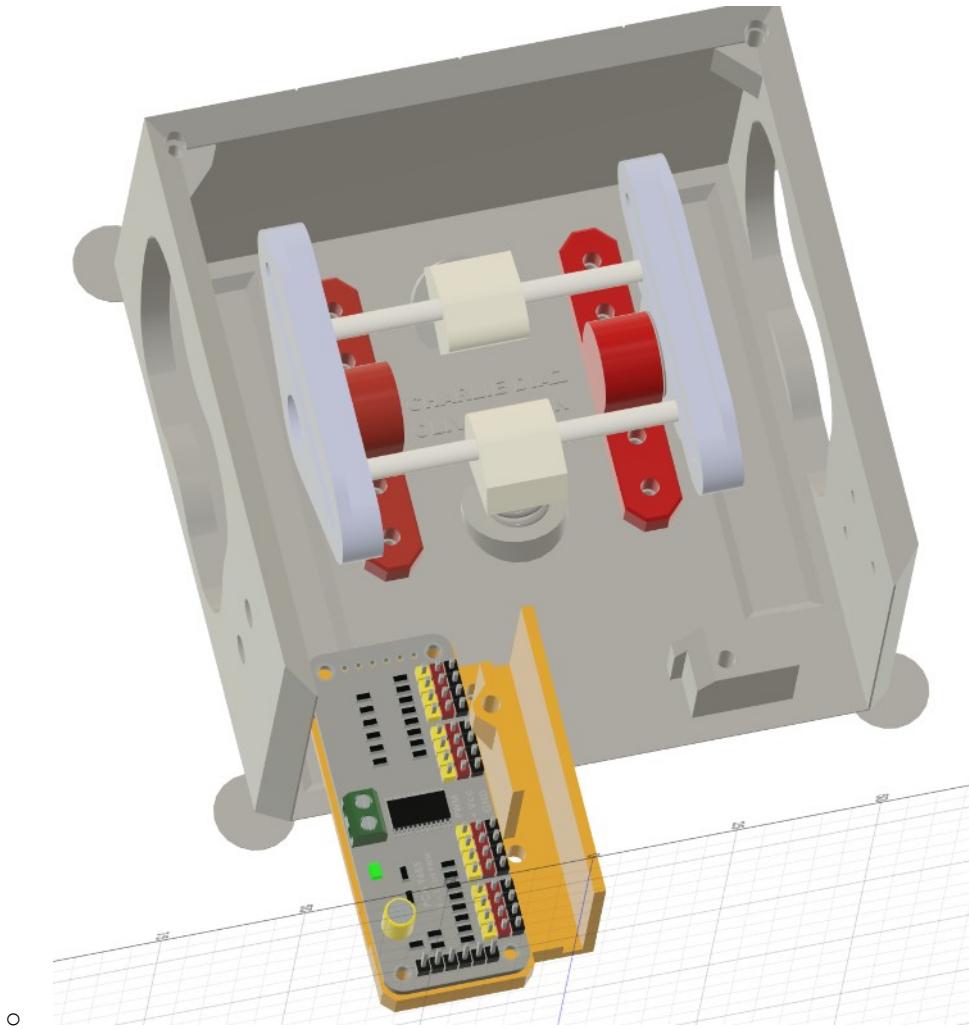
## 4. Mount Suspension Mounts onto Bearings

- Align and slide each **suspension mount** over the bearings that were installed in Step 1. The bearing should slot into the suspension mount, allowing it to rotate relative to the spring driver.



## 5. Secure Suspension to Upper Case with Springs

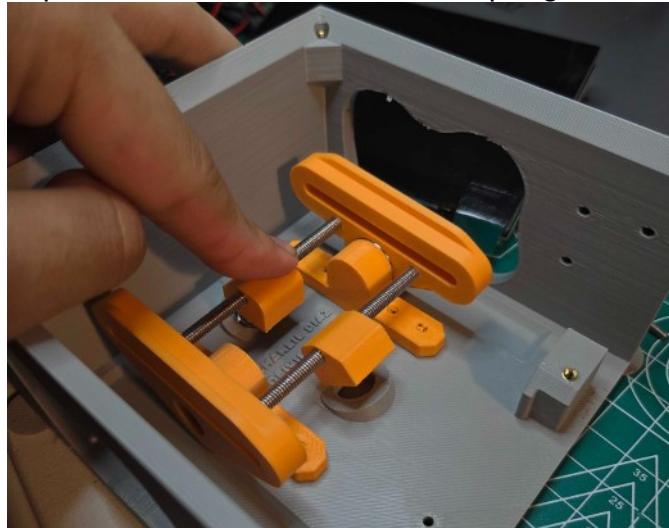
- Position the full assembly so the **suspension mounts** can be bolted to the **upper case** frame.



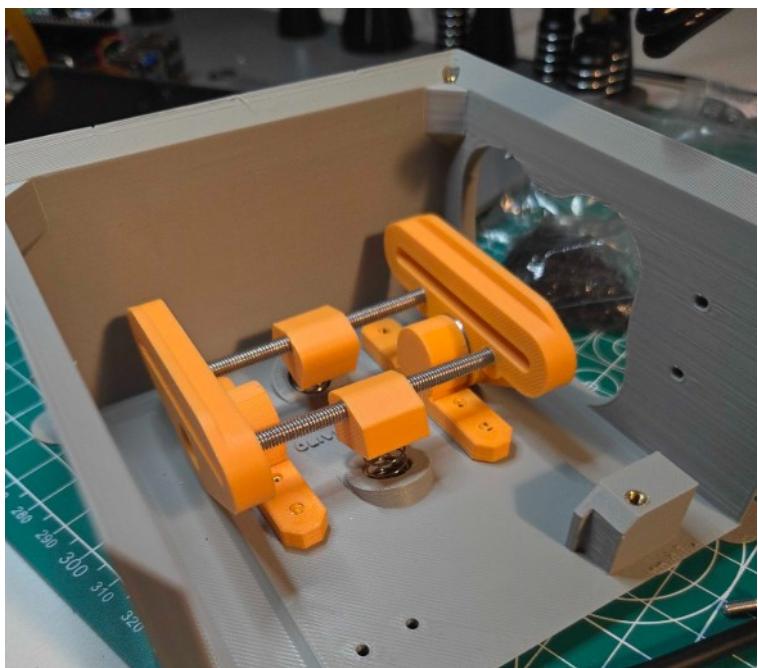
- The easiest way to screw this piece on with the springs is to first insert only the spring closest to the upper-case wall in between the strut mount on the upper case's protruding insert.
- Screw the suspension to the top case by holding it together and use 8 M3x8mm screws for the 8 screw holes on the suspension mount. Don't tighten the screws all the way in just yet.



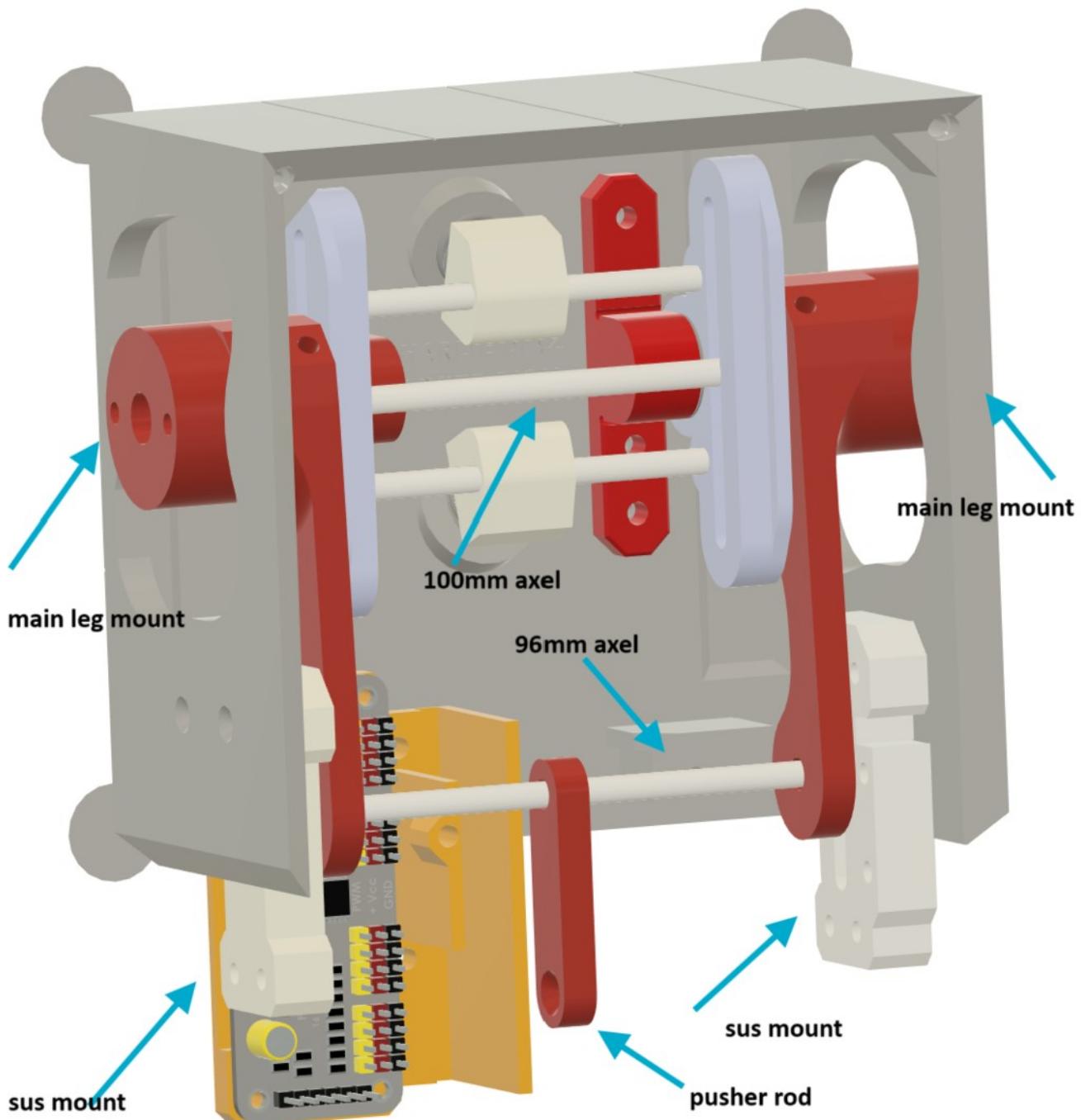
- Once you have all the screws in, push down the strut mount that already has a spring to provide room to insert the last spring.



- Insert the last spring first in the strut mount, then once it is nicely inserted slide the other end of the spring into the upper case's protruding spring insert.
- Before tightening everything, ensure the **springs** are seated correctly:
  - They should sit between the **strut mounts** and the **suspension mounts**, providing compression resistance.
    - Rotate the strut mounts so that it is angled directly facing the protruding spring inserts on the case.
  - When bolted, the springs should be slightly compressed for functionality.
- Finish tightening all the screws.



## B. Main Leg Mount + Suspension Linkage:



### 1. Slide the Main Leg Mount on Each Side of the Suspension

- You have **two main leg mounts** (red, large pieces) — one for each side of the robot's suspension structure.
- Slide each main leg mount **over the left and right spring driver assemblies**, aligning the **center circular hole** of the leg mount with the long, narrow slot on the spring drivers.

## 2. Insert the 100mm Axle Through the Center

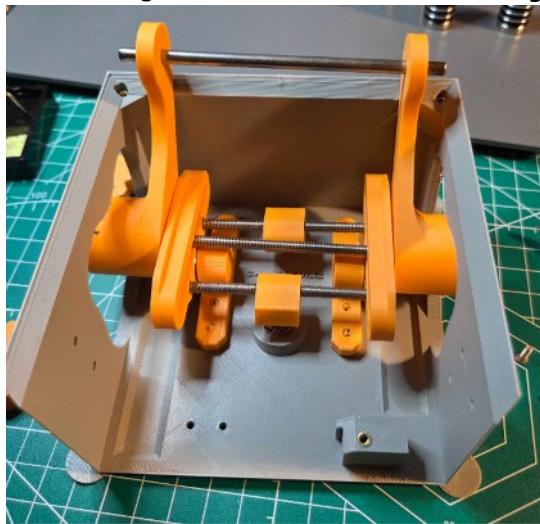
- Insert the **100mm axle rod** horizontally through the aligned holes/slots in:
  - The **main leg mount (left)**
  - The **spring driver (left)**
  - The **spring driver (right)**
  - The **main leg mount (right)**

The **100mm axle** serves as a **sliding pivot** that enables vertical motion of the leg within the suspension system.



## 4. Insert the 96mm Rod Through the Leg Mounts

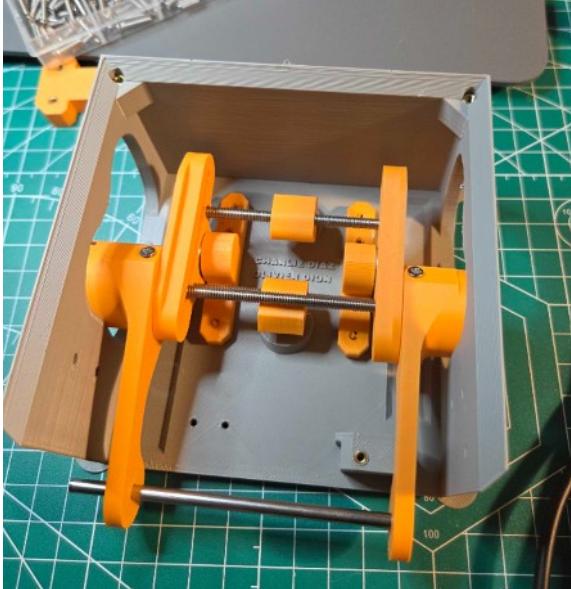
- Identify the **96mm axle**. This axle will tie together the **bottom portion** of the leg mounts.
- Align and slide it **horizontally** through the secondary bottom holes of the leg mounts.



## 3. Secure the Main Leg Mounts and Axle with Screws

- **Add one M3x14mm screw to each main leg mount**, screwing into the ends of the 100mm axle.

- If you tug on the leg mounts and the axle rod is still sliding in and out, you can use a longer screw, i.e. 16mm.
- These screws **retain the axle**, preventing it from sliding out during movement.
- **⚠️ Important:**
  - The axle must be **tight enough** to hold everything together securely.
  - But the main leg mounts should still be able to **rotate freely** around the axle with minimal play (looseness).
  - Test the articulation by gently moving the leg mounts up and down.



## 5. Do Not Bolt the Suspension Mounts to the Upper Case Yet

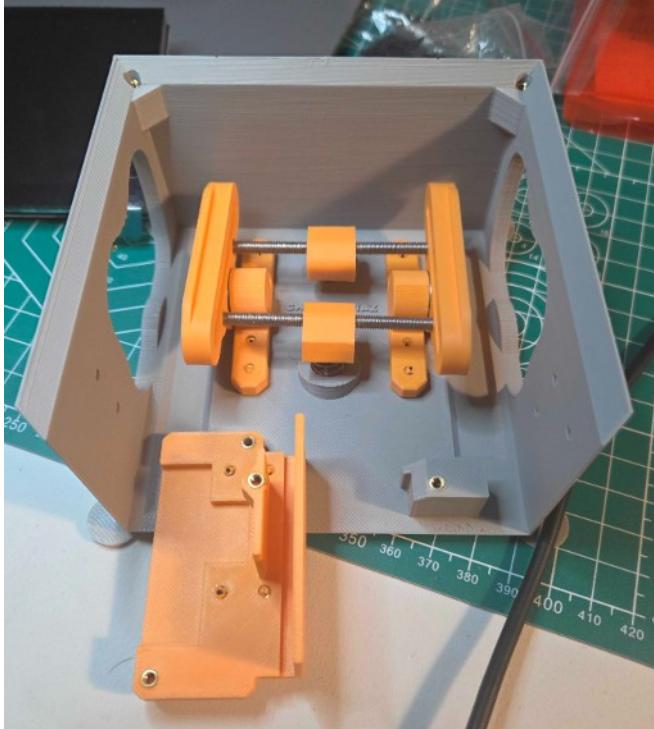
- Leave the **suspension mounts** aligned with the 96mm rod **unbolted** to the upper case for now.
- This allows for easier alignment and adjustment during the final fitting of servos and motion testing.



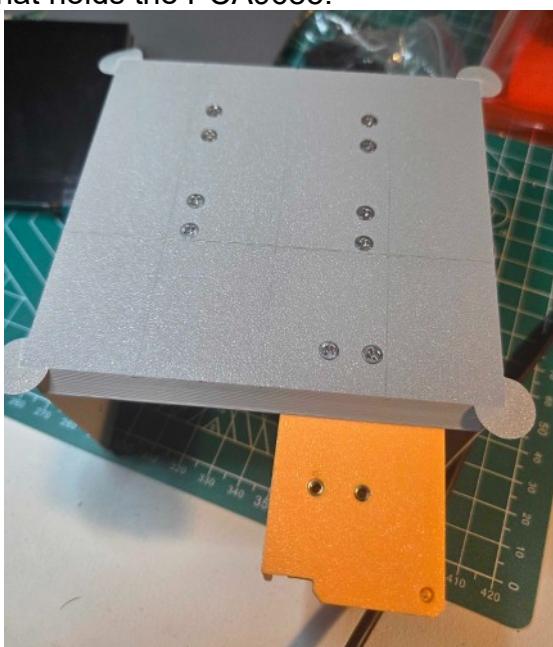
### **C. PCA9685 Servo Driver:**

#### **1. Bolt the PCA9685 Support to the Upper Case**

- The large orange/yellow piece is the **PCA9685 Support**.
  - This support is designed to hold the PCA9685 servo driver board inside the upper case.
- **Position the support bracket** so its mounting holes align with the 2 holes on the **inner wall of the upper case**.



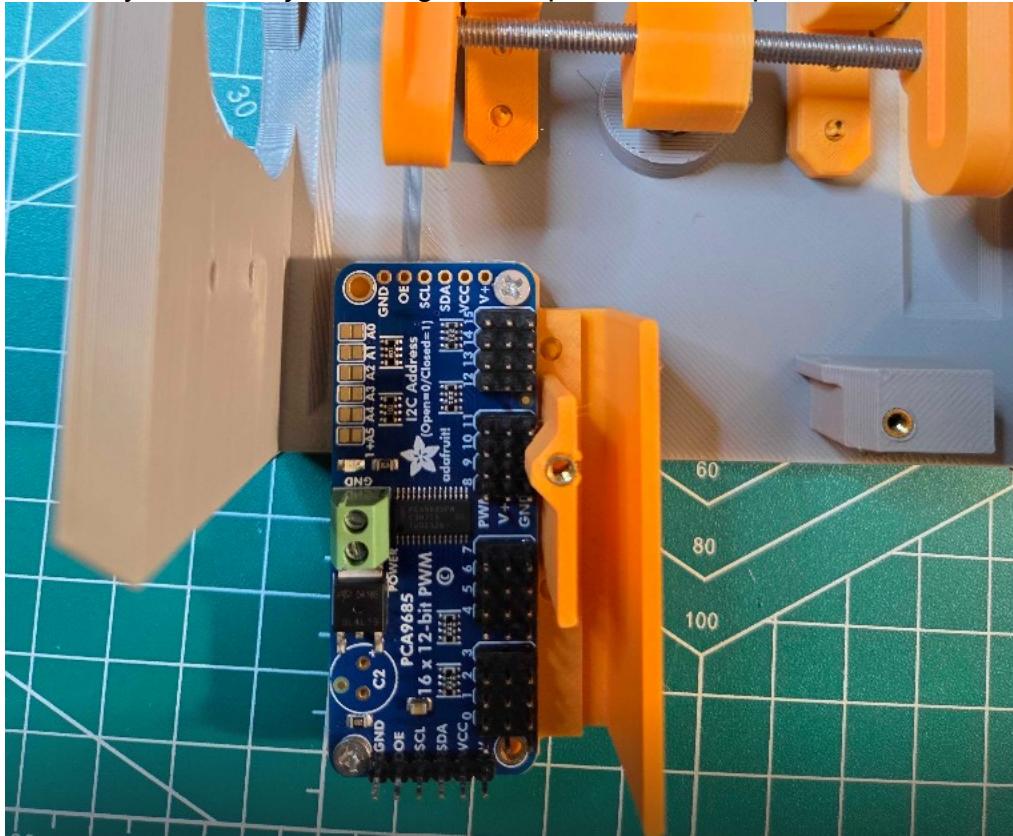
- **Screw the 2 holes in** securely using two M3x8mm screws. This forms the structural base that holds the PCA9685.



---

## 2. Mount the PCA9685 Board to the Support

- The **PCA9685 board** sits flat against the **orange/yellow support**.
- Align the holes on the PCA9685 board with the screw holes on the support.
- **Bolt the PCA9685 to the support using two M3x6mm screws**, ensuring it's firmly attached but not overtightened (to avoid cracking the PCB). You will not be screwing them all the way down but just enough to keep the board in place.



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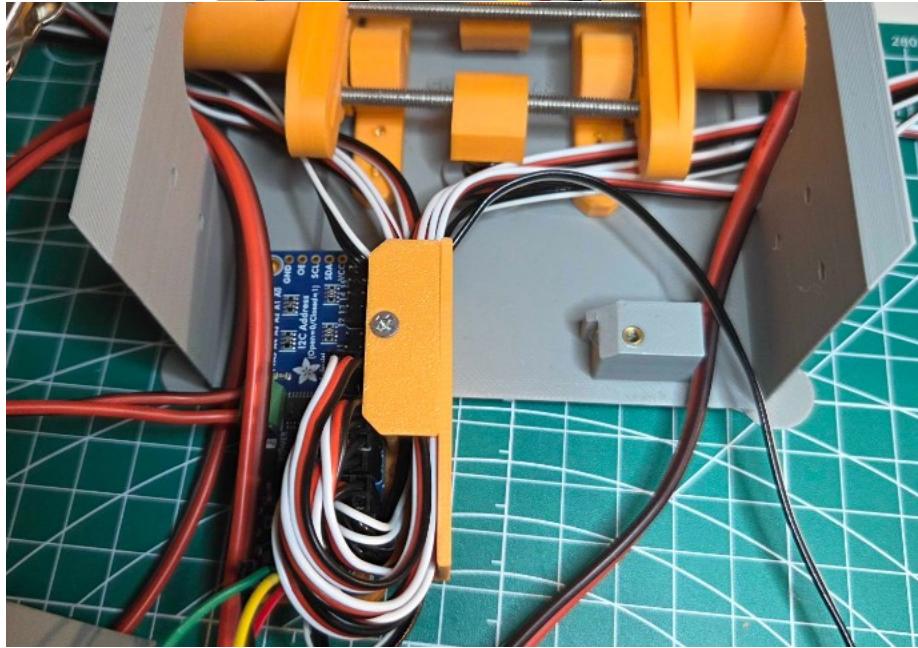
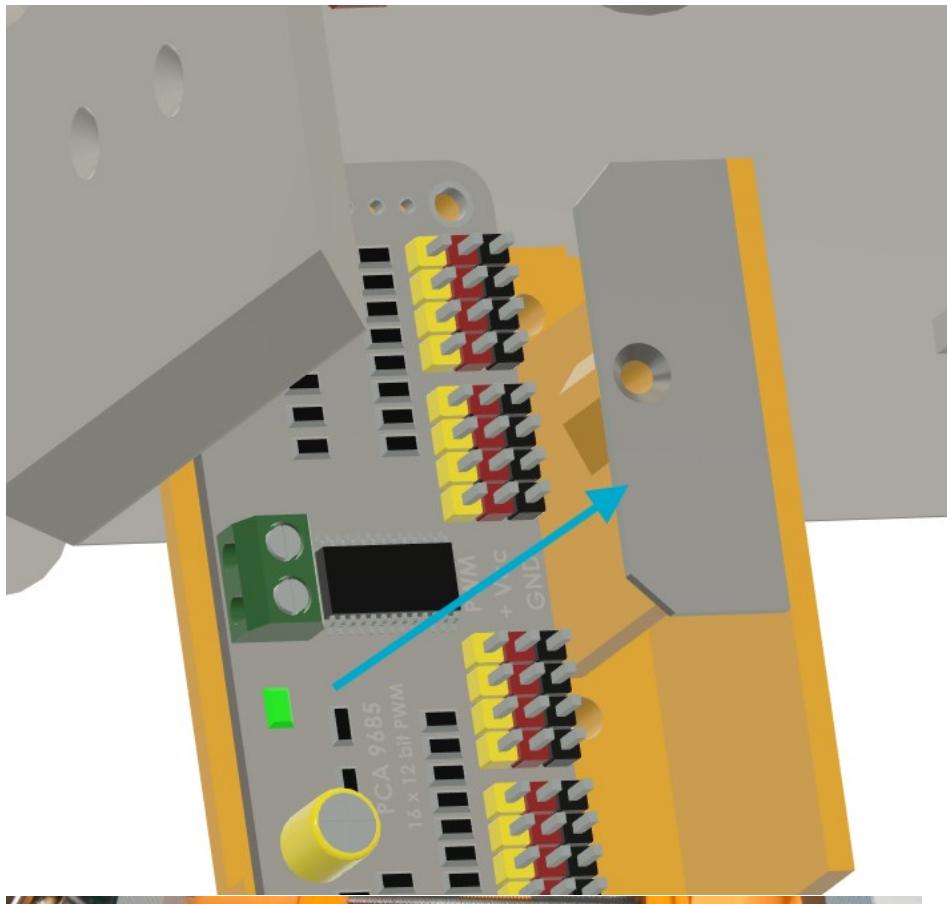
## 3. Route the Servo Wires into the Wire Channel

- Connect your servo cables to the **PCA9685 pin headers** (black headers with red/yellow/black).
- As you connect each servo wire, **route the wires downward into the wire management channel** built into the support structure. This helps prevent tangling or strain on the connectors.

