VLX Kitty Install Guide v1.0

This guide will walk you through the process of installing a VLX Kitty mod into your Xbox360 version Hori VLX arcade stick.

Please make sure you have the proper parts and tools ready:
- Xbox360 Hori VLX arcade stick
- VLX Kitty board
- Four (4) ribbon cables included in the VLX Kitty kit
- VLX Helper stick
- Phillips screwdriver

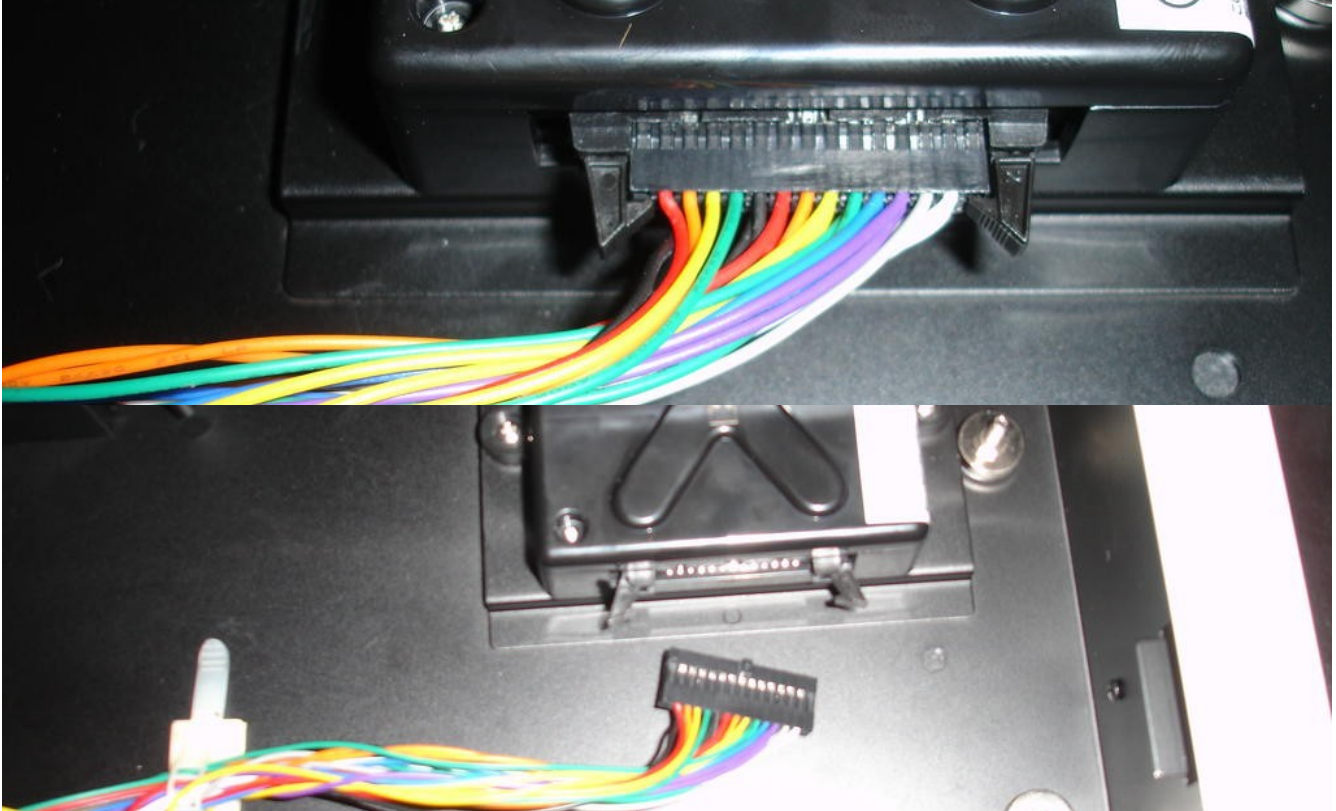| Hori VLX arcade stick & Phillips screwdriver	VLK Kitty board & included ribbon cables

