



VW MK4 In-Cabin Short Shifter Kit
Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



Skill Level
2 - Moderate
Some Experience
Recommended



Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

INSTALLATION NOTES

- **RH** refers to the *passenger side* of the vehicle.
- **LH** refers to the *driver side* of the vehicle.
- Always use the proper torque specifications.
- If applicable to this installation, torque specifications will be listed throughout the document and at the end as well.
- Please read all of these instructions and familiarize yourself with the complete process **BEFORE** you begin.

GENERAL PREPARATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety, please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- Park your car in a safe, well lit, level area.
- Shut the engine off and remove the key from the ignition switch.
- Make sure any remote start devices are properly disabled.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the parking brake is applied until the vehicle is safely lifted and supported.
- Whether lifting a vehicle using an automotive lift or a hydraulic jack, be sure and utilize the factory specified lift points.
- Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear.
- **ALWAYS** support the vehicle with jack stands.
- **ALWAYS** read and follow all safety information and warnings for the equipment you are using.



NEVER get underneath a vehicle that is supported only by a jack, and **ALWAYS** make sure that the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands.

REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

Step 1: T25 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Gently pry up on the shifter boot to release it from the center console as shown. Remove the center console by doing the following:

- Remove the storage tray insert.
- Remove the storage tray bolt and slide the tray forward.
- Disconnect the power outlet connector.
- Remove the four screws that secure the center console to the vehicle, then guide the console over the shifter and remove it.



Step 2: Cutting Pliers

Lift the shifter boot over the shift knob, then snip the clamp (arrow) at the base of the shifter.



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

Step 3:

Pull the shifter and boot up off of the shift lever.



Step 4: Trim Removal Tool

Carefully pry the retaining ring (highlighted in **RED**) free from the base of the shift knob to free the knob from the boot.



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

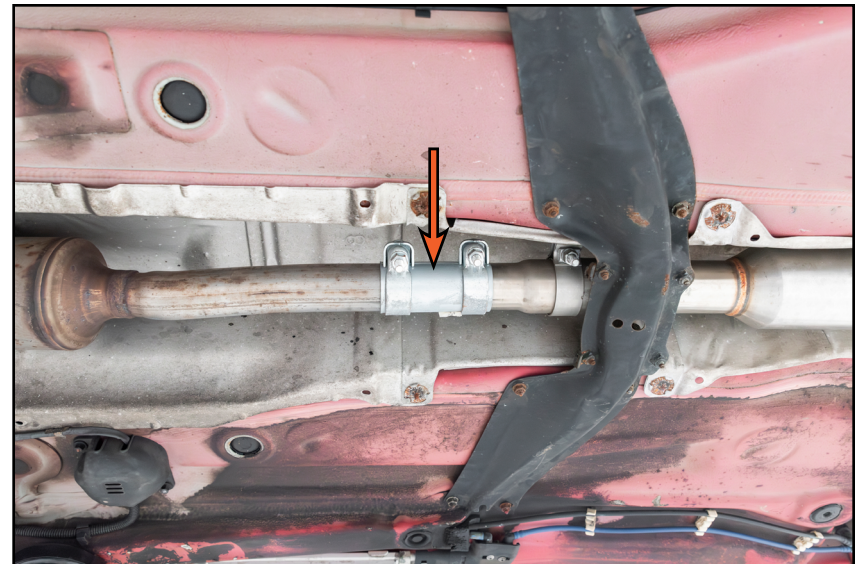
Step 5: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two nuts (arrows) that secure the shifter assembly to the body.



