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Home Button, you were good

After all these years, Apple have finally decided to
remove the beloved Home Button.



The removal of Apple iPhones home button

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Since 2007, the home button was the only navigational feature on all models and series of the iPhone. Over the years, Apple have incorporated new features and functions revolving specifically around the Home Button. Apple have altered the appearance of the Home Button and incorporated new features and functions along the way, however, have now decided to remove it. Obviously, Apple have their reasons for changing their Home Button style over the years through new models and series, for both appearance purposes and functionality purposes. Arguably, it is considered the most important button as it activates and performs most functions on the phone.

The first ever smart phone, the iPhone 2G, was introduced by Steve Jobs himself in 2007. The debut of the iPhone introduced the singular home button, circular with a rounded rectangular icon in the centre. Technically, due to the way the button was assembled (being a part of the Dock Connector), this called for numerous button failures, and Apple found it difficult to repair.

In 2008 and 2009, the iPhone 3G and 3GS became the succeeded versions of the original iPhone. Both models were extremely similar in appearance, however, compared to the original iPhone, the 3G and 3GS became a part of the display assembly opposed to the dock connector. This change was made due to the failure rate of the original iPhone home button, and this change allowed for extreme ease when replacing damaged home buttons.

The iPhone 4 was released in 2010, with a redesigned, slimmer profile. The home button remained the same in appearance, however due to the phone only being able to be opened by the back, the home button was difficult to repair when damaged. The function of the home button enhanced as Apple introduced the fast app switcher, which was activated by a double pressing of the home button. This meant that the Home Button usage spiked, which also meant damage increasingly occurred. An additional point of failure also occurred due to the button using a 'flex cable'. In some cases, the button would stop working completely,

or a double pressing of the button would be un-identified, this causing unease of iPhone use. The updated version, iPhone 4S introduced 'Assistive Touch', an onscreen function of the home button, for when the actual button stopped working.

The iPhone 5 and 5C remained like iPhone 4 and 4S in technical terms, however many claimed it had a 'different feel' and that Apple had obviously worked on it.

In 2013, the iPhone 5S was introduced with again a slimmer appearance and a completely redesigned home button. Apple had removed the rounded rectangular icon which generally remained in the centre of the button, leaving it flat and minimal. More useful and improved functions involving the home button could be achieved, for example, use of Siri and multitasking. The 5S also introduced the Touch ID function, which utilised fingerprint recognition to unlock the iPhone.

In 2014, the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus were unveiled with an enhanced face, however

the button design and functions remained the same as the 5S.

Yet again in 2016, Apple had produced an even better iPhone, the iPhone 7. It is said that the button does not feel like a button as of its flatter design. The button is almost invisible and slightly vibrates when pressed.

In 2017, Apple released a water and dust resistant iPhone 8. This meaning, the design of the button allows for water and dust contact without damage.

Marking the ten year anniversary of Apples first ever released smart phone in 2007, the iPhone X lies as tribute. It is currently that time where Apple have said good-bye to the beloved Home Button and replaced its functions with onscreen functions. With this fresh establishment of Apples recent design, it is fair to say, the great debate has only just begun.