Step 1: Remove thumbscrews so top panel will open

The top control panel section of the Hori VLX stick is held down by three thumbscrews located in the cord compartment. Open up the cord compartment in the back of the stick, move the USB cable out of the way, and use your screwdriver to remove the three thumbscrews. Set the thumbscrews safely aside, return the USB cable to the compartment and close the cord compartment door.
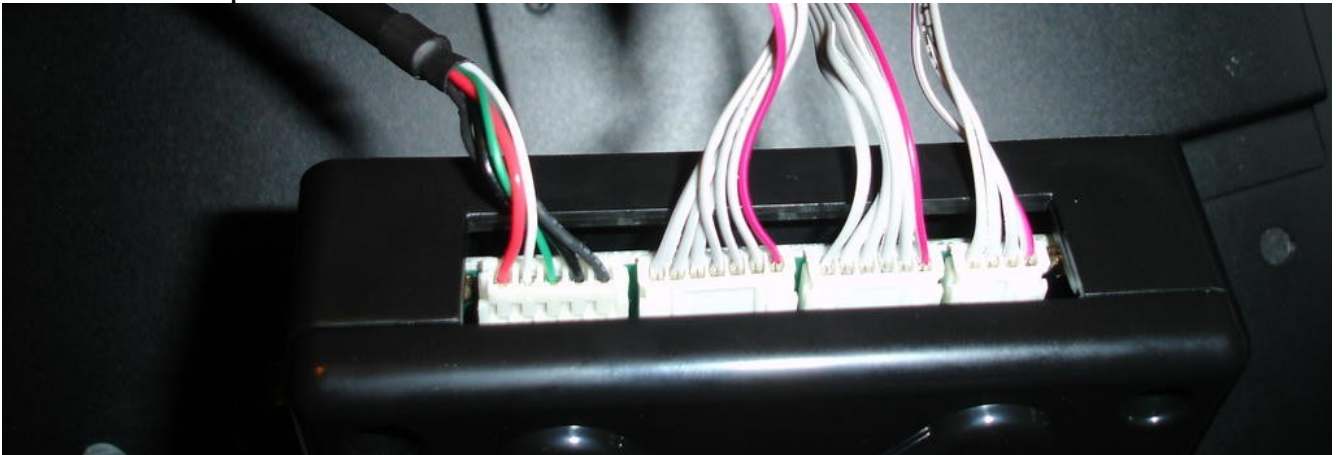
Step 2: Disconnect the VLX black box

With the thumbscrews removed, the top panel should open easily by pulling up and towards you on the joystick. Once open, you will see a collection of wires going to the pushbuttons and joystick on the control panel all going to a single connector on the front of the VLX black box. This connector is held in place by two plastic tabs. Press the two tabs outwards to free the large connector.

You will also see two screws holding the black box to the metal bottom of the case, on the center left and center right. Remove both screws with the screwdriver.

Once the box is free, you can pull it gently out to expose the back of the black box. You will see four separate connectors on the back of the box.

Gently pull out the three connectors on the left; the right-most, four wire connector should be left in place.