Step 6: 16mm Socket & Ratchet

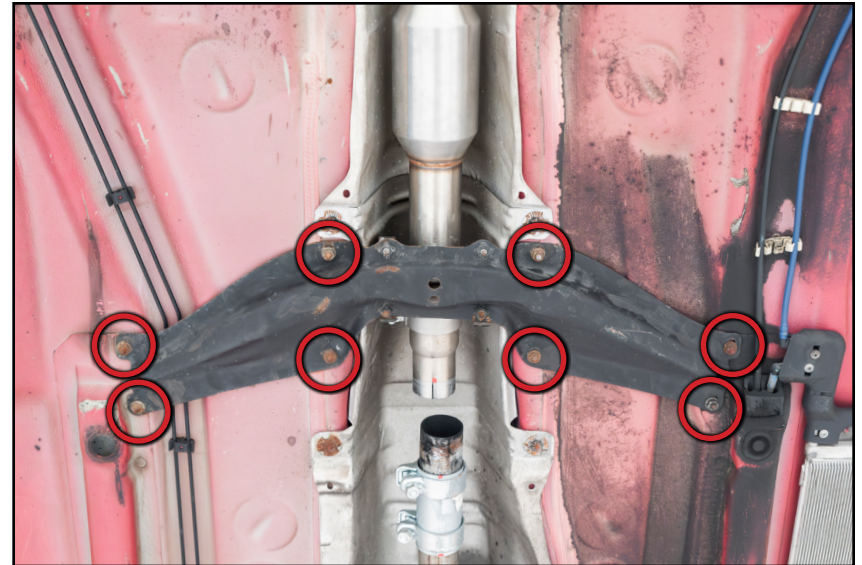
Loosen the clamp (arrow) and slide it forward to free the downpipe from the rest of the exhaust.



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

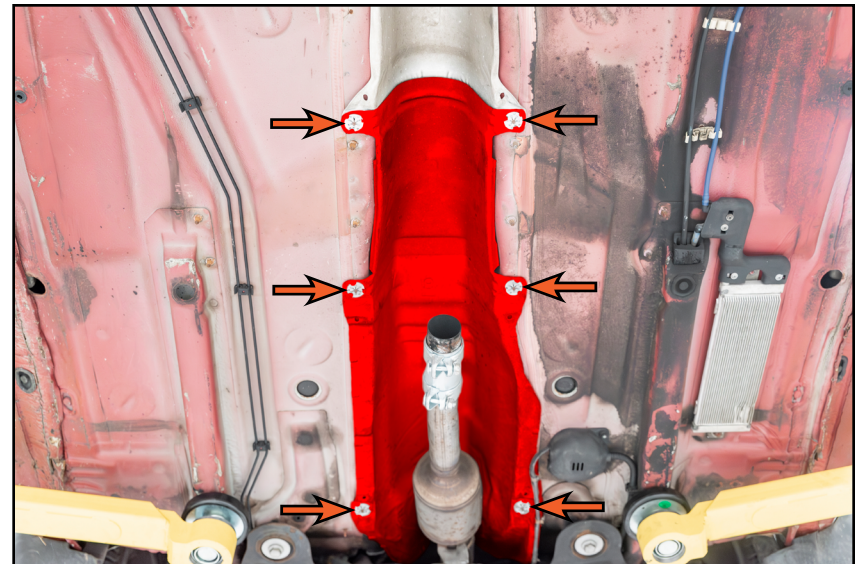
Step 7: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the nuts (circled in **RED**) to free the cross brace from the underside of the vehicle.



Step 8: Clamping Washer Tool

Loosen the clamping washers (arrows) then remove the front two exhaust heat shields (highlighted in **RED**).



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

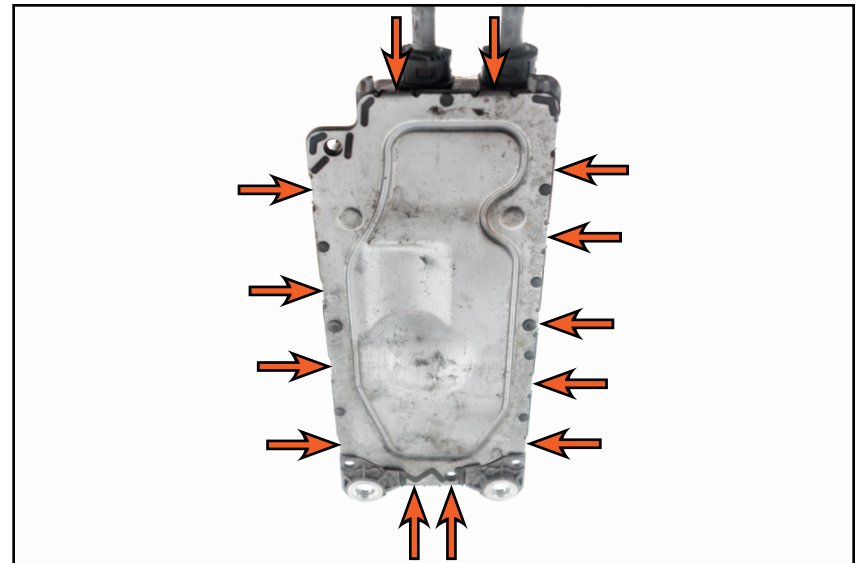
Step 9: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Remove the two bolts (arrows) and carefully lower the shifter assembly and allow it to hang by the shifter cables.



