

REMOVING AND REPLACING A PRE-1969 IGNITION LOCK CYLINDER AND/OR IGNITION SWITCH FROM DASH – ALSO LOST KEY APPROACHES

These instructions are for General Motors passenger cars where the ignition lock and switch are one unit and are mounted in the instrument panel.

Disconnect the battery. Put the key in the ignition lock cylinder and turn it to the ACC position. Take a stiff wire or paper clip and stick it into the small hole located on the lock cylinder face. Depress the plunger and turn the key counter clockwise (CCW) until it stops. Pull out the ignition lock cylinder. Note the position that key is in when you remove the core. You will insert it in the NEW ignition lock cylinder in this same position and this time turn it clockwise (CW).

LOST IGNITION KEY

If you have lost your ignition key you will be unable to remove the ignition lock cylinder as described above. Here are a couple approaches to solve your problem:

- 1). On older cars, the door locks and ignition lock cylinders used the same key. Remove one of your door lock cylinders and take it to a locksmith. He will be able to cut a new key using the key codes on the door cylinder. Note that the codes were eliminated from the door lock cylinders in 1970. So this will only work on cars up to the 1970 model year.
- 2). Before 1967 there were a limited number of actual key codes in use. If you have access to a car club with members who own older GM vehicles, you might ask them to try their keys in your ignition. You just might get lucky!
- 3). If you are replacing the ignition lock cylinder anyway, here is the Bubba approach! Take a 1/8 inch bit and drill to the side of the key slot (the side with more space). Drill about one inch deep. This will make the lock mechanism no longer functional. You should now be able to turn the lock cylinder without the key. Turn it back a click, insert a paper clip in the little hole and the lock cylinder will slide right out! After cleaning out the metal shavings, insert the new lock cylinder.

I believe that ignition lock cylinders that are installed in the GM locking steering columns (1969+) are more secure and drilling the cylinder is not an option. Those lock cylinders must be removed by removing the steering wheel and further disassembly of the steering column is required.

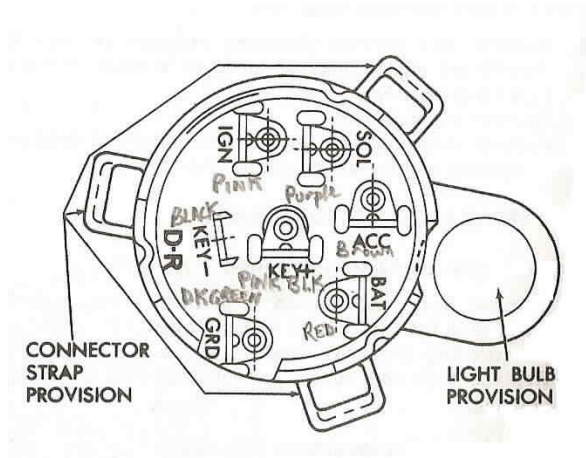
REMOVING THE SWITCH FROM THE DASH

If you also want to remove or replace the ignition switch continue with the following instructions. Please note that on some vehicles it is sometimes necessary to remove the radio and/or the ashtray in order to gain access to the ignition switch.

After removing the ignition lock cylinder from housing, unscrew the chrome bezel nut that holds the ignition housing in the dash. Pull the housing back out from under the dash. Using a screwdriver unsnap the theft resistant wiring harness locking tangs from the switch housing. Unplug the connector.

To install, reverse above procedure.

The following picture shows the rear of the ignition switch and the colors of the vehicle wiring that attach to the switch. Note that the post in the center of the switch attaches a pink wire with a black stripe. This terminal is for the key reminder buzzer. This feature was introduced for the 1968 model year. Earlier vehicles will not have this wire.



IgnitionSwitchReplaceRev21MY2009.doc
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