



Audi B8 A4/A5/Allroad 2.0T Vent Pod Boost Gauge Kit Installation Instructions - [Click HERE to Shop](#)



Skill Level
1 - Easy
Basic Skills
Required



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.

INTRODUCTION

The Project:

Today we are going to install our ECS Tuning Vent Pod Boost Gauge Kit into our B8 A4. Keep close tabs on your boost levels and add style a stylish appearance to your dashboard. This vent pod was designed specifically for the B8 and is set the optimum angle for driver visibility. Our boost gauge features a classic analog face with color matched backlighting to provide a superior OEM+ look. Included in this kit is our ECS Tuning billet boost tap, which is constructed of the highest quality materials to create a reliable and leak-free boost reference source.

Installation required only a few basic tools and can easily be completed in a single afternoon. Take your time and enjoy the project, just be sure to read through these instructions completely first. Thank you for purchasing our ECS Tuning Vent Pod Boost Gauge Kit, we appreciate your business!

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KIT CONTENTS

Note: You may find additional mounting hardware included with the boost gauge. Any hardware which is not shown here will not be needed for this installation.



ECS Tuning Vent Pod



ECS Tuning Boost Gauge



Plastic Vacuum Tubing, Rubber Vacuum Hose & Vacuum Filter



Boost Gauge Power Harness



Boost Gauge Transducer



- For Plastic Intake Manifold Only:**
 Boost Tap (1x)
 Retaining Clip (1x)
 Threadlocker (1x)
 Vacuum Plug (1x)
 Vacuum Nipples (2x)



- For Aluminum Intake Manifold Only:**
 Boost Tap (1x)
 Retaining Clip (1x)
 Threadlocker (1x)
 Vacuum Plugs (2x)
 Vacuum Nipples (3x)

OR:



Zip Ties



T-Taps and Spade Terminals

REQUIRED TOOLS

Note: The tools required for each step will be listed by the step number throughout these instructions.

Standard Automotive Tools

- Protecta-Sockets (for lug nuts) [ES#2221243](#)
- **3/8" Drive Ratchet** [ES#2765902](#)
- 3/8" Drive Torque Wrench [ES#2221245](#)
- 3/8" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets [ES#2763772](#)
- 3/8" Drive Extensions [ES#2804822](#)
- Hydraulic Floor Jack [ES#240941](#)
- **Torx Drivers and Sockets** [ES#11417/8](#)
- 1/2" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets [ES#2839106](#)
- 1/2" Drive Ratchet
- 1/2" Drive Extensions
- 1/2" Drive Torque Wrench [ES#2221244](#)
- 1/2" Drive Breaker Bar [ES#2776653](#)
- Bench Mounted Vise
- Crows Foot Wrenches
- **Hook and Pick Tool Set** [ES#2778980](#)

Required For This Install

- **1/4" Drive Ratchet** [ES#2823235](#)
- **1/4" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets** [ES#2823235](#)
- 1/4" Drive Extensions [ES#2823235](#)
- **Plier and Cutter Set** [ES#2804496](#)
- **Flat and Phillips Screwdrivers** [ES#2225921](#)
- Jack Stands [ES#2763355](#)
- Ball Pein Hammers
- Pry Bar Set [ES#1899378](#)
- **Electric/Cordless Drill**
- **Wire Strippers/Crimpers**
- **Drill Bits**
- Punch and Chisel Set
- **Hex Bit (Allen) Wrenches and Sockets** [ES#11420](#)
- Thread Repair Tools [ES#1306824](#)
- Open/Boxed End Wrench Set [ES#2765907](#)

Available On Our Website

Specialty Tools

- **Trim Removal Tools** [ES#517779](#)

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.

INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

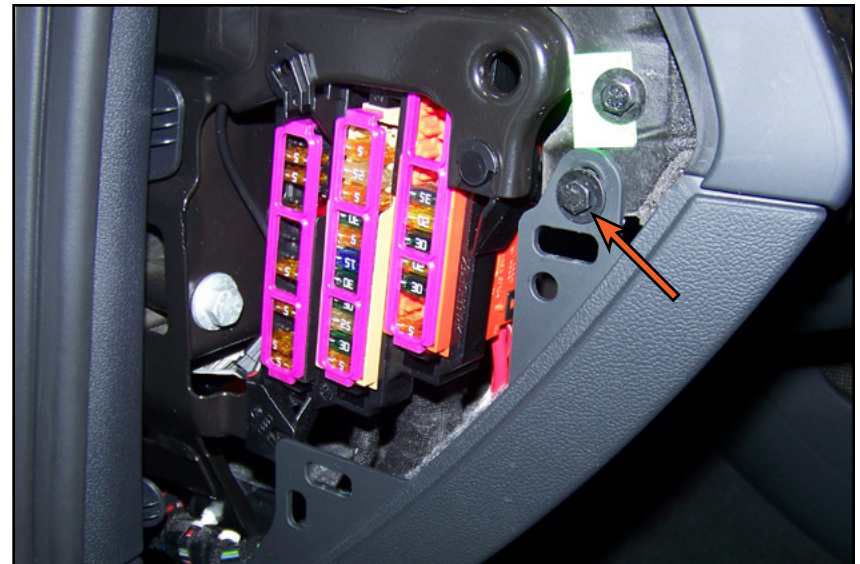
Step 1: Trim Removal Tool

Open the driver's door, then remove the LH dash side cover by carefully prying out the front edge, using caution not to damage the surrounding dash panels.



Step 2:

Remove the screw securing the side of the LH dash knee panel (arrow).



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 3: 8mm Socket, Ratchet

Remove the two LH knee panel screws shown in the photo (arrows), then pull the top of the panel straight out (toward the driver's seat) until it clears the retainer tabs in the dash and lower the panel down into the driver side footwell.



Step 4:

Remove the footwell light (there is no need to unplug it) by simply pushing the end of the light opposite the electrical connector down through the panel, then turn the light sideways and pull it back up through.



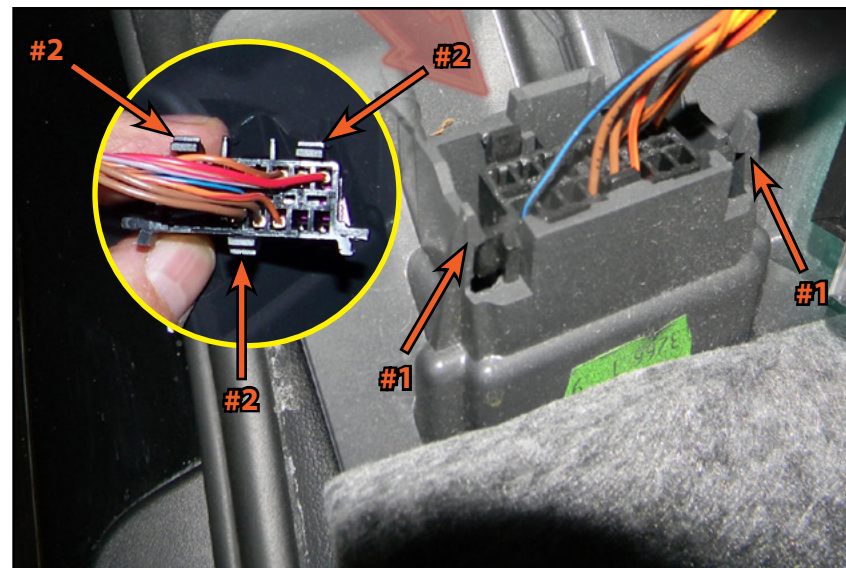
INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 5: Small Flat Blade Screwdriver

Next we need to remove the data link connector from the knee panel. Pry out the five clips that hold it in place, two on the panel itself (#1 in the picture) and three on the DLC (#2 in the picture) then the connector can be pulled from the knee panel. The knee panel can now be removed from the footwell and set aside.