Step 10: Flat Head Screwdriver

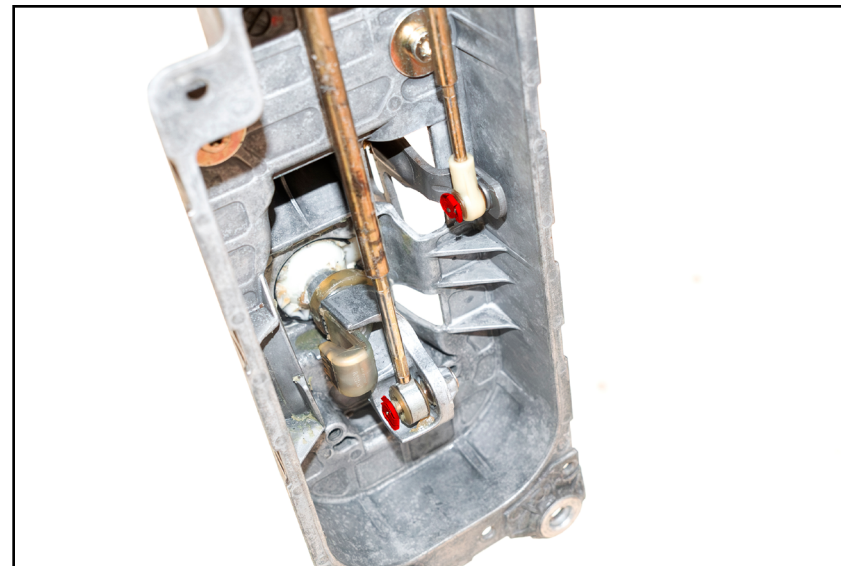
Gently pry back the metal tabs (arrows) and remove the bottom cover from the shifter assembly.



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

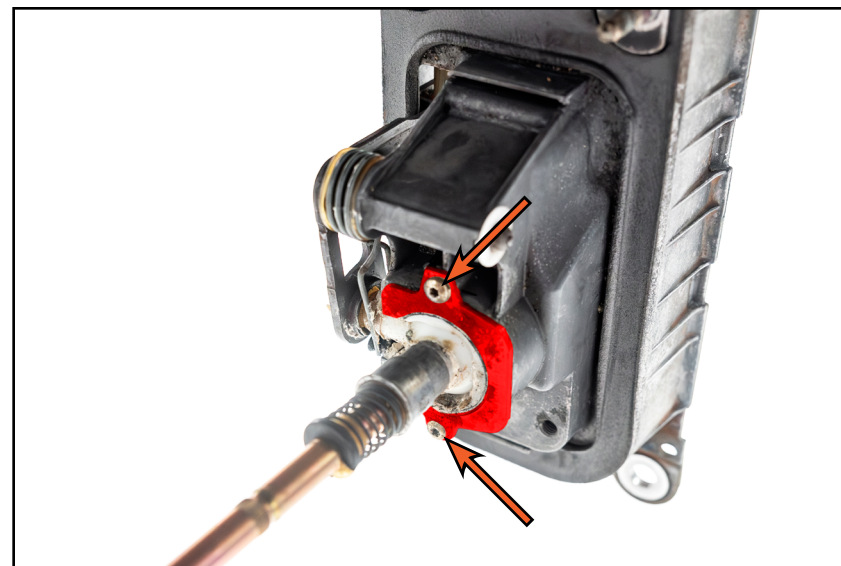
Step 11: Flat Head Screwdriver

Pry the retaining clips (highlighted in **RED**) free from the cable pins, then pull the shifter cables off of the pins.