---

## 4. Secure the Wires with the PCA9685 Cap

- The **grey rectangular piece with a center hole** is the **PCA9685 Cap**.
- Place this cap over the routed servo wires and the wire channel.
- Its purpose is to **lock the wires** in place so they don't move or pull out during robot operation.
- Align the cap's hole with the mounting post below and **screw it down** firmly with a M3x6mm screw.



#### **D. Servo & Power Wiring:**

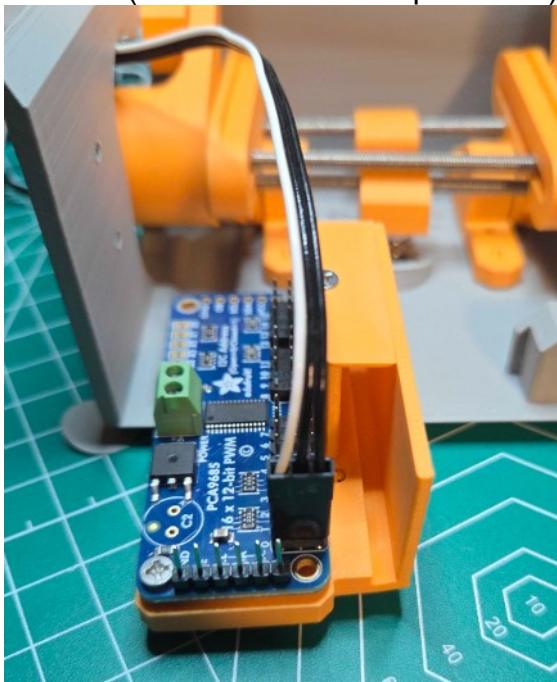
**Preparation Step:**

- **Label or color-code each servo cable and extension cable** (e.g., with tape, stickers) to match the **PCA9685 pin number** they're connected to. This will help **identify them later** during the servo calibration or wiring troubleshooting process.
- 

## Step-by-Step Instructions

### Step 1: Connect the 3 Main Servos + 6 Extension Cables

- Before this step, it is recommended to unscrew the PCA9685 Cap so that we can use the built-in slot to help organize the servo cables.
- **Servos:**
  - Plug **3 LDX-227** servo wires into the **PCA9685 channels 0, 1, and 2**.
    - Use the servo cables that come in the box with the LDX-227.
  - You will see 3 wires on this cable. The white one corresponds to the PWM pin on the channel (insert like the example below).



- **Extension Cables:**
    - Plug **12" servo extension wires** into **PCA9685 channels 3–8**.
      - Use the male end of this wire and like in the previous example match the white wire to the PWM pin of the channel.
- 

### Step 2: Route Left Leg Servo Cable

- The servo wire in Channel 0 should go through the PCA9685 slot but remain within the main chassis.
  - The **servo wire plugged into Channel 1** (the **left leg servo**) should have its cable **routed through the same slot and then through the left hole in the upper case** (the main chassis body).
    - **NOTE: ALL LEFT AND RIGHT DIRECTIONS ARE BASED ON OUR PERSPECTIVE LOOKING AT TARS, NOT TARS' PERSPECTIVE**
- 

### Step 3: Route Right Leg Servo Cable

- The **servo wire plugged into Channel 2** (the **right leg servo**) should have its cable **routed through the right hole in the upper case**.

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#### Step 4: Route Extension Cables (Right Side)

- Extension cables connected to **Channels 3, 4, 5** should be routed **through the right hole** in the upper case.
- 

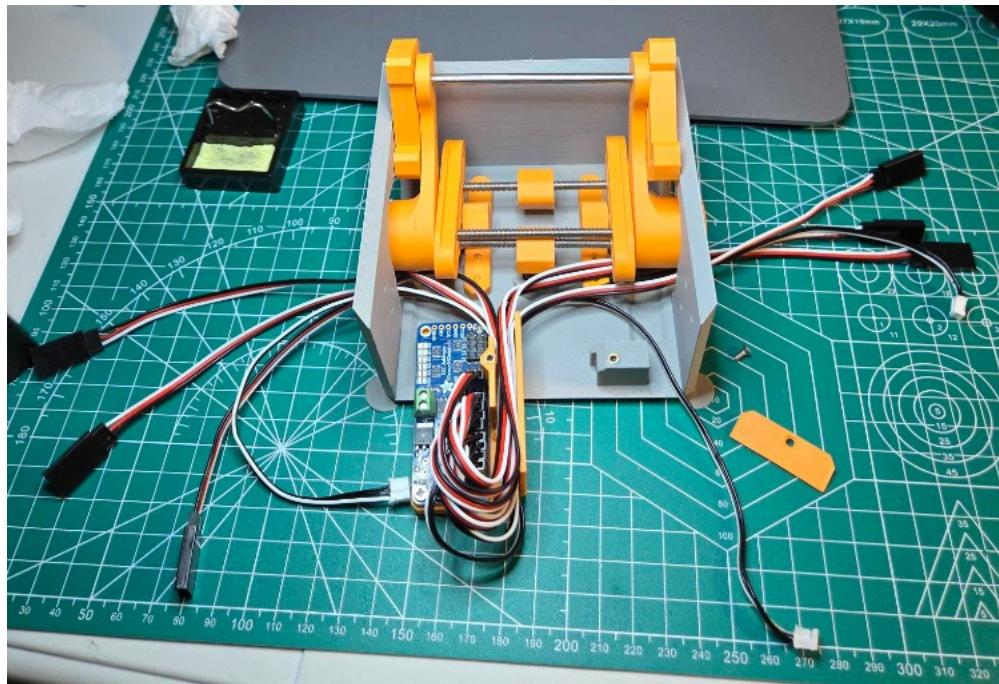
#### Step 5: Route Extension Cables (Left Side)

- Extension cables connected to Channels **6, 7, 8** should be routed **through the left hole** in the upper case.
  - These will connect to components on the right side of the robot.
- 

#### Step 6: Double-check Wiring

- Make sure that **all wires (servos + extensions)** that pass from the PCA9685 into either leg:
  - **Go under the moving suspension assembly**, not over it.
  - This ensures that the suspension can **freely compress and extend** without getting tangled or pulling on the cables.

⚠ Double-check that no cables are caught above the red suspension mounts or blocking the movement of the arms or axles.



---

#### Step 7: Only Connect First 3 Servos Now

- Connect the 3 primary LDX-227 servos:
    - **Channel 0** – Main Legs (up/down movement)
      - **This one will be the servo you modified earlier to remove the plastic protrusion.**
    - **Channel 1** – Left Leg Rotation
    - **Channel 2** – Right Leg Rotation
  - Do **not** connect servos for arms or hands yet (channels 3–8). Just run their **extension wires** and secure them as shown.
- 

#### Servo Channel Reference (Reminder)

## Servo Channel Function

0	Main Legs – up/down
1	Left Leg Rotation
2	Right Leg Rotation
3	Right Main Arm
4	Right Forearm
5	Right Hand
6	Left Main Arm
7	Left Forearm
8	Left Hand

## Step 8: Cut and Prepare 2-Conductor Power Cables – 4 Lengths of 50 cm Each

- Cut four lengths of 50 cm from your 2-conductor parallel wire (18 AWG or similar).
  - Each cable contains both a V+ (red) and GND (black) wire.



These cables will be used to:

- Supply power from the battery to each buck converter
- Deliver regulated power from each buck converter to a device (either the PCA9685 or the Raspberry Pi)

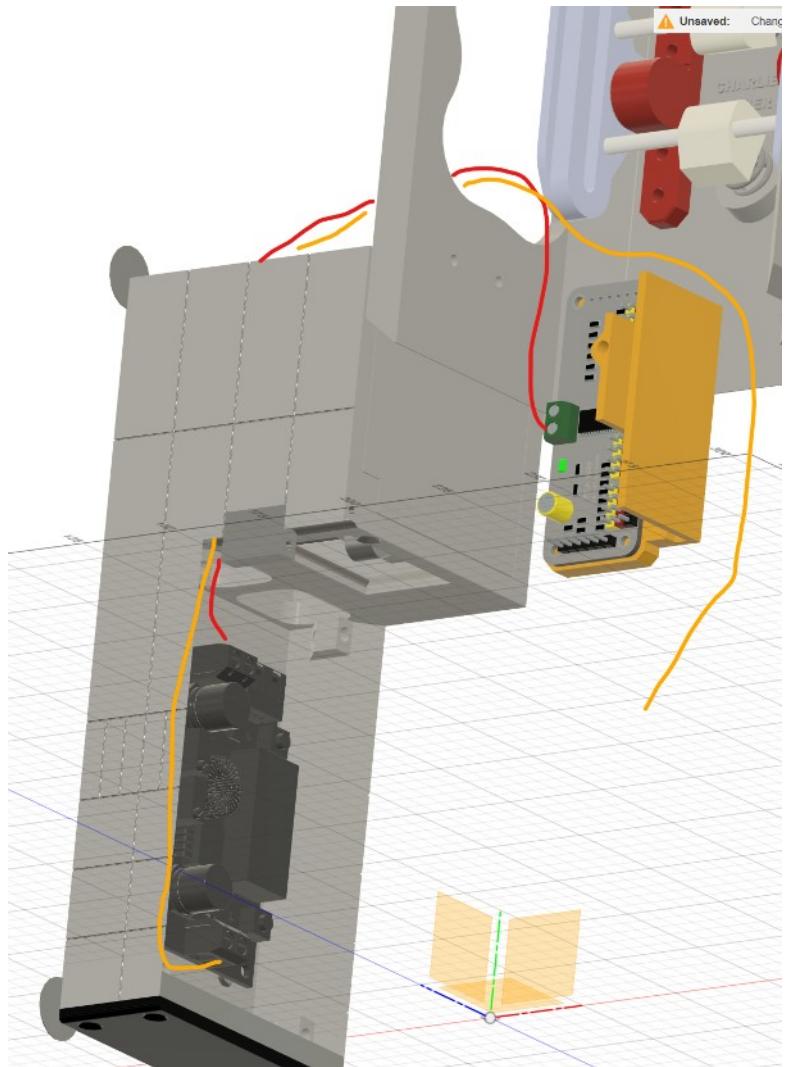
Prepare the cables by:

- Splitting each end and stripping ~5mm off using 18 AWG STRD on a wire stripper.
- Twist the bare stranded wires together to prevent fraying.

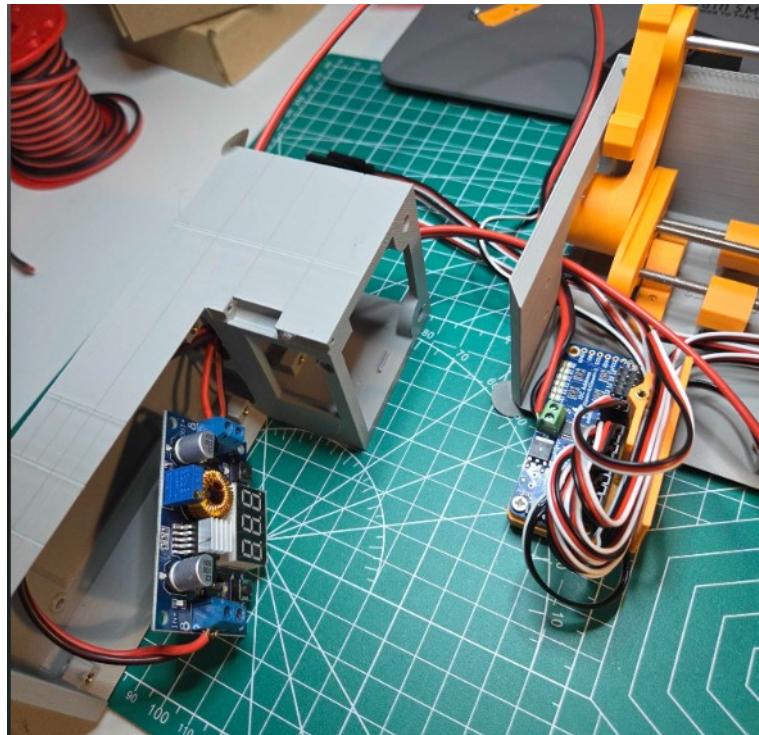


The 50 cm length is longer than needed to give you flexibility during routing and final positioning.

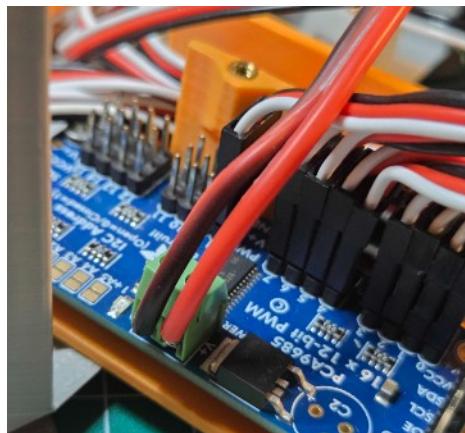
## Step 9: Route One Power Cable to the Left Leg (PCA9685 Power System)



- Take **one** of the 2-conductor cables.
- Feed it **through the left hole** in the upper case and into the **left leg cavity**.
- **Wire #1 (visually in orange) responsibilities:**
  - **Red wire:** connects **battery positive** to **IN+ of LM2596 buck converter**
  - **Black wire:** connects **battery ground** to **IN- of LM2596 buck converter**
- Take a **second** 2-conductor cable.
- Feed it through the **same hole** into the left leg.
- **Wire #2 (visually in red) responsibilities:**
  - **Red wire:** connects **OUT+ of LM2596 buck converter** to **V+ input of PCA9685**
  - **Black wire:** connects **OUT- of LM2596 buck converter** to **GND of PCA9685**
  - **NOTE:** Please only connect the PCA9685 side of this wire for now. Leave the OUT port of the LM2596 buck converter disconnected.



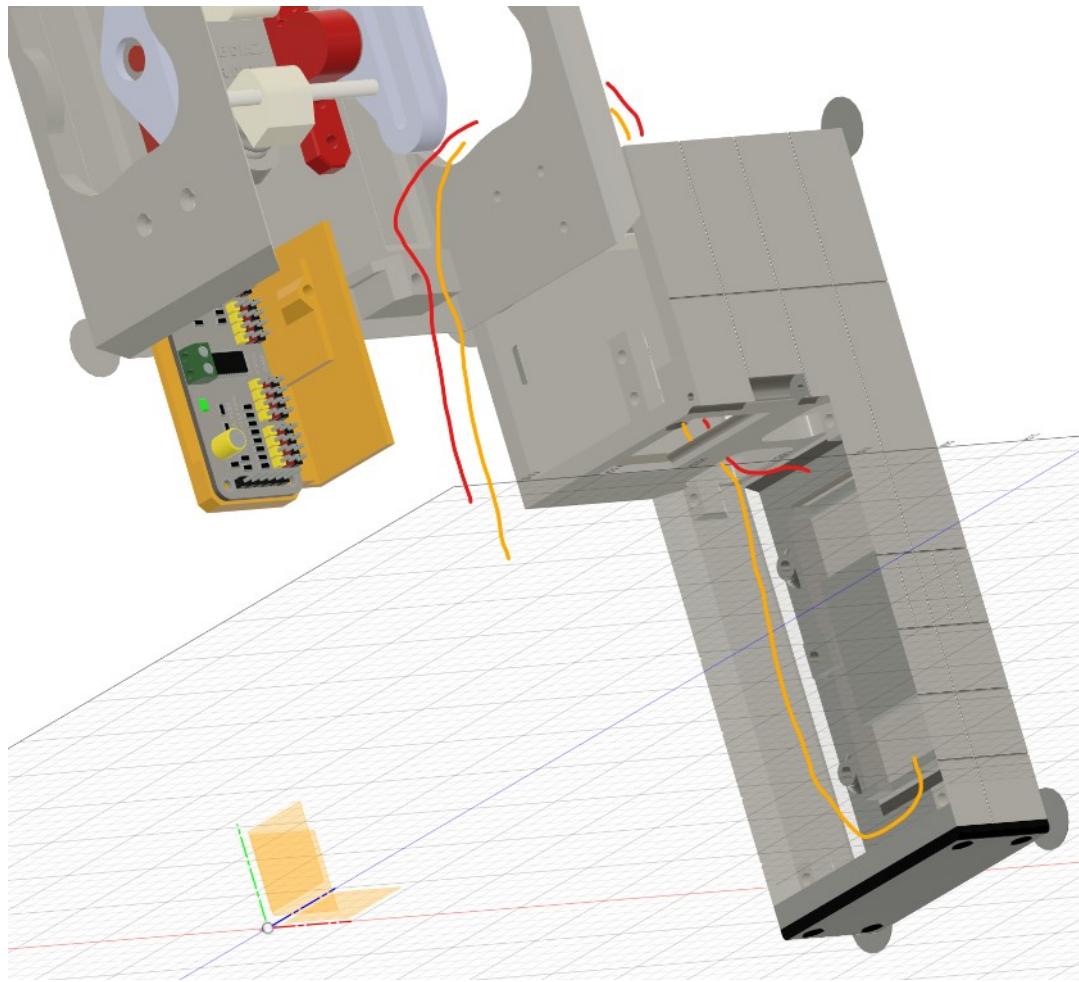
- o **PCA9685 Screw Terminal:**



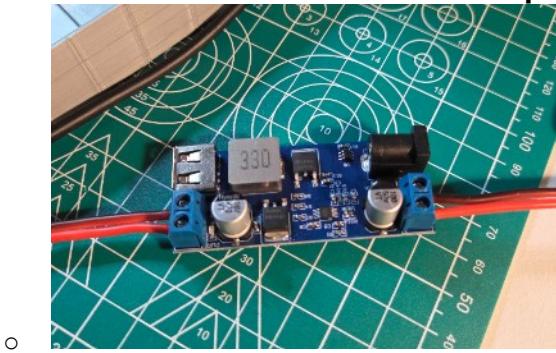
- o Unscrew and disconnect the

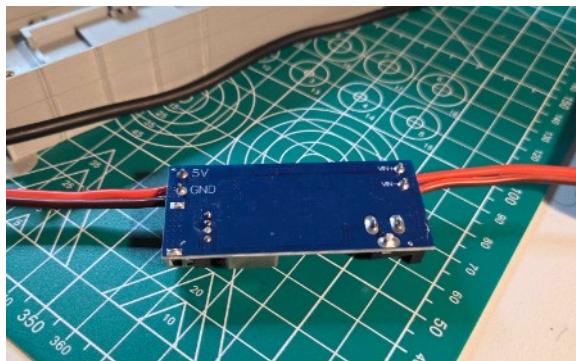
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#### Step 10: Route Power Cables to the Right Leg (Raspberry Pi Power System)

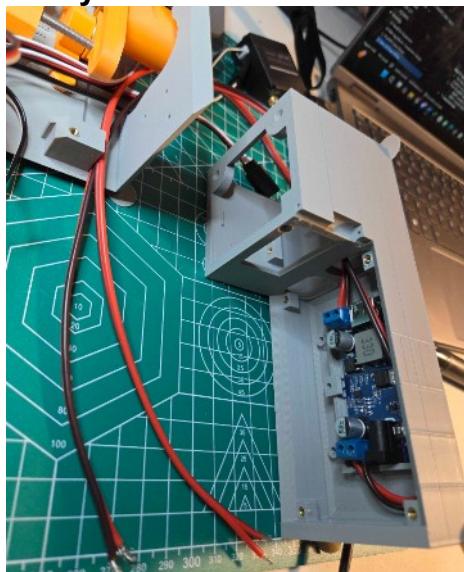


- Repeat the process for the **right leg** but with the DC 6A USB Voltage Regulator (buck converter for the Pi) using the remaining two 2-conductor cables:
  - **Cable 3 (visually in orange):**
    - Red: **Battery** → **Buck IN+**
    - Black: **Battery GND** → **Buck IN-**
  - **Cable 4 (visually in red):**
    - Red: **Buck OUT+ → Raspberry Pi 5V via USB-C breakout**
    - Black: **Buck OUT- → Raspberry Pi GND**





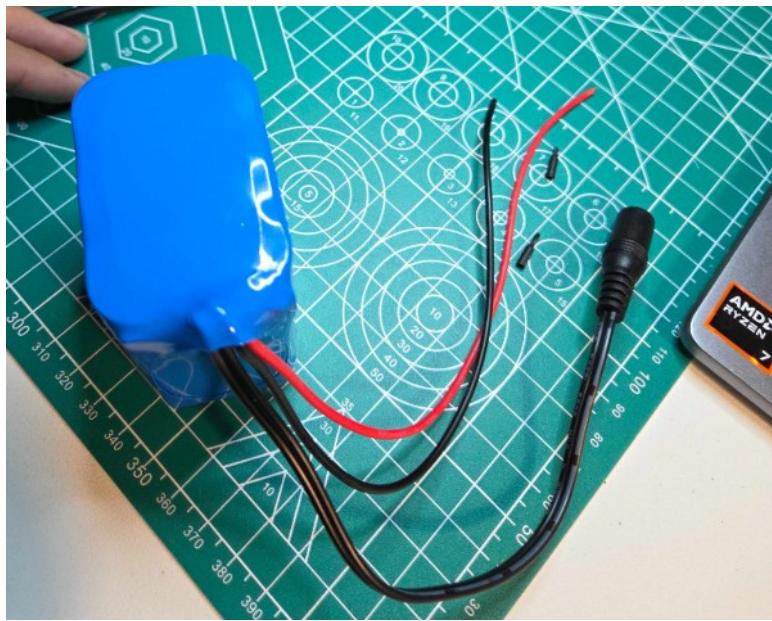
- Feed both cables through the **right hole** in the upper case and into the **right leg cavity**.



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### Step 12: Connect Battery Power Wires Together

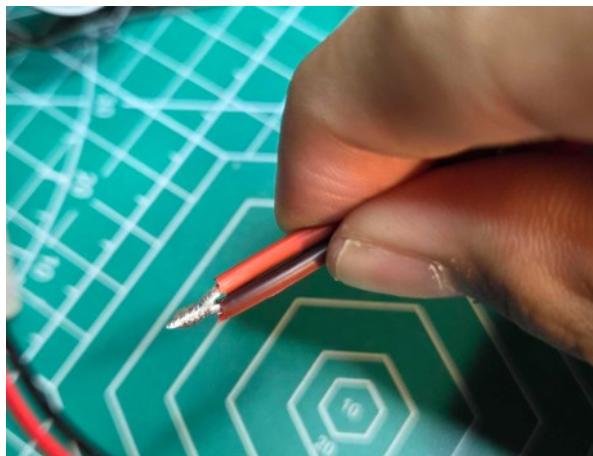
- You now have **two buck converters**:
  - Left leg: powering the **PCA9685 servo controller**
  - Right leg: powering the **Raspberry Pi**
- Each converter has its own **input wires (VIN+/-)** coming from the battery.
- Instead of running **two separate connections to the battery**, you can:
  - **Combine both VIN+ (red) wires together** → connect to battery +
  - **Combine both VIN- (black) wires together** → connect to battery -
- First, for safety, make sure that the output terminal of the LM2596 Buck Converter is disconnected.
- Take off the covers of the battery's output (red and black) wires.



- - Strip the wires a bit more (~2-3mm) using wire strippers at 16 AWG STRD.
  - Plug the battery's output wires into the lever wire nut that comes in the box with the battery.
  - Use a multimeter and plug in the probes to its corresponding terminals on the lever wire nut to confirm that you are getting ~12V (it will be a little less due to the physics of batteries).



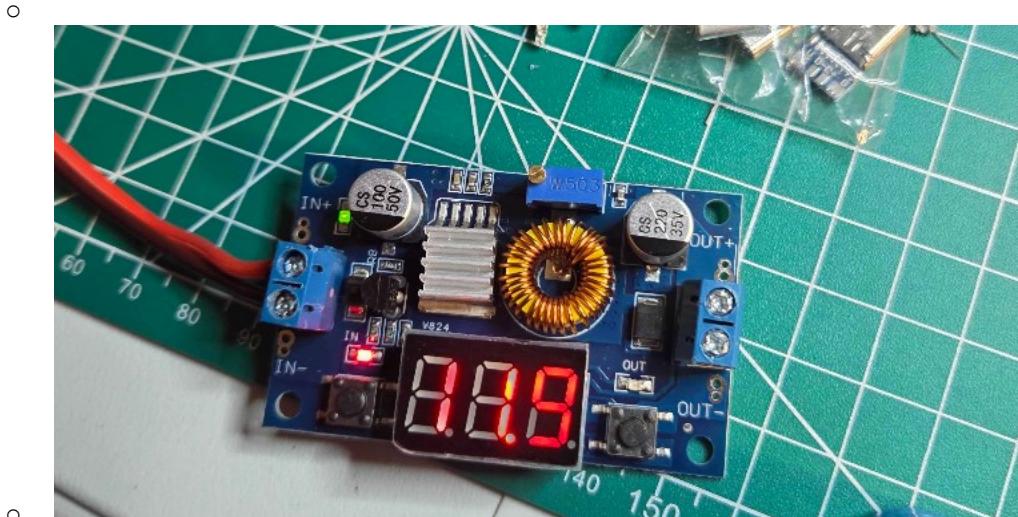
- - After confirming you can remove the probes from the multimeter.
- Find the corresponding VIN+/- wires from the 2 buck converters and twist them together.



- 
- Use the lever wire nut that comes with the battery and insert the battery's power (red) and ground (black) wires. Insert the combined VIN+/- (red/black) buck converter wires into the other side of the lever wire nut matching the same color.



