

Down South Vettes Door Handle Installation Instructions.

Difficulty 3 out of 5.

Expected time to complete 45 minutes.

The tools required are:

A flashlight

A 5/32" Allen wrench

A Phillips head screwdriver

A small flat blade screwdriver

A pry tool

A shop rag.

You will need to find a large, flat clean surface to place the door panel on to once it is free from the car. You might as well start by preparing that now.



To remove the panel, start by opening the passenger side door and locate the allen screw which is located in a hole just below the door pull handle.



You can see the hole pictured in the center here:



Using your allen wrench, remove the screw in the hole.



Now you need to remove the door open button. Using a small flat blade screwdriver simply pry up from the bottom and side and the button assembly will come out from the door.



Now you must disconnect the connector from the button. At the base of the connector near the wires there is a small release lever. Squeeze this and the switch and bezel assembly will come loose from the connector.



You can see the clip from the connector inside in this picture of the switch removed.



Once the switch assembly is removed, move the connector out of your way to reveal the second allen head screw that holds the door panel in place.



With the second screw removed you can start the process of removing the door panel from the clips that hold it in place to the door frame. To start, locate the indentation on the bottom center of the door. There will be a small recess in the door panel material. This is where you should start the process of pulling the door panel back from the door frame. It will require some force and you will hear a lot of noise as the spayed clips disengage from the door frame. This is a good time to use a pry tool of some sort. I find that a brake adjustment tool and a long handle flat blade screw driver wrapped in a shop rag will do a nice job. You can see in the next picture the tools wrapped in rags in place in the door to begin the job of disconnecting the the door trim panel from the frame.



Once you get it started you will need to work your way around the right side, to the bottom and up the left side to dislodge all of the clips. There are 8 clips around the perimeter. These are located at (facing the door) 1 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock, 6 o'clock, 7 o'clock, 8 o'clock, 9 o'clock and 10 o'clock. You can see the white clips in this picture of the right side of the door as it is pulled back from the frame.



Once you have released all the clips you need to rotate the door trim panel in towards you from the bottom. There are four clips along the top lip near the window gasket that the door hangs on. A single motion of pulling the bottom of the door trim panel up from the bottom and up and away from the top of the door should release the trim panel from the door frame.

Once you have the panel loose from the door frame you will need to disconnect the main wire harness from the back of the door panel. There is sufficient play in the wire to allow the panel to rest on your door sill so that you can locate and remove the wire harness connector as pictured below.



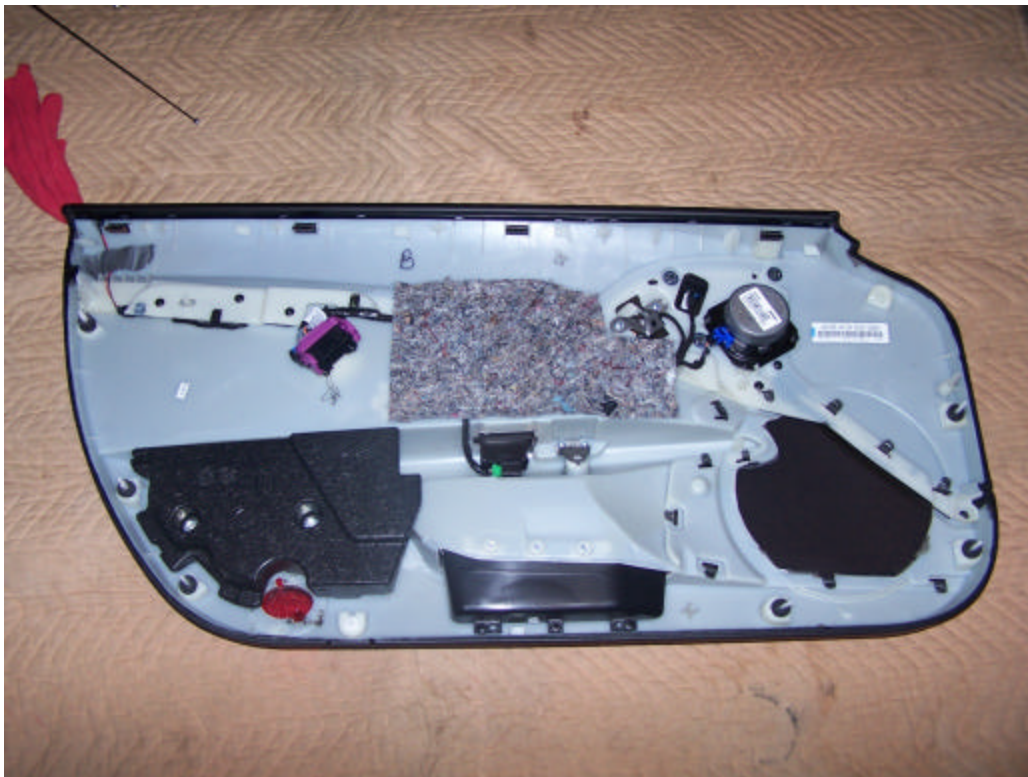
To remove the connector you need to squeeze the two release levers at the side of the base of the black connector near the blue plug and rotate the purple latch down. Once that is complete the wire harness will disconnect and the panel will be free from the door. You can get a good look at the connector latch in this picture.