Step 12: T20 Torx Socket & Ratchet

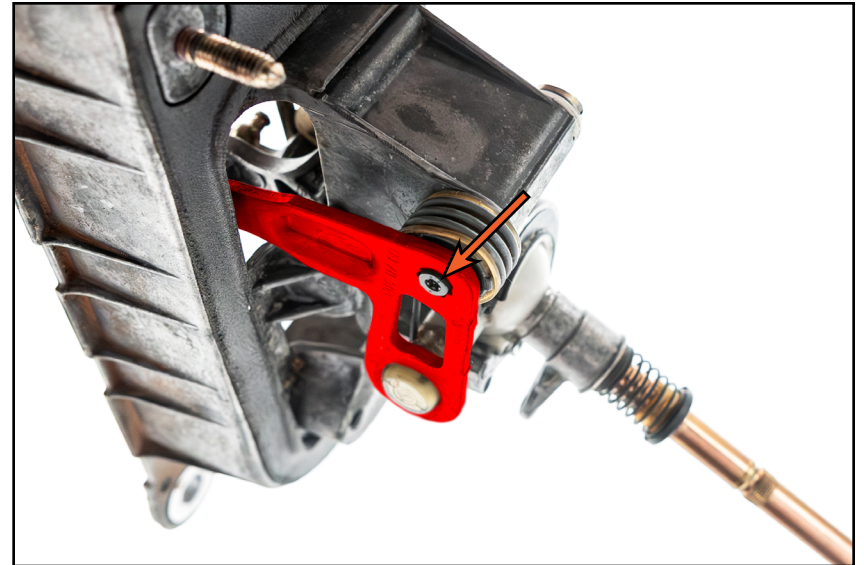
Remove the two screws (arrows) and remove the shifter bearing retainer.



REMOVING THE STOCK SHIFTER

Step 13: T20 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Remove the screw (arrow) and remove the selector bracket (highlighted in **RED**).



Step 14:

Pull the shift lever past the return spring (highlighted in **RED**) and free from the shifter assembly.



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

Step 1:

To shorten throw, rotate the shift lever bearing (highlighted in **GREEN** in **Photo #1**) upward until your desired length is achieved, then tighten the set screw (arrow in **Photo #2**) until fully snug.

To lengthen throw, rotate the shift lever bearing (highlighted in **GREEN** in **Photo #1**) upward until your desired length is achieved, then tighten the set screw (arrow in **Photo #2**) until fully snug.



The set screw must be aligned with the flat area on the shift lever threads before tightening, blue threadlocker can be applied to the set screw to prevent loosening over time, if desired.

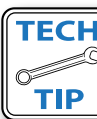


Step 2:

Transfer the shift lever bearing shell (highlighted in **GREEN**) from the stock shifter bearing to the new shifter bearing.



Replacement shift lever bearing shells available for purchase [HERE](#).



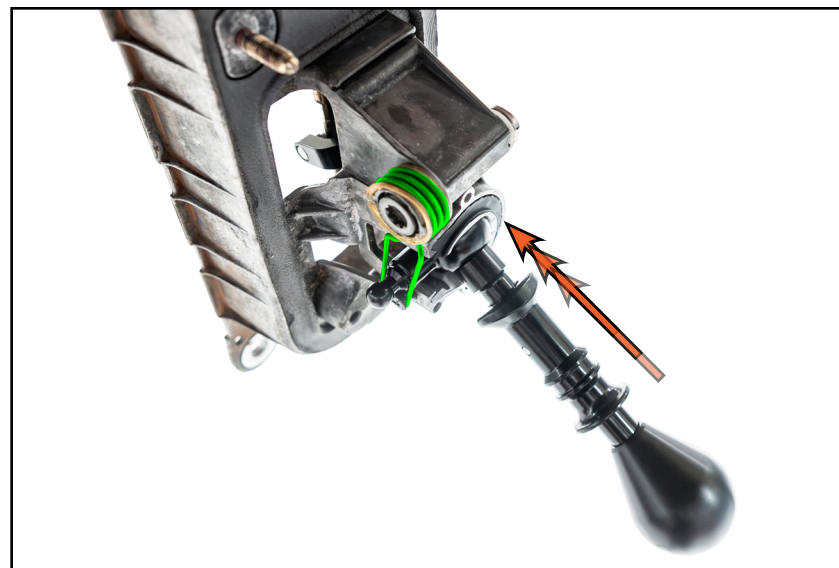
Double-check to ensure that the lower ball stud and screws are fully snug and did not come loose during shipment.



