3rd Party Shell Info Dump

There are basically 2 types of 3rd party shells, TTX/Teknogame shells and then everything else. Both of these types are compatible with OEM internals after some modifications, but only TTX/Teknogame are compatible with OEM shells for mixing and matching. ***Compatible does not mean perfect. These are meant to be a cheap cosmetic alternative to OEM shells, so don't expect it be 100% up to OEM quality. They will be a tight fit, and they do require different screws, especially if you plan to use OEM trigger plates. OEM button pads may also require some trial and error to find a good position.*** That being said, they are a great way to customize on a budget.

"Controller Chaos" Shells

Found on aliexpress and eBay in early 2021, these shells make the others practically obsolete. They have the same architecture as T3 OEM shells (walls by the rumble motor, three extra support walls under both the dpad and c-stick), meaning pretty much ZERO modifications to the shell are necessary. They're around the same price point as other generic third party shells as well ($10-$15 on eBay, about $5 each after shipping if you order in bulk of aliexpress).

TTX/Teknogame Shells

Teknogame is just the new branding for TTX, from here on out they will be referred to as TTX.

TTX is a specific third party brand that is compatible with OEM shells. This means you can pair half of a TTX shell with an OEM shell for neat designs.

Some pros and cons of TTX shells

Information is a combination or both Timmy and Life's writeups/opinions.

Pros of using TTX:

1. Only 3rd party brand to use OEM shell dimensions, making it compatible for mixing and matching. Great for doing cool clear shell tints.
2. Easier to mod than the other 3rd party brands, requiring less modification overall.

Cons of using TTX:

1. Less overall color option (for clears the only option is plain clear, there are no pre-made 'tinted' clears).
2. Face buttons tend to sit lower than on OEM.

3. Less common than the other brands, typically requires searching to find them on eBay.
4. If you use the front half of the TTX you *have* to use the small Phillips head screws that come in the TTX. This is due to the screw posts in it being too small for the larger OEM triwing screws. Attempting to force triwings into the shell will crack and break the posts.
5. TTX Back shells have no posts for mounting the trigger guard plates, so you have to go without them. This doesn't negatively impact the performance of your controller from testing though, it's more of a personal preference type of thing.

How to tell them apart from other brands

1. They're often found in packaging branded as TTX or Teknogame.
2. They're stamped 'Made in China' behind the D-pad
3. The cable and plug are white instead of the standard black on other brands.
4. The top shell has an extra bit of plastic by the cable strain relief post (as seen in the modification section). This piece extends across the whole front in other brands.

Video guide by Saokky on TTX general information

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMm-UUa5gjs

Modifying a TTX to fit OEM internals

End cutters and flush cutters are super useful tools for this, but pliers will do just fine if you don't care about it looking a little messy.

On the bottom shell, there are 4 pieces of plastic the remove.

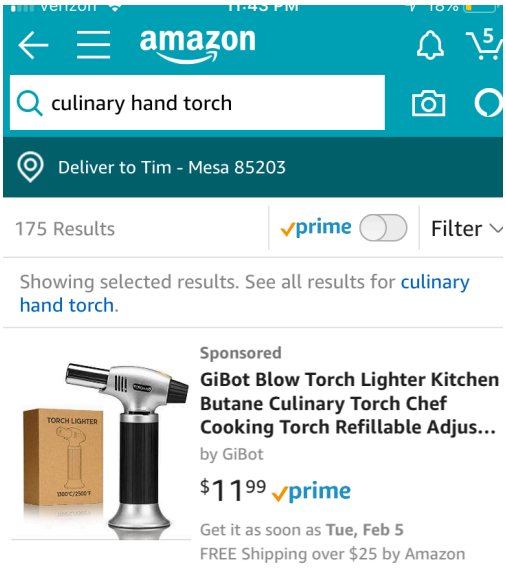
1. Remove the two circled pieces in the center if you want to to be able to fit an OEM rumble motor in the shell.
2. Remove the two circled bits on the edges of the controller if you want them to pair up with an OEM front shell (they can stay if you're going to use a full TTX shell though).