- 
- You should see the buck converters light up now. This confirms the battery is successfully providing power.



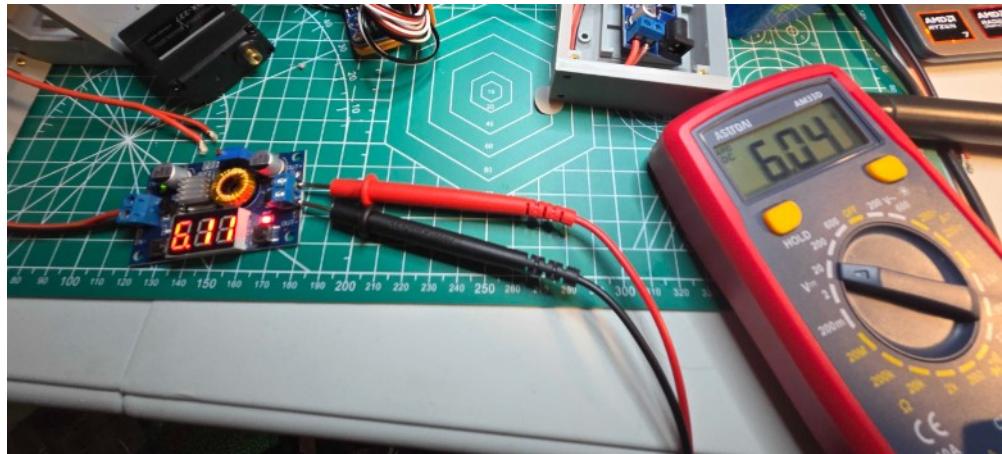
- When the LM2596 buck converter's IN LED is on, you should see the input voltage read around ~12V as expected.



- ▪ The Pi USB buck converter should also have an LED light up.
- Your LM2956 buck converter output voltage now needs to be adjusted:
  - Use a **small flat-head screwdriver**.
  - Press the right (OUT) button to switch the display to show the OUT voltage instead.
  - Turn the **potentiometer screw** (gold screw on the blue box at the top) on the buck converter:
    - Clockwise = increases voltage
    - Counter-clockwise = decreases voltage
    - We want to turn the screw **counter-clockwise** to a **little more than 6 V**.



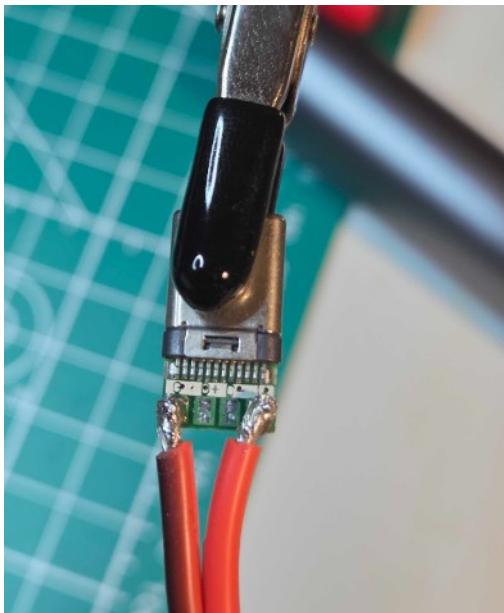
- Use a **multimeter** to measure the output voltage on the OUT terminals



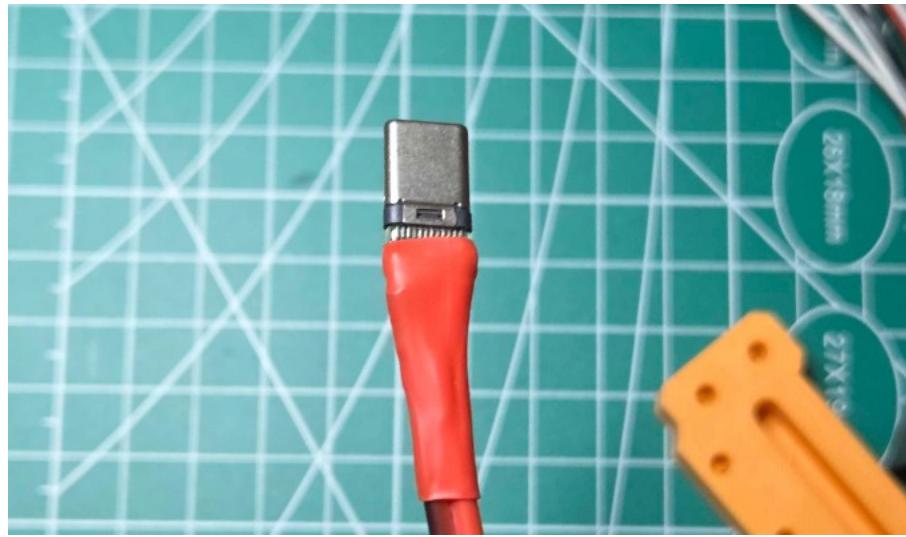
- Adjust carefully until the display reads a little more than ~6V
  - Once this is done, unplug the battery's output cables from the lever wire nut.
  - Screw the LM2956 buck converter's wires to the PCA9685 servo drivers on.
- 

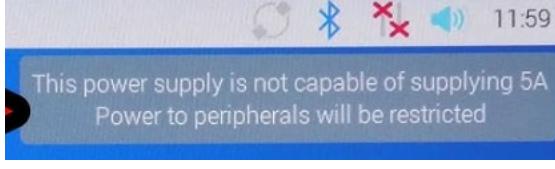
### Step 12: Solder USB-C Breakout Board to the Buck Converter Output (for the Pi)

- You'll be connecting a **USB-C Male (NOT female)** breakout board to the **output wires of the Pi buck converter** located in the **right leg**.



- From the **OUT+ and OUT– terminals** on the buck converter:
  - **OUT+** (red wire) → **V pad** on the USB-C board.
  - **OUT–** (usually black) → **G pad** on the USB-C board.
- **Important tips:**
  - Double-check **polarity**: Reversing +/– can damage the Pi.
  - Use **heat shrink tubing** or **electrical tape** to insulate solder joints.
  - You can strip and tin the wires before soldering for a clean joint.
- Once connected, this USB-C breakout lets you power the Pi **safely and cleanly** via its USB-C port without a full USB plug or adapter.
  - **Recommended:** You can also add heat shrink tubing around the connection to secure it and prevent accidental shorting of your power source.



- After soldering the wires into the breakout board, plug in the USB-C board into the USB-C port of the Raspberry Pi.
- Plug the battery's output cables back into the lever wire nut and boot up the Raspberry Pi to test power delivery.
- You may get the following warning:  

  - You are free to ignore it as long as you make sure all your peripheral components are successfully receiving enough power.
- After confirming successful power delivery, power off the Pi and unplug the battery's output cables again from the lever wire nut.

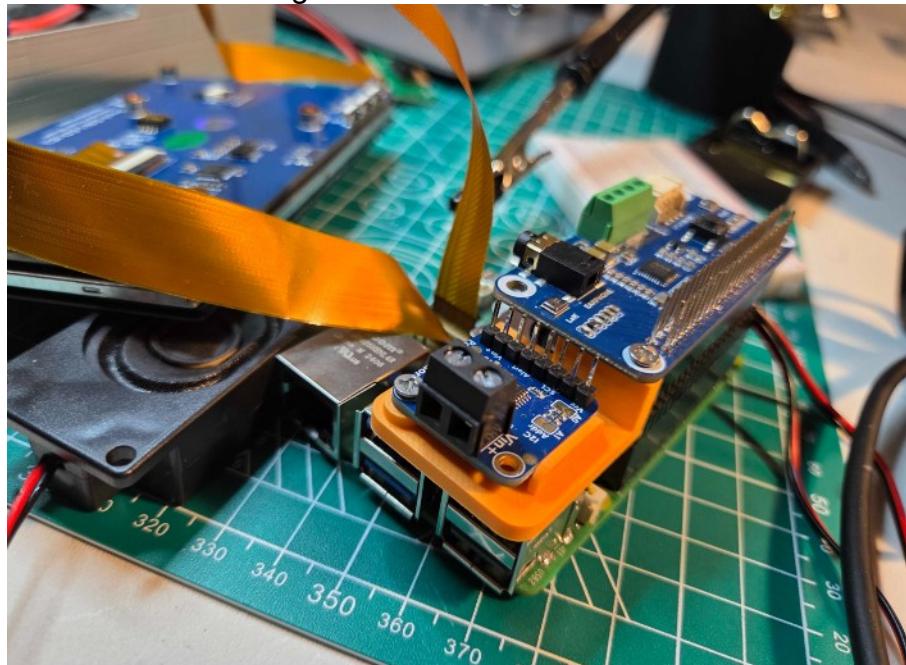
---

### Step 13: Solder USB-C Breakout Board to the Buck Converter Output (for the Pi)

- **Solder the A0 Jumper:**
  - On the INA260 board, locate the **A0 solder jumper**.
  - **Bridge the A0 pads using a small solder blob.**



- This changes the INA260's I2C address from its default (0x40) to **0x41**, preventing any conflict with the PCA9685 (which also uses 0x40 by default).
- **Install the INA260:**
  - Take the **INA260 support bracket**.
  - Place it **between the WM8960 Audio HAT and the Raspberry Pi's USB-A ports**, as shown in the image.

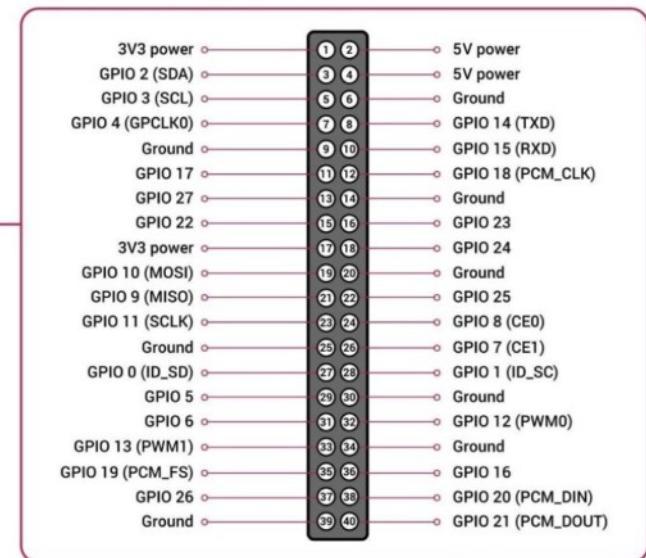


- - Use an **M3 x 4mm screw** to fasten the support bracket **to the Raspberry Pi**, anchoring it between the Audio HAT and the USB-A ports.
  - Align the **INA260 power sensor board** onto the support bracket.
  - Fasten it using **another M3 x 4mm screw**, making sure it's secure and seated properly.

#### **Step 14: Create and Route the I2C Wire Harness (Shared I2C Bus for Pi, INA260, and PCA9685)**

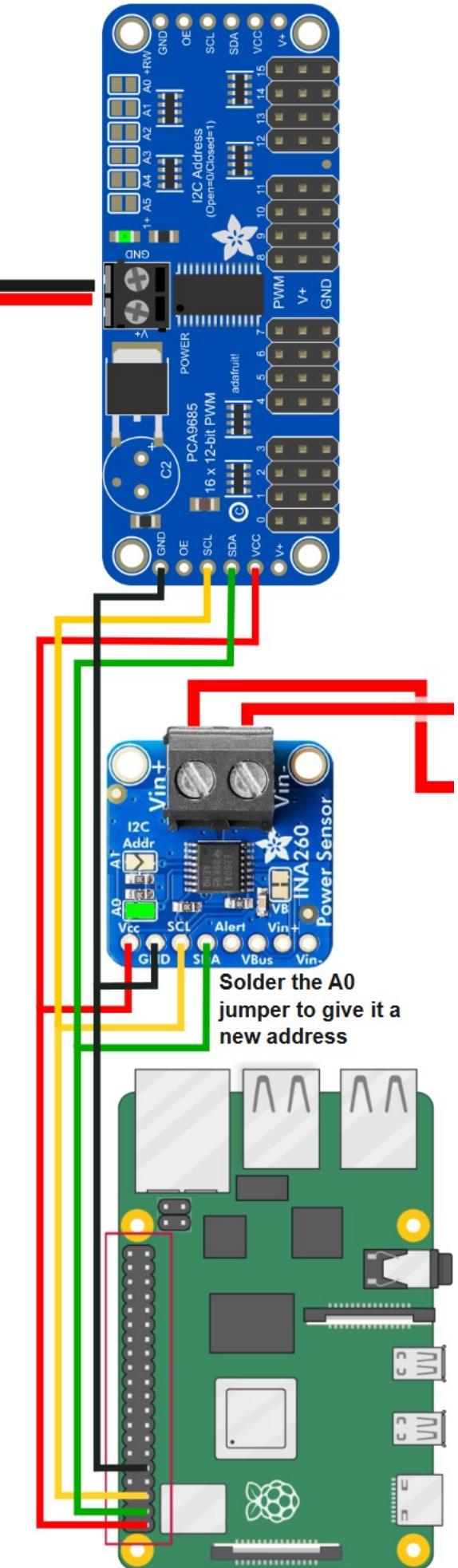
- It is recommended to properly color code your wires in this step.
- You'll use **12 20cm female-to-male/female-to-female Dupont jumper wires** with the female end on the pins of the Pi (through the Audio HAT), INA260, and PCA9685.
- **You will eventually need to distribute 4 I2C signals from the Raspberry Pi GPIO header to both the INA260 and PCA9685, which means:**

Signal	Pi GPIO Pin	Destination 1	Destination 2
<b>3.3V (VCC)</b>	Pin 1	INA260 VCC	PCA9685 VCC
<b>GND</b>	Pin 9	INA260 GND	PCA9685 GND
<b>SDA (GPIO 2)</b>	Pin 3	INA260 SDA	PCA9685 SDA
<b>SCL (GPIO 3)</b>	Pin 5	INA260 SCL	PCA9685 SCL

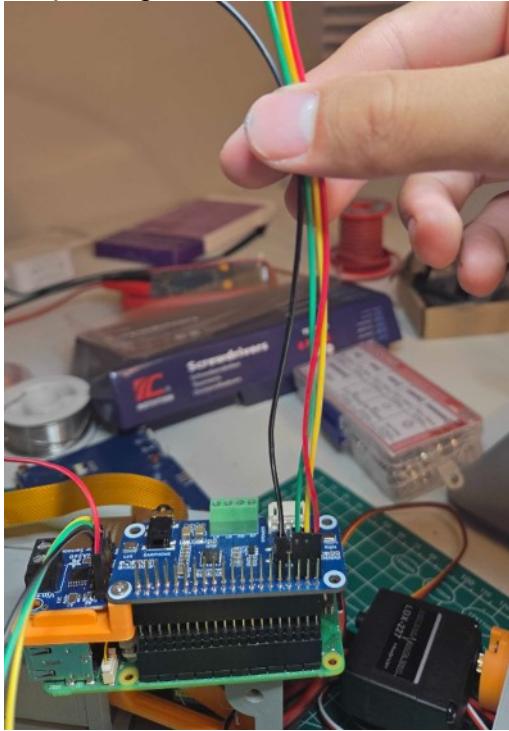


40 GPIO Pins Description of Raspberry Pi 5

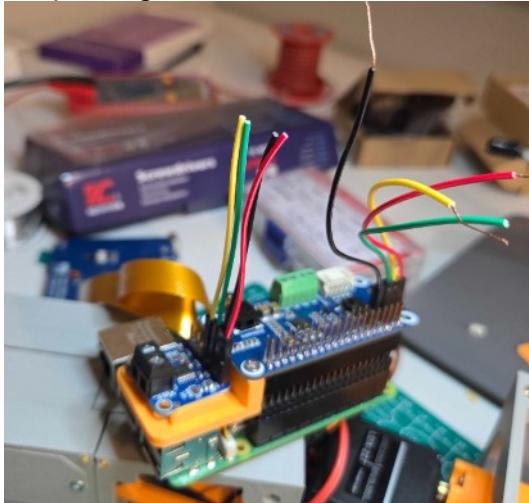
- Insert the female end of the dupont wires to the pins according to this circuit diagram:



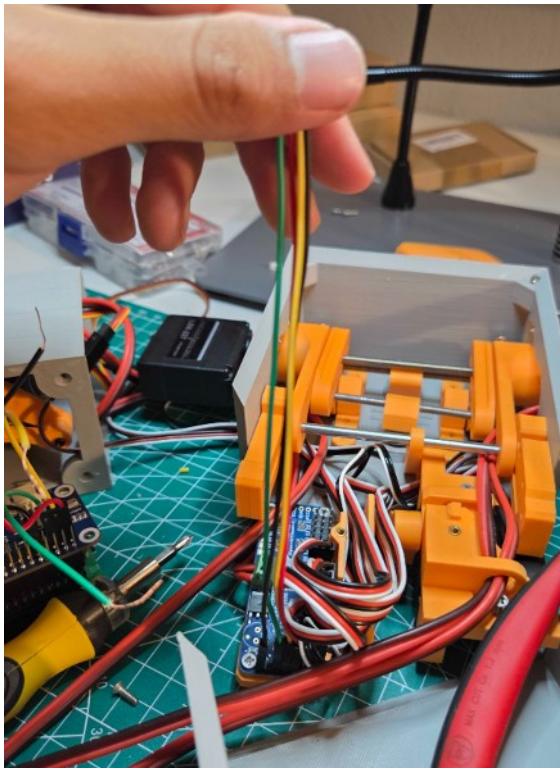
- Make the wire harness:
  - After confirming all the female ends are correctly inserted on the pins, cut the jumper wires coming out of the audio HAT to approximately 10 cm long.
    - Strip using 22 AWG STRD about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.



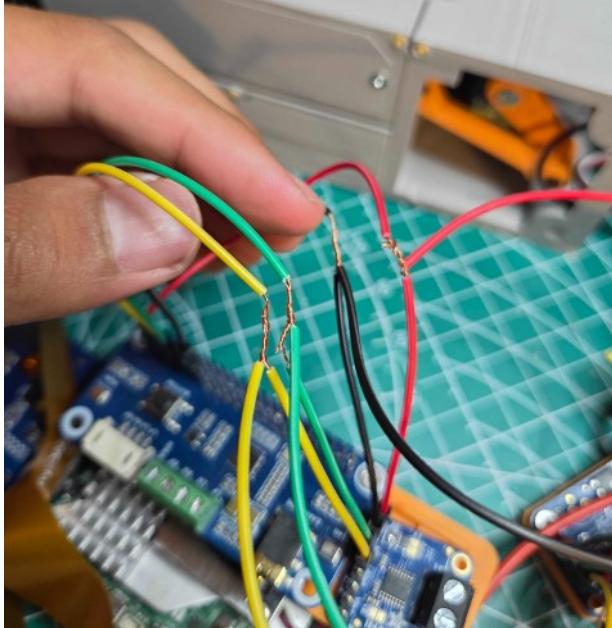
- Cut the jumper wires coming out of the INA260 to approximately 6 cm long
  - Strip using 22 AWG STRD about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.



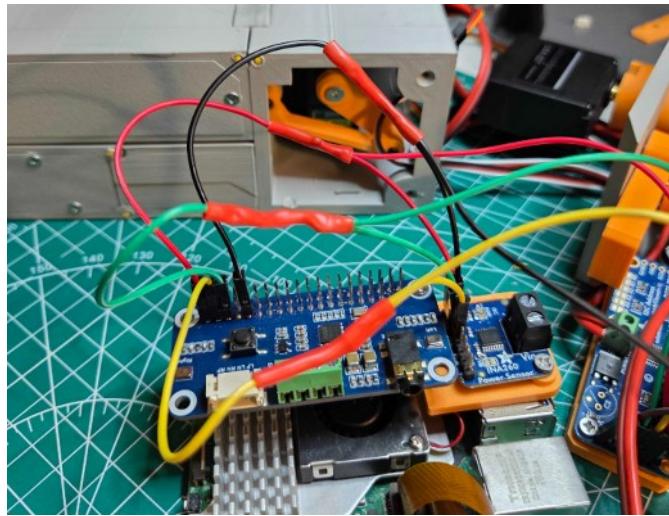
- Cut the jumper wires coming out of the PCA9685 to approximately 15 cm long
  - Strip using 22 AWG STRD about  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch.



- - Begin splicing the wires together using the correct colors by twisting the bares wires around each other, then twisting the wire themselves (you may have to unplug the wire from the pins) tight.



- - You should be able to tug on the wires without it getting loose.
- Solder the connections together.
- Using heat shrink wrap and a heat gun / lighter, shrink the insulation around the exposed wire splice.



- Connect the battery's wires back to the corresponding lever wire nut.W
- Boot up the Raspberry Pi and confirm everything is working as normal.

## **E. Middle Main Servo:**

---

### **1. Power and Connection Setup:**

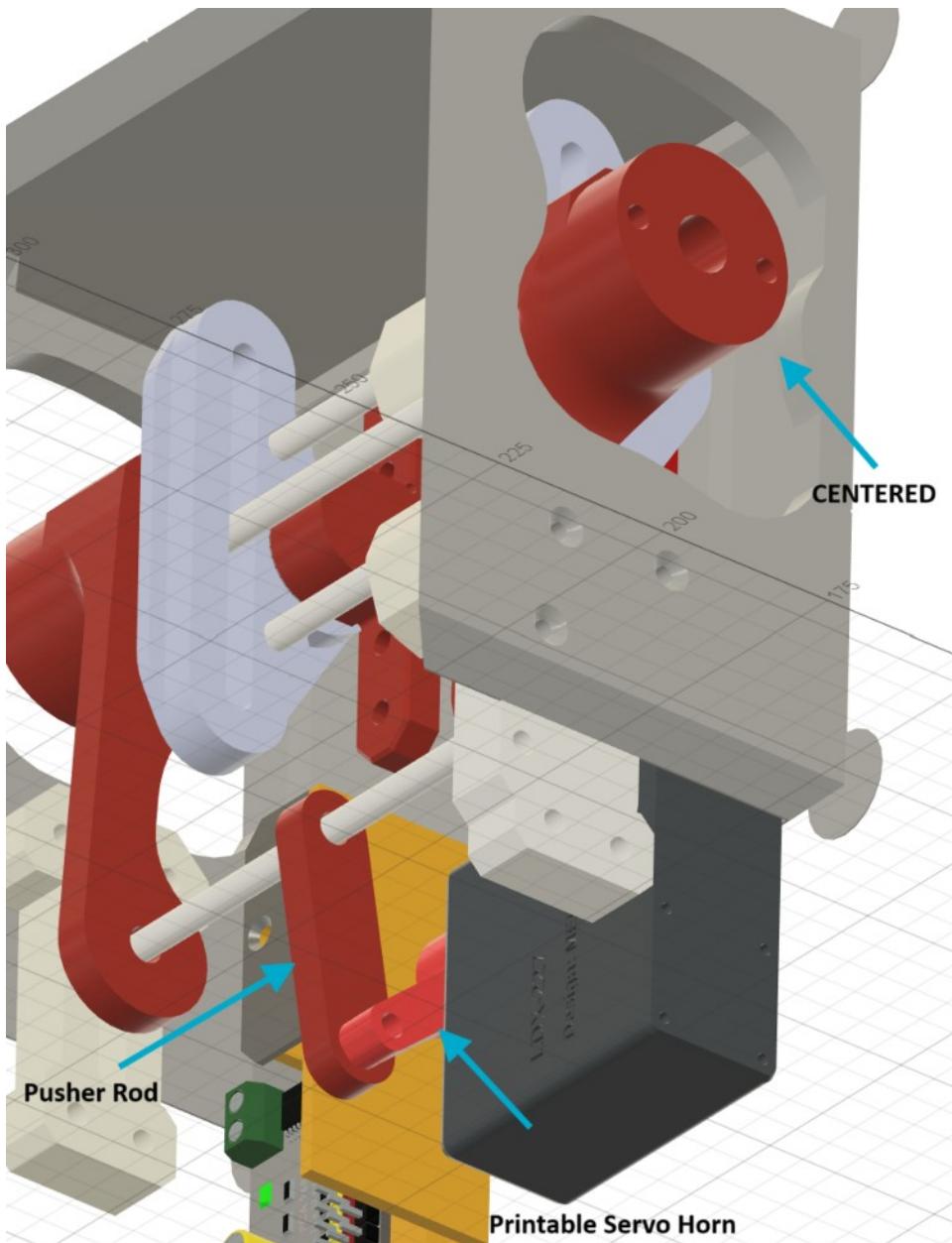
- **Connect the following components electrically:**
    - **Raspberry Pi** (powered via the USB-C breakout from your buck converter)
    - **PCA9685 servo driver board**
    - **INA260 power sensor** (if you're using it)
- 

### **2. Run Servo Centering Program:**

- On the Pi:
  - Make sure your virtual environment venv is activated before running any python script or installing new packages.
  - Run the Python script:
    - `python3 app-servotester.py`
  - When prompted, **choose option 1**:

#### 1. Set all servos to preset position

- This will move all connected servos (channels 0–2 for now) into their **center (neutral) positions**.
-



- Take the **middle servo horn** that will mount onto **Servo Channel 0** (your main leg lift servo).
- **Attach the middle servo horn to the middle servo:**
  - The servo's shaft should be in its center position after executing the previous script—don't manually rotate the servo shaft after running the centering command.
  - use the servo horn that came with your servo that looks like this:



- Cut the protruding end with flush cutters/scissors:



- And attach and screw the servo horn onto the servo as such using the guide(in blue) to help position the assembly in the correct position.



