



Volume Control Potentiometer Cleaning

Read me: Before attempting this repair, read th...

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INTRODUCTION

Read me: Before attempting this repair, read the provided guide notes (and warnings) for critical information.

If your Pioneer VSX-918V receiver has developed control problems and would like to try and fix the problem without a new board, it may be possible to fix the problem without new parts. This guide will show you how to disassemble the receiver and use contact cleaner to clean the potentiometer as a cheap fix.

Guide warnings

- You will be working with high voltage equipment. I am not responsible for any attained injuries (or your stupidity).
 - Use common sense when following this guide. **If you are questioning your ability to complete this repair safely, let a professional handle it.**
 - **Professionals: This is not a long term fix.** This is for a capable home user can attempt it to try and put off a repair or replacement receiver. These boards should be replaced if you are doing a professional repair.
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Guide notes

- **There is NO GUARANTEE this will work. The repair lifetime is also not guaranteed.**
 - While this fix may repair units with dirty potentiometers for life at the expense of losing the factory heavy feel, abused units may not be as easily fixed. If the potentiometer is damaged or abused, it may be best to replace the switch assembly. While not covered in this guide, removing the front control PCB grants access to the connector(s).
 - **This WILL NOT work 100% of the time. If this does not work, the board is damaged and needs to be repaired or replaced.**
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TOOLS:

[Magnetic Project Mat](#) (1)

Optional. Used to sort screws.

[6-in-1 Screwdriver](#) (1)

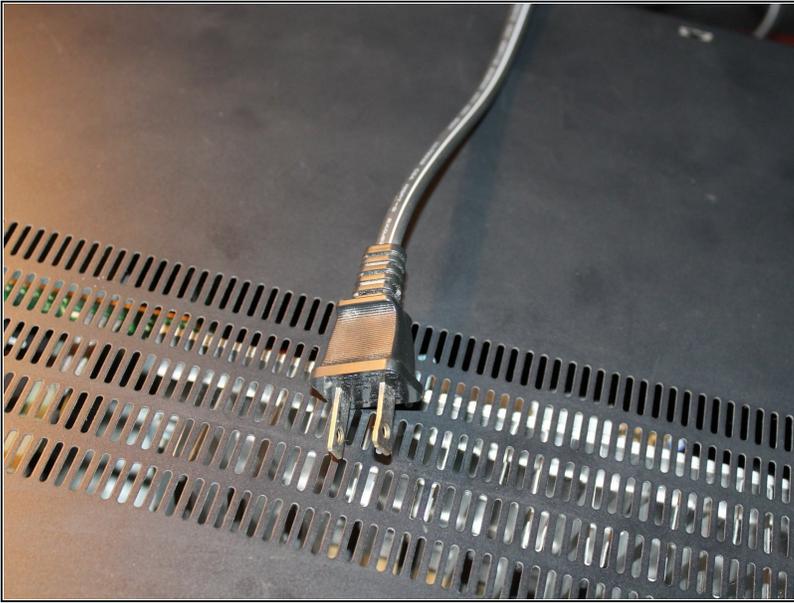
This receiver uses a Phillips #2 screw bit.

PARTS:

[DeoxIT® D5 Spray](#) (1)

Used to clean the potentiometer.

Step 1 — Unplug the receiver



⚠ In order to ensure there is no residual power, unplug the receiver for 48-72 hours. This will drain the capacitors so it can be safely serviced.

- Before working on the unit, disconnect the unit from the wall. Hold the power button in for 60 seconds to drain the capacitors.

Step 2 — Remove the bottom faceplate screws



- If present, remove this screw. ***This was not in my unit, but may be in yours.***
- Remove the two screws holding the faceplate on the receiver. Sort these individually as they are different.

Step 3 — Remove the side panel screws



- Remove the 2 screws from the left side of the receiver. They are the same length.
- Remove the 1 screw on the right side of the receiver. While it appears to be the same, sort it separately.