Step 3: Prepare the VLX Kitty board for installation

Grab the three small ribbon cables included with the Kitty kit. If you look at the ribbon cables, each one has a different number of wires; there is one with 5 wires, one with 6, and one with 7.
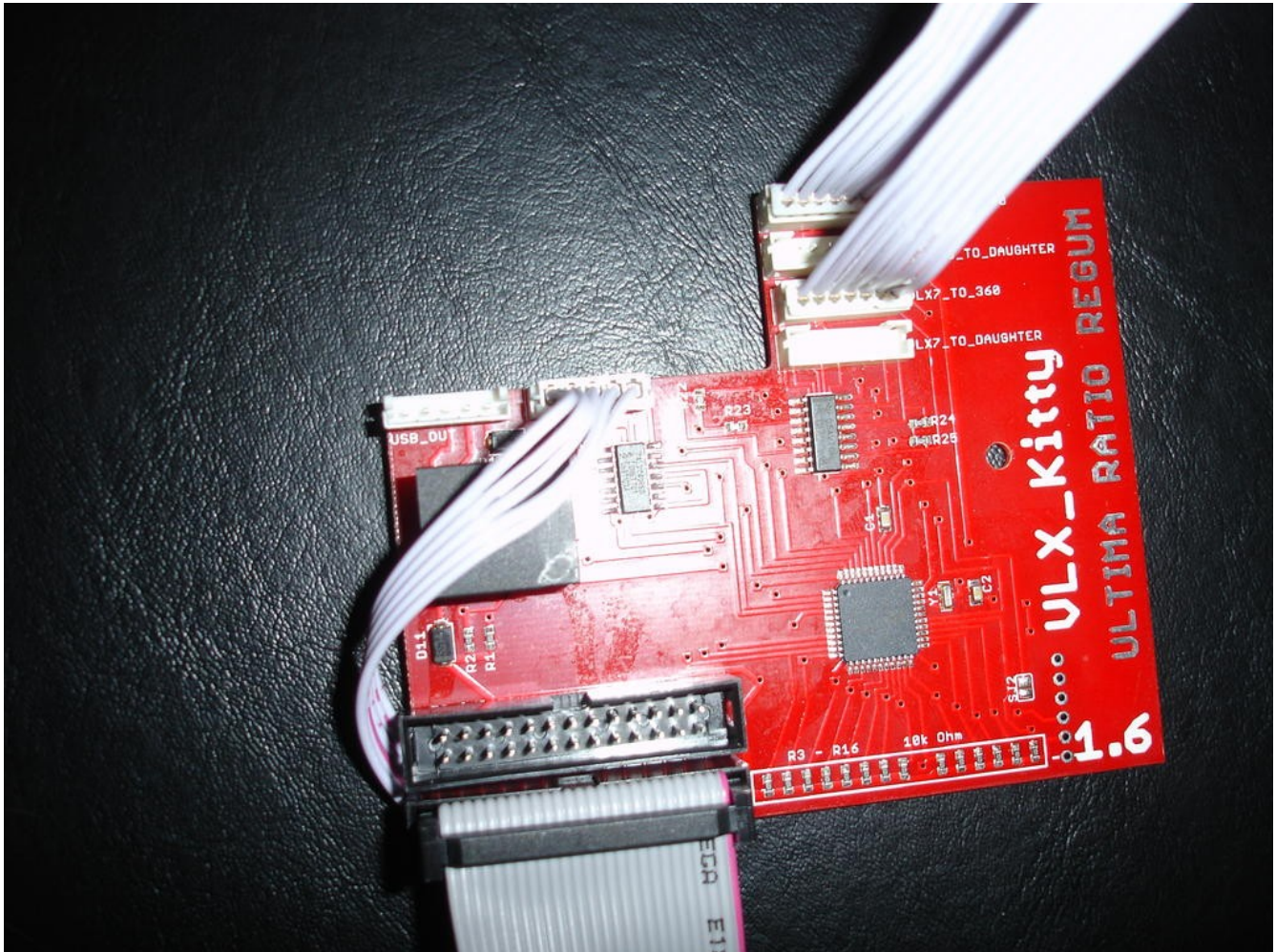Plug the one with 5 wires into the spot marked USB_TO_360.
Plug the one with 6 wires into the spot marked VLX6_TO_360.
Plug the one with 7 wires into the spot marked VLX7_TO_360.
For these three ribbon cables, it is not possible to plug them in backwards; as long as they plug in, you're doing it right.

