

MK4 Ignition Switch Replacement

Over the last two winters my Jetta has become hard to start when cold.

Symptom: Turn key to the start position and absolutely nothing, not even a click, but the battery is fine. Sometimes, I could turn the key all the way and then very slowly move it back and it would catch. Other times, I found that if I heated the switch some (hair dryer, heat gun) it would work. This year, the problem started early when it was only 22F (15C).

I did some research and figured I could do it myself, so picked up a switch. The procedure is actually pretty simple, and almost anyone competent enough to change oil can do this in 30 minutes or less.

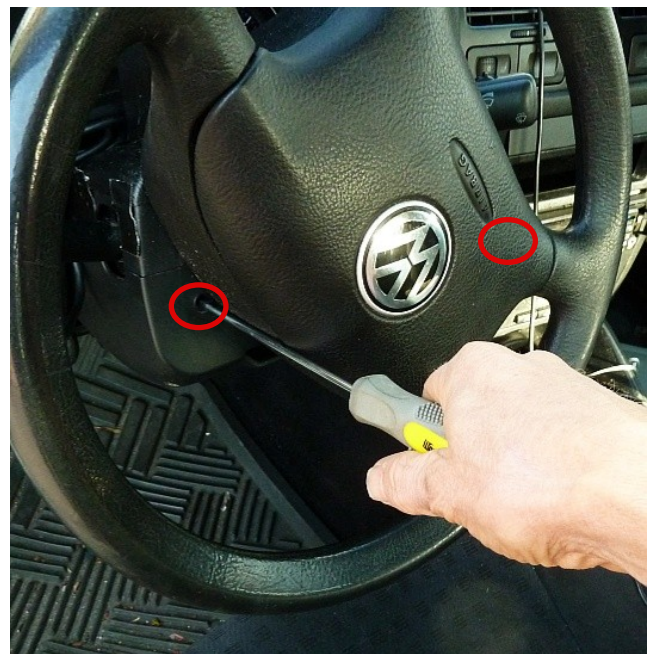
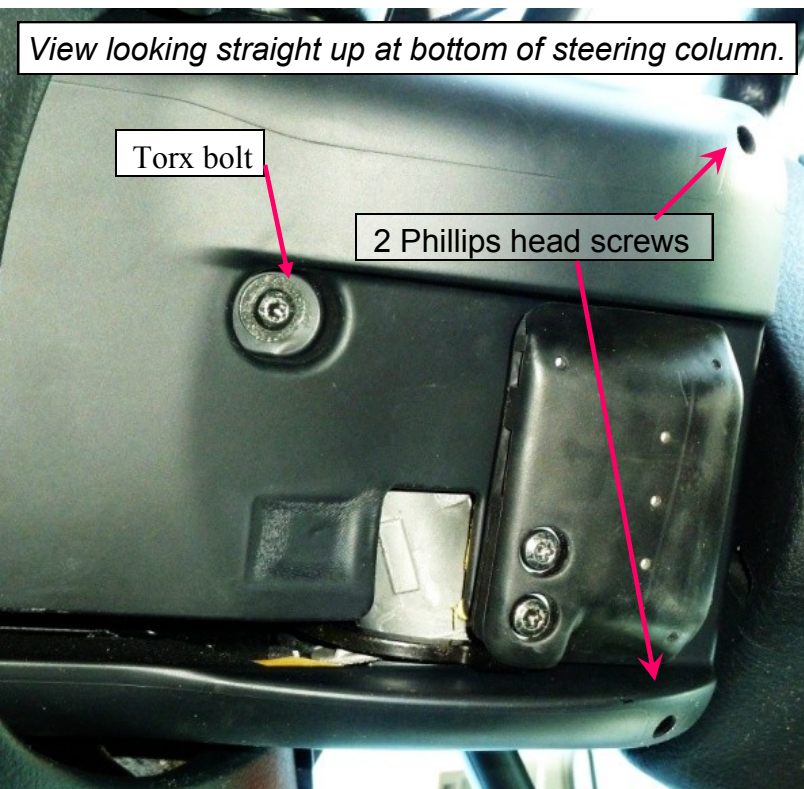


What you will need:

- New Ignition switch, Part # 4B09058490E
- Long shaft (small tip) Phillips Head screwdriver. - Need at least 5 1/2" shank length
- Jewelers Blade screwdriver
- Driver with T-25 Torx Bit
- Optional: Pliers, felt marker.

1. Disconnect Battery! (*Prevents shorts, ABS & SRS codes*)

2. Turn the steering wheel to expose hole and remove Phillips screws, one on each side of cover. **The long thin screwdriver is a must because you will not be able to catch the screw unless the tip goes straight in.** Unless you have a magnetic tip, these screws will not come out until you remove the cover. Just make sure you fully loosen them..