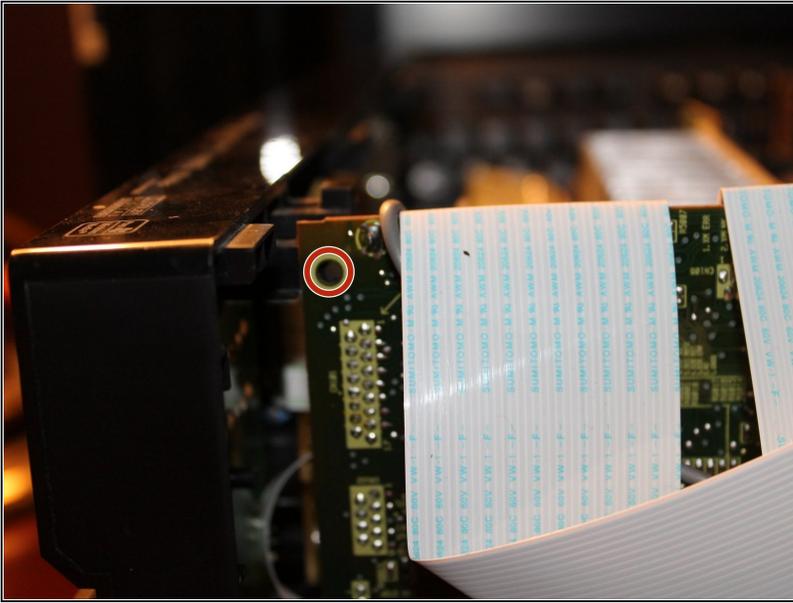
Step 4 — Remove the back screws



⚠ Exercise extreme caution with the receiver at this point! You will not be protected from shocks if you touch a charged component!

- Remove the 3 screws from the back of the receiver. Once these are removed, the cover will come off.

Step 5 — Remove the retention pin on the faceplate



⚠ If the clip in the faceplate is missing, the unit has been previously serviced. ***It is not essential, but try to keep it intact as the bezel will be loose without it.***

- This pin is installed by the factory. To remove this pin, push it out from the back until it is loose. Remove the pin when it is loose.

Step 6 — Remove the faceplate screws



- After the faceplate pin is removed, remove the 2 screws that hold it to the chassis. Both screws are the same length.

Step 7 — Remove the knob from the receiver



ⓘ First time removal can be tricky. Work slowly on an unserviced receiver.

- Remove the control knob from the receiver. To do this, pull the knob off firmly. ***Too much pressure may result in a broken knob and potentiometer.***

Step 8 — iPod Direct only - Disconnect the front panel flex cables



⚠ ***Special attention to the front panel is required with iPod Direct models.***

- ***iPod Direct:*** Disconnect the wire that plugs into the board as shown in the 1st picture. The board will need to be removed as well.
- Disconnect the flatflex that connects the front panel display to the rest of the receiver.

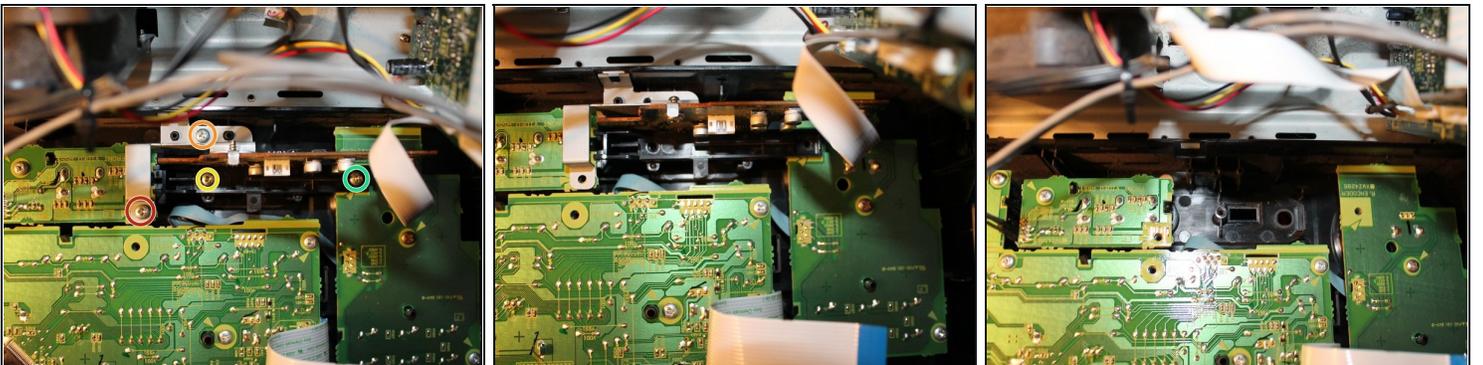
Step 9 — Unclip the faceplate



⚠ Once the unit is reassembled, these zipties must be replaced. Failure to do this will result in protection mode errors.