Lastly, grab the large ribbon cable included with the kit, and plug it into the black ribbon connector on the edge of the board. Although either end can work fine, I personally find installation to go smoother if the ribbon falls away from the board as pictured below.
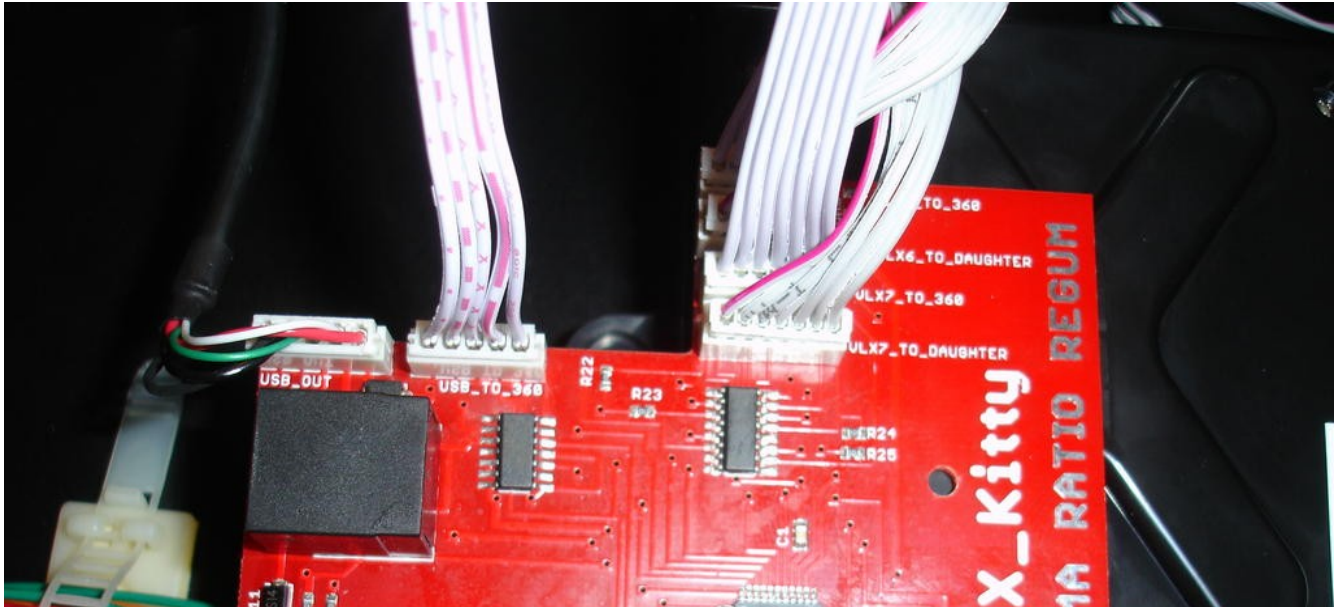
Step 4: Connect VLX cables to VLX Kitty board

Next, we need to connect the three cables you just unplugged from the black box, and plug them into the VLX Kitty board.

