

The Art of Repair *Repair Performance* Series

Inaugural Session

Repair Café El Barrio
El Barrio's Artspace PS 109
215 E 99th Street
New York, NY 10029

Sunday, 15 February 2026



Topics

- Who Am I?
- Philosophical Perspective on Repair
- How Things are Closed
- How to Diagnose a Problem
- How to Close Things

Who Am I?

- I've fought against planned obsolescence since I was 18
- I've been repairing electronics and other miscellany ever since
- No “repair” training, just curiosity
- Guitar repair is what I've done—on and off—for most of the last few years

Philosophical Perspective on Repair

I see items as having two lives:

1. It's initial, new life
2. It's subsequent, repaired life

Philosophical Perspective on Repair (New Life)

- Clean and maintain items, because we're less likely to replace things if they look new, clean, and shiny
- Handle items w/care
- Perceive items as irreplaceable, even if they aren't
- Read the manual, so you know exactly how it works

Philosophical Perspective on Repair (Second Life)

- Its second life begins when the unit fails
- The repair may require a cosmetic alteration
- The repair may be invisible
- We can form a bond with the item after a repair, because we've invested our own time
- The bond will mean that we'll likely keep the item for longer
- The item will likely spend most of its time in its second life

This toothed gear with a zip tie is inside a pencil sharpener that no one sees



This replaced battery in an Apple Magic Trackpage is invisible to the eye

Ordered battery from AliExpress on 27 Dec 22
Item titled as "Battery Trackpad2 2029mAh for
Apple Mag12 Trackpad2 A1542 020-8446 Touchpad
Battery". Received on 18 Jan 23; installed on
19 Jan 23

How Things are Sealed

- With screws
- With glue
- With adhesives
- With snaps
- With rivets













Designed by Apple in California
Assembled in Malaysia
Model No.: A1152 EMC No.: 2058

FC CE X VCCI
CSA IC
E-C011-05-3838 (B) R33057

KY62200NTU3MC



How to Diagnose a Problem

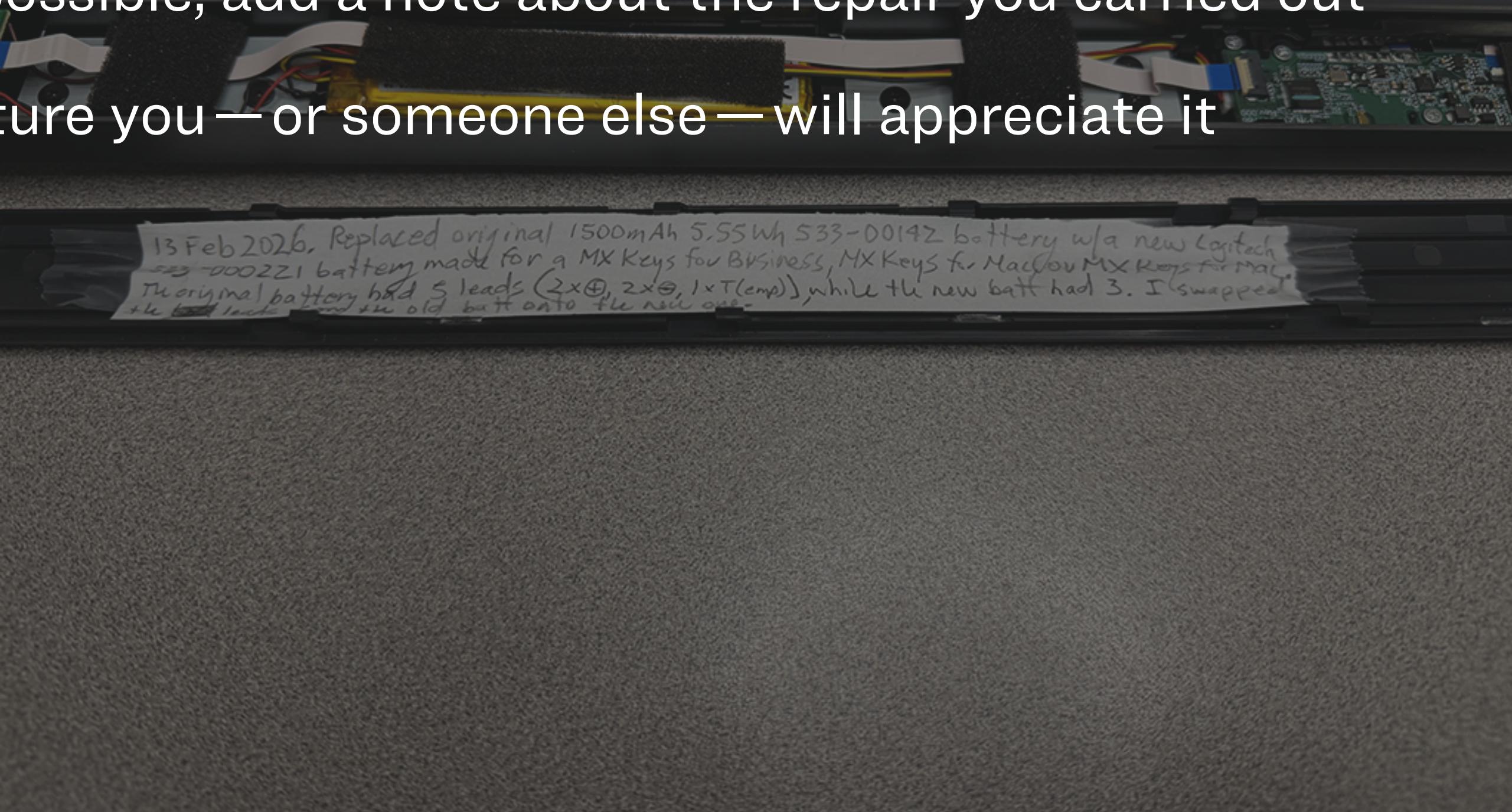
- Listen
- Feel
- Patience
- Prepare a clean surface on which to work
- Exercise more patience
- Search the Internet for your problem