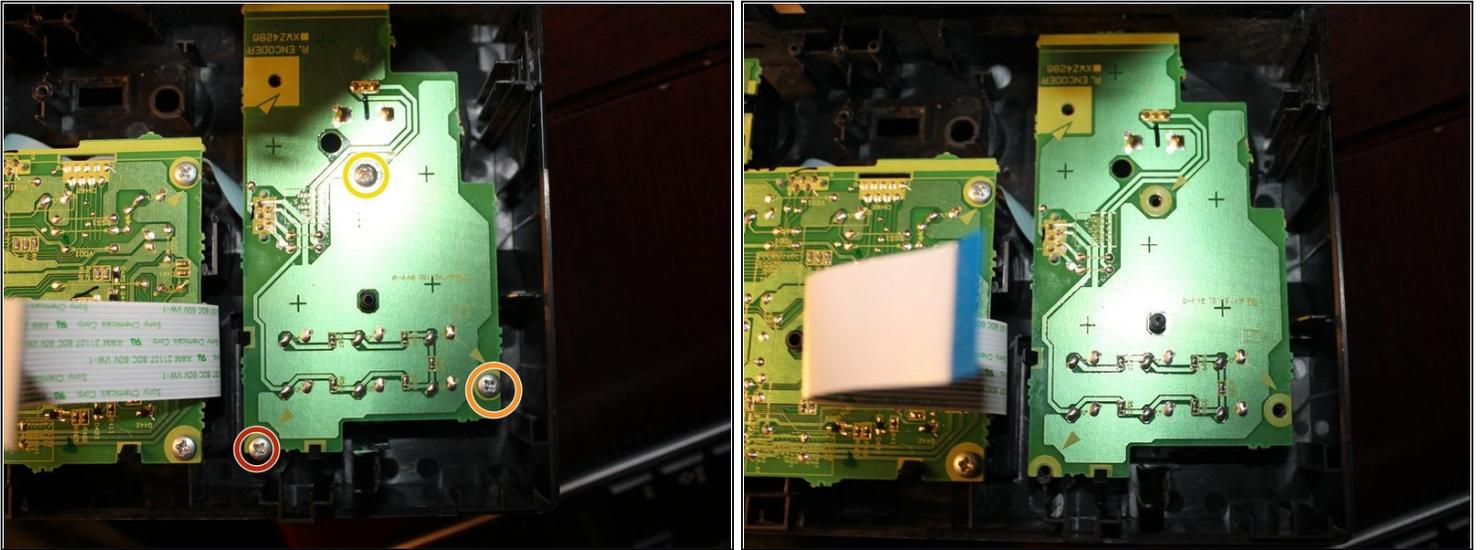
- Cut the zipties that hold the front panel wires on the fan. This provides better component access.
- With the faceplate loose and all of the cables disconnected, unclip the faceplate one side at a time. Lay the faceplate flat on your workspace. **Leave enough room to access the boards on the front panel.**