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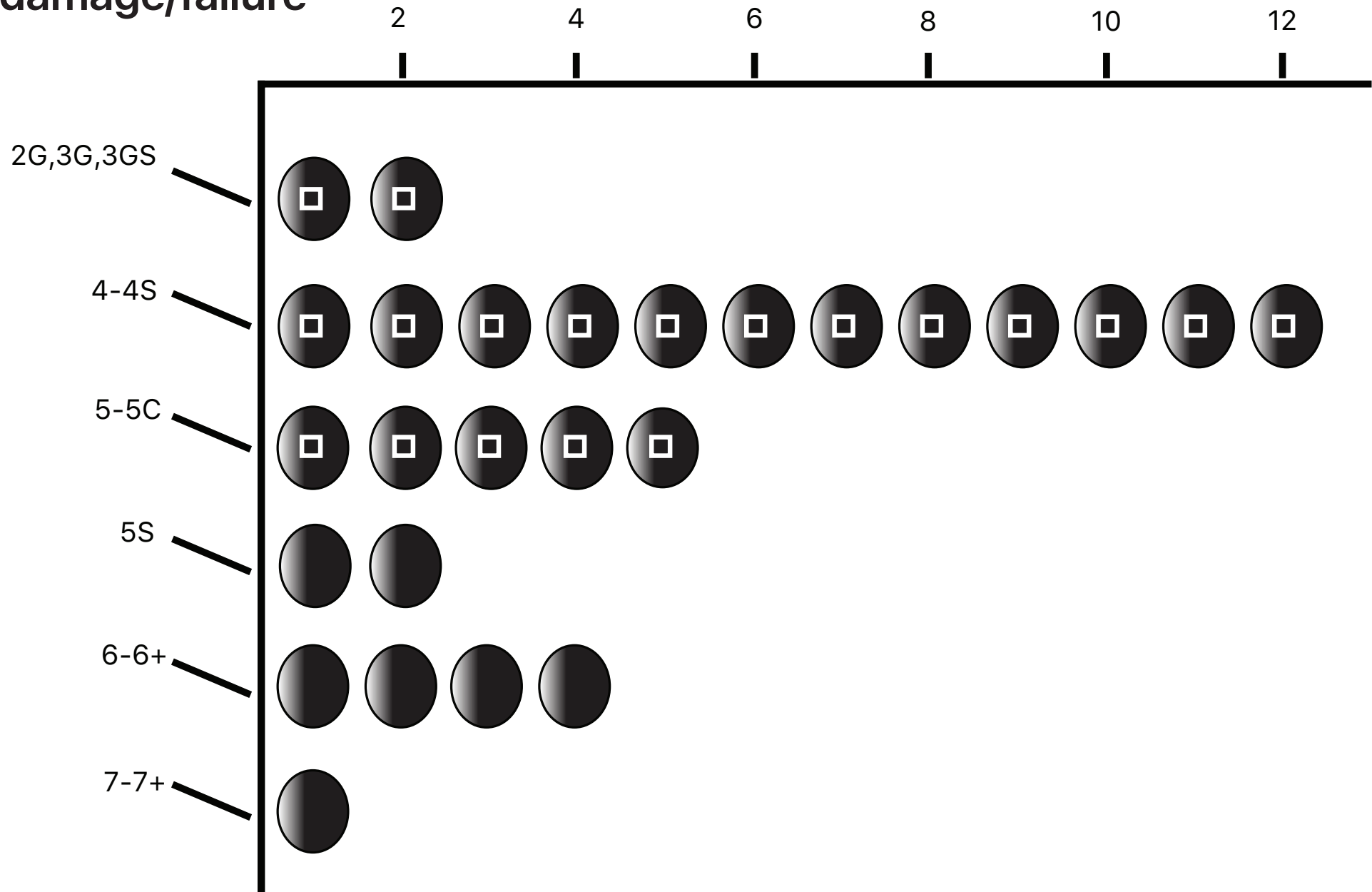
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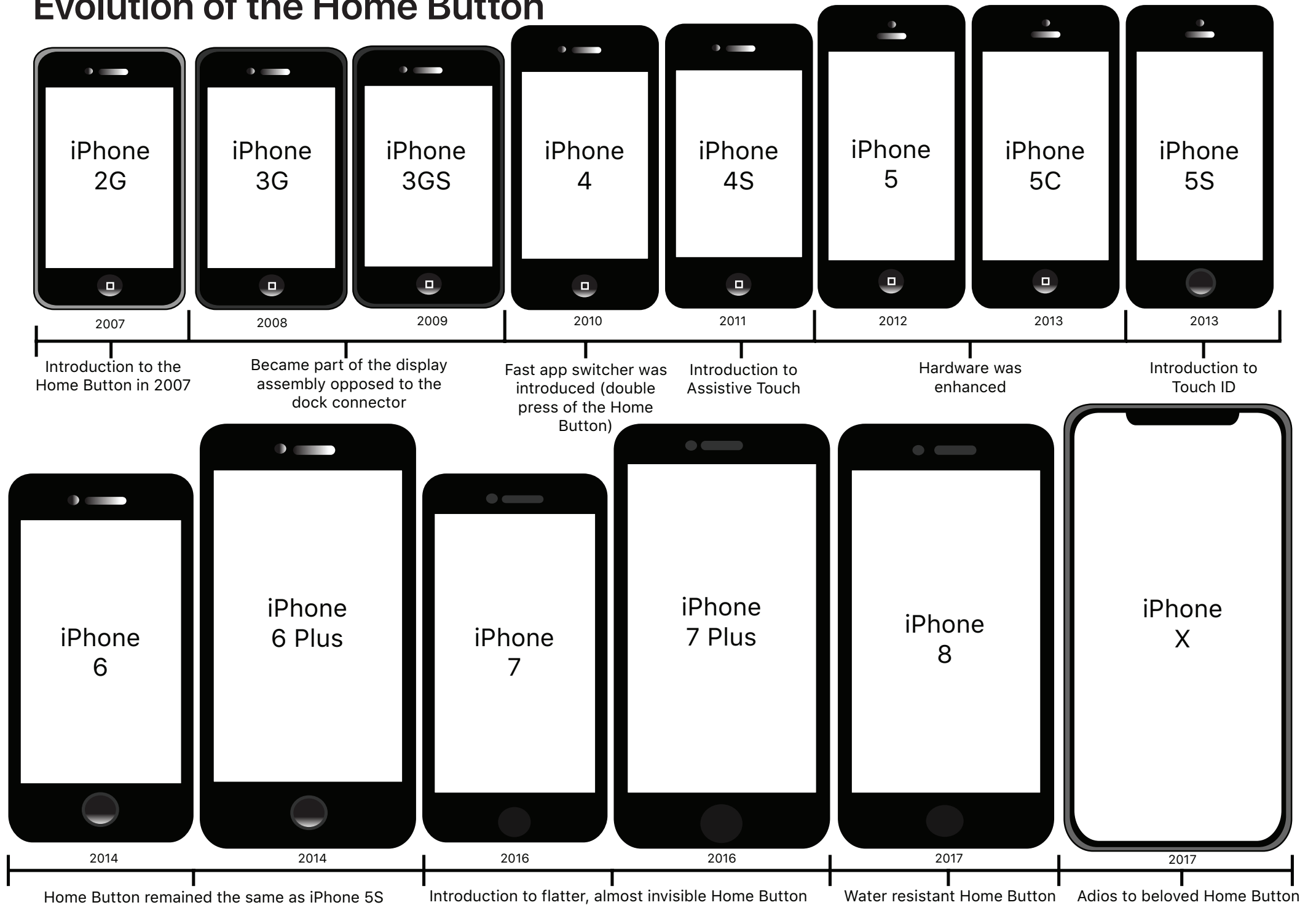