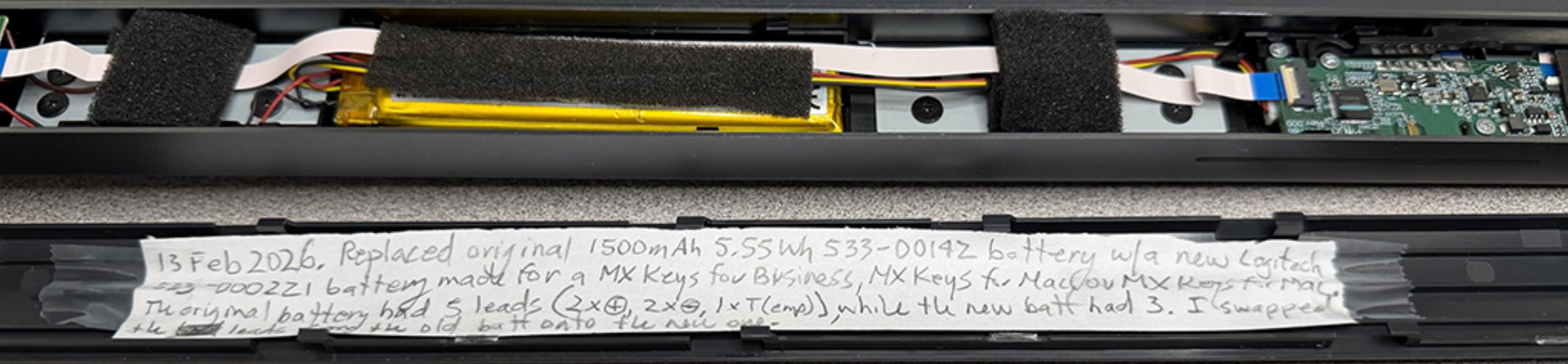
A Note on Attitude

- Discard fear
- The trepidation might translate into a worse repair

Add Notes to Repairs For Others

- If possible, add a note about the repair you carried out
- Future you—or someone else—will appreciate it