On the top shell, there is just one small post that needs to be removed, circled in the image below. This must be removed if you plan to use OEM parts in the shell.

Cleaning up your modifications

You may notice that after cutting/tearing these parts out of the shell there's a noticeable whitening of the plastic in those spots. This white 'highlighting' will not go away with tinting and will look terrible in the finished product if we do nothing about it.
We fix this through use of a small butane torch to *gently* heat the spots for a fraction of a second, the heat will re-clarify the plastic and get rid of all the whitening.

An example of a butane torch you can use for this



Alibaba/Reiso/Poulep/ Shells

Other names we've seen are Crifeir, Koalud, and AreMe. They're all a part of this group.
UPDATE 07/27/20: ***I (Timmy) have recently purchased the brands "Old Skool" and "ONE250" off Amazon, as well as Cirka shells from a local store. None of them fit the dimensions of the generic third party shells.*** Every *other* brand mentioned above I have personally tried out and found them to be the same as the generic alibaba shells.

Timmy personally prefers these generic types over TTX. There are multiple translucent options: dark blue, light blue/teal, neon green, yellow, red, purple, and plain clear. (Unfortunately the translucent ones do not come in pink, grass green, orange, or grey/black, but clear ones can be tinted those colors with Krylon Stained Glass Paint, or Design Master Tint-It Spray. Don't be afraid to ask if the color you're looking for can be done)

UPDATE 6/2/19 - Grass green and a fluorescent pink have been seen on alibaba. Haven't seen them anywhere else yet, but it's probably just a matter of time before they're available on amazon or eBay.

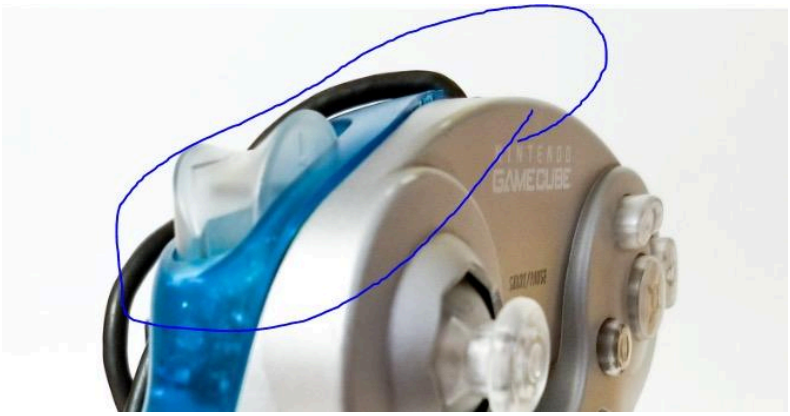
Some pros and cons of these shells

Pros:

1. Lots of color options, both in translucent and opaque.
2. They can be ordered bulk from alibaba.
3. Much easier to find and source.