3. Remove the two Phillips head screws in the front corners of the bottom cover.

4. Remove the pictured Torx bolt.

5. Unclamp the Tilt-telescope and pull wheel down and pull out fully (you will need the clearance later).

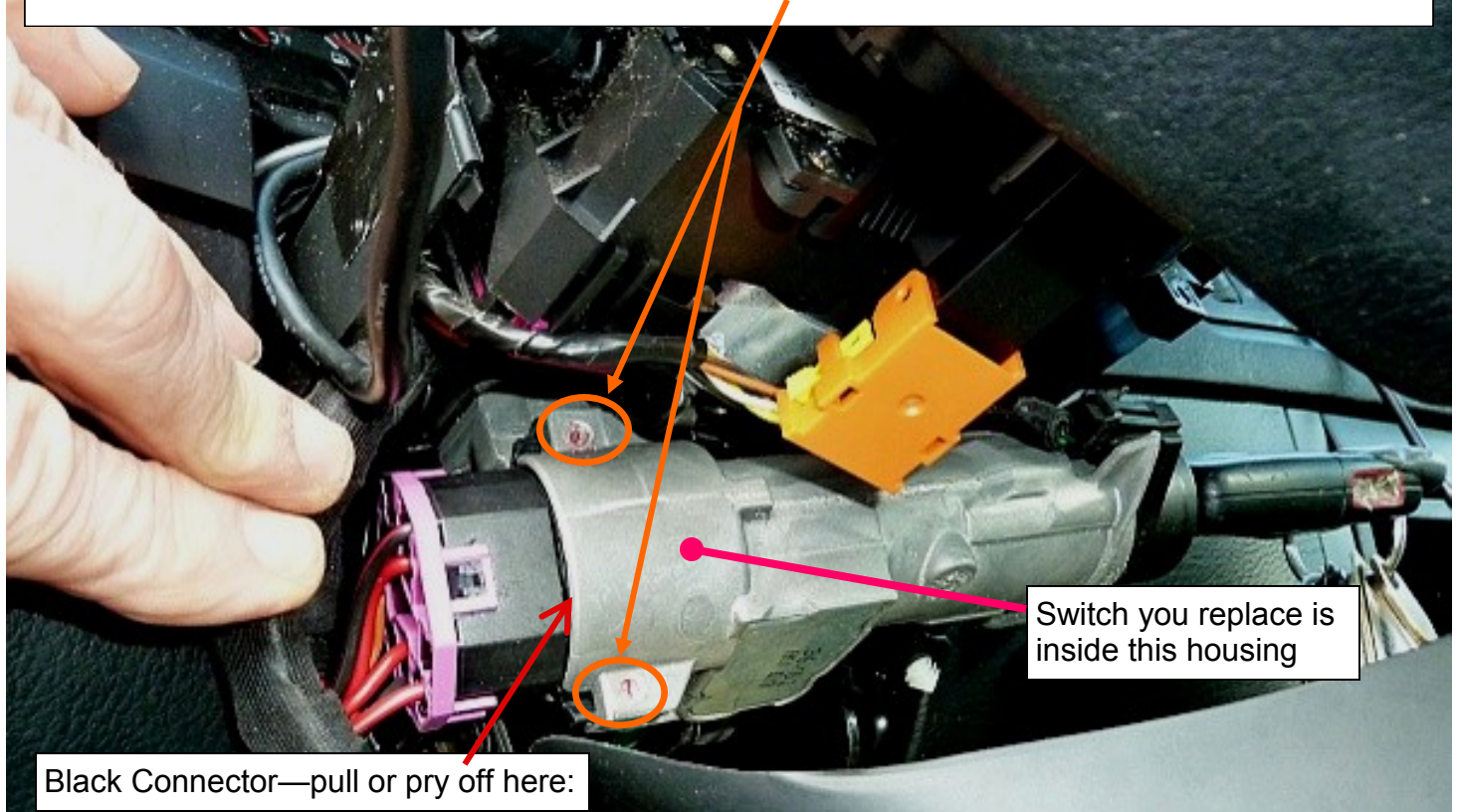
6. Pull down the lower steering column cover being careful to catch the screws that were under the steering wheel. You will then be able to see the Ignition lock assembly. The faulty switch is completely enclosed inside the metal housing and held by two set screws.

I pried off the black connector first (it is pretty tight, used a blade screwdriver to get it started. Make sure that battery is disconnected!). Once you loosen the set screws, the switch will slide out easily.

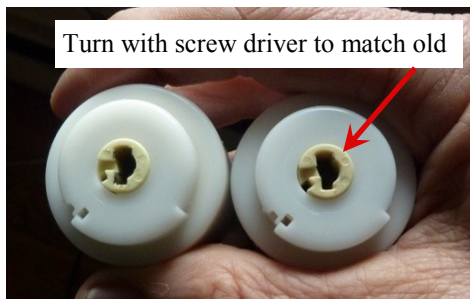
Note: one screw was so tight I needed pliers to help me turn the little screwdriver.

Tip: Although the switch will only fit in one way, you might want to note the orientation to save some fumbling when re-installing, or even mark the switch - connector - housing orientation with a felt marker.

Use jewelers blade screw driver to loosen **two set screws** that hold switch. No need to remove screws, just loosen. Screws may have some orange paint on them you will have to scrape off.



Installation is the reverse of removal:



Make sure the hole in the end of the new switch is keyed in the same orientation as the old one (turn with blade screw driver if needed), then slide the new one into the housing. It should go in easily and be flush with the housing.

Press on the black connector, tighten the two set screws, then put the bottom cover back on. Loosely attach the Torx bolt, and the 4 screws and make sure everything aligned, then tighten.

Last step - reconnect the battery. Note: If you didn't disconnect the battery, you will probably have ABS and SRS codes that will need to be cleared. Enjoy!

Submitted by Tommyt January, 2012