CAUTION: Be sure to release all clips before pulling out the DLC connector. It will slide out easily when all clips are released. Do not pull on or put tension on the wires.



Step 6: Trim Removal Tool

Pull out around the perimeter of the information display trim panel to release all of the retaining clips. You can usually do this by hand, but if necessary use a non-marring trim tool to get started.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 7:

With all of the retaining clips released, rotate the panel outward, disconnect the hazard light switch (arrow), and set the panel aside.



Step 8: Trim Removal Tool

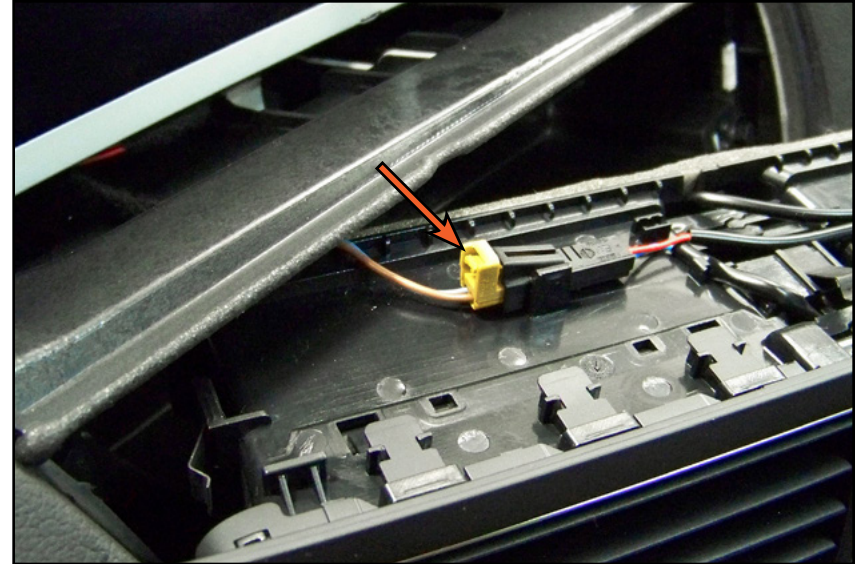
Beginning on the LH side, gently pry out the center vent housing and outlets.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

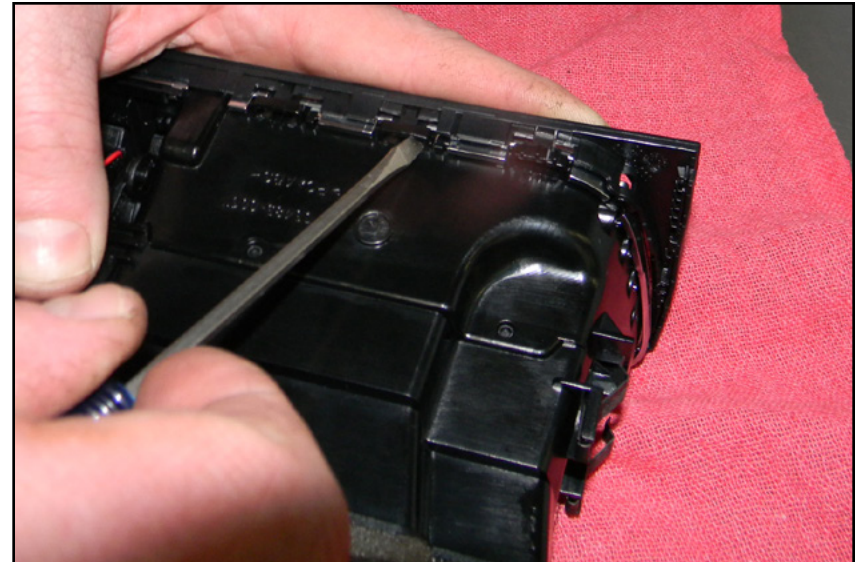
Step 9:

Slide the vent housing out of the dash just far enough for you to be able to see the illumination harness on the top. Depress the small locking tab on the yellow electrical connector and unplug it, then remove the vent assembly completely.



