

Part II - Rear Speakers

Tools required:

small ratchet

8mm, 10mm sockets

Plastic (or nylon) prying tools

Time required:

1 - 2 hours

Getting started:

Again, before you begin, you might want to disconnect your negative battery terminal.

The rear speakers are much easier to reach than the doors, though there is some wrestling with the parcel shelf cover involved.

To begin, move and fold your front seats all the way forward. Fold your rear seats down. There are pull tabs to the outside of each headrest. Just give it a tug.

Removing the pins:

Once you have folded the seats, you will see 4 black plastic fir tree pins. Use your pry tool to pull them out. Note for when you reassemble, the ones on top are a different size for the ones on the bottom.

Removing the C Pillar Covers:

Next you need to remove the C pillar covers on both sides of the car. This is easier than you might think. Grab the sides near the top with your finger tips and pull. They will unclip, on the top, then just pull it from the bottom clip. Notice they are held to the pillar by safety straps so don't try to take them all the way off, just yet. I assume these safety straps are so the airbag curtains, should they deploy, don't launch the cover as a projectile.

Look underneath the cover and you will see 2 clips that are strapped into aluminum sockets on the car. These clips work much like a buckle on a laptop bag, or similar. You need to pinch down a little tab on the face of the clip to slide it through. It will catch again half way through, and you will need to push the clip again and slide it the rest of the way. Here are a couple pictures of the back of the cover and of the exposed cover.

Back of C Pillar cover



Exposed C Pillar



Close-up of clip socket



You will see a blue wire running up the back of the C pillar to the rear defroster that needs to be removed. It's just another simple clip.

Removing the Rear Shelf Cover:

Next you will need to loosen the top of the main rear panels. All you need to do is pull the top of the panel out towards the back to release the first clip, then do the same under the rear window.

When you are done, the panel will look like this:



This is where things may get a little frustrating. The good news, is this is the only difficult step. The rear shelf cover needs to be slid down behind the side panels. You will need to wrestle it over the seat latches and slide it down. Think of the motion of closing a roll-top desk or a garage door. Also notice the back corners of the rear shelf cover have little cut outs that might get caught, but you will need to manipulate them as you go.

Here are a couple pictures of the rear panel after it has been slid down:

Side view:



Front view:



You will need to reach over the panel to work, but there is adequate space. The other alternative is to fully remove the side panels to be able to move the rear shelf cover more, but I saw no need.

Removing the Speakers:

The speakers are each attached with 3 bolts. Use your 8mm socket and remove the bolts. Like the front speakers, the rears are adhered to the rear deck. Use your pry tool to loosen an edge and you should be able to peel the speaker off. Once you have done so, unclip the wiring harnesses from the speakers.

As was the case with my front speakers, my new rear speakers did not come with gaskets, and to avoid any vibrations, I reused the factory gaskets. If you are going to do this, carefully peel the gasket from the back of the speaker. It appears to be adhered with rubber cement and just peels off. It will stretch a bit but will shrink back to size. I then tacked them to the back of my new speakers with a few dabs of rubber cement.

Installing the new speakers:

When you order your speakers, also get a pair of Metra 72-6514 harnesses as these make wiring simple plug n play. Connect the harness to the speaker, then snap the harness to the factory connector. Drop the speaker into the rear deck cutout, while making sure the harnesses are tucked under and that the wires that route out are going through the cutouts.

Align the holes in your speakers or brackets. I would suggest at this point to put in 1 or 2 bolts on each side, finger-tight and test the speakers. Once you have verified they work, bolt them into the rear deck.

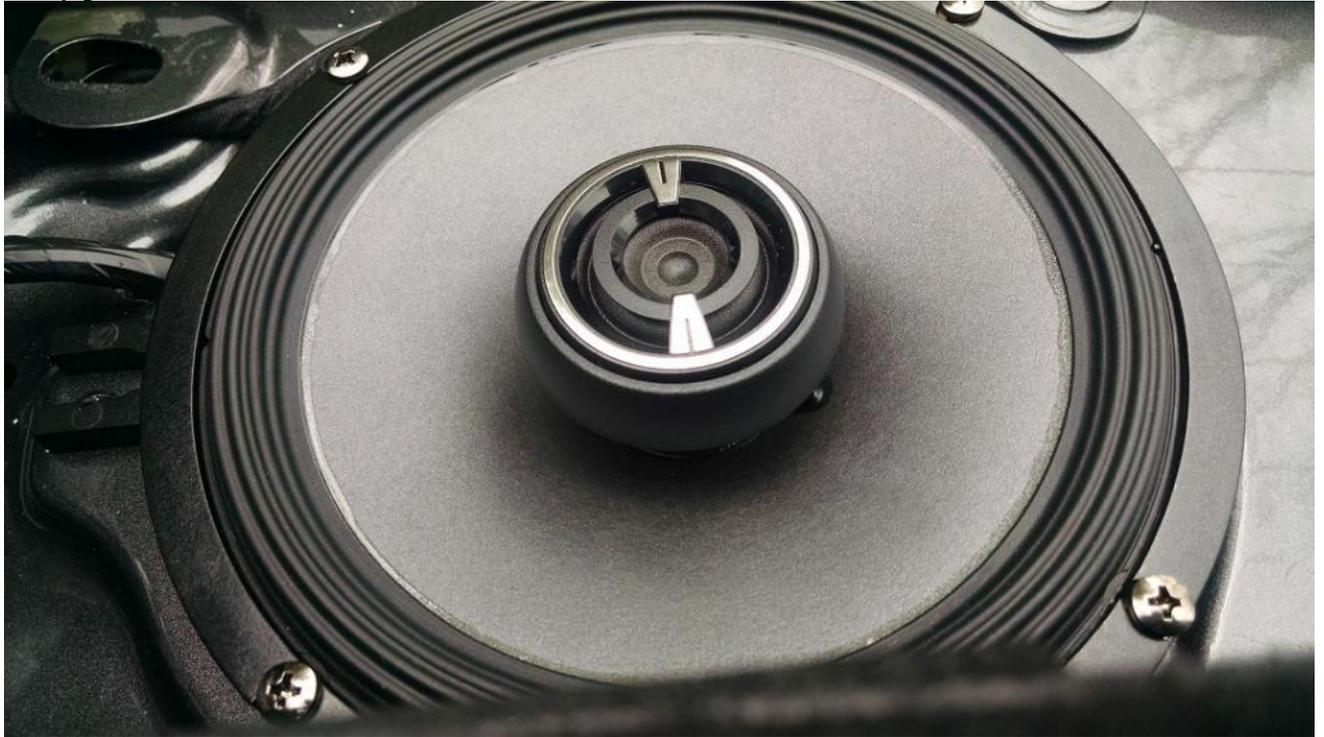
Speaker dropped in with 1 bolt finger tight, before aligning to all holes (sorry for the glare through the glass)



Speaker properly bolted in



Pretty picture



Finishing up:

The rest is easy. Slide the rear deck cover back into its correct position and make sure the seat latches come through. Reconnect the defroster and check the wire routing into the rear cover cutout. Then press the rear side panels back into their fasteners.

Reinstall the C pillar covers by first pushing the lower straps back into the sockets, then the uppers. Snap the covers back into place. Reinsert the 4 plastic pins into the rear shelf cover and rear side covers. Fold you seats back up, and you are DONE!

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