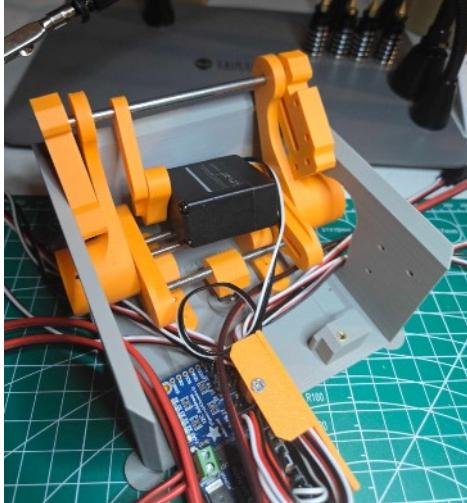
- Use an **M3x12mm flat tapered screw** to secure the middle servo horn to the middle servo.

- **Attach the pusher rod:**

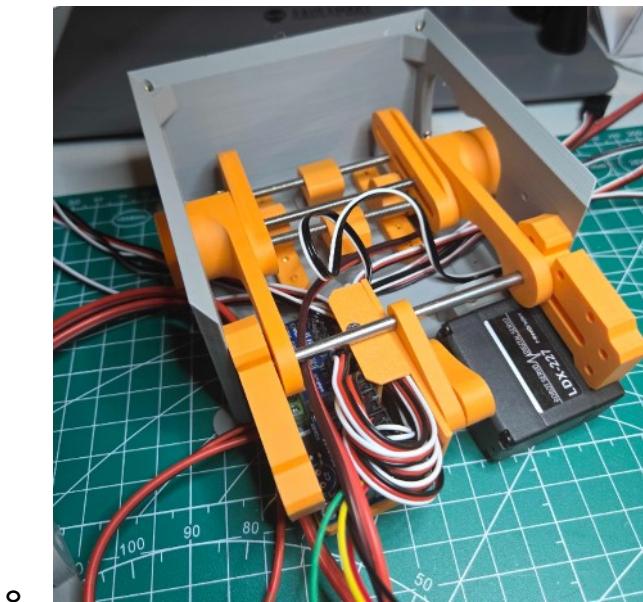
- Use a **M3x8mm screw** to secure the **pusher rod** to the hole in the servo horn.
- The pusher rod should pivot and rotate freely.



- 
- **Attach the pusher rod, suspension mounts to the axle:**
- Lift the leg mounts up as shown in the image to give room to attach the pieces.

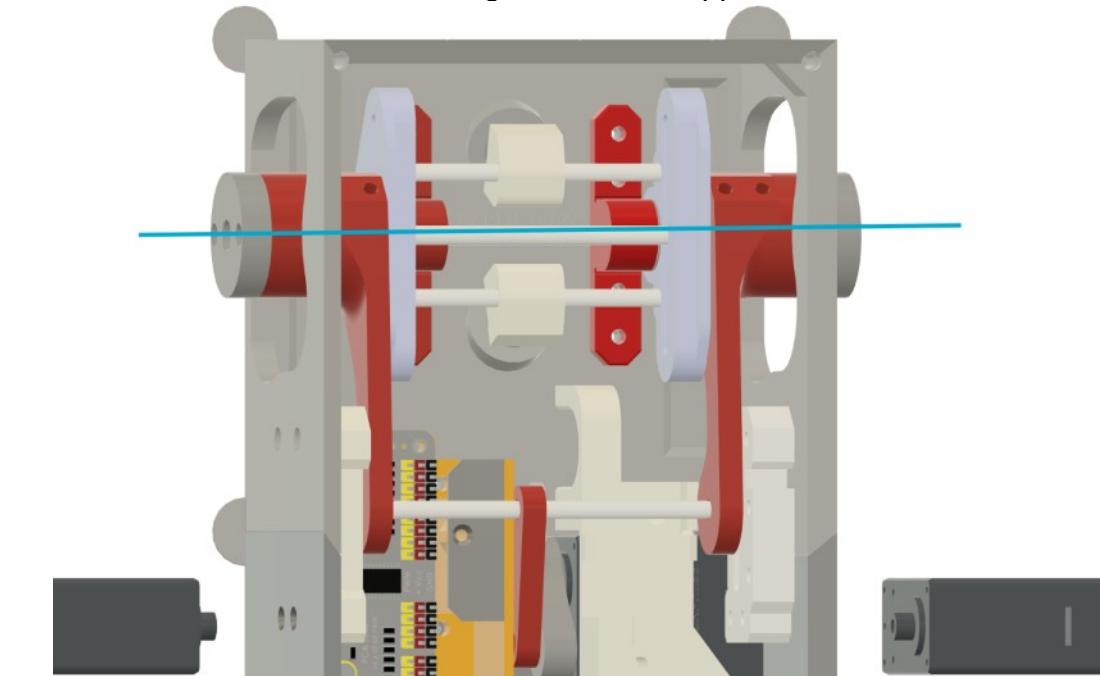


- 
- Center the pusher rod in the middle with the middle servo rested against the case like in the image.

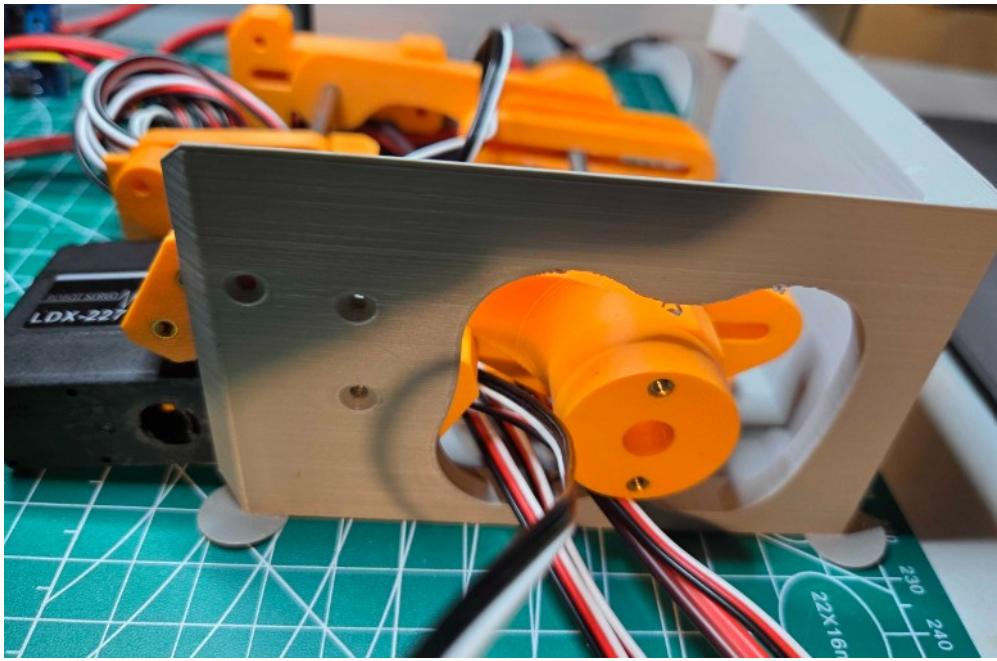


- **Verify servo horn angle:**

- When you have the middle servo placed like above, the center of the leg mounts should be centered on the 2 leg holes of the upper chassis.



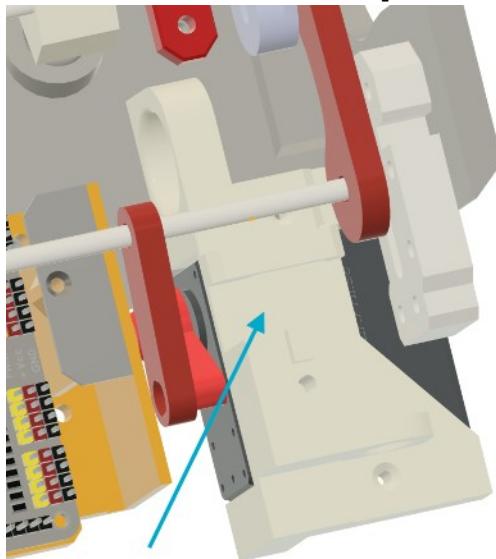
- Like this:



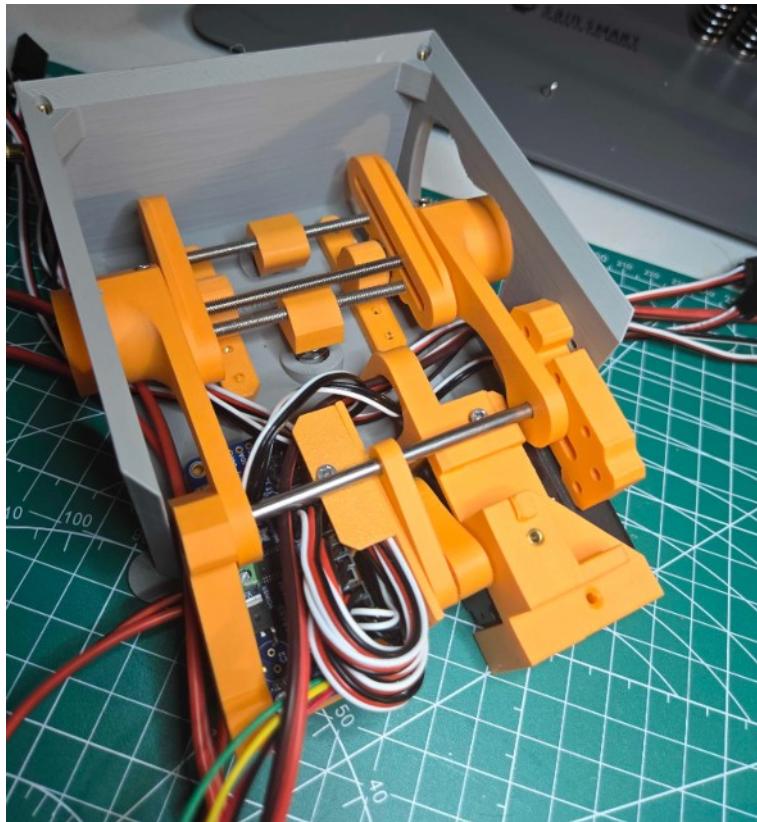
- If it doesn't sit the in the center, please readjust the servo horn's angle on the servo and try again.

---

#### 4. Install Vertical Servo Clip:



- Get the **Vertical Servo Clip** and slide the middle servo underneath it like the image.



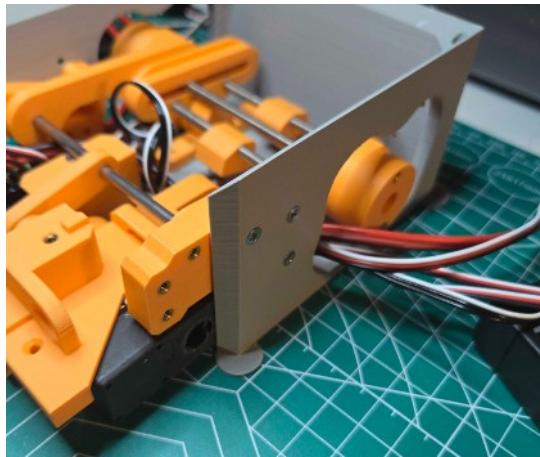
- Make sure to route the servo/power wiring inside the upper loop of the Vertical Servo mount.
- **Secure it with a M3x10mm screw** that goes into the **upper chassis**.

---

## 5. Secure Suspension Mounts (**Sus Mounts**):

- Now screw both **Sus Mounts** to the **upper chassis** with five total M3x10mm screws.
  - Please verify that the two suspension mounts are screwed onto the right orientation and side.
- This will secure the lower section of your internal frame.



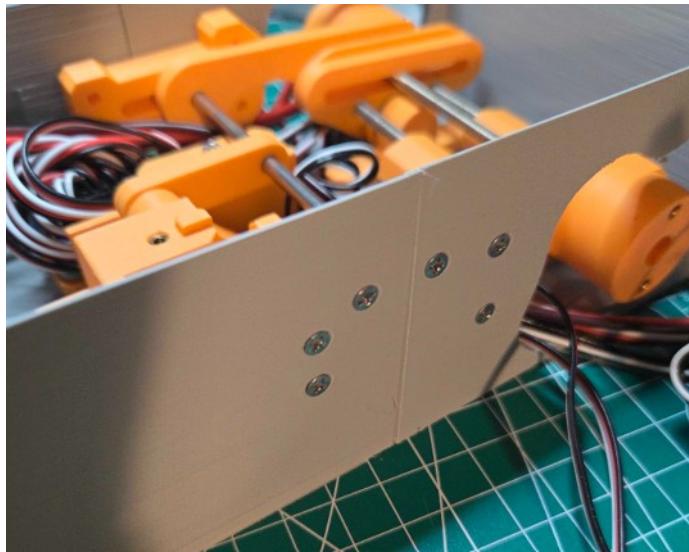


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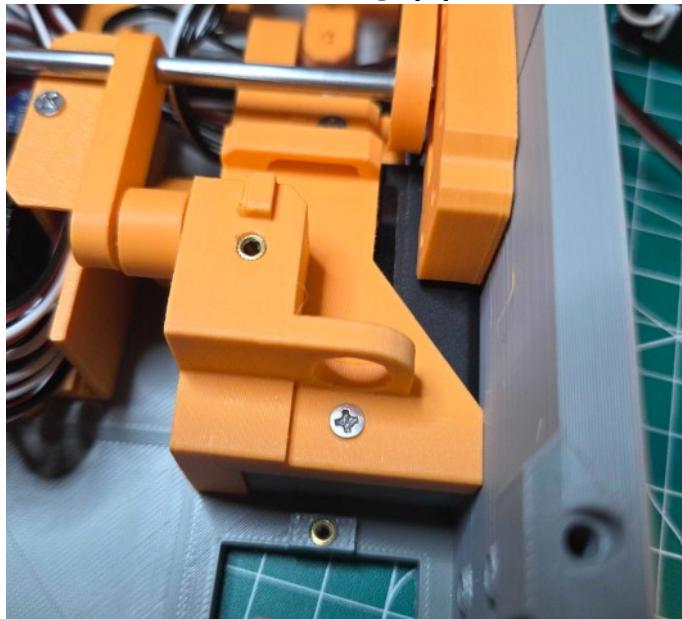
## 6. Attach Lower Chassis:

- Screw the **Lower Chassis** to the **Upper Chassis** using 8 different M3x10mm screws onto:
  - The two **Sus Mounts (5)**

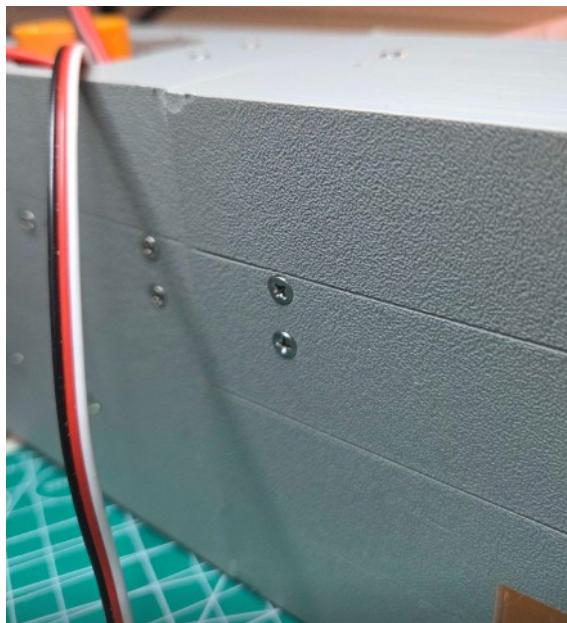




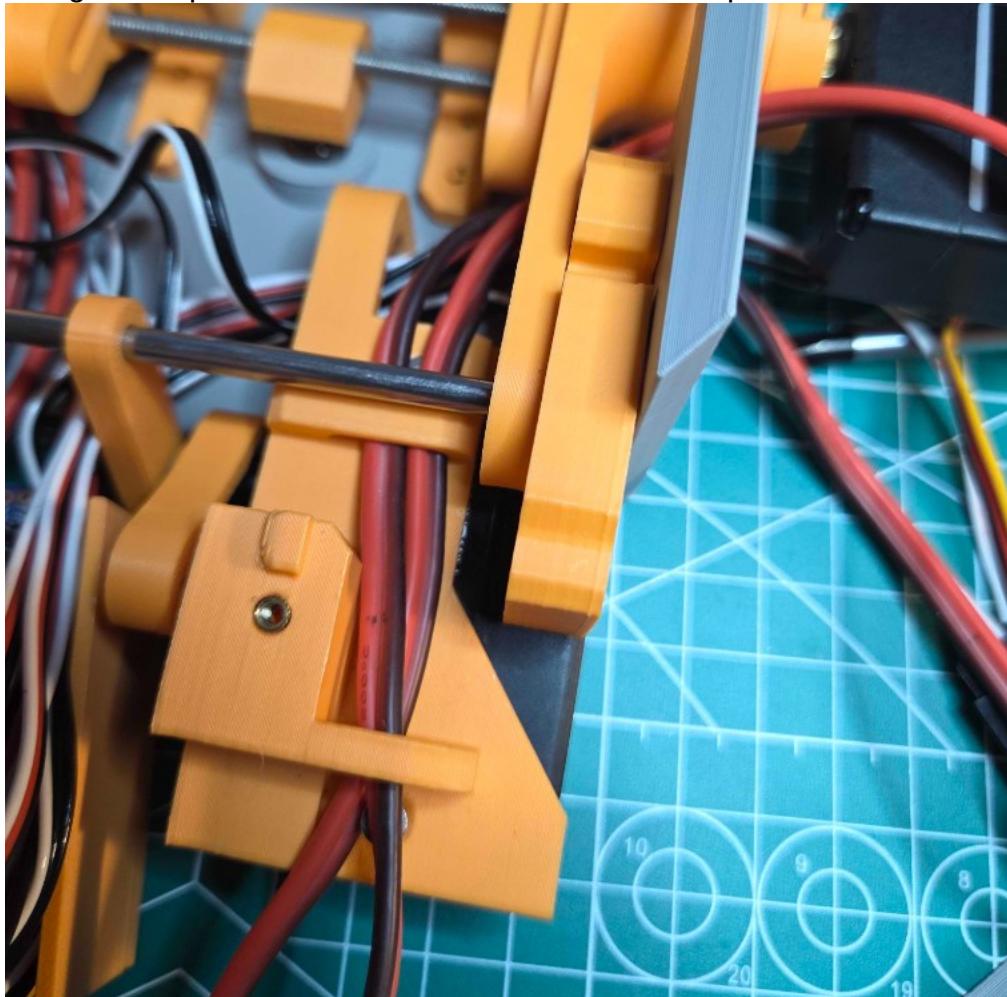
- 
- The **Vertical Servo Clip (1)**



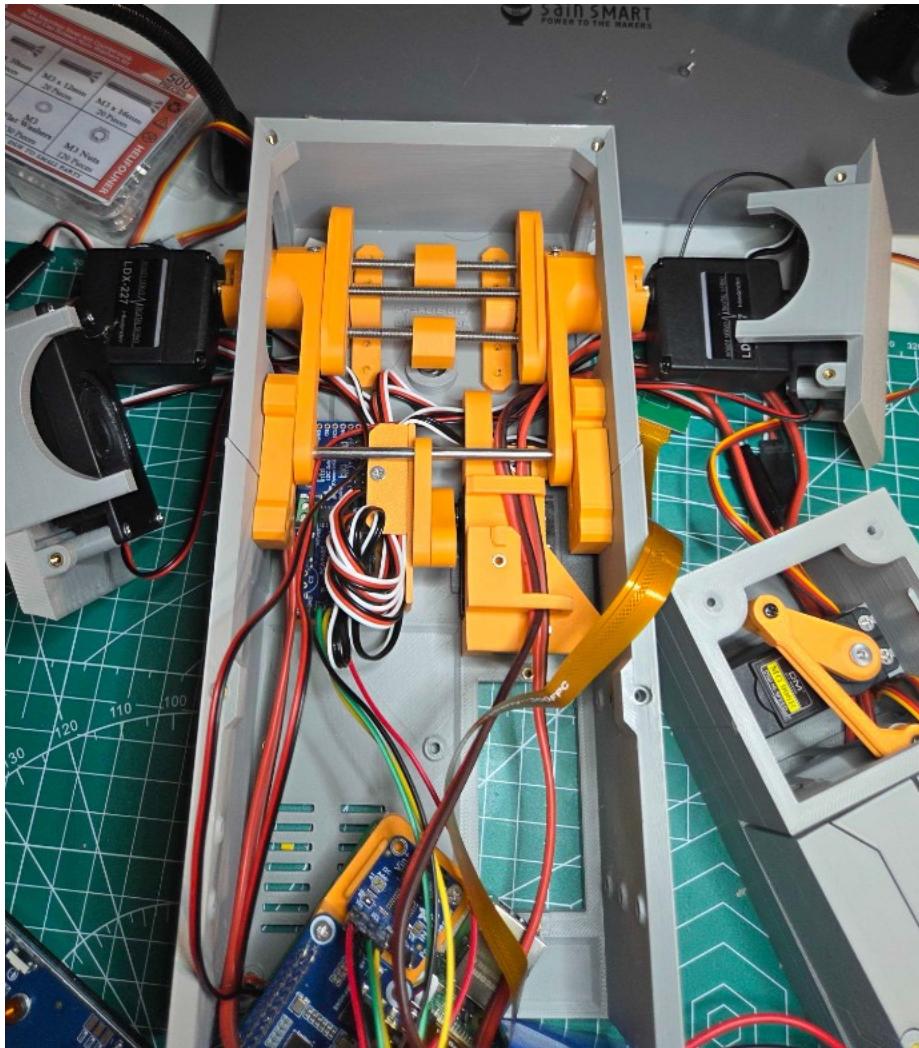
- 
- And the **16-channel PWM PCA9685 support bracket (2)**



- Ensure alignment and that all screw holes line up cleanly.
- Insert the right side power cables into the vertical servo clip holes.



- Wiring should look like:



No more vertical servo protector

## F. Leg Servos:

**⚠ Important:** Before securing the horn, ensure the servo is in its center position if you haven't already by running the following:

```
python3 app-servotester.py
```

- a. Select the option **1. Set all servos to preset position.**
- b. If the servo moved during this step, re-run the script, let it center, and then install the horn.

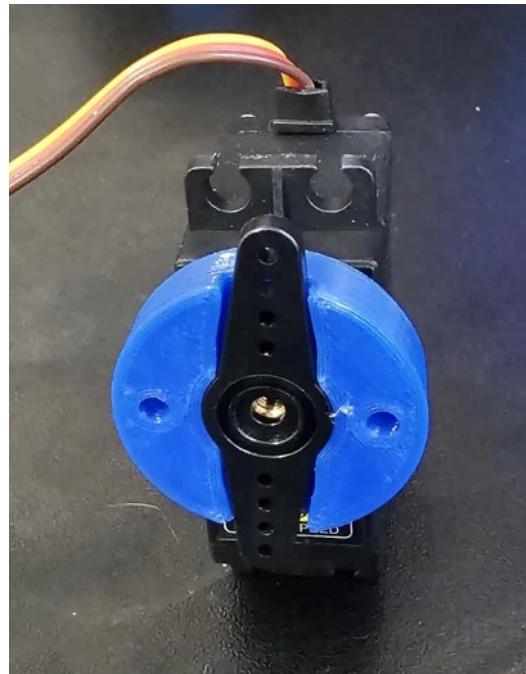
### Step 1: Install the Printable Servo Horns onto the Leg Rotation Servos

- Locate the two **leg rotation servos** already mounted on either side of the main chassis.
- For each servo:
  - Grab a one of the servo horn that came with your servo that looks like this and position it on the printed leg servo horn. You can use 2 of the self taping screws

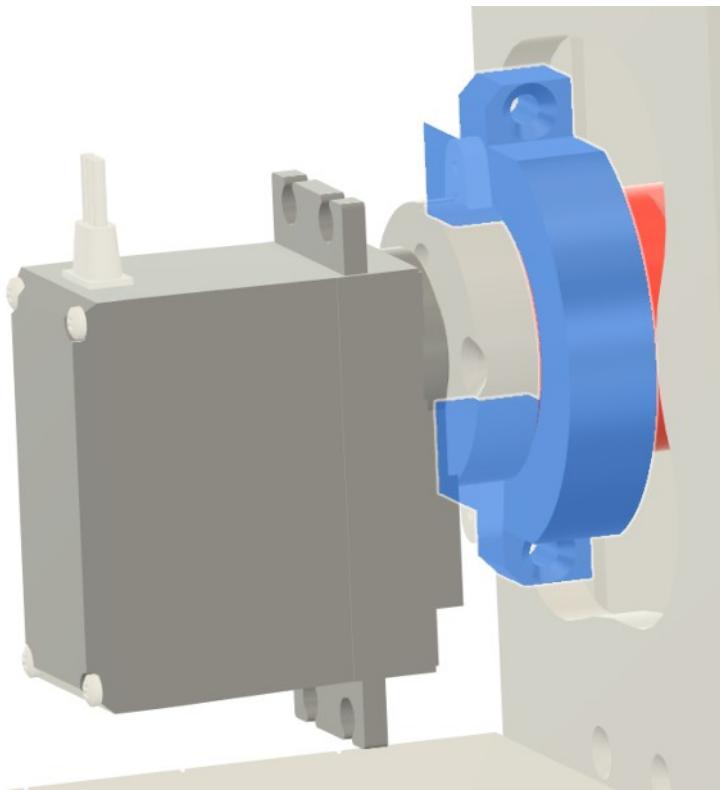
that came with the servo to secure it in place. Note the orientation of the black servo horn, it needs to be flush with the top of the printed one.



- Align the servo horn with the servo output shaft such that the servo horn lines up with the line on the servo between the 2 screw holes.