Step 10: Flat Blade Screwdriver

Work your way around the vent housing, gently prying up on the retainer tabs holding the trim bezel in place. Be sure to only lift them just far enough to release them, then remove the bezel and chrome trim beneath it.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

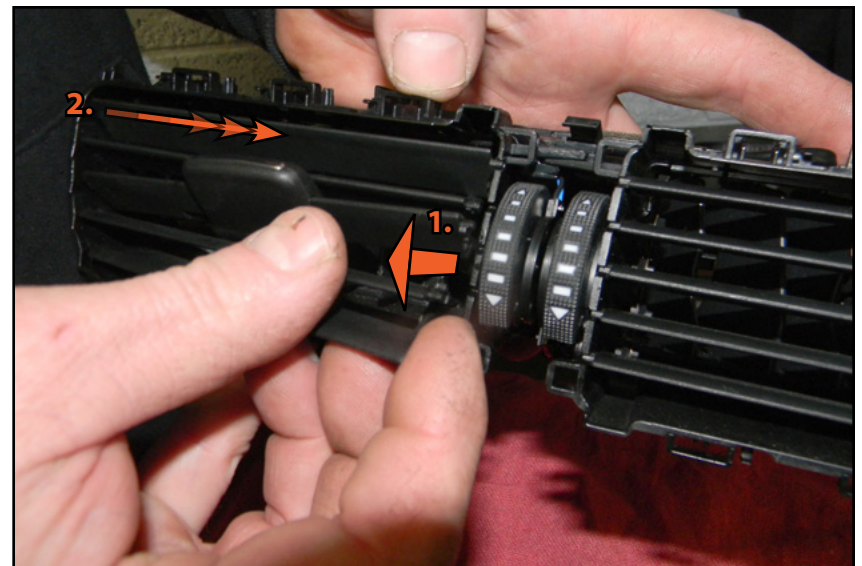
Step 11: Flat Blade Screwdriver

Pop off the center trim panel for the vent control rollers. Be careful not to break the retaining tabs, if necessary use a screwdriver to help release the tabs from the back side.



Step 12:

Remove the LH vent louvers by first lifting them outwards at the center, then pulling them out at the side. Set the vent housing aside for now.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 13:

Take the plastic vacuum tubing from the kit and fish it down through the left side of the dash next to the air ducts (arrow) until it comes out beneath the dash in the driver side footwell. This is a fairly large opening, and fishing the narrow, rigid plastic tubing down to the footwell is usually pretty easy.



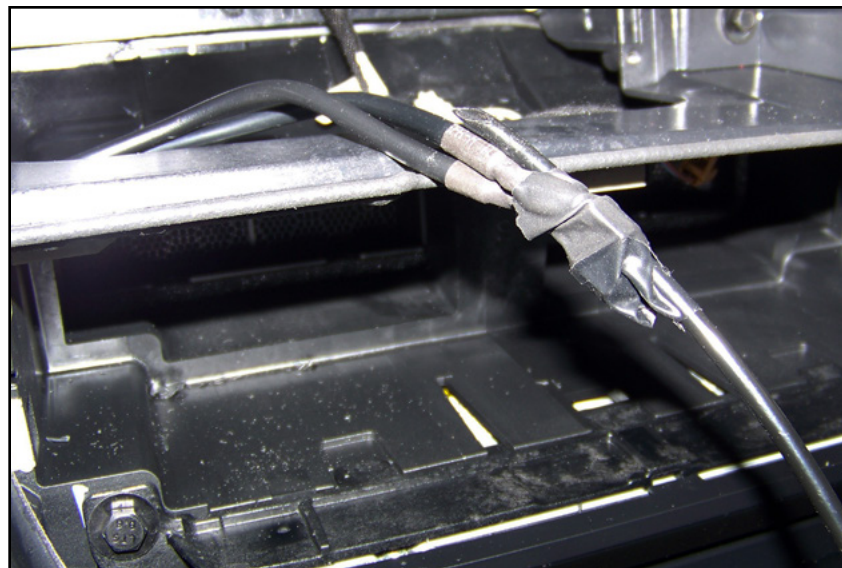
Step 14:

Unpack the boost gauge power harness and the transducer power harness, then tape them both (connector end) to the end of the plastic vacuum tubing. Slowly pull the vacuum tubing back up through the dash, pulling the power and transducer harnesses along with it until they extend out into the opening in the dash.