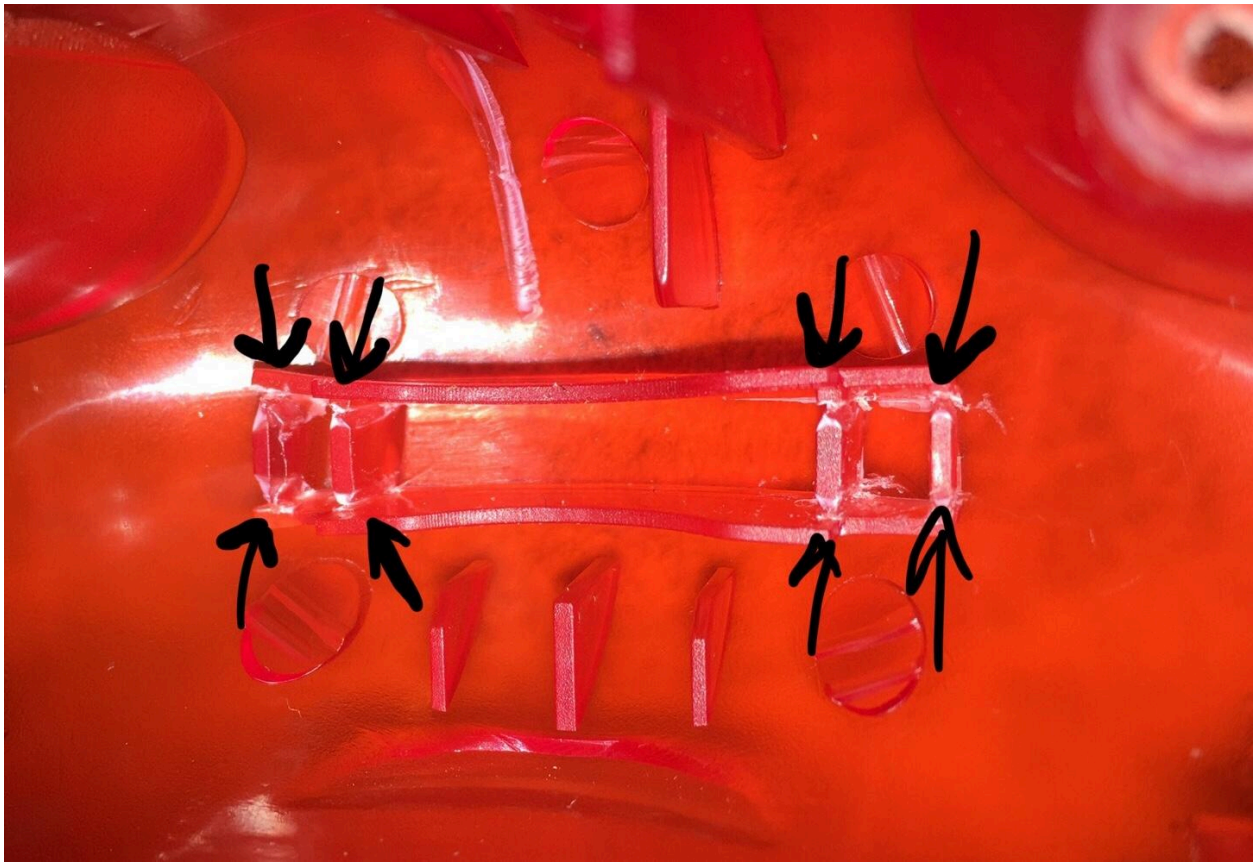
Cons:

1. Do ***NOT*** fit with OEM shells. The shells are split in a different place, making them leave a noticeable 'lip' if paired with an OEM shell. (Can be seen in the below image). The Z button location is also slightly different.
2. Have more plastic to cut/tear out to make them fit OEM internals.