The five pin connector insulated in black plastic is the outgoing USB cable. Plug it into the connector labeled USB_OUT.
The six pin connector plugs into the connector labeled VLX6_TO_DAUGHTER.
The seven pin connector plugs into the connector labeled VLX7_TO_DAUGHTER.
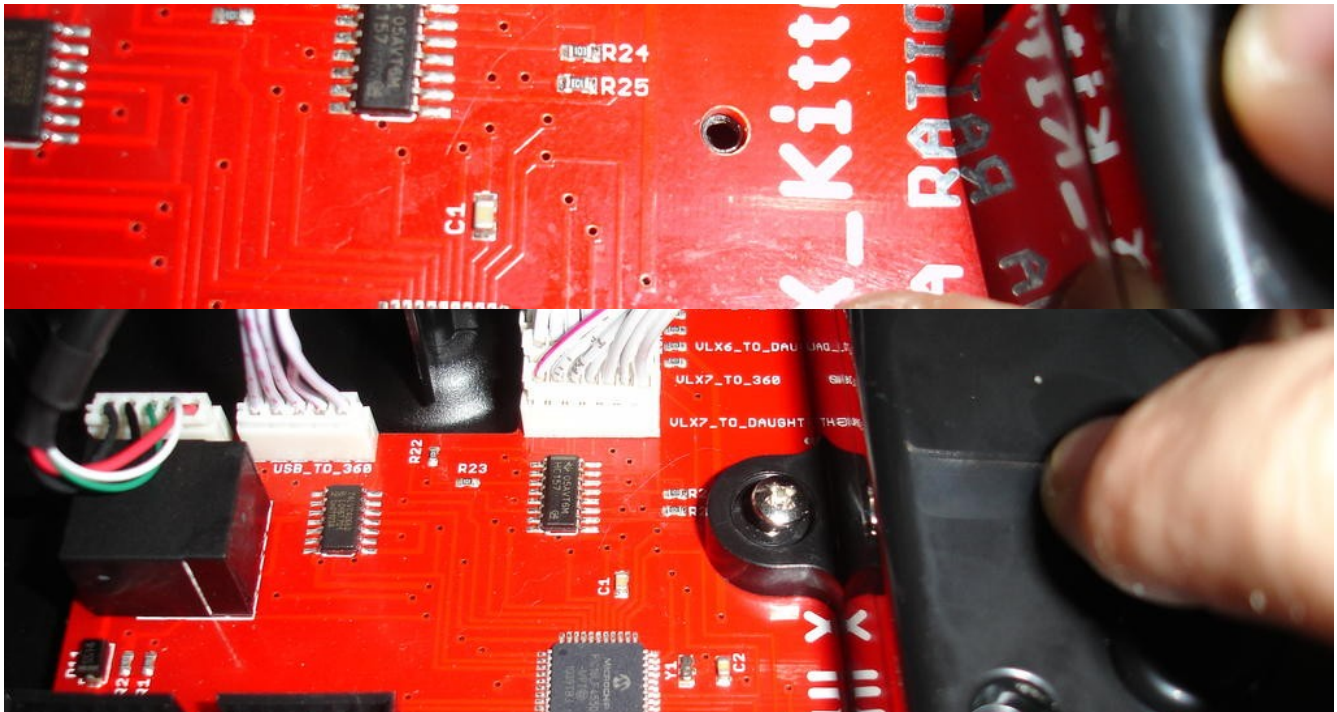

Next, connect the three small ribbon cables from the VLX Kitty to the three open connectors on the back of the VLX black box.

Step 5: Mount VLX Kitty and black box

Place the VLX Kitty board on the mounting area so that the drill hole in the VLX Kitty is directly over the screw hole the original VLX black box screwed down to on the left. Hold the Kitty in place there and move the black box so the left side mounting hole is directly over top. Replace the screw in this hole and screw it down into place but not all of the way; you want the threads to hold the screw in place, which holds the black box and Kitty in place, but we don't want it held down tight yet until the right side is finished.