Here is the door with the trim panel removed



The door panel ready for the handle swap.



You will need to remove 4 phillips screws and lock washers, two at the base of the armrest



And two from the top of the panel near the speaker connector



Pay attention to the location of the two steel braces connecting the door handle, these need to line up with the holes in the door panel to allow you to replace the allen screws in the panel when you are finished.

Here is the handle assembly out of the car and the accompanying hardware.



Now on to the installation. Here is the old handle on the left and the new DownSouth Vettes handle which will be installed.



Once you snake the door button connector back up in to the hole on the handle you will need to gently pull out the door lock button panel to “hook” the lip of the new handle under it. You can see the procedure in this picture.



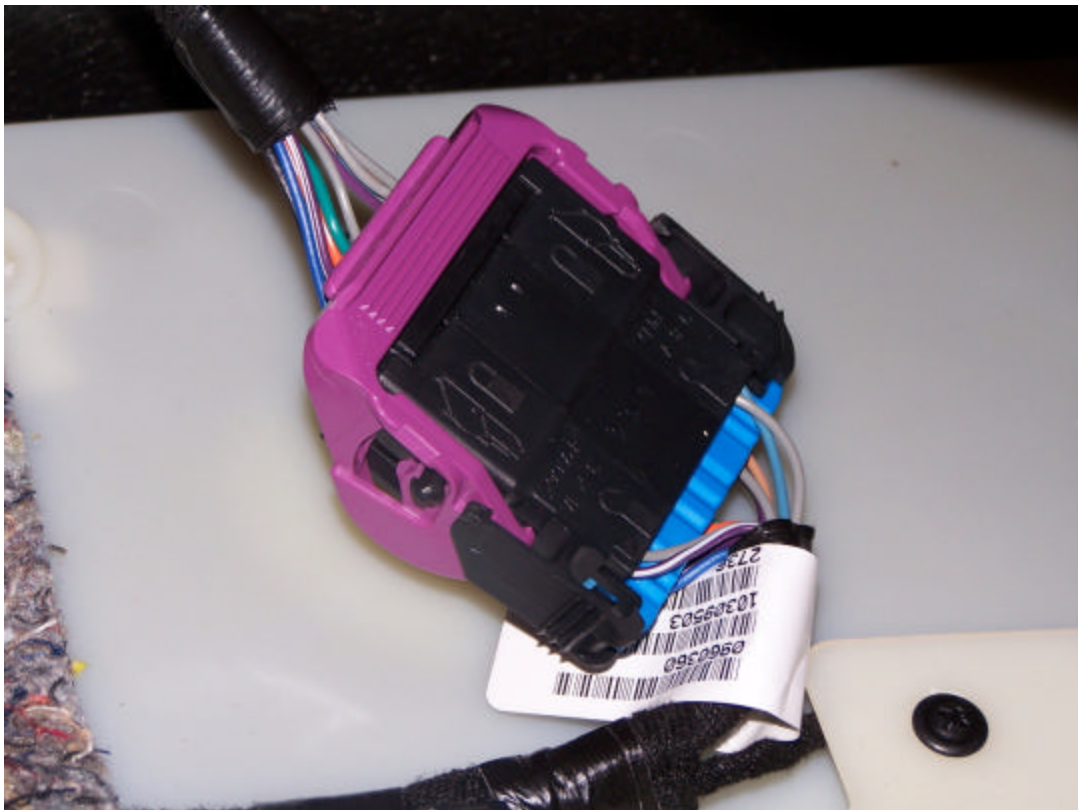
Once the handle is pressed back into location, lay the door panel back down on its face to reattach the screws, bracket and washers.



Once the four screws have been replaced here's how your new handle should look.



Now just reverse the steps. Laying the door panel at the base of the car to reconnect the wire harness.



Now start the process of hanging the trim panel back in place on the door frame. Starting at the top, locate and hand the four clips and rotate the door down in to location over the 8 pin hole locations on the panel and while working your way around the perimeter press each pin into it's hole on the door frame. You may need to press firmly but make sure that all pin locations are correct prior to seating the previous pin. You don't want to risk breaking the pins off which could contribute to a rattle somewhere down the road.

Once the panel is back on the frame and all the clips are secure, reattach the two allen head screws that secure the panel.



Once both screws are back in place you can reconnect the door button to the connector and press the switch bezel back in to place.



The finished product should look something like this



A nice compliment to your other Down South Vettes accessories like a console cover, shift knob, shift boot or emergency brake handle and boot.



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