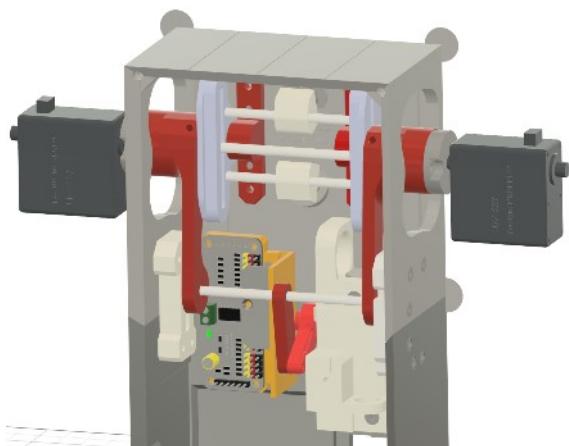
- Screw in the M3x12mm screw into the servo shaft.
- Add the Hull hub on the leg before attaching the servo to the leg (shown in blue).



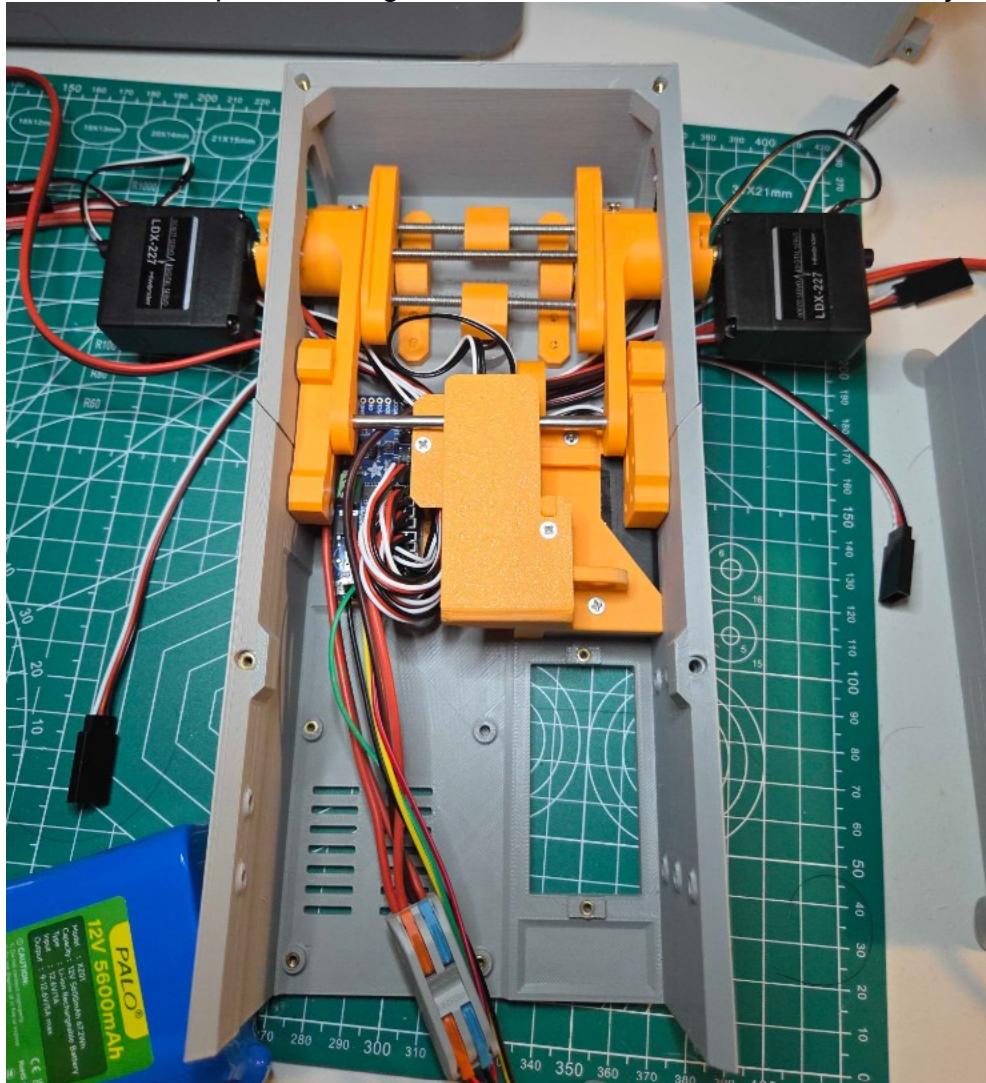
- Fasten the servo horn onto the leg mount with 2 **M3x12mm screws**
- 

 **Note:**

- These steps are symmetrical:
  - You'll repeat the exact same process on the **left** and **right** leg assemblies.
  - Just **mirror the orientation** when switching sides.



These next steps for the legs and arm are the same for each side, just mirrored.



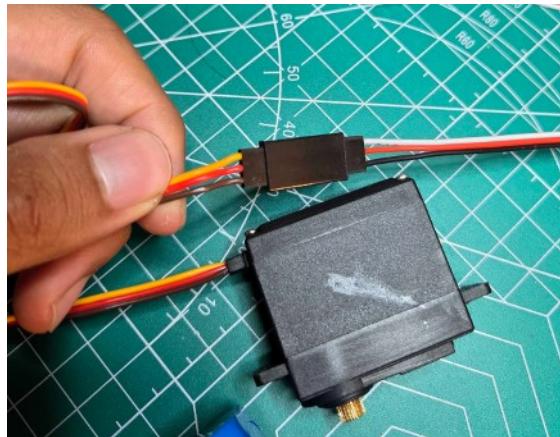
## G. Arm Servos:

### RESET (Servo Initialization)

#### 1. Connect the Remaining 6 Servos to the Extension Cables:

- Use the extension wires routed earlier from the PCA9685 (channels 3–8) and attach to their respective servos.

- Make sure to connect the servo cables with the servo extension cables as such:



- Confirm the servos to their respective channels as follows:
  - **Channel 3:** Right Leg Main Arm – **MG996R**
  - **Channel 4:** Right Leg Forearm – **MG90S**
  - **Channel 5:** Right Leg Hand – **MG90S**
  - **Channel 6:** Left Leg Main Arm – **MG996R**
  - **Channel 7:** Left Leg Forearm – **MG90S**
  - **Channel 8:** Left Leg Hand – **MG90S**

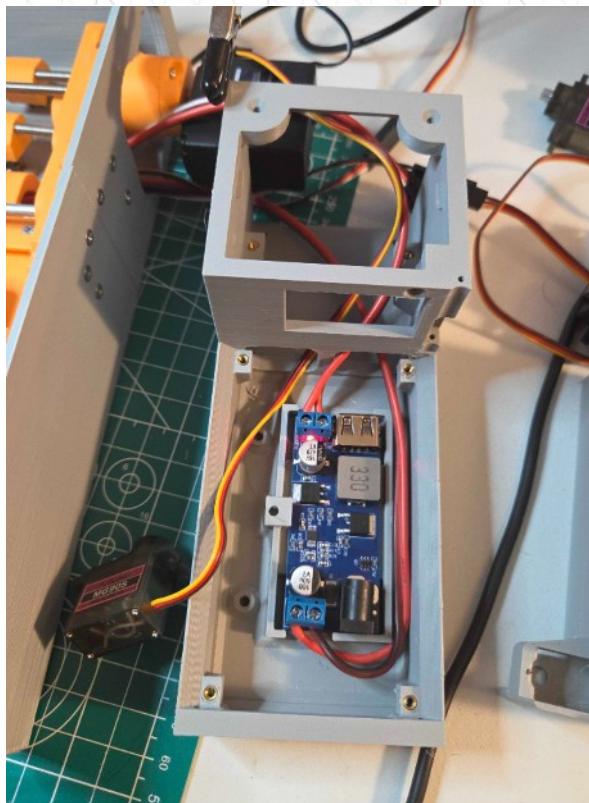
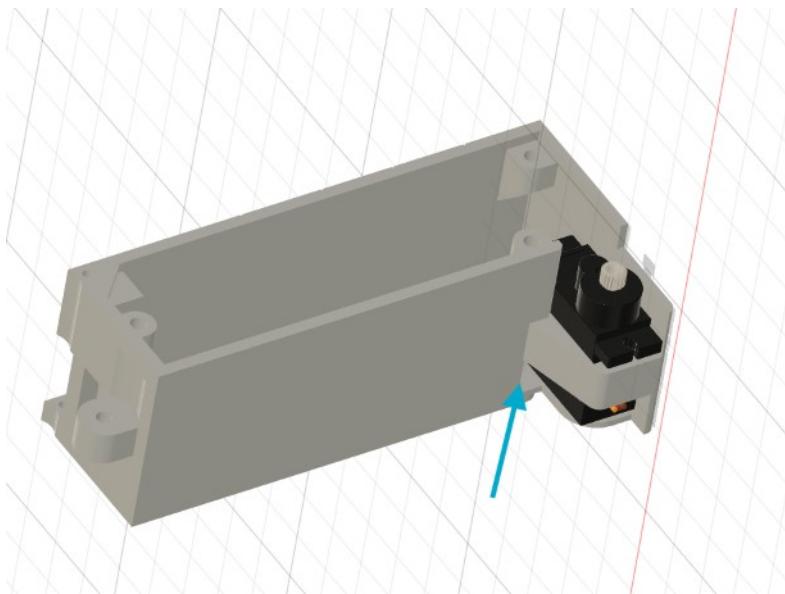
## **2. Run the Centering Script:**

- Power on the Pi again and execute:
  - `python3 app-servotester.py`
- Choose option **1. Set all servos to preset position.**
- This centers all servos.
  - ⚠ Do **not manually rotate** the horns afterward. If needed, re-run this command.

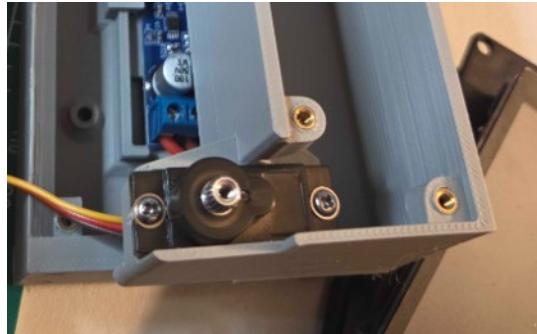
## **3. (Optional) Disconnect Servos:**

- If you need to continue assembling without wires in the way, you may unplug the servos.
- Be sure to **label each cable** so you can reattach them to the correct extension later.

### **Step 1: Install MG90S Servo into the Right Main Arm Case:**



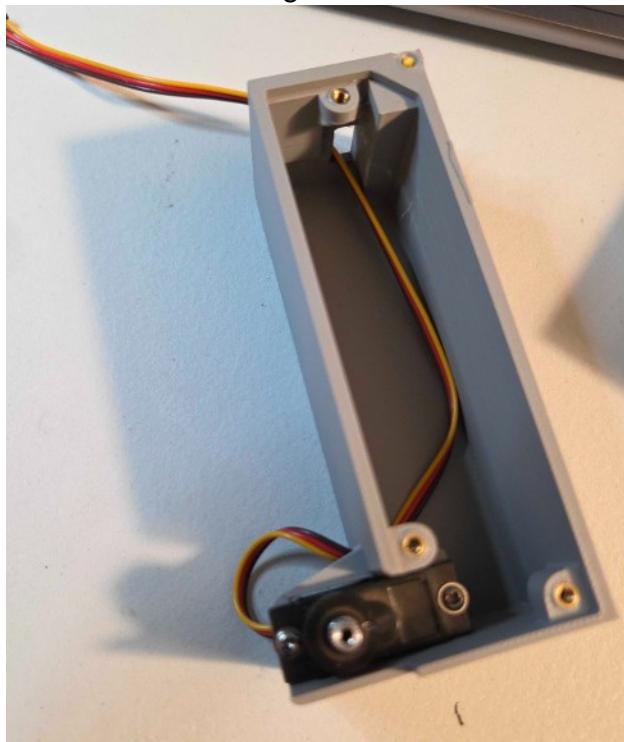
- 1. Ex. From Right Leg
- Let's begin setting things up on the right leg first!
- Slide the **servo for the forearm** (not the hand servo!) into the **servo socket inside the arm casing**. You will likely have to disconnect and reconnect the servo from the servo extension wire to route the wires properly.



- - Secure it using the **small self-tapping screws** that come with the MG90S.
- 

## Step 2: Route the Servo Wire Through the Arm Case:

- Feed the wire through the **lower internal routing hole** of the arm casing.

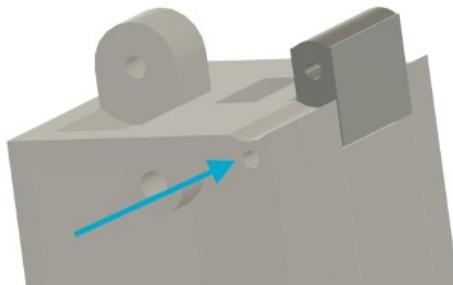


- 
- Then pull it out from the **top hole** of the lower leg casing. This ensures it routes cleanly and avoids internal obstructions.



---

### Step 3: Connect the Main Arm to the Connector Hinge:



- Insert the connector hinge to the main arm case as in the image above.
  1. There is a flat and a rounded side to this hinge. The flat side sits on the arm case while the rounded side sits on the lower leg.
- Use a **short length of filament** as a **hinge pin**.
- Insert the filament through the **small hinge hole** that links the main arm to the connector part.
  1. The hinge holes are designed to have a diameter of 2.00mm, more than enough for the 1.75mm diameter of most standard filaments.



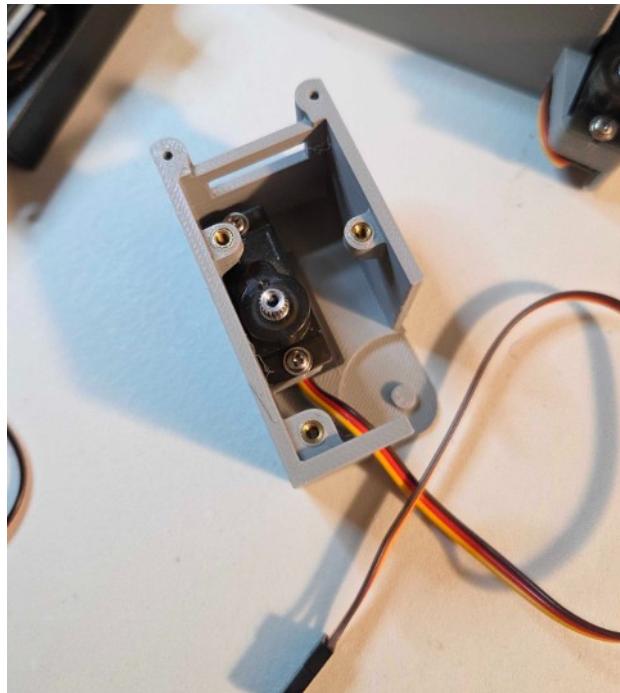
- 
- Trim the filament **flush with both sides** so it doesn't interfere with arm motion.



---

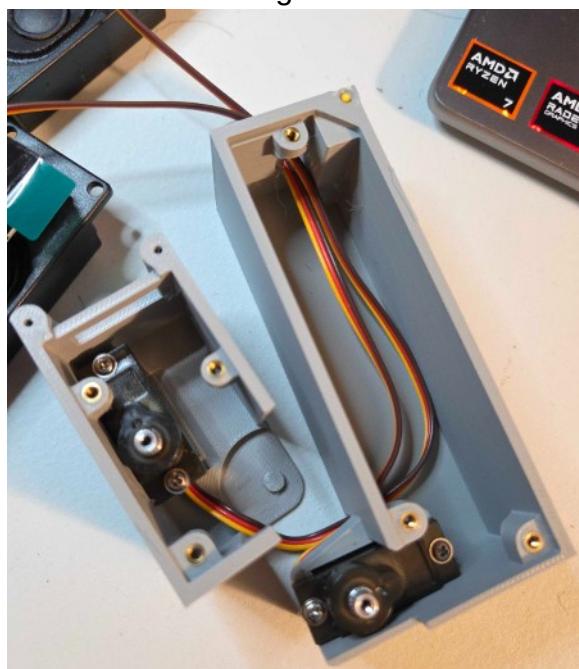
#### **Step 4: Install MG90S into the Forearm Case:**

- Just like the main arm, secure the forearm servo using the self-tapping screws that come with the servos.



1.

- Again, feed the wire through the **same routing path** used earlier.

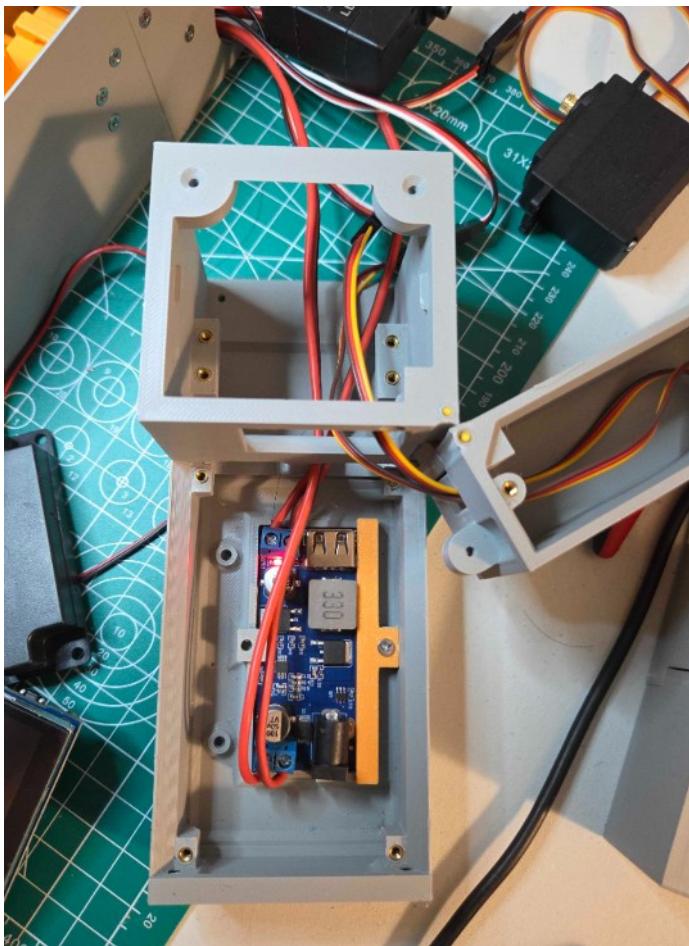


1.

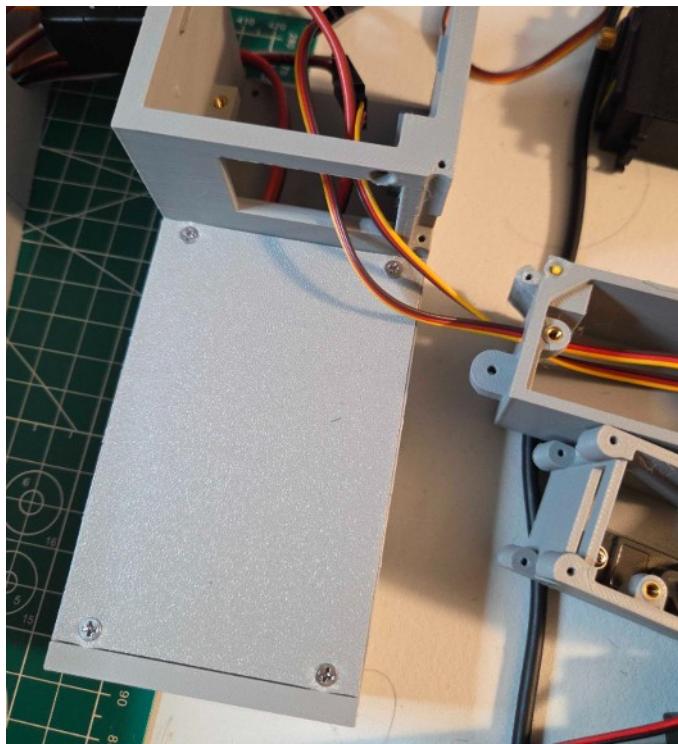
---

### Step 5: Secure and close the buck converter compartment

- If on the right leg, take the right leg buck converter bracket and use it to secure the USB buck converter in place with a M3x6mm screw. Make sure the power wiring looks like the image below.

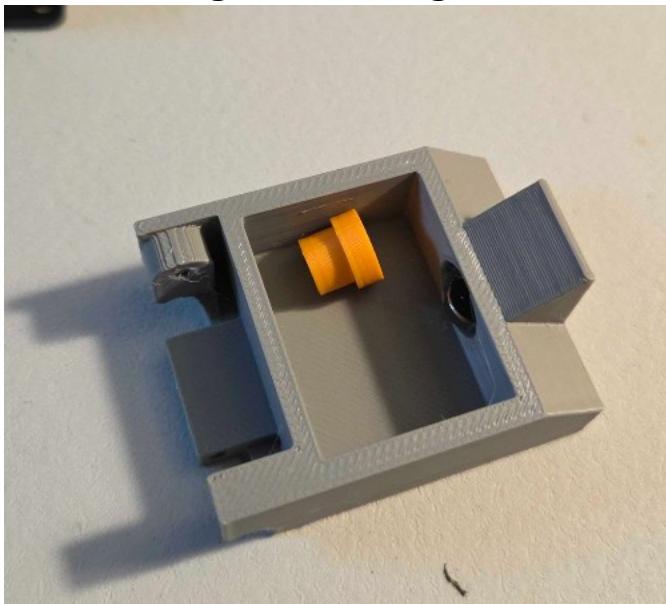


- You will have to slide the board under the left notch for the bracket to fit.
- Take the part labeled **“lower leg lid”**.
- **Align and bolt it down** with four M3x8mm screws to the open section of the leg where the buck converter is installed.

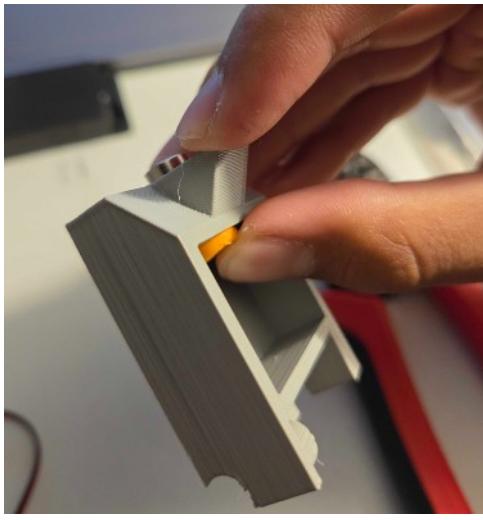


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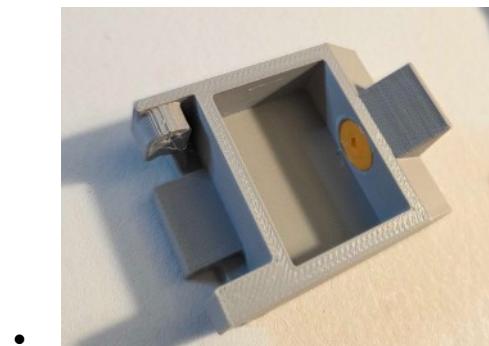
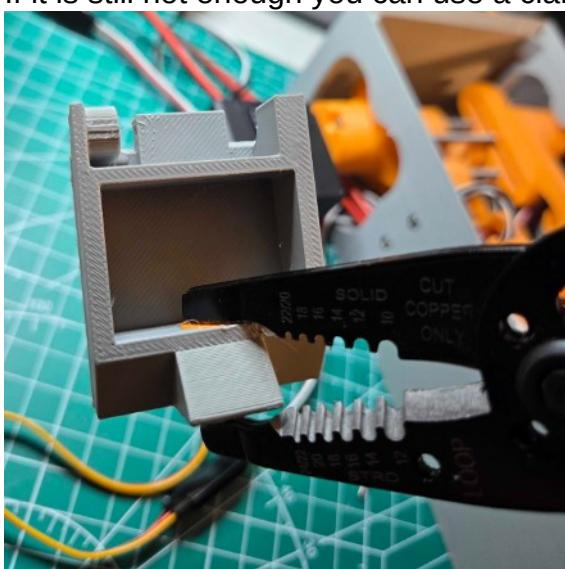
### Step 6: Insert Magnet into Finger2



- Locate the **Finger 2 part** of the robotic hand.
- Insert a **small cylindrical 8x3mm magnet** into the provided cavity (usually near the tip).
- Once the magnet is in place, **plug the cavity using the finger plug** to hold the magnet securely.
  - You might have trouble inserting the magnet flat in the cavity. In that case, use another magnet on the outside of the finger 2 component and use the attracting polarity to help align it in the cavity. Simultaneously, push the magnet in with the plug.



- If it is still not enough you can use a clamp to force the plug in.



---

### Step 7: Add Magnet to Lower Leg

- Locate the corresponding magnet cavity inside the **lower leg** component.



- Insert another magnet here but **ensure the polarity is opposite** to the one in Finger2:
  - They should attract each other.
  - This provides a gentle magnetic closing force for the hand.
  - If you are having trouble inserting it, you can use a soldering iron to heat up the magnet and push the magnet into the cavity.