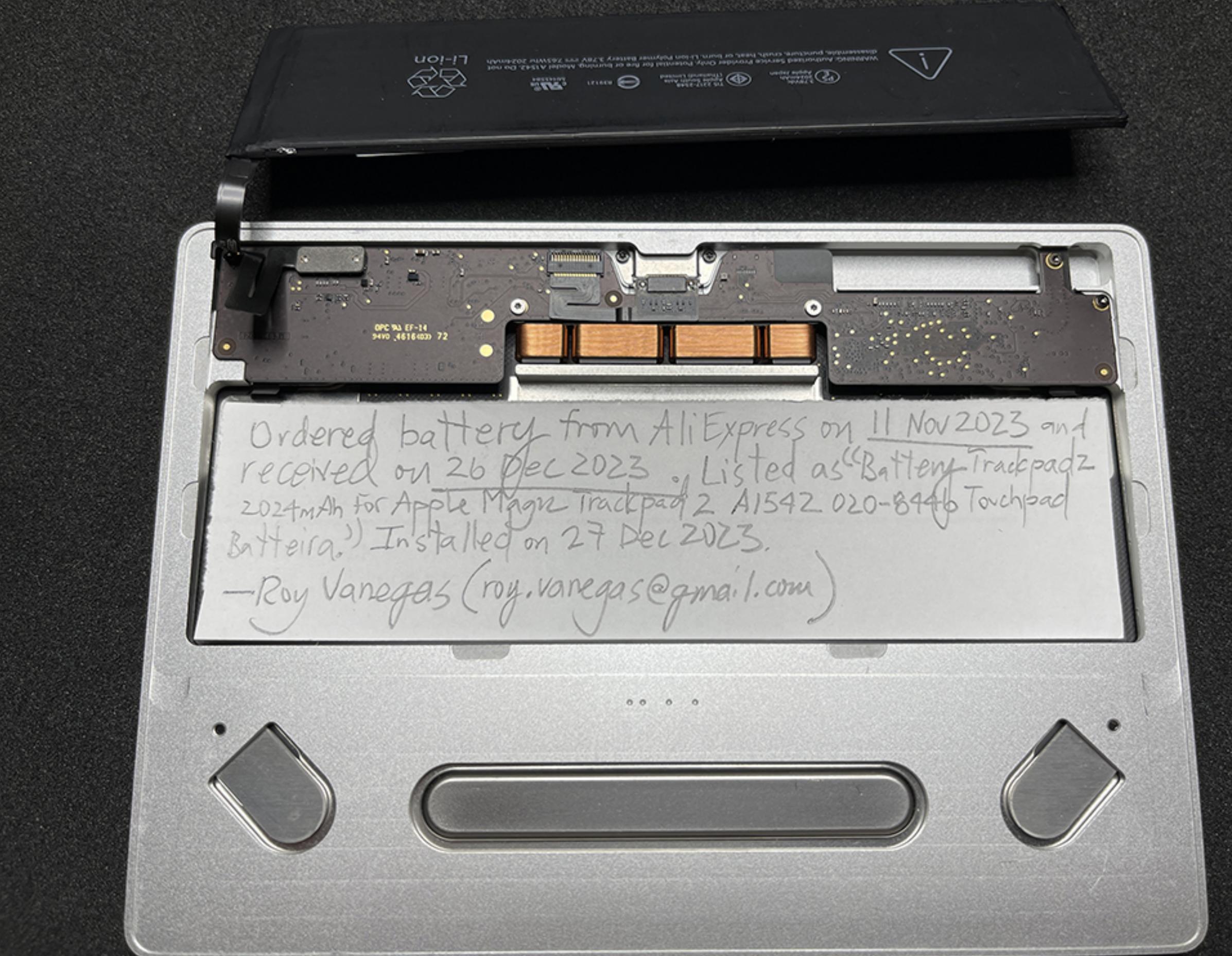


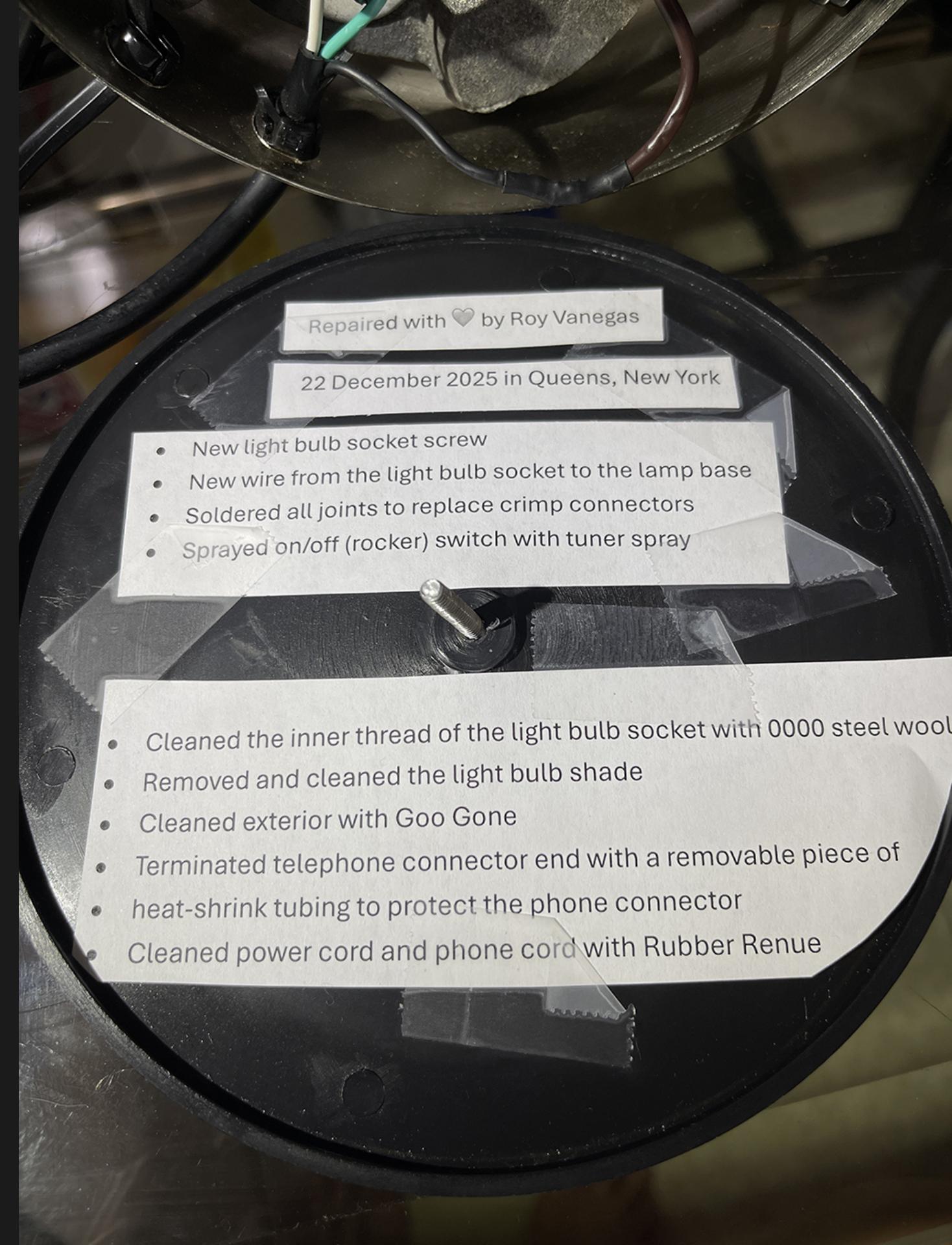


13 Feb 2026. Replaced original 1500mAh 5.55Wh 533-00142 battery w/a new Logitech
533-000221 battery made for a MX Keys for Business, MX Keys for Mac or MX Keys for Mac.
The original battery had 5 leads (2x+, 2x-, 1x T(earth)), while the new batt had 3. I swapped
the ~~leads~~ leads from the old batt onto the new one.



Refurbished by Roy Vanegas on
11 Jan 2025 — guitar-repair.nyc
roy@guitar-repair.nyc

