An Experiment About The Top-Screen Lines

THEBOYWITHOUTFAIRY 145 posts since Jun 26, 2010

Just to start this off, I haven't modded or damaged my system in any way. It's a launch Aqua Blue 3DS, and it has been used almost every day since I got it. I also frequently use StreetPass, probably two to three times a week.

After hearing the reports of raised sections of the bottom screen marking the top screen with permanent lines, I decided to do an experiment. Since hearing these reports around a week after I got my system, I've kept one of the pieces of Styrofoam from the system's packaging between the two screens when it's closed. I haven't seen any lines on my system since I put the foam there. For this experiment, though, I removed the piece of foam from between the screens.

My experiment involved cleaning the system's top screen with a screen-cleaning cloth, then setting it on a table and closing it for five minutes. After recording the results, I would clean the screen again, close the system, place it in my pocket, and walk around for five minutes.

Setting it on a table didn't produce any marks on the top screen; however walking with it in my pocket for just five minutes produced a half-circle mark where the Circle Pad was, a line from the top to the middle of the screen on the left side, and a line from the bottom to the middle on the right side.

This means that those who use the StreetPass and pedometer functions of the system are at a high risk of putting marks on the top section of the system, whereas those who don't are likely to not even have them appear, and, therefore, not be affected by the problem.

If you can, I would like you to repeat this experiment and post the results on this thread. It will only take around fifteen minutes at most, and the more times the experiment is repeated, the more accurate the results become. I'll then update the thread with the new results.
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August 10th Update: Other Users' Results

Diver24: 5 minutes on flat surface, no cloth: A mark of 1/4 of the Circle Pad appeared on top section

5 minutes in pocket, no cloth: Full Circle Pad mark (3/4 clear, 1/4 faded), Two non-solid lines on both sides of screen

5 minutes on flat surface, w/ cloth: No marks

5 minutes in pocket, w/ cloth: Faded Circle Pad mark and lines

Beardedone: In pocket for several hours. Top screen marked up more than usual.

Tags: 3ds, streetpass

ROD64 452 posts since Apr 3, 2010 1. Re: An Experiment About The Top-Screen Lines Aug 9, 2011 5:43 PM

Nice find!

EARTHBOUND33 2,270 posts since Jul 1, 2010 2. Re: An Experiment About The Top-Screen Lines Aug 9, 2011 5:48 PM

that's probably due to having more pressure between the two screens while in your pocket. and the constant movement really doesn't help either. the pressure while it's sitting on the table is just gravity. but great experiment, by the way 😊


Great find!

My thread got closed because Nintendo saw I was getting close to the truth.
Hopefully, they won't close this thread or edit it out.

So, has anyone else done the experiment yet? If so, could you please post your results? Thanks!

I have just finished your request and here are the results:

When I left my 3DS on a surface for 5 minutes, I could clearly see 1/4 of the circle pad on the top part of the 3DS. There were no lines on the screen.

Then, I took the 3DS and cleaned of the circle and tried a different experiment. I put the 3DS in my pocket for 5 minutes, and after the 5 minutes, I could see a whole circle. 3/4 of it was thick and clear. 1/4 was thin and faded. Also, the 2 lines appeared, but they were not solid lines. Cleaned it afterwards.

I then put a cloth in the 3DS and repeated the experiment with the cloth. With the cloth in the 3DS and on a surface, it was fine. But when I put it in my pocket with the cloth for 5 minutes, I saw a full circle. It was thick, but faded. The lines also were on the screen, thick and faded.

I had mine in my pocket for several hours today, trying to get some StreetPass hits. I normally keep it in a case to protect it. I noticed that the top screen was marked up more noticeably today than it is most days.
I wasn’t as scientific about it as you guys, but it’s one more data point that supports your hypothesis that carrying the 3DS in your pocket may cause more marks (or more severe marks) to appear on the top screen.

Thanks for testing out more stuff along with the basics. I’ve updated the thread with your results.

I put 2 xbox 360 rubber pads (from my spare xbox 360 that E74’d) on the screen right above the speakers to create a larger gap between the top and bottom screen. I also added a screen protector to the top to prevent any scratches on the actual screen if they do come in contact. I no longer see any Dpad or thumbpad marks and I am no longer getting any lines on the screen. the only downside is that it could have a negative impact on the Hinges as they are not designed to sit up higher then normal but I still think that if it does. It would not significantly lower the lifetime of the hinges. as far as I know, this method is not warranty voiding as you are not dissassembling the console in any way. Screen protectors dont void warranty either so there should be no warrany doing any of this.

Doing this makes the 3ds way easier to use as a portable console as you can put it in your pocket and not need to carry around the foam insert and not have to worry about the 3DS getting scratched.

It would be nice if a mod could answer on if im correct on this not voiding warranty.
if im correct, the E74 was just a hard drive insertion problem, not to derail the thread, but ive purposely forced my 360 into E74ing on me and i removed my hdd and reinserted, bam no E74. andi did the same thing with my 3ds and no your warranty is NOT void unless you dissassemble or use unauthorized hard/sotware on it.