Untape the harnesses from the vacuum tubing.



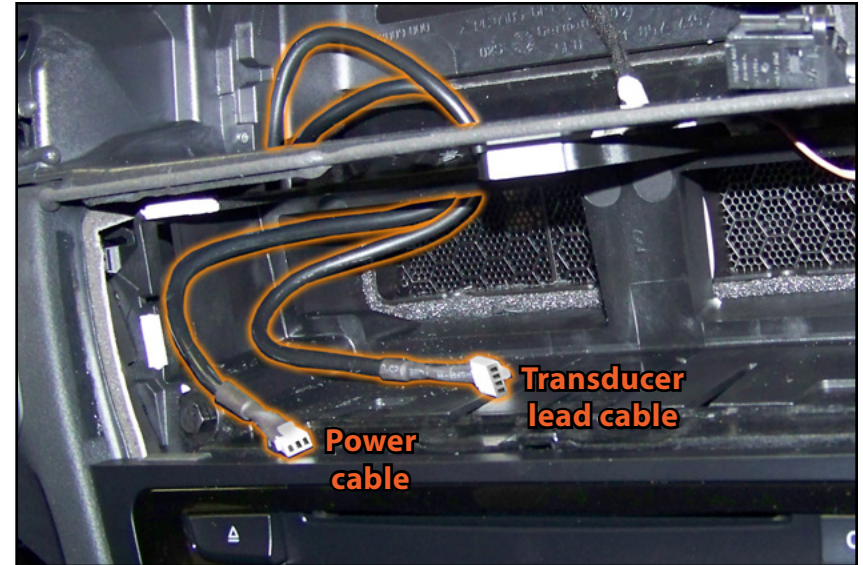
Note that both the transducer and the end of the power harness should remain in the drivers footwell at this time. They will be accessed from these locations later in the installation.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 15:

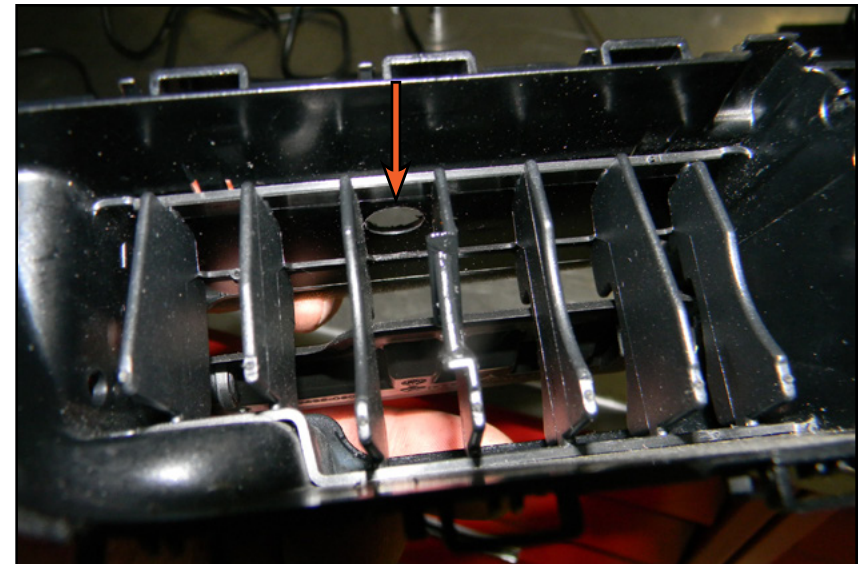
Route the boost sensor harness and transducer harness into the opening for the vent housing as shown.