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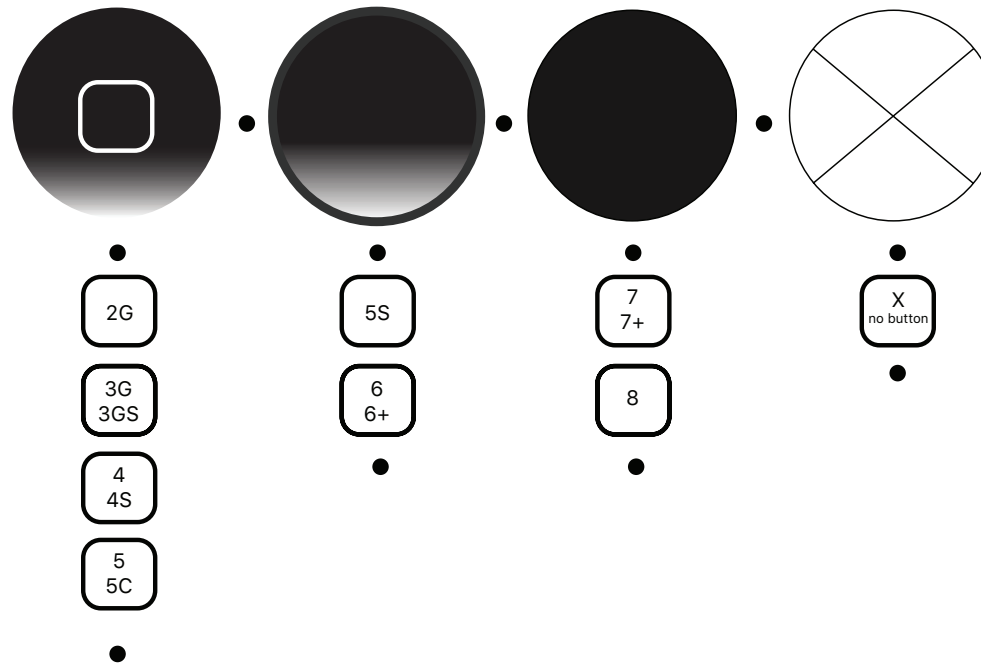
iPhone Home Button damage/failure



Evolution of the Home Button



Evolution of Appearance



Evolution of Function