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

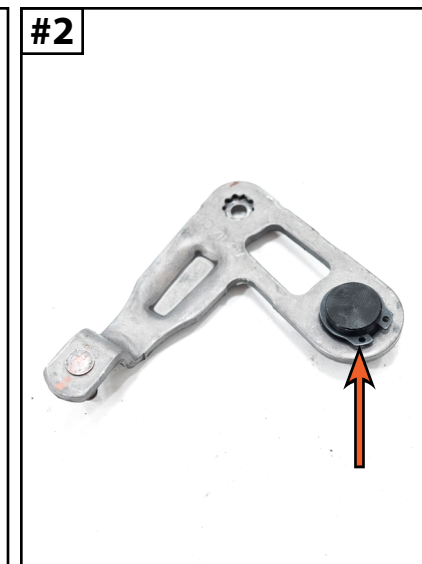
Step 3:

Slide the shift lever into the shifter assembly, ensuring the side-to-side ball stud slides underneath the return spring (highlighted in **GREEN**).



Step 4: Snap Ring Pliers

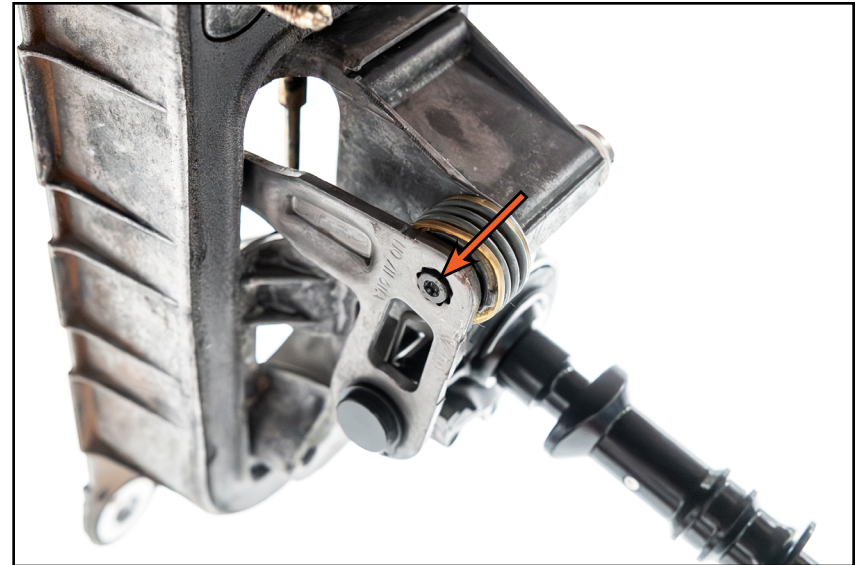
Remove the snap ring (arrow in **Photo #1**), then slide the bearing cup into the selector bracket as shown, then reinstall the snap ring (arrow in **Photo #2**).



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

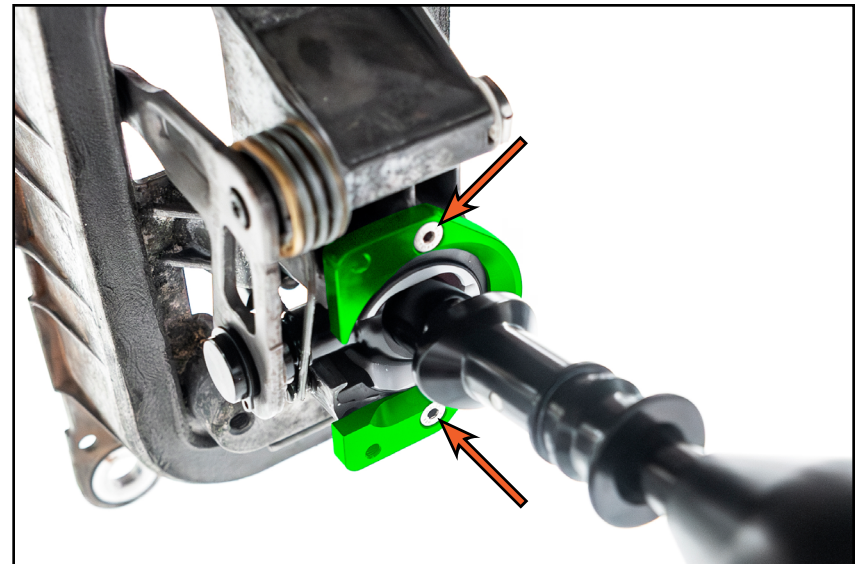
Step 5: T20 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Reinstall the selector bracket as shown, ensuring the ball stud slides into the bearing cup before securing the bracket in place with the screw (arrow).