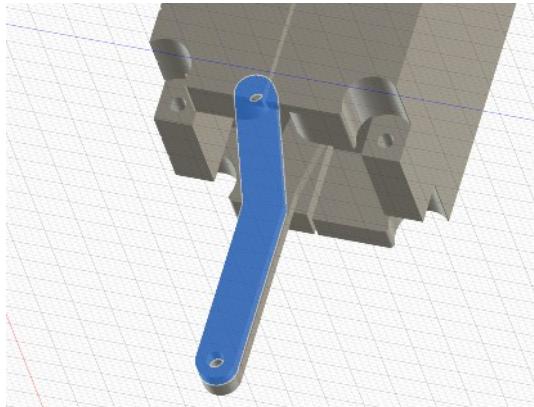
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### Step 8: Attach Finger1 and Finger2 Using Rods

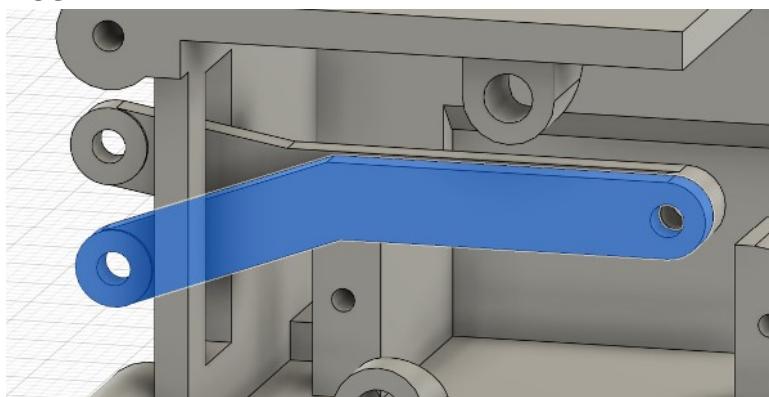
- Take **Finger1 and Finger2** and align their slots.



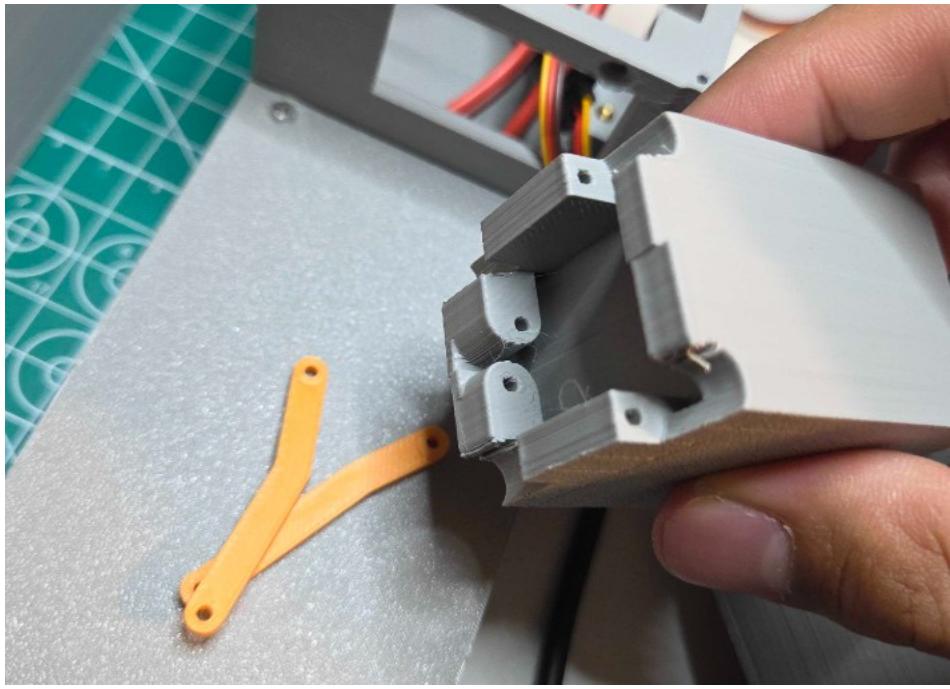
- Let's take a look at the two rods:



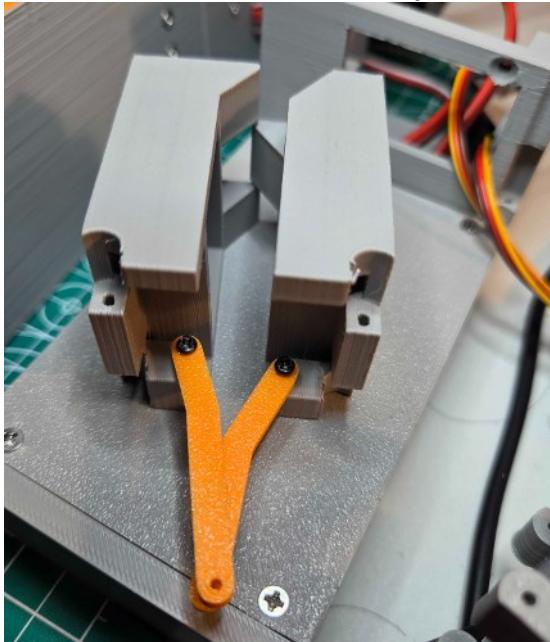
- The **blue rod in the image** is the **Finger2 Rod**
  - **NOTE:** When aligning, make sure that the small protruding bits of both rods around their holes are all facing the same direction.
- Do not mistake the Finger 1 and 2 rods to be identical/symmetrical, **they are not.**



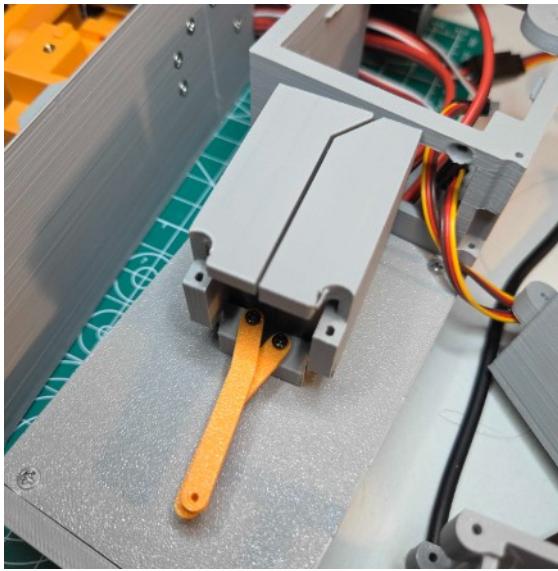
- - Finger 1 (NOT in blue in the above) should have a larger protrusion at where the two rods align with their holes.
  - These rods act as rotational pivots for finger articulation.
- Using **self-tapping screws**, connect the rods with Finger 1 and 2 (with the appropriate facing and orientation mentioned above) using M2x8mm self-tapping screws.



- Do not screw them all the way in. The rods should still be able to rotate freely.



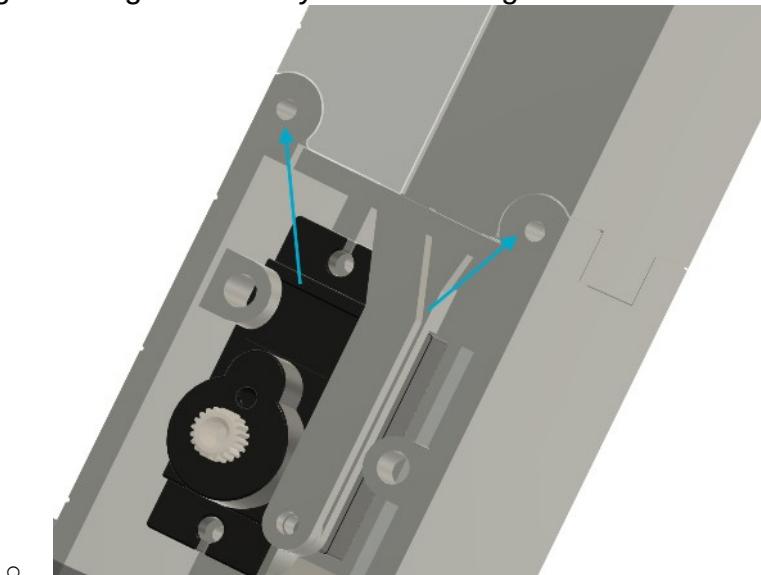
- If you have used the correct finger rods with the correct facing, they should line up nicely together one on top of the other like the following:



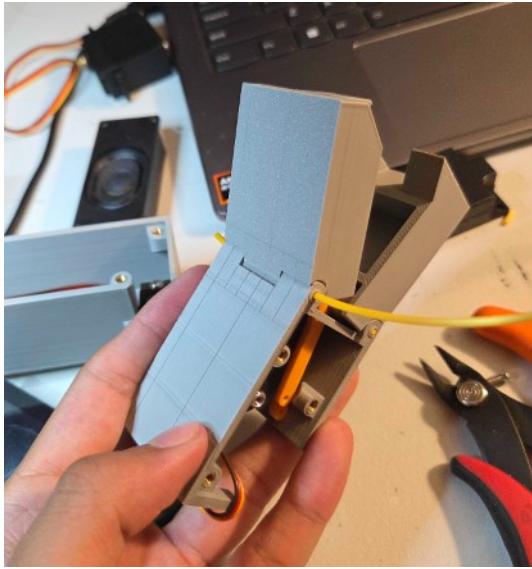
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### Step 9: Mount Fingers Into Forearm Case

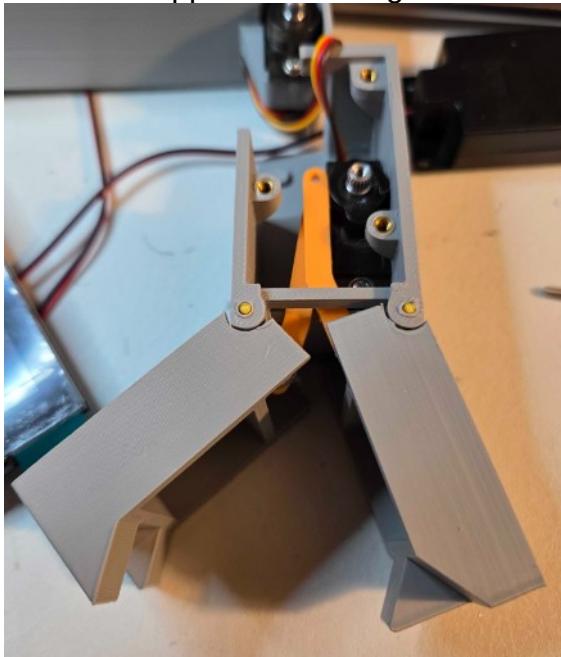
- Insert the **assembled Finger1 + Finger2 unit** into the **forearm case**.
- Align the finger assembly with the designated side holes on the case.



- Make sure to insert the finger rods into the appropriate slot in the forearm case!
- **Insert 3D printer filament** into the holes:
  - These act as axles/pins.



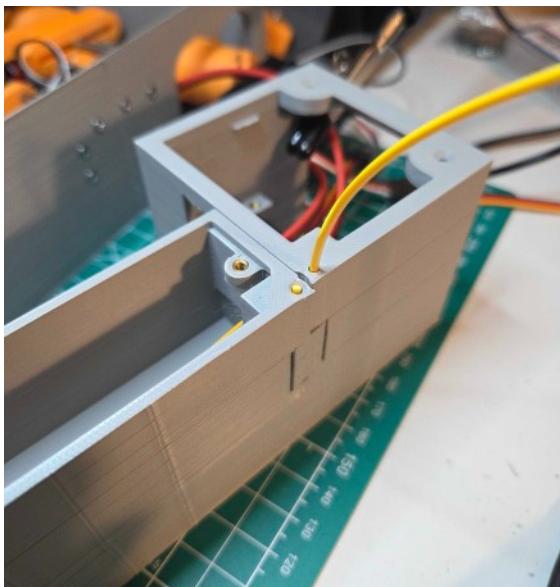
- - Again if it doesn't fit properly, use M2.6 self-tapping screws -> M2. regular screws to open up the hole.
  - If the rounded edges of the hinge are rough, you can use a soldering iron to rub it smooth.
- Cut the filament so that it **sits flush on both sides**, providing secure yet rotatable support for the finger mechanism.



---

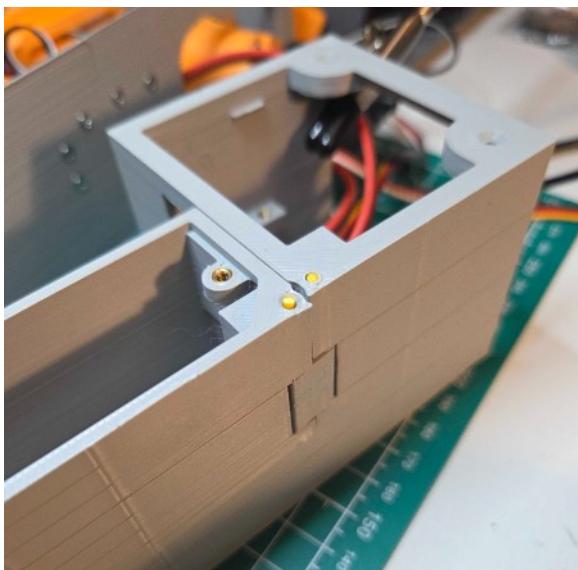
### Step 10: Link the Arm to the Lower Leg

- Align the **main arm case** part with the pivot hole in the **lower leg**.
- Insert a **length of 1.75 mm filament** through the aligned hole.



1.

- Cut it flush.



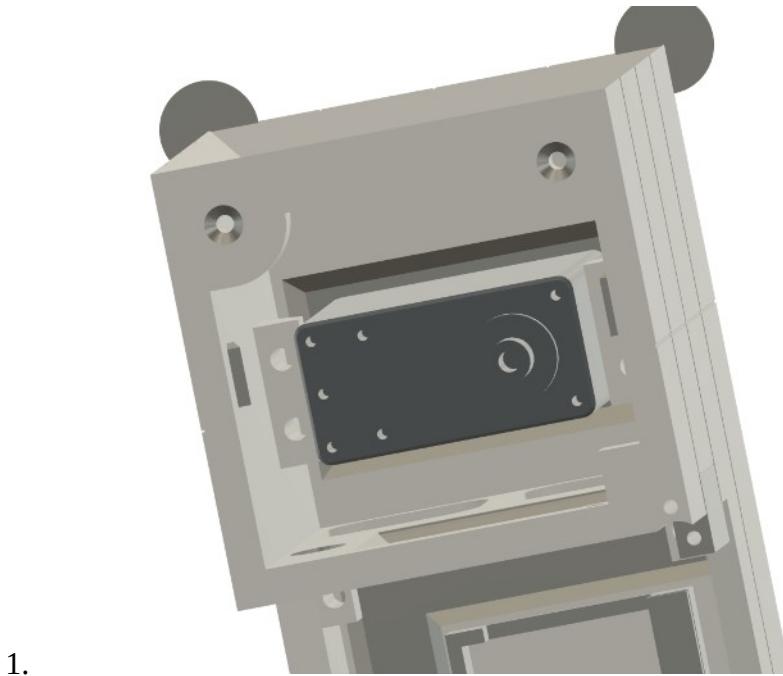
1.

- This filament should **freely allow the arm to rotate** but not fall out or protrude excessively.

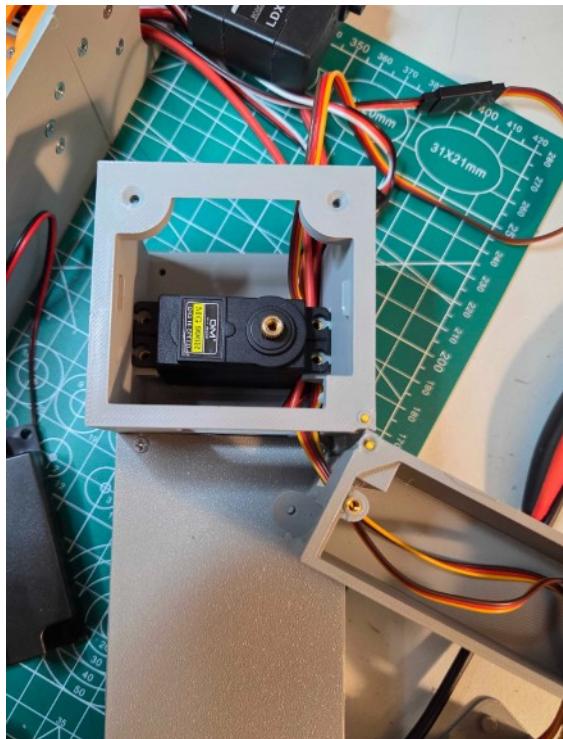
---

### Step 11: Install the MG996R Servo into the Lower Leg

- Position the MG996R servo **inside the rectangular cutout** of the lower leg, as shown in the image.



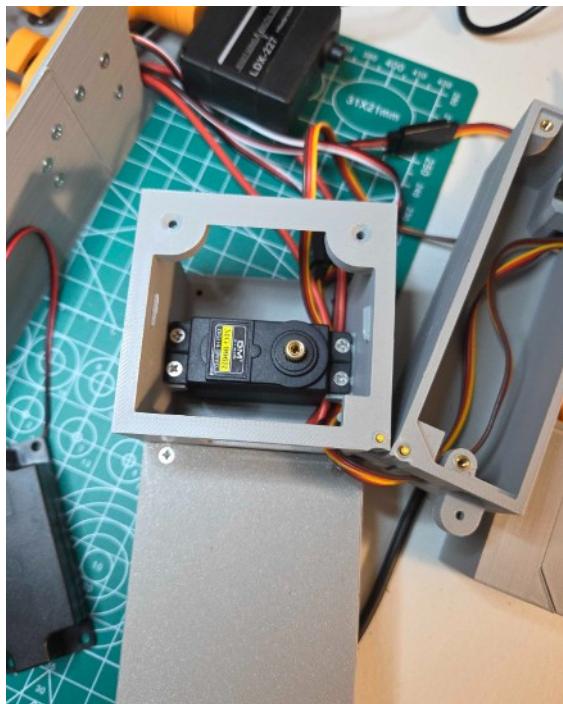
1.



2.

3. Ex. From Right Leg

- Pay attention to the **orientation**:
  1. The **shaft should point up like in the image, closer to the front side of the leg**.
  2. The **servo wires and buck converter wires must be routed to the same side underneath the servo** (away from any mechanical interference).
- Use four **M3x8mm screws** to **secure the servo** to the mounting holes.



1.

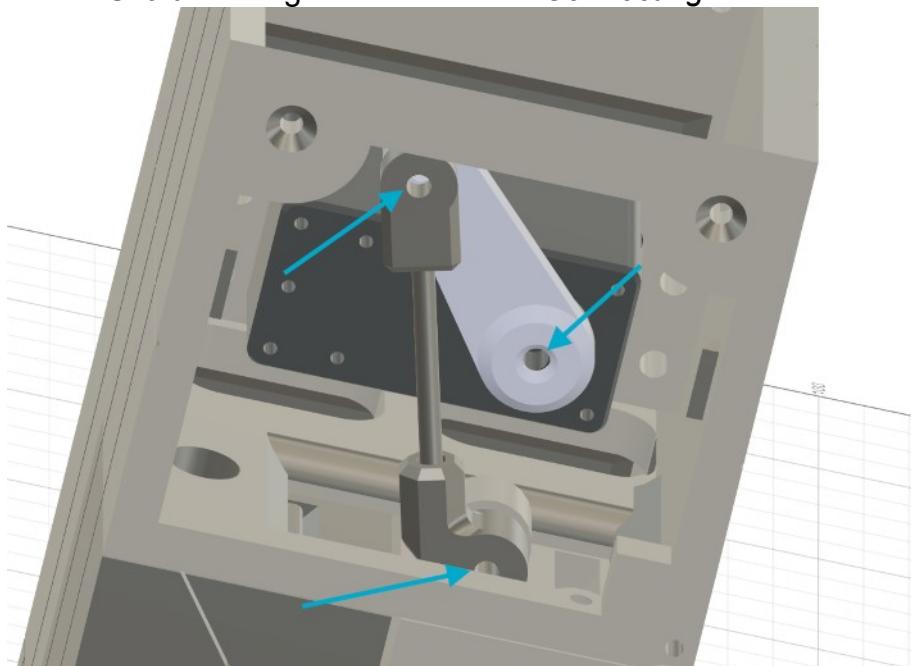
---

### Step 12: Re-Center the Servos if They Rotated

- If you accidentally moved or rotated any servos while assembling:
    - Run the app-servotester.py script.
    - Choose the “**Set all servos to preset position**” option.
    - This will **re-align all servos to their default angles**, ensuring everything stays in sync with the design.
- 

### Step 13: Connect Arm Shaft to Connecting Arm

- Take the *Arm Shaft* and align it with the blue *Connecting Arm* shown in the image.



1.

- Screw them both together at their most extended point with a M2.6x12mm screw.



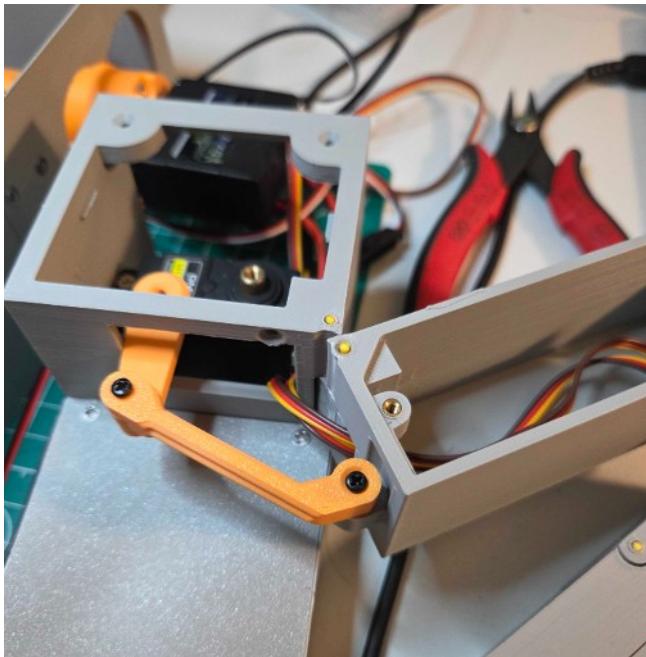
1.

- 1.
2. Don't screw too tightly as it should be able to rotate freely to the following position.

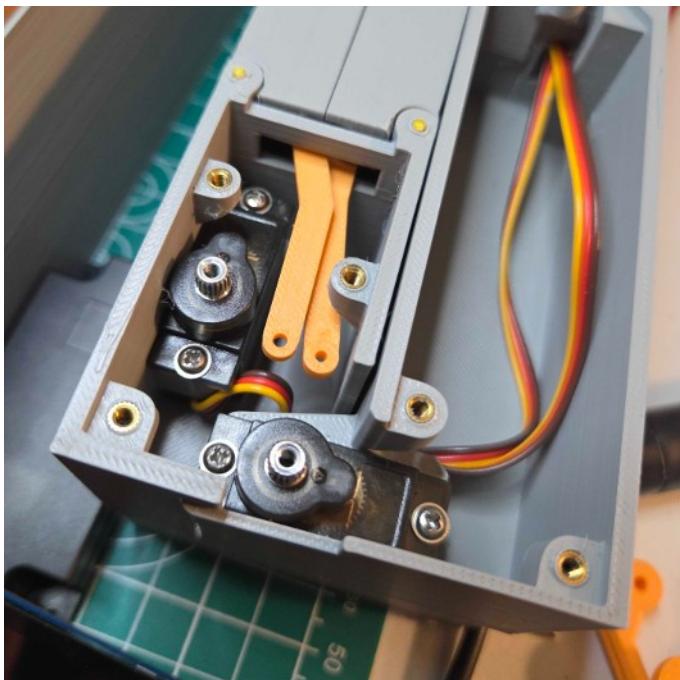


3.

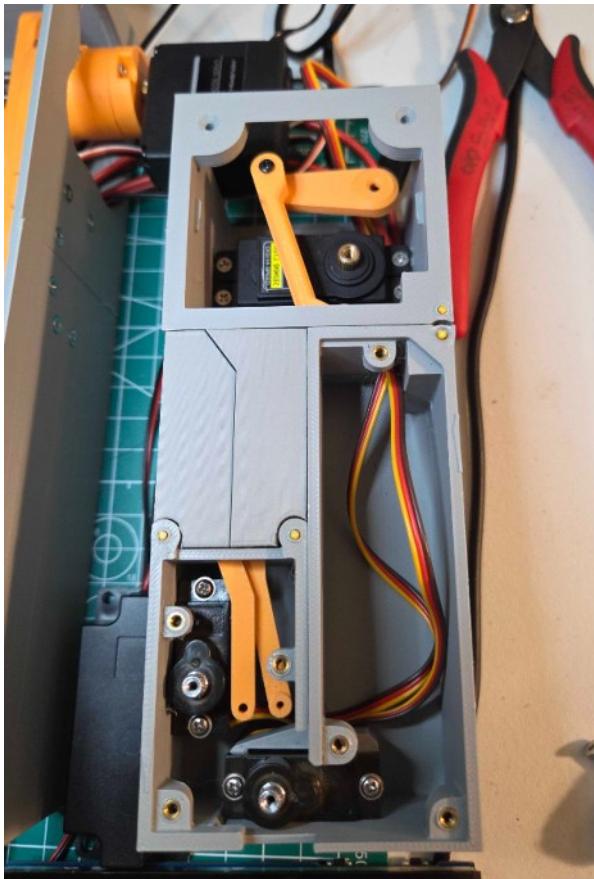
- Screw the arm shaft to the main arm case using a M2.6x12mm screw in the position of the image below with the arm opened up.



- 1.
  2. This arm should be able to swivel counterclockwise freely from this position.
- Use the built-in notch to connect the main arm with the forearm case together.