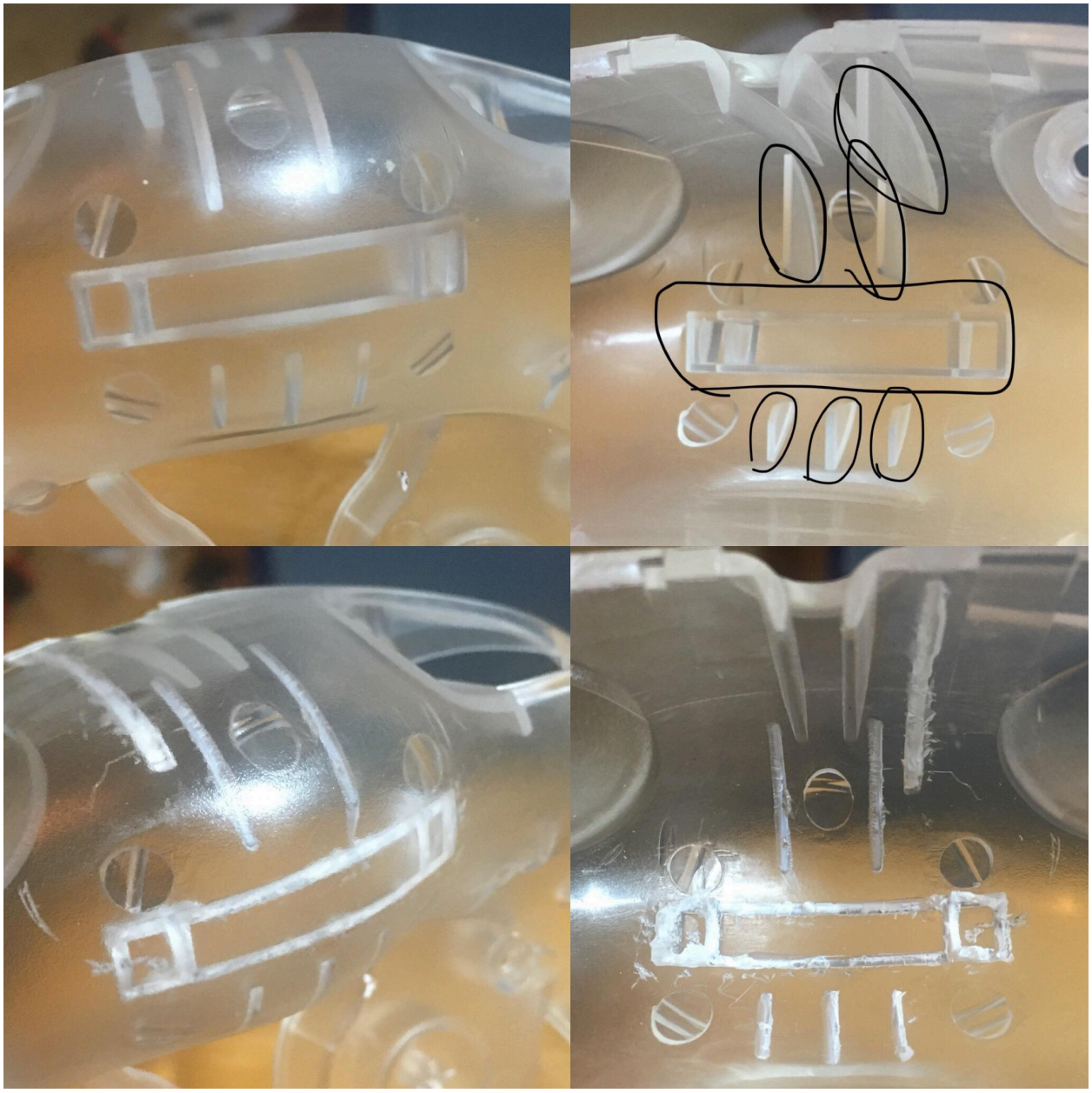


Modifying to fit OEM internals

Same process as with modifying TTX (snipping/tearing out plastic), there's just more plastic to pull out. Just like with TTX, a pair of pliers or flush cutters will do the job. You just have to remove the plastic bits around where the rumble motor goes. Easiest and cleanest way to remove them is just gripping with the pliers, then just wiggling them side to side, then they should pop right off along the seams. The piece at the bottom looks complicated, but this is where flush cutters come in super handy. Just like the other pieces surrounding it, you want to be able to just wiggle it off at the base. To do this, simply use the flush cutters to make 8 cuts, separating the short vertical lines into tabs that you can wiggle off. Black arrows below are pointing to the 8 places you need to cut. You should end up with two long horizontal tabs, and 4 short vertical ones.



Pictured below is a clear shell before and after modifications.



Once again, you'll notice the plastic 'highlighting' problem with these. This is solved once again by the use of a small butane torch to re-clarify these spots.