Step 6: 3mm Hex (Allen) Socket & Ratchet

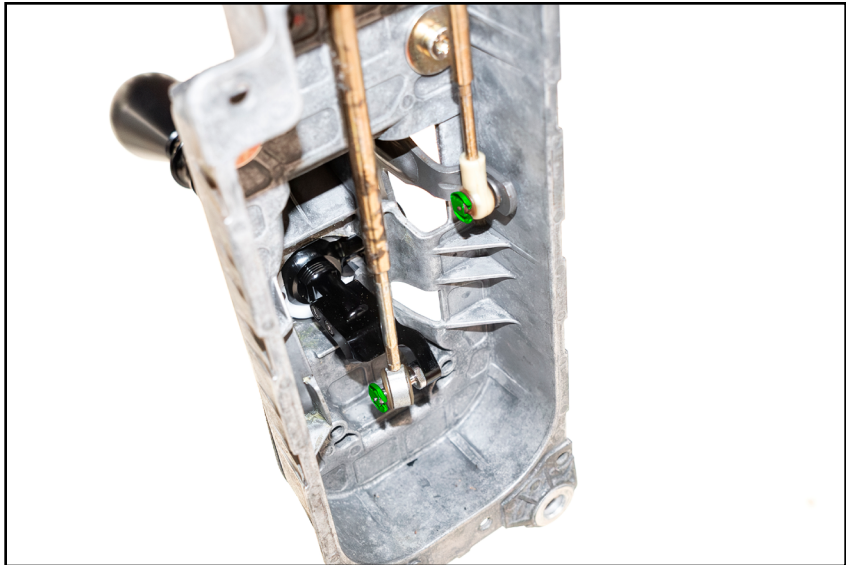
Install the new shifter bearing retainer (highlighted in **GREEN**) and secure it in place with the provided M5 x 14mm screws (arrows).



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

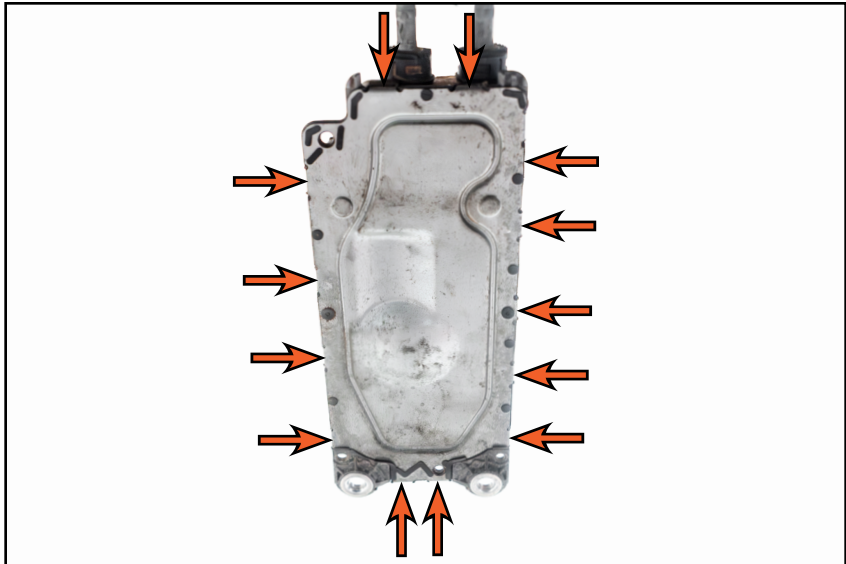
Step 7:

Slide the shifter cables onto the shifter pins and secure them in place with the retaining clips (highlighted in **GREEN**).