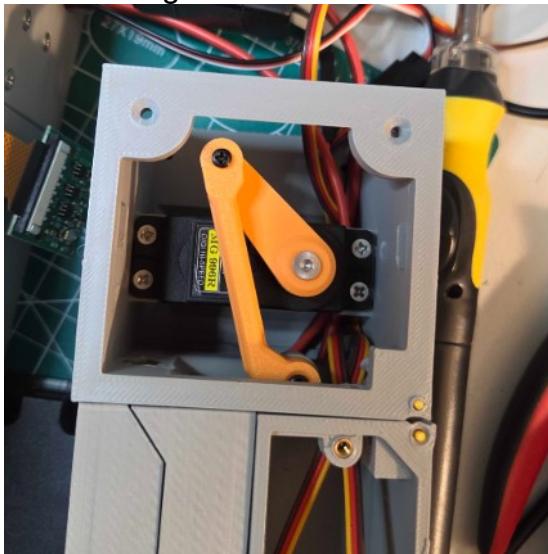


- 1.
  2. They should be able to rotate freely as well.
- Ensure your arms are in an enclosed position:



1.

- Bolt the connecting arm with the MG996R servo using an M3x8mm screw.

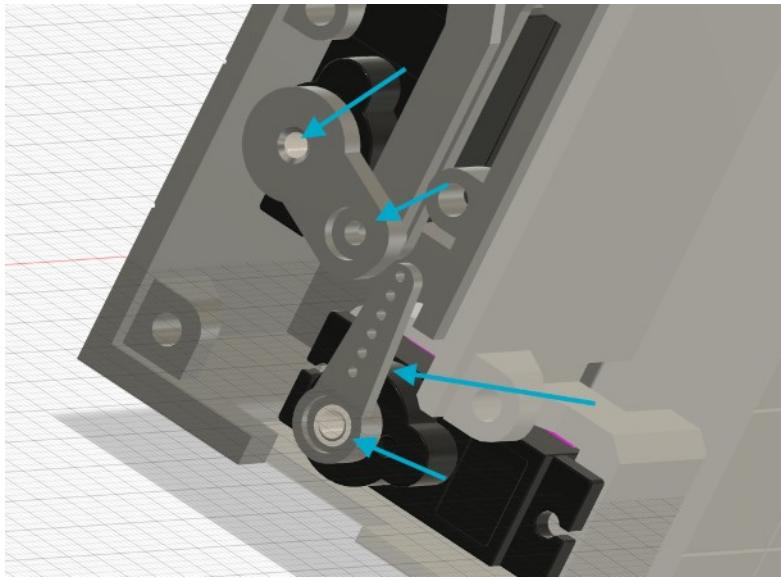


1.

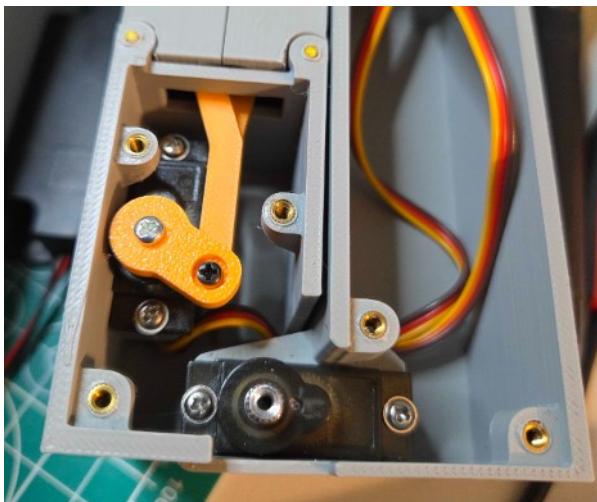
- 2. If you accidentally turn the servo shaft on the servo motor, please unscrew and reset the position with the V2-servo-tester script again.

---

#### Step 14: Secure the Internal Shaft and Close the Assembly



- Before doing anything in this step, ensure that the hands/claws of TARS are fully closed!
- Connect the Finger 1 and 2 rods to the **mg90s finger servo** using the forearm servo horn component as shown.
  1. Use an M2.6x12mm self-tapping screw to screw in the forearm servo horn and the Finger 1 and 2 rods together.
  2. Use the **small regular (not self-tapping) screw** that came with the servo to fasten the servo horn to the motor shaft.

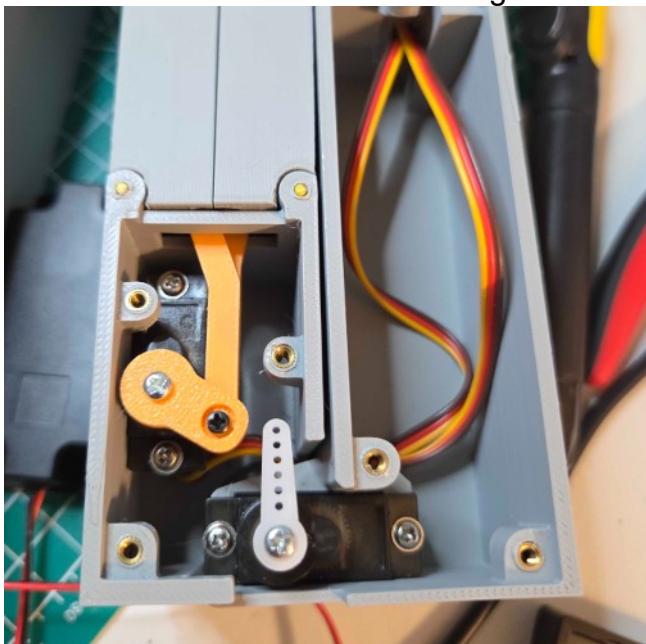


- 3.
- Retrieve a one-sided servo horn that comes with the servo and lay it in the forearm lid to confirm that it fits.



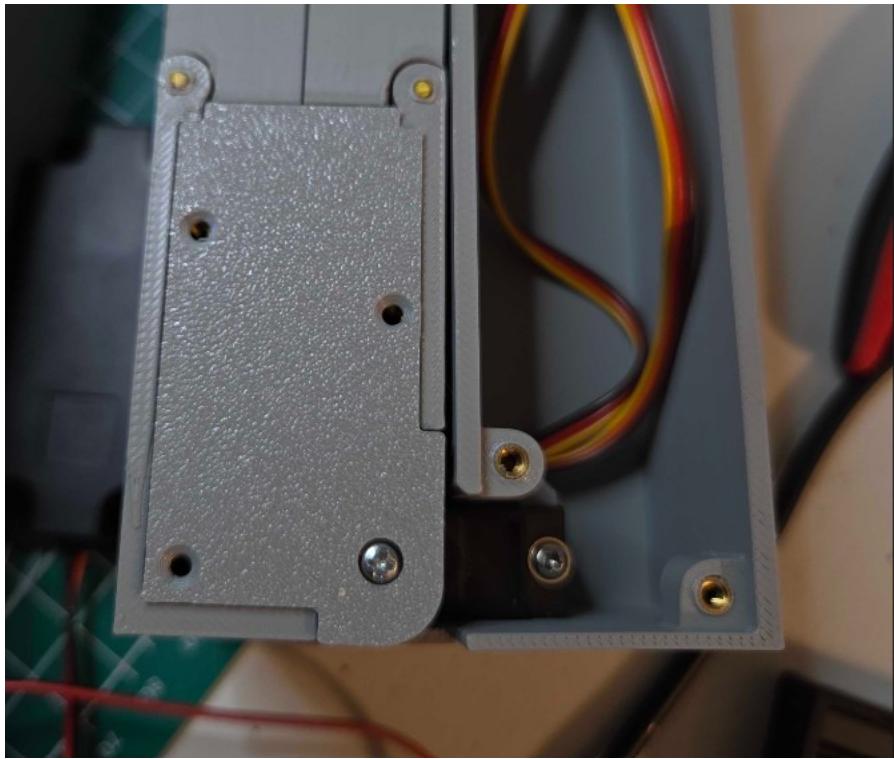
1.

- Using another one of the small regular screws that come with the servo, screw the one-sided servo horn onto the servo straight vertically.

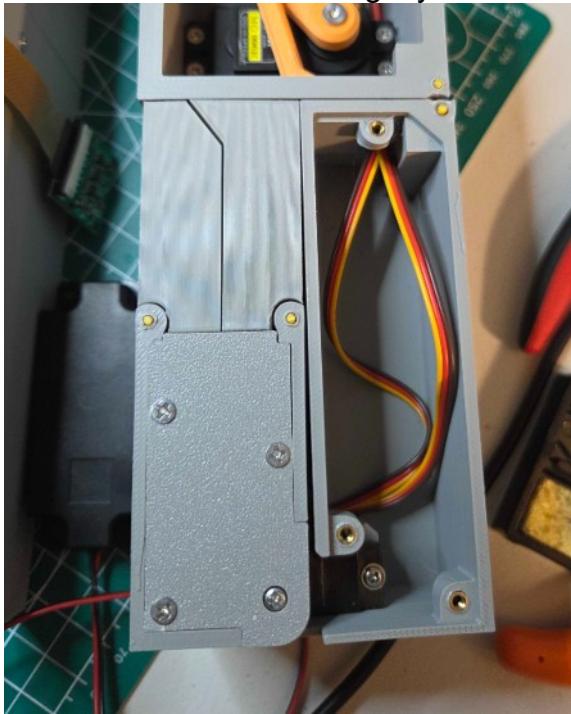


1.

2. You do not need to screw it in tight just yet, we will do that in the next step.
- Place the forearm lid onto the forearm case and make sure the servo horn fits into the slot on the case.



- 1.
2. Screw in the servo horn tightly.



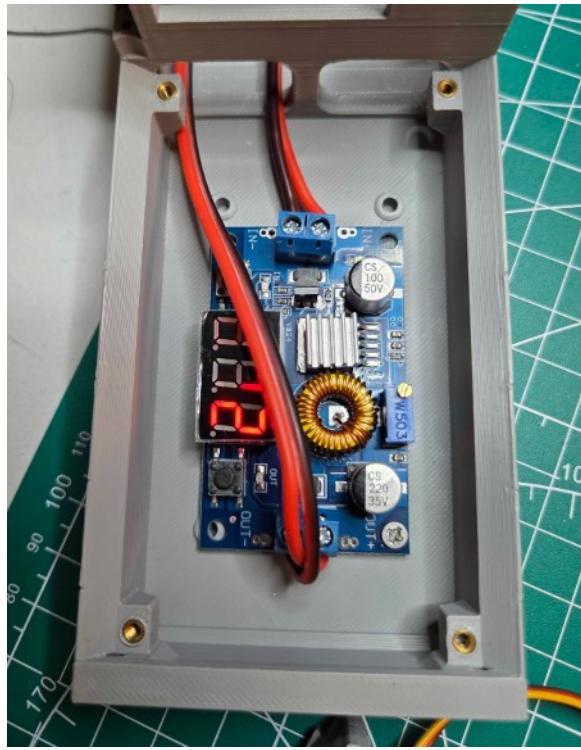
- 3.
  4. Screw in the forearm lid with three M3x6mm screws
- Screw in the main arm lid with three more M3x6mm screws



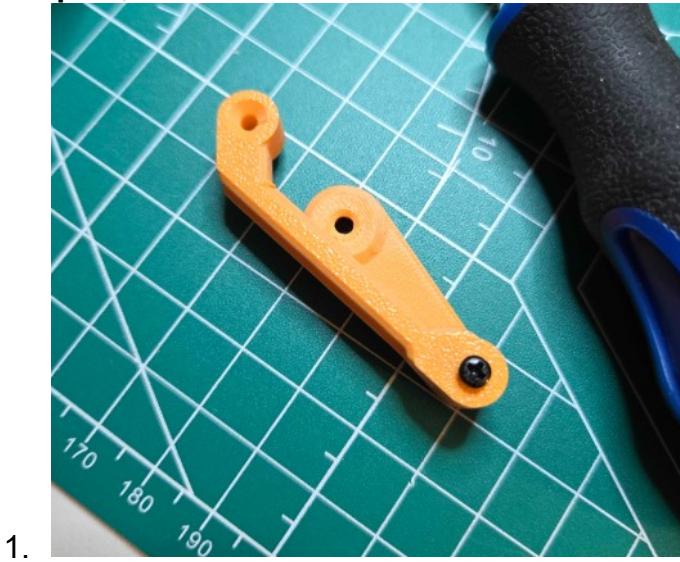
---

### Step 15: Repeat Steps 1-14 with the Left Leg

- Repeat the same steps but with the left leg and everything mirrored.
- On **Step 5**, the buck converter you will be securing is the adjustable one.
  1. You will notice that the holes of the lower leg may not match your buck converter. This is normal.
  2. This buck converter can come in all shapes and sizes, so align the holes and pick out whichever holes you will need to screw in.
    - You do not need to screw in all of them.
  3. Even one screw is enough.



- On **Step 13**, screw the arm shaft and the connecting arm in this position:



## **H. Final Assembly**

### **Step 1: Bolt the Speakers to the Hull Lid**

- Identify the **Hull Lid**.
- Take the **two small 3W speakers** and align their mounting holes with those on the Hull Lid.
- Use M3x6mm screws to secure the speakers in place.

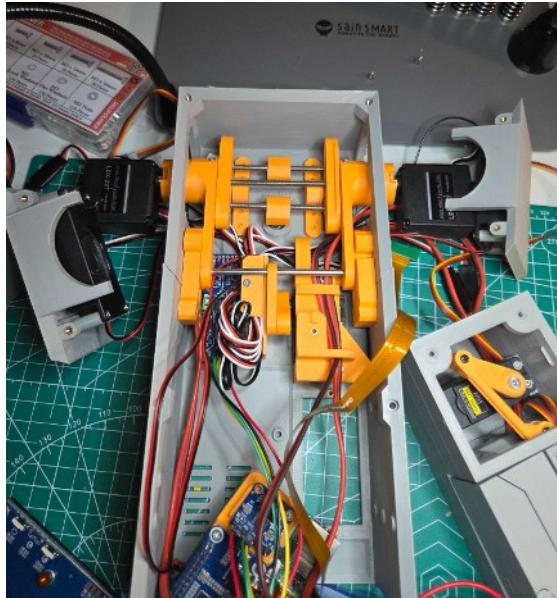


- This is the right leg hull lid. Please make sure to orient your speaker where the wire goes straight down like in the image.

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## Step 2: Feed the Speaker Wires Into the Upper Case

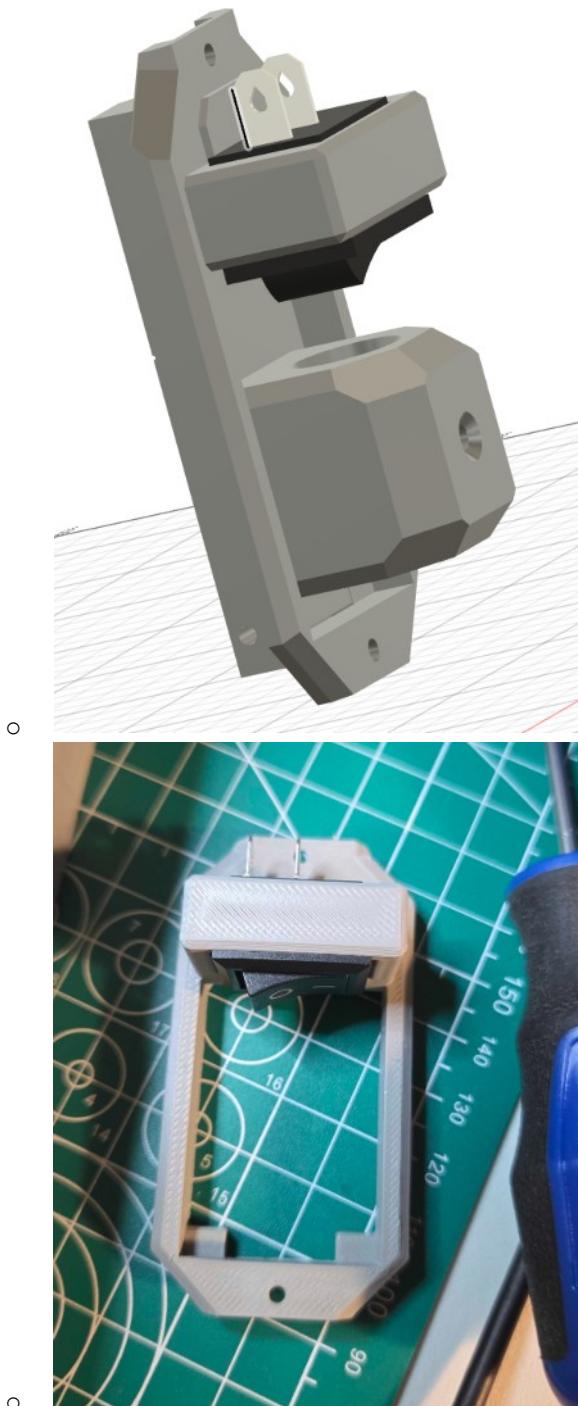
- Gather both speaker wires and guide them:
  - Through the **same hole** used for other electronics cables (power, I2C, servos), typically in the **top wall of the upper case**.
  - Route them **with the other wires** toward the Raspberry Pi and Audio HAT.



---

## Step 3: Attach the Power Switch to the Access Panel

- **Power switch** fits into the rectangular slot in the **access panel frame** (as shown in the image).



- Press-fit the switch until secure; it should snap or sit firmly.
- Then:
  - Take a short length of 1.75 mm filament.
  - Insert it through the **hinge holes** of the access panel **door and frame** to act as a hinge pin.



- Trim flush on both ends so it sits neatly without sticking out.



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#### Step 4: Insert Magnets in the Access Panel

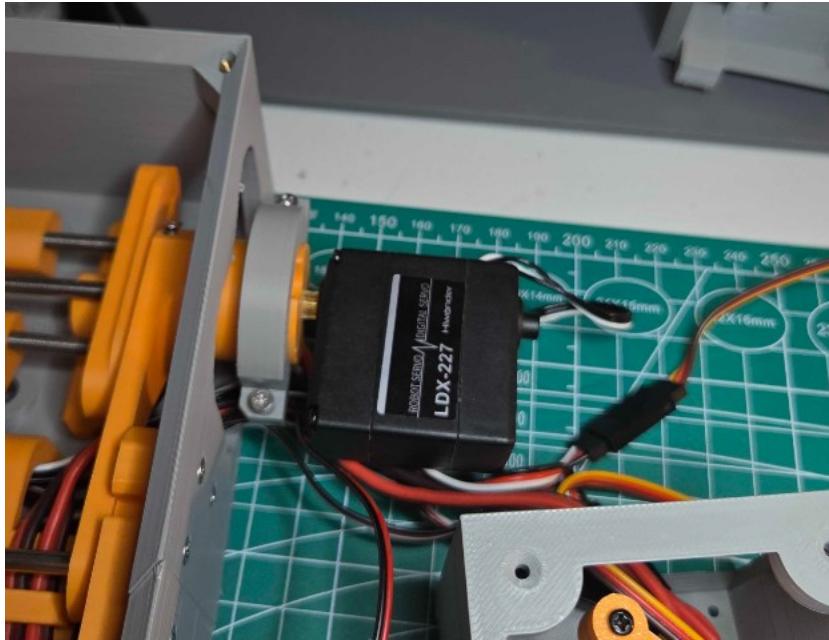
- You'll need **2 small magnets**.
- Insert one magnet into the **frame** and the other into the **door**, in their designated slots.
- Ensure that **polarities are opposite** so they **attract** when the door is closed.
  - You can test this by bringing them near before final insertion.



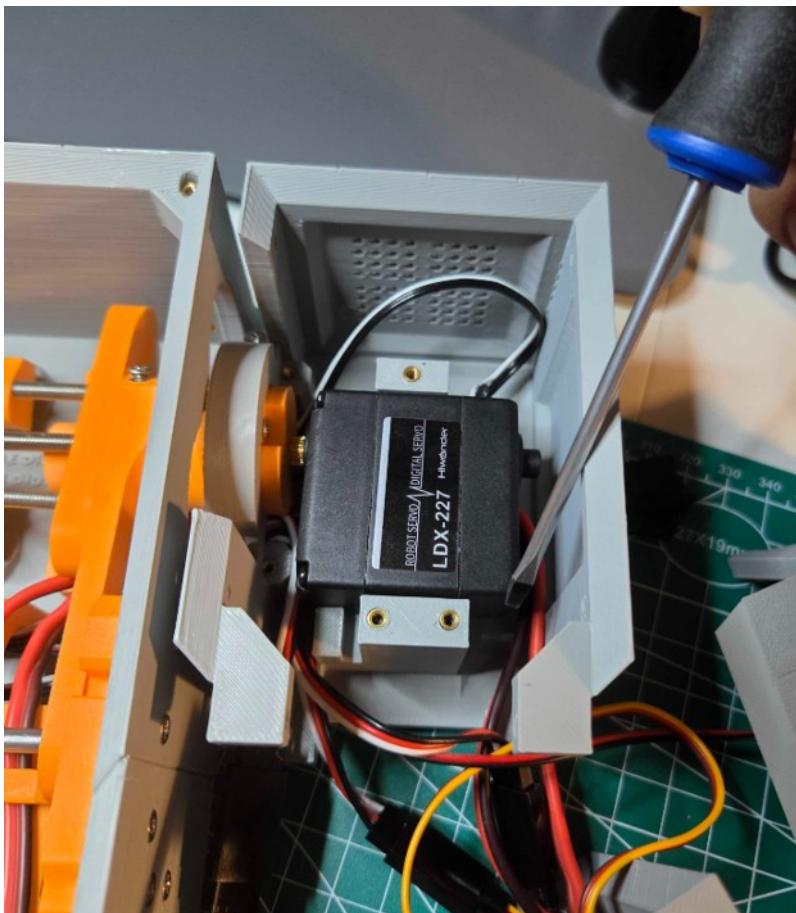
---

### Step 5: Mount the Hull to the Servo Assemblies

- For each leg, grab the hull hub and screw in two M3x12mm screws into it.
    - Don't screw in all the way.
  - From the rear end of the servo, slide the hull hub into place around each leg's servo horn:
-

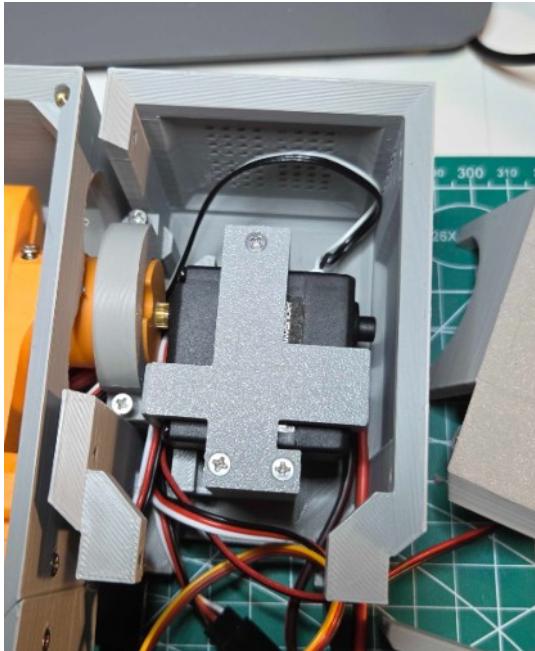


- You are now attaching the **main side Hull pieces** (arms of TARS) to the already-mounted **LDX-227 servos**.
  - Slide in the hull from underneath and make sure to take care of the wiring.

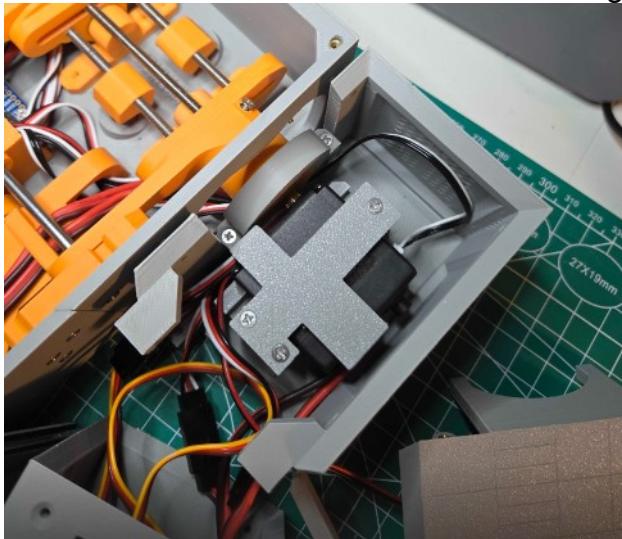


- This step is tricky because of cable routing:
  - **18 AWG power wires** should run through the **center channel** underneath the servo body.

- Thinner signal wires (servo, I2C, etc.) wrap around the **sides** of the servo.
  - Use a screwdriver to help you route the wires around.
- The **servo clip** is a part that holds the servo securely in place from the outside of the Hull.
  - After you've inserted the Hull around the LDX-227 servo and routed **all wires**:
  - Make sure **no wires are pinched** between the Hull and servo body.
  - Once confirmed, place the **servo clip** over the servo tab area and **bolt it with M3x8mm screws**.

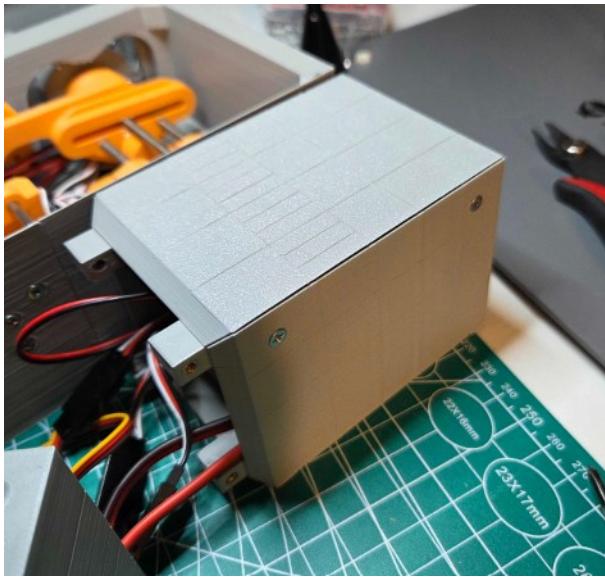


- You may realize that the holes don't align. Shuffle the hull underneath the servo to properly align it.
- Screw in the hull hub onto the hull with the existing screws:



#### **Step 6: Attach the Hull Lid and Connect the Lower Leg**

- Place the **Hull Lid** on the **Hull** and screw it in place using **M3x6mm screws**.