Step 16:

Inspect the picture on the right. Note the location of the hole in the vent housing. You will be drilling it in the next step, but it is important to view and understand its proper location first. It will be drilled in a location which will allow the wires to pass through and connect to the vent pod, but will still allow the vent open/close flap to operate normally with the vent control roller in the middle.

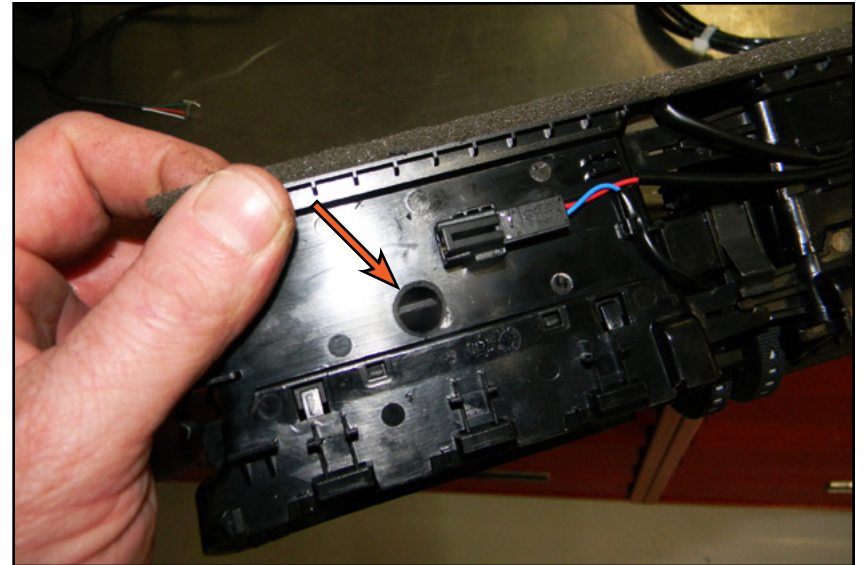
Note that for best wire routing it should also be located between two of the vertical slats in the housing.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

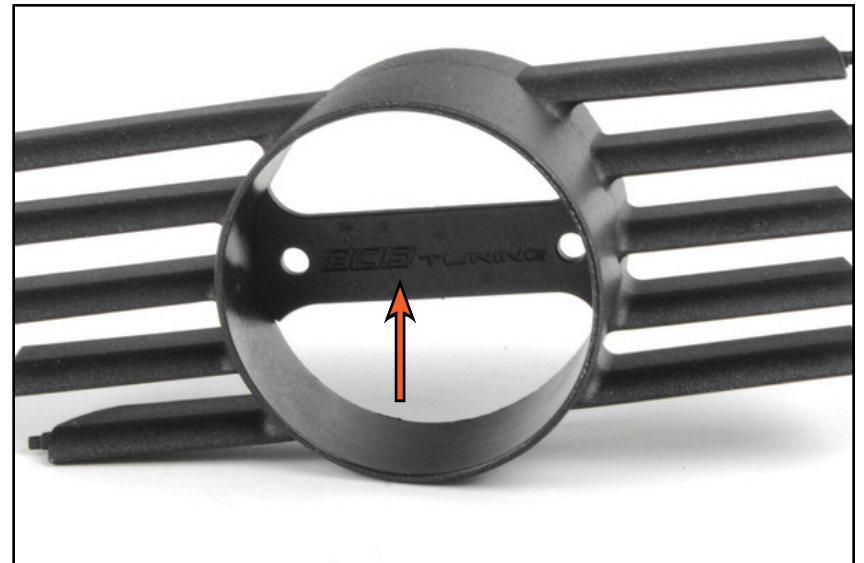
Step 17: Drill, 12mm Drill Bit

Drill a 12mm hole in the vent housing in the location shown in the photo. Use the illumination connector and the picture in step 16 for reference.