Step 8: Pliers

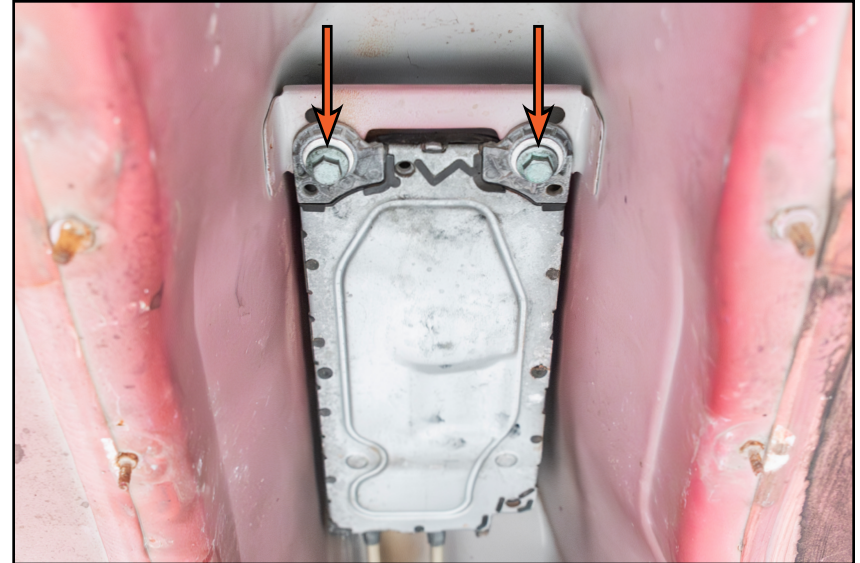
Reinstall the bottom cover, gently bending the tabs (arrows) back into place to secure the cover to the shifter assembly.



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

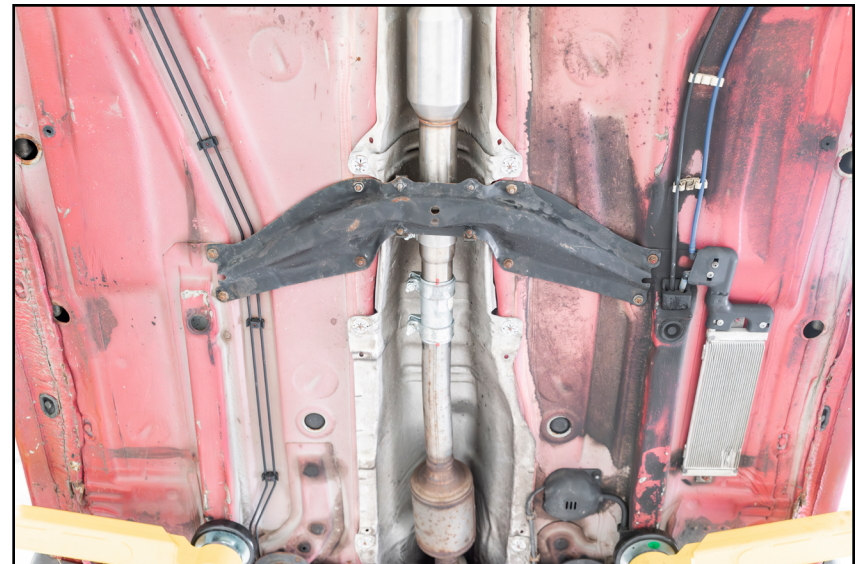
Step 9: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Carefully guide the shifter assembly back into place, then reinstall the two bolts (arrows) and torque them to 25 Nm (18 Ft-lbs).