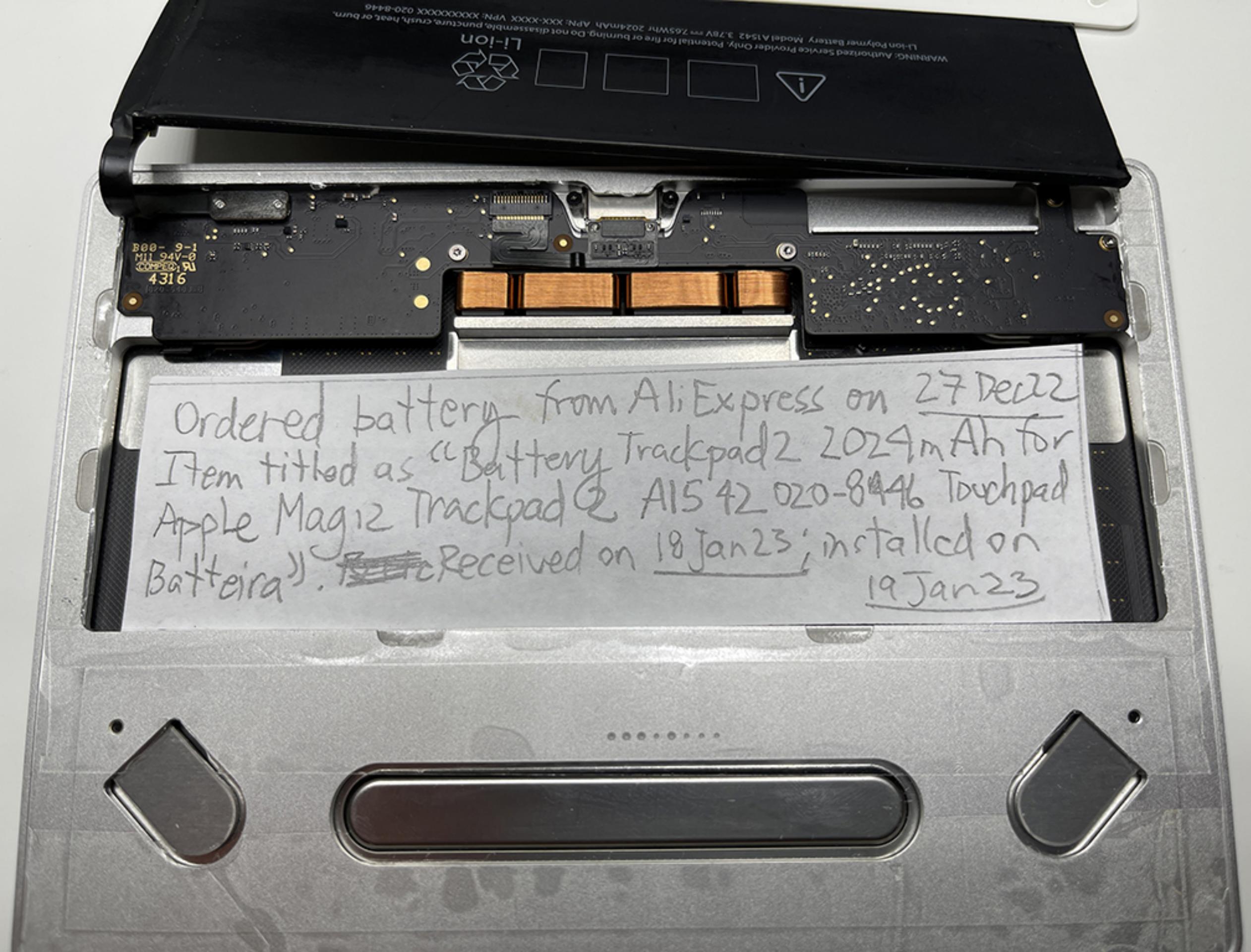


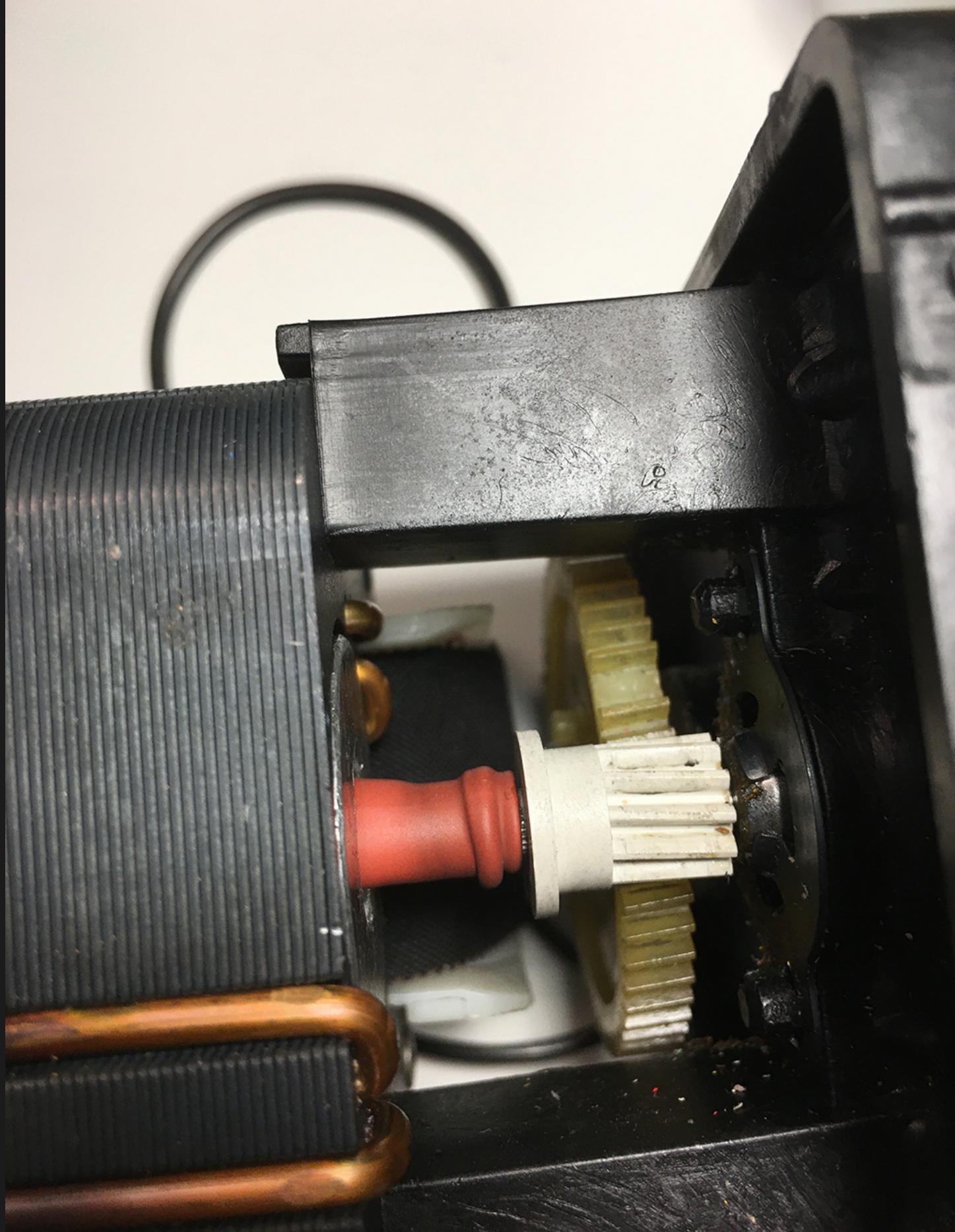


How to Close Things

Tape, heat shrink tubing, and zip ties are great for sealing/closing things

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Apple Magic Trackpad 2 A1542 020-8446 Touchpad
Battery"). Received on 18 Jan 23; installed on
19 Jan 23

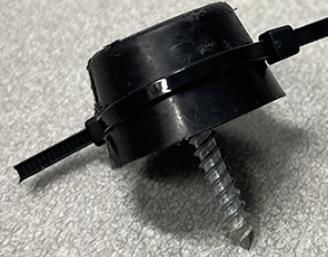














Resources

- This is why we can't have nice things 
- Ending the Depression Through Planned Obsolescence 
- iFixit for computer/mobile device repair guides and parts 
- The Stack Exchange family of Q&A sites, including carpentry (<https://woodworking.stackexchange.com/>), bicycle maintenance (<https://bicycles.stackexchange.com/>), and arts and crafts (<https://crafts.stackexchange.com/>) 
- Google, Bing, and Ecosia will all likely yield results when you search for the problem you're having
- YouTube is also helpful when searching for solutions, as others likely have had the same problem
- *Shop Class as Soulcraft*, Matthew Crawford 
- *Made to Break: Technology and Obsolescence in America*, Giles Slade 
- *Repair Revolution: How Fixers are Transforming Our Throwaway Culture*, John Waxman and Elizabeth Knight 

Conclusion

- Take care of things
- Accept that an item takes on a new life when it's repaired
- Things are sealed in various ways
- Listen, feel, look for damage
- Things can be resealed with adhesives and zip ties
- If you work on electronics, recycle

In Closing

- Contact: roy.vanegas@gmail.com
- This slide deck: <https://github.com/code-warrior/the-art-of-repair--repair-performance-series>