Step 18:

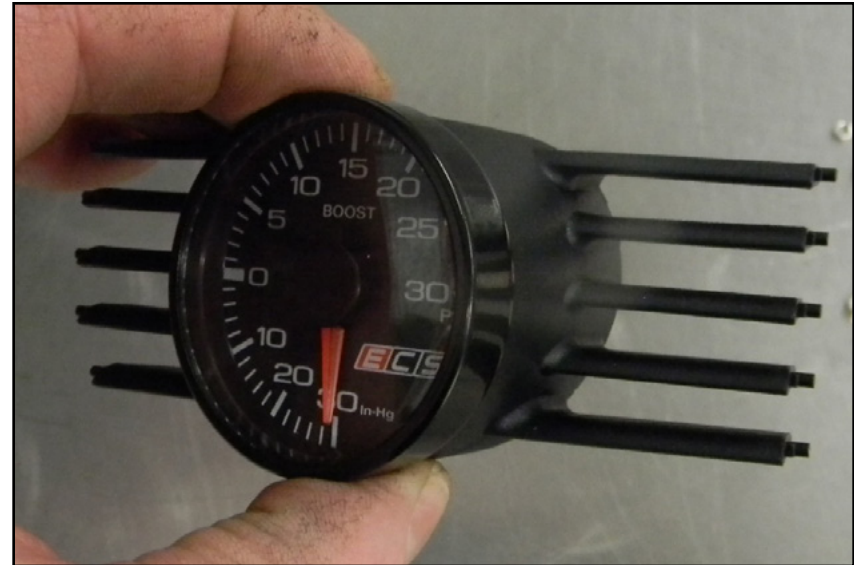
Inspect the vent pod. When the ECS Tuning logo is legible, the vent pod is right side up.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

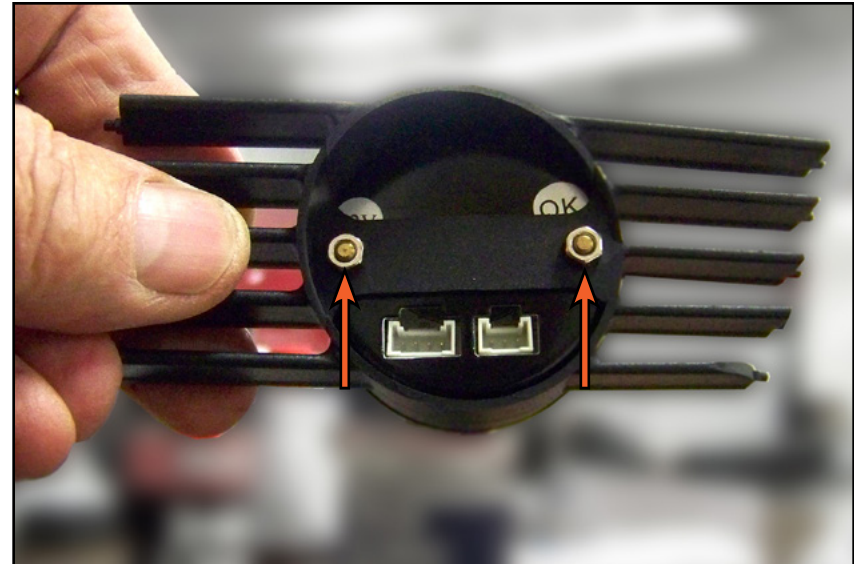
Step 19: 5.5mm Socket

Remove the nuts and lock washers from the gauge studs. Insert the boost gauge into the vent pod, making sure the vent pod is right side up.



Step 20: 5.5mm Socket

Install the nuts and lockwashers onto the gauge studs and tighten them using your fingers until they are snug. Do not over tighten these nuts or you may break the studs on the gauge.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