Step 10: 16mm, 13mm Socket & Ratchet

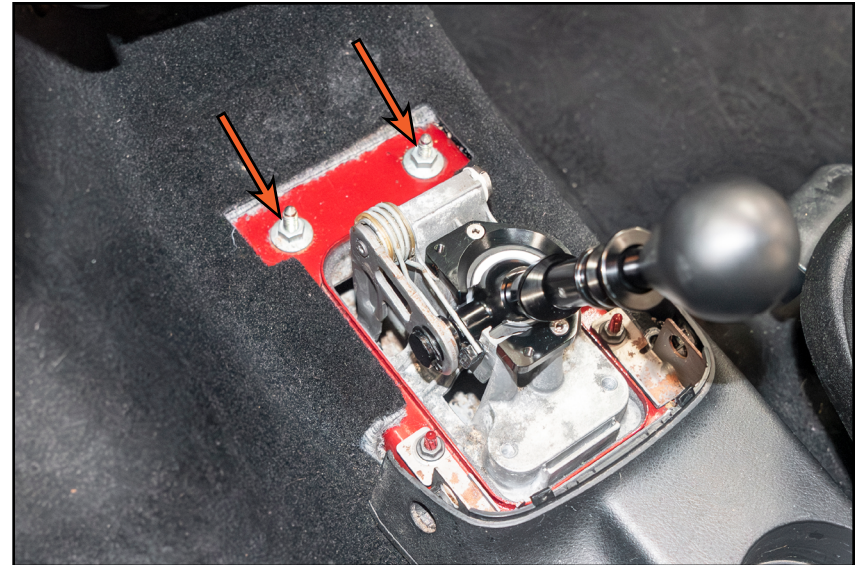
Reinstall the heat shields, then reconnect the downpipe to the exhaust system and reinstall the cross brace.



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

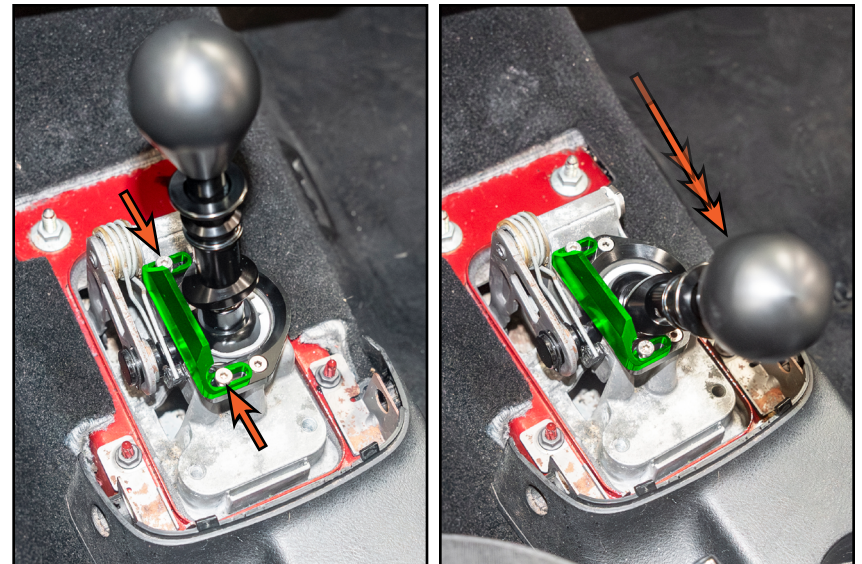
Step 11: 13mm Socket & Ratchet

Reinstall the two nuts (arrows) to secure the shifter assembly to the vehicle, then torque the nuts to 25 Nm (18 Ft-lbs).



Step 12: 3mm Hex (Allen) Socket & Ratchet

Shift the shifter into first gear, then install the reverse lockout gate (highlighted in **GREEN**) and secure it in place with the provided M5 x 10mm screws (arrows in **Photo #1**). Adjust the gate left or right until 1st and 2nd gears are easy to find and shifting between the two feels smooth (as shown in **Photo #2**), then fully tighten the screws.



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

Step 13:

Lift up on the reverse lockout sleeve (highlighted in **GREEN**), shift into reverse and let go of the sleeve, the sleeve should rest on top of the reverse lockout gate as shown and snap back down to it's normal position when shifting out of reverse.



Step 14: Cutting Pliers

Unthread the shift knob, then slide the shift boot over the shift lever as shown and secure the shift boot to the lever using the provided cable tie (arrow).



INSTALLING THE SHORT SHIFTER KIT

Step 15:

Reinstall the shift knob, tightening by hand until snug, carefully rotate the shift boot until it is oriented correctly and there are no creases.



Step 16: T25 Torx Socket & Ratchet

Reinstall the center console as shown, then snap the shift boot back into place.



Your Short Shifter Kit installation is complete!



These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

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