Step 10 — Remove the support bracket/iPod Direct board



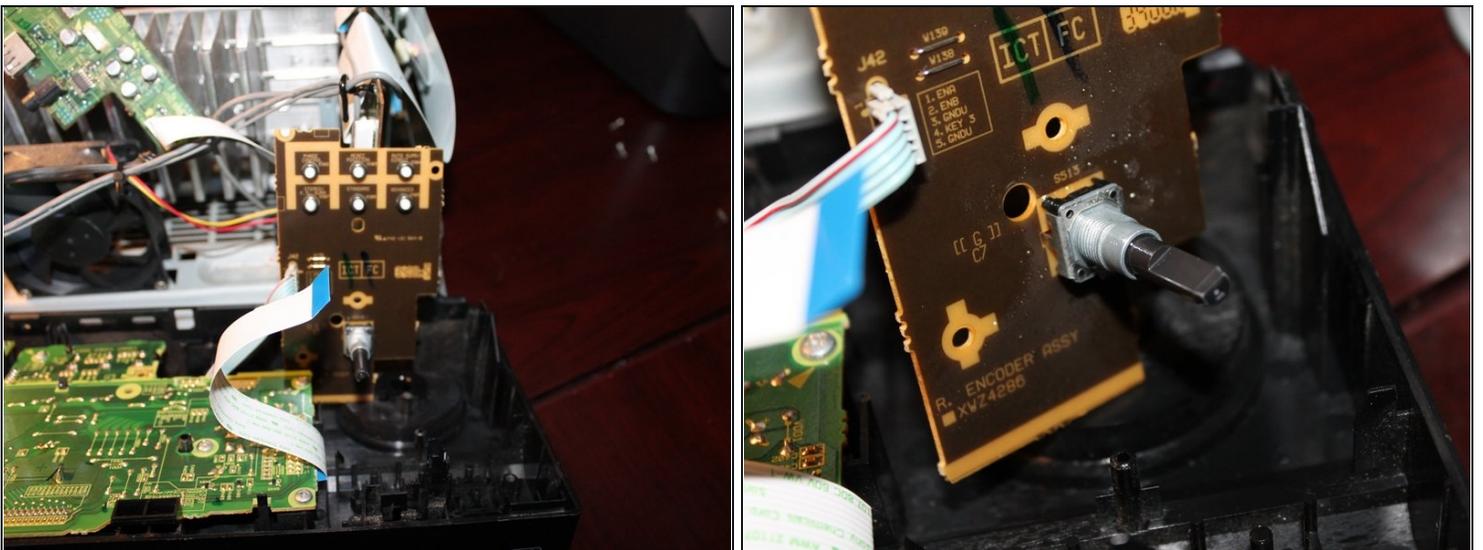
- **iPod Direct:** Remove all 4 marked screws. Remove the support bracket and PCB.
- **Non iPod Direct:** Remove the **Green** and **Red** screws. **No additional screws need to be removed.**

Step 11 — Remove the faulty control board



- **WARNING:** This screw is unique and. Sort it separately.
- Remove the 3 screws that hold the volume control board in the receiver's front faceplate.

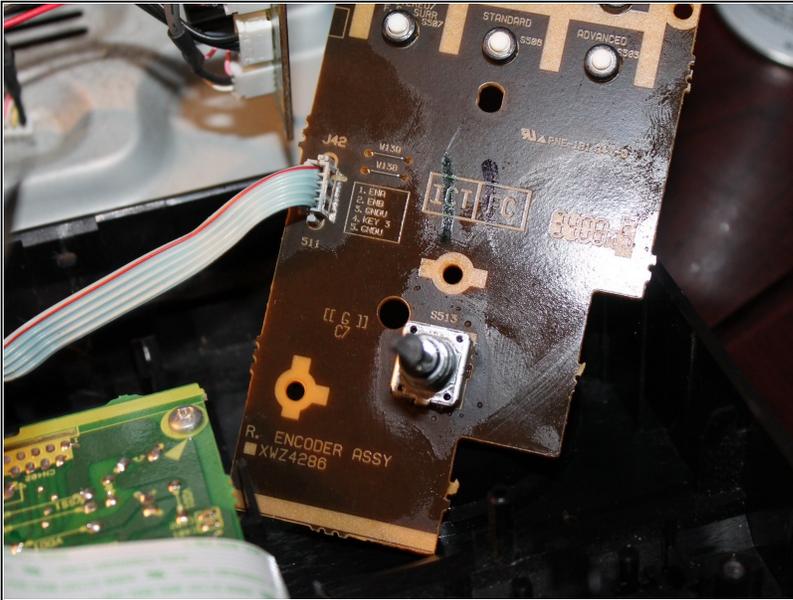
Step 12 — Spray contact cleaner into the potentiometer



⚠ A little contact cleaner goes a long way. If you need to use more than 1-2 sprays, a replacement board may be required.

- With the control board loose from the front panel, spray contact cleaner into the potentiometer. Clean up any excess contact cleaner once you are done.

Step 13 — Wipe away any excess contact cleaner



- ★ This fix may not be permanent and the problem may come back. Replace the board or potentiometer if this happens. ***Let the switch dry for 1 hour before reassembly.***
- ⓘ If you do not have zipties available, tuck the wires in the fan so that they cannot easily move. This can be used as a short term solution.
- Wipe off any excess contact cleaner on the PCB. Reinstall the board once the contact cleaner is dry.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.