- - Slide in and snap the lid of the lower leg in place:

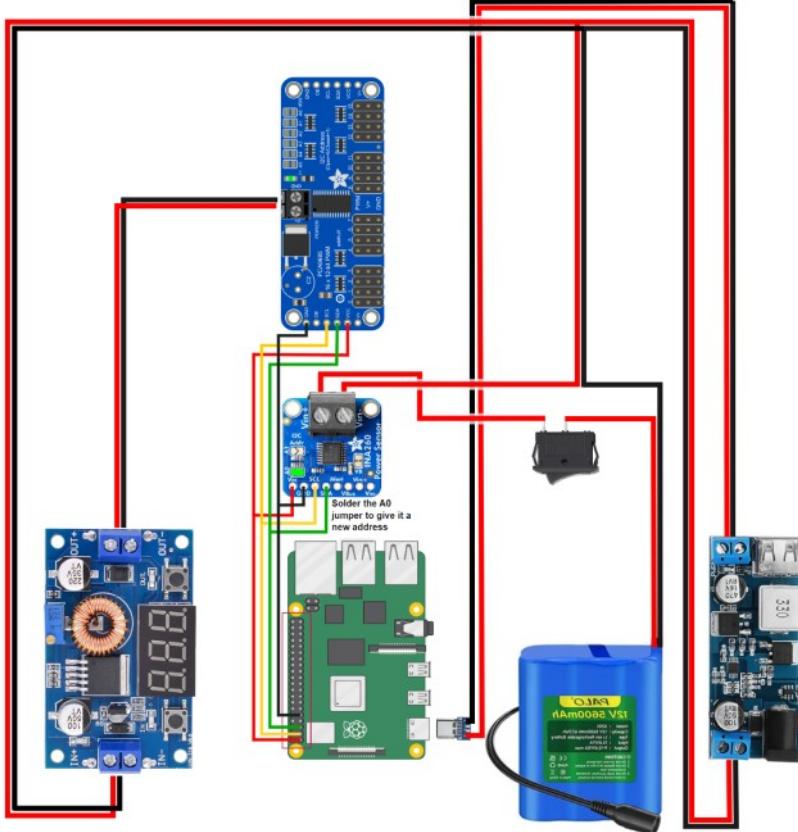


- Then, **connect the lower leg** (the limb assembly) to the Hull with two M3x10mm screws:



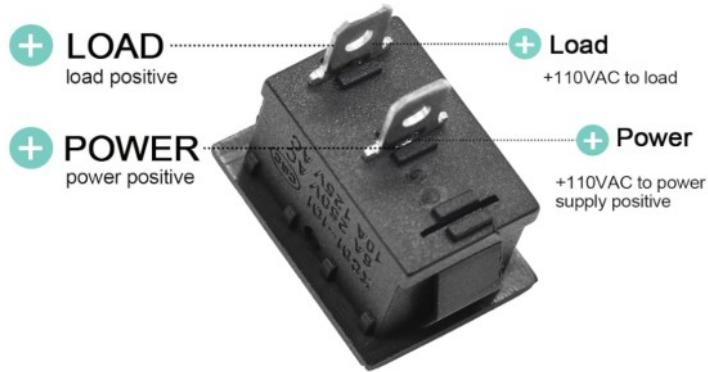
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### Step 7: Finalize the Wiring Using the Switch and the INA260

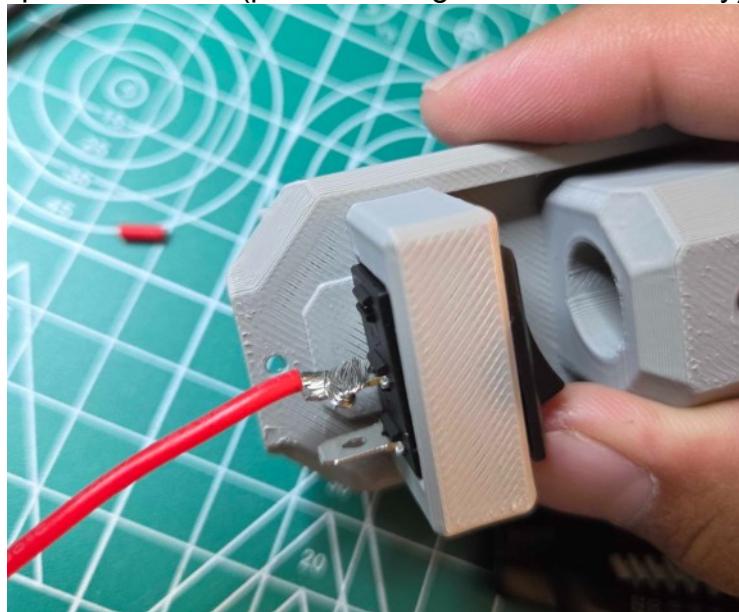


- - NOTE: The SDA, SCL pins are flipped on the Pi.
- Refer to the **wiring diagram**.
- At this point, verify:
  - Speaker wires are routed to the Audio HAT.
    - Make sure the right and left speakers go to the appropriate right and left channels of the Audio HAT.

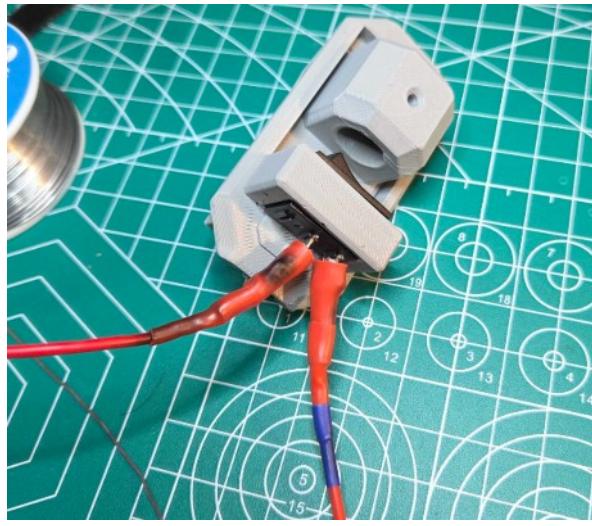
- All 9 servo channels are connected to the correct extension wires (Channels 0–8 on the PCA9685).
- Power wires (from the buck converters) are connected to or can reach:
  - PCA9685 (6V)
  - Raspberry Pi (5V via USB-C breakout)
- I2C connections between the **Pi, INA260, and PCA9685** are wired correctly.
- Connect the circuit to the switch:



- For the power terminal (power coming out from the battery):



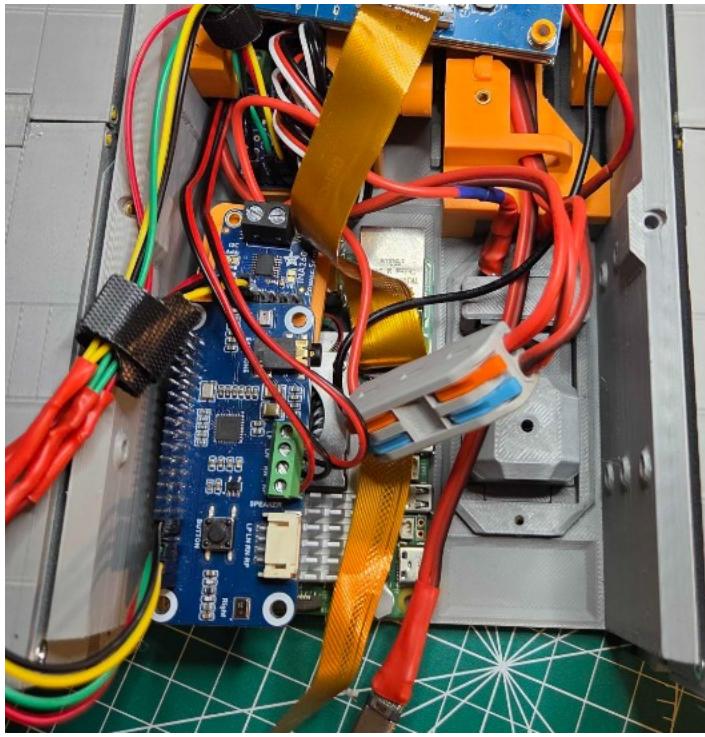
- Disconnect the battery power cable from the lever wire nut.
- Strip  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch from battery power cable, twist the end.
- Add a large heat shrink and a smaller one.
- Curl around power switch terminal.
- Solder on the connection.
- Shrink the larger one around the terminal.
- Shrink the smaller one around the larger one that is shrunk to keep it in place.
- For the Load terminal to the INA260:



- - Cut a new 12cm long 18 AWG power wire
  - Repeat the same steps to connect to the Load terminal of the switch.
- You can test out if the switch works with a multimeter and by flipping on and off the switch to see if the voltage changes.
- You can also now slide the door component underneath the other wires as in the image.

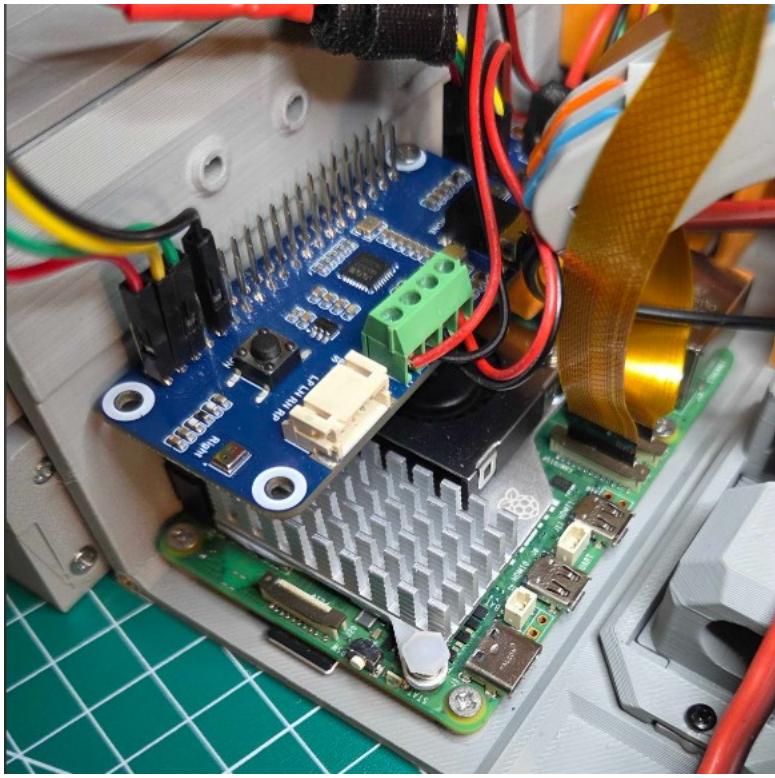


- - Screw it in with two M3x4mm screws
- Connect the INA260:



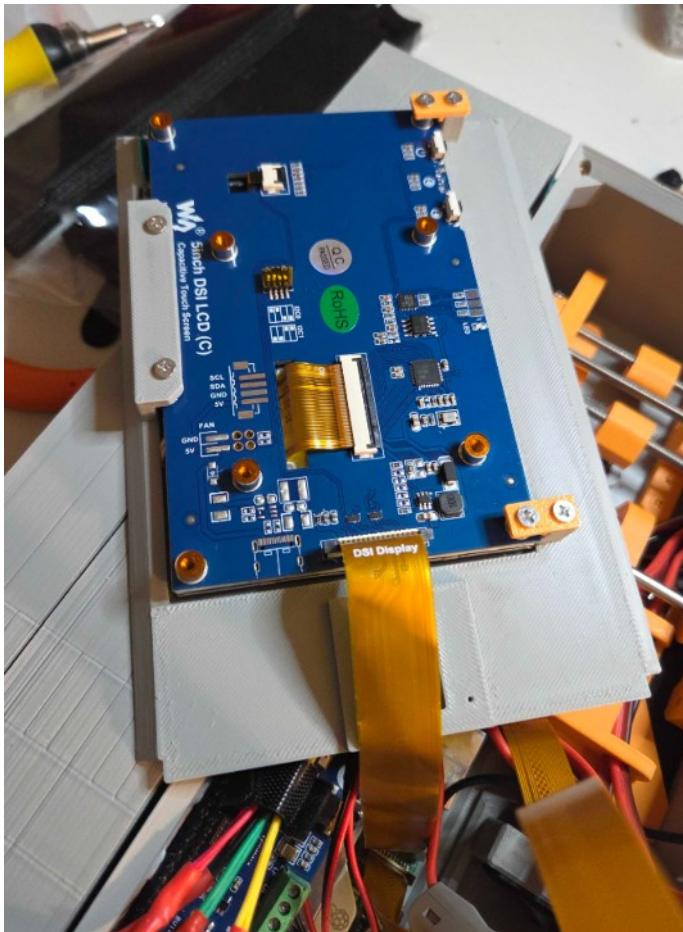
- Strip 0.5 mm off the power cable coming out of the switch and twist the ends.
  - Feed it into the Vin+ screw terminal of the INA260.
  - Cut a new 8 cm long 18 AWG power wire.
  - Strip 0.5 mm off both the ends and twist them.
  - Feed one end to the Vin- screw terminal of the INA260, and the other to the original lever wire nut power terminal.
    - Through this connection setup, the INA260 can measure the current draw of the battery and thus your battery level.
- 

### Step 8: Secure the Raspberry Pi

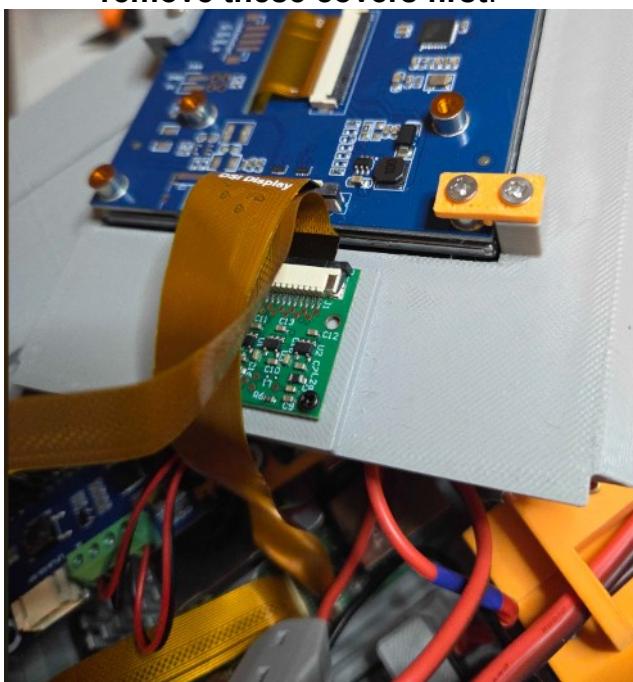


- Use three **M3 x 5mm screws** to mount the Pi onto the bottom of the upper chassis.
    - The Pi should sit level and **not be under any stress or twisting** from uneven screw lengths.
  - Confirm that your USB-C port is accessible.
- 

### Step 9: Mount the Display and Camera



- Secure the screen to the upper lid using the screen clips and M3x5mm screws.
  - **⚠ Do not overtighten** the screws. Just enough to hold the screen snugly.
  - Some screens come with protective covers over their screw holes — remove these covers first.



- Then, attach the camera module using two M2x5mm self-tapping screws.

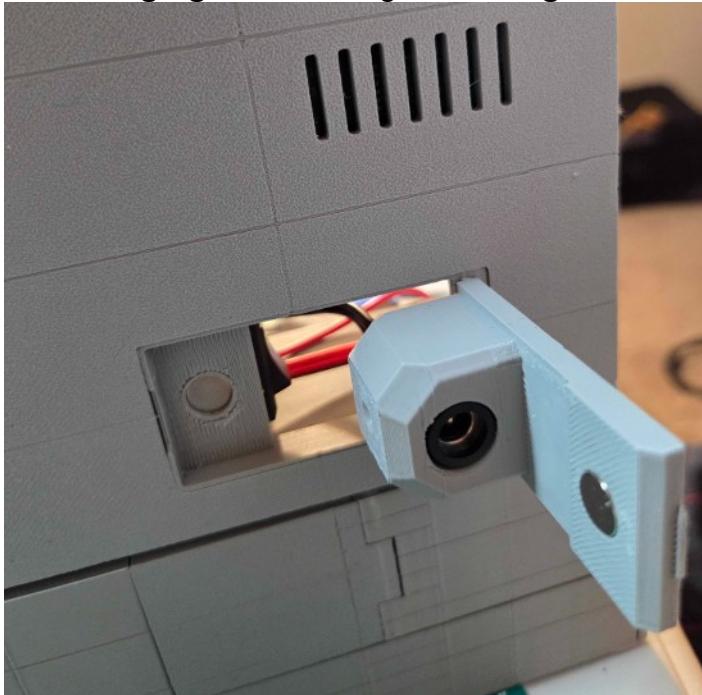
- Make sure it's centered and stable to avoid shaky image feed.

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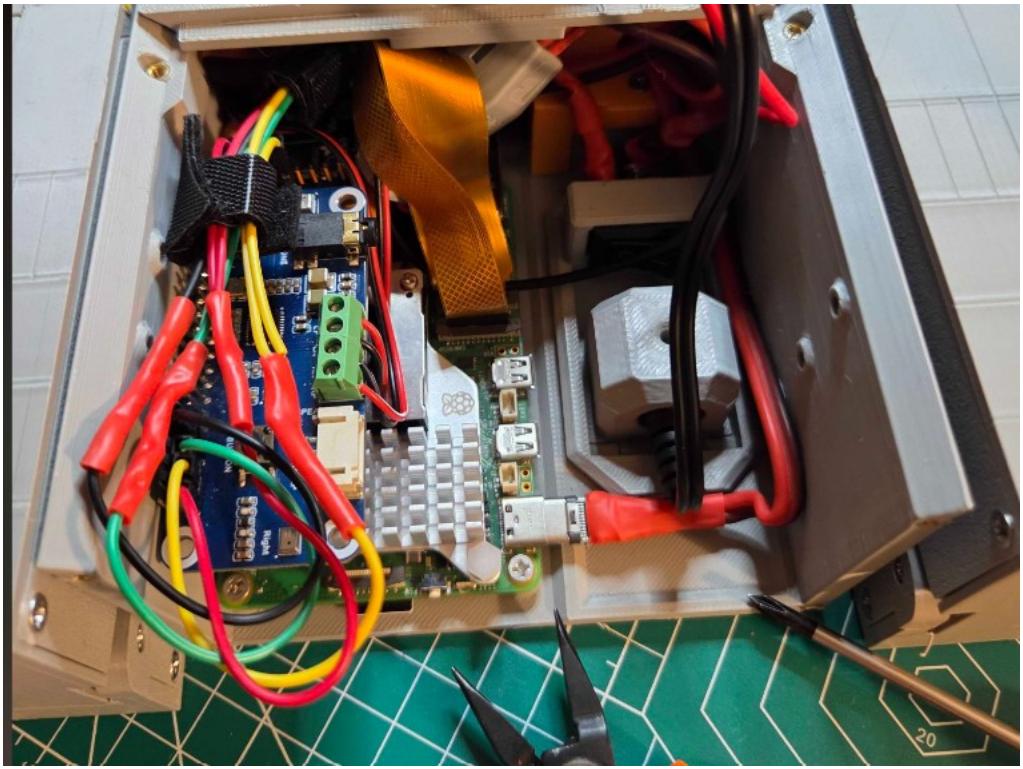
#### Step 10: Secure the Battery



- Use **2 short Velcro straps** joined together (or **1 long one**) to secure the **battery to the lower lid**.
- Thread the **charging cable** through the **designated hole** in the **access panel door**.



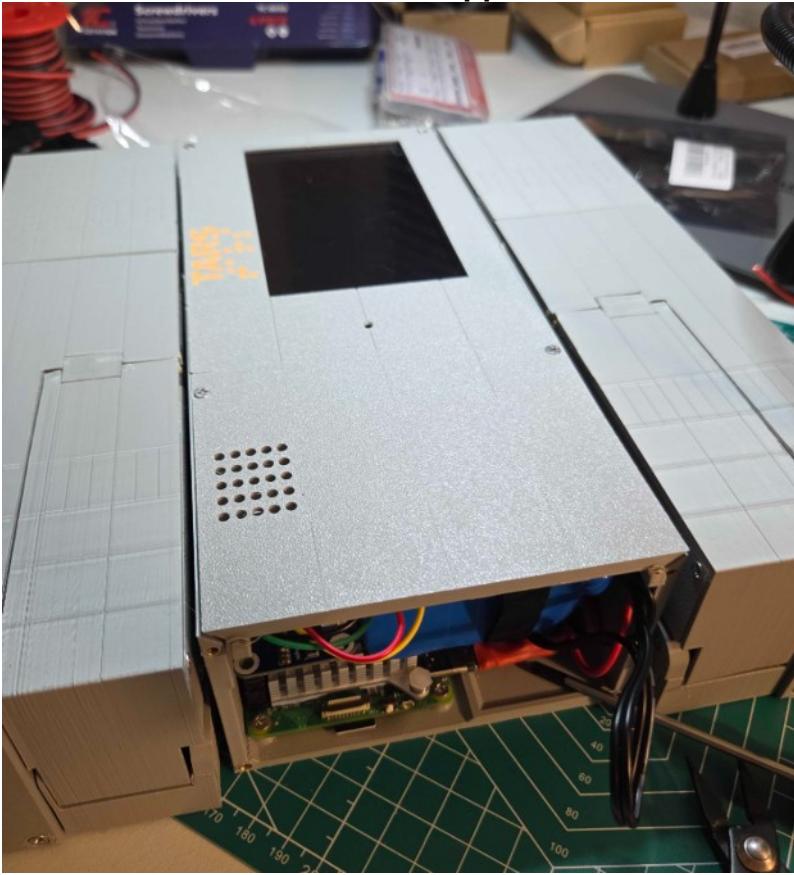
- You can screw it in through the hole to secure it.
- Connect the USB-C power cable to the Pi



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### Step 11: Final Closure

- Close and secure both the **lower** and **upper lid**.



- **Lower Lid**

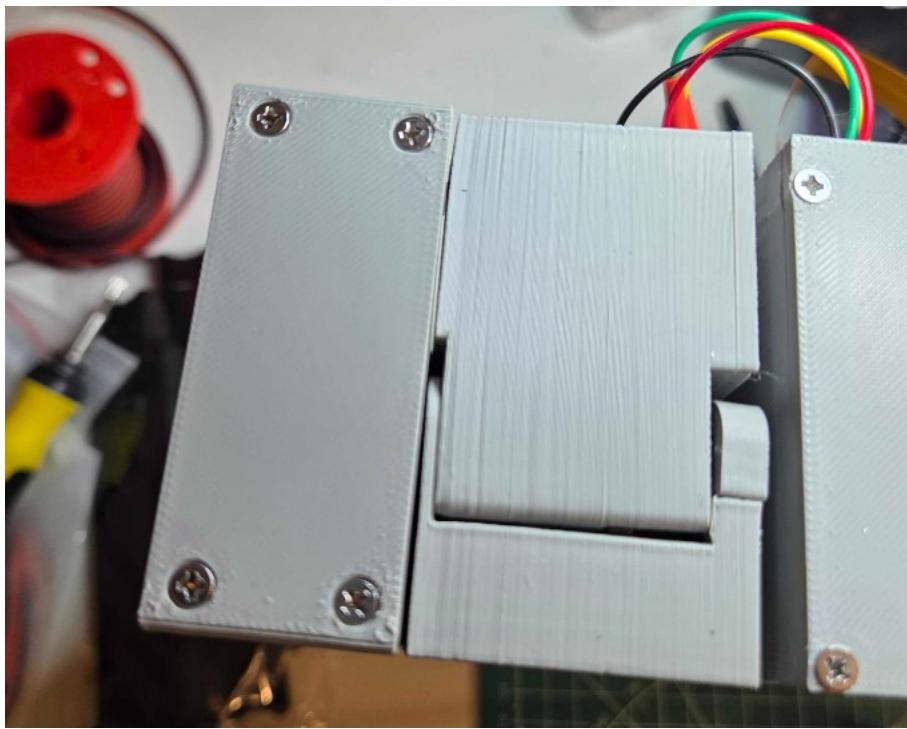
- Use **M3x10mm screws**.
- **⚠️ Be gentle!** Carefully align before pressing down to **avoid bending GPIO pins** or damaging the Audio HAT.
- **Upper Lid**
  - This can be screwed on once the lower lid is secured.
- **Bottom Lid**
  - Secure last, after all internal wiring and components are in place.
- Double-check for any pinched wires or misaligned components before fully tightening all screws.

### Attach the Lower Chassis and Foot Pad

- Finally, bolt down the **lower chassis base part** (the flat panel that sits below the robot) together with the **chassis foot pad**, which helps TARS stand evenly.



- Use four M3x6mm screws to secure the parts to the bottom of the robot's main frame.
- Make sure there's **no wobble or overhang**, and everything is flush and sturdy.
- Using eight M3x6mm screws, screw the left and right footpads to the left and right legs as well.



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**Congrats! Show us your Tars on Discord!**