Next, adjust the black box so the right side mounting hole is over the right screw hole. Take the VLX Helper stick, place it between the bottom of the black box and the mounting area, and move it so the hole in the VLX Helper is in place. Place the screw so that it goes through the mounting hole in the VLX black box, through the hole in the VLX Helper, into the screw hole in the mounting area. Screw down tight, then finish screwing the left side down tight.
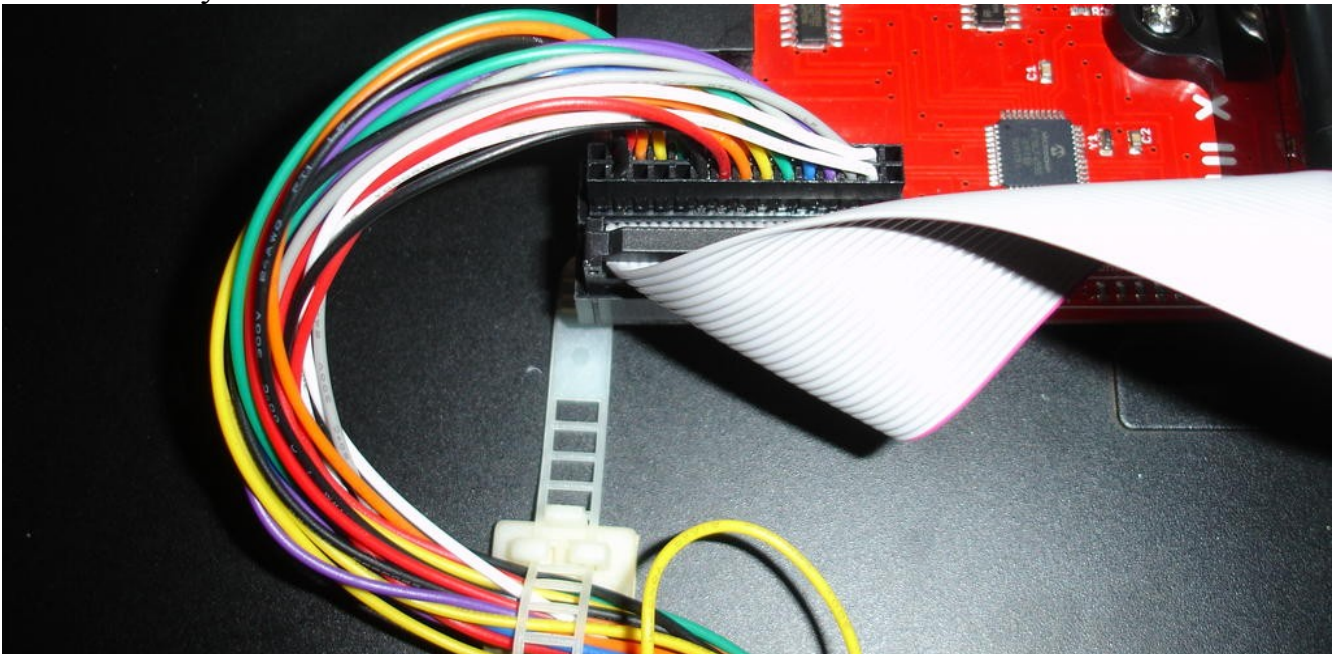
Step 6: Connect control panel cables

The large ribbon cable coming off of the VLX Kitty goes into the large connector on the front of the VLX black box. Make note that the tab in the center of the ribbon cable should be on the top side. Line the ribbon cable up and gently press straight in and the two tabs will lock the connector in place.

The existing wire harness is neatly held to the bottom of the case by a plastic securing strap. From the factory, the wires coming from the control panel go into the left side of the securing strap, and out the right side. I find it easier to switch this around when using a VLX Kitty. Open the securing strap, flip the wires around, and replace the securing strap.

Finally, plug the connector at the end of the control panel harness into the last open connector on the VLX Kitty. Since the Kitty is only held in place on the right, putting too much pressure on the board can damage it, so make sure to put your fingers underneath the Kitty when pushing the control panel connector into the header pins on the VLX Kitty.

Step 7: Test and finish

The only step left is to replace the three thumbscrews that hold down the control panel. Before we do that, take a moment to run through a few tests to make sure that everything is connected properly.

First, plug it into a PC with the Guide button held down. The upper left and lower left player LEDs should come one and stay on. If not, open the stick back up and check all of the small ribbons with 5 and 7 pins.

Next, replug it into a PC without anything held down. Open up the Game Controllers applet of the Windows Control Panel by clicking Start->Run-> "control joy.cpl". The entry for the Kitty should be listed as 'Kitty VLX Edition' or similar. Click on that and hit 'Properties'. Moving the stick and pressing buttons should show the directions and buttons light up on the Properties window. Make doubly sure to test that the 'Back' button lights up button #9. If the Kitty doesn't show up in the Control Panel properties, download and flash the newest VLX Kitty firmware from:
http://www.godlikecontrols.com/download/kitty/vlxkitty.zip
If the Back button doesn't show up, you need to check the 6 pin ribbon cables.

Lastly, test the arcade stick on an Xbox360 console. Plug the stick in when the Xbox360 is on and at the dashboard. Player LEDs should light up as normal, and all buttons should work normally.

If everything checks out, put the three thumbscrews back in the cord compartment, and play!

Optional: RJ-45 jack installation.

TODO

Version notes:
3/17/11 – v1.0 initial release.