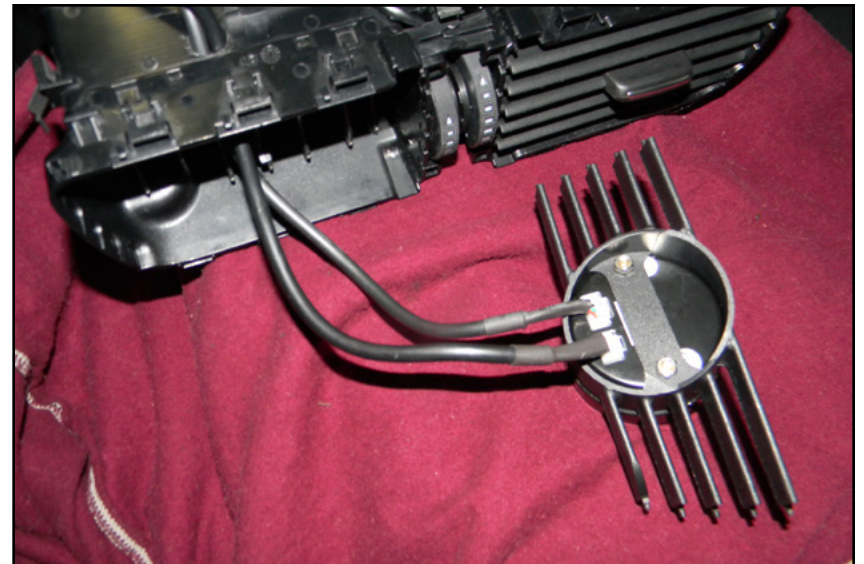
Step 21:

Pull the gauge harnesses through of the dash far enough so you have some room to work. Thread both harnesses through the hole that you drilled into the vent housing and pull them out the front as shown.



Step 22:

Connect both harnesses into the back of the gauge. There is one 3-pin connector and one 4-pin connector. They will only fit one way.



INSTALLING THE VENT POD BOOST GAUGE

Step 23:

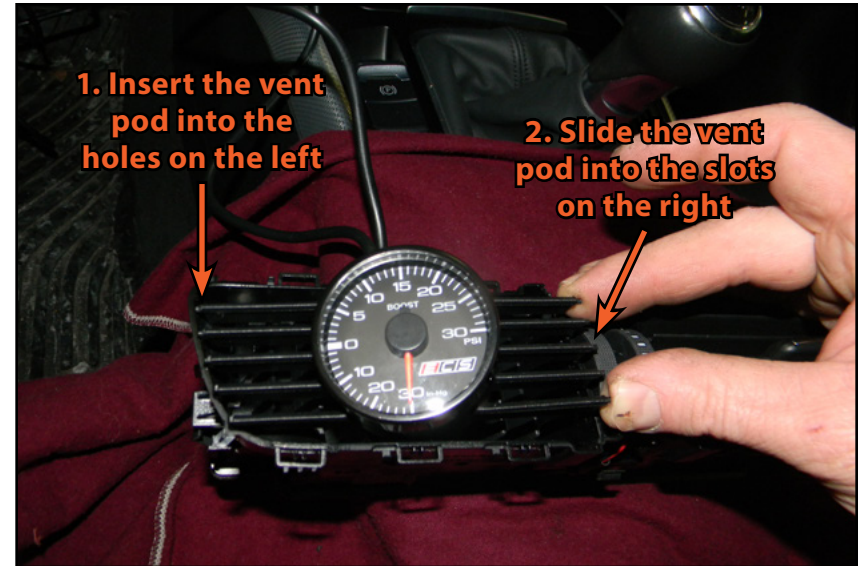
Pull the harnesses back through the vent housing and guide the new vent pod into place by first inserting the LH side of the pod into the housing and second, seating the vent pod into place in the center.

Perform the following:

- Reinstall the vent control roller trim.

- Make sure the vent open/close function is working properly.

- Reinstall the outer vent trim piece.



Step 24

First connect the vent illumination harness, then slide the vent housing into place as you guide the harnesses through and pull the excess down into the driver's footwell.

Perform the following:

- Connect the hazard light switch.

- Reinstall the information display trim surround.



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 1:

Now it's time to provide power, ground and illumination to the gauge. The best place to get all three is at the 12V power socket (cigarette lighter socket) at the base of the center console, but we'll have to disassemble a few things to get to it.

Begin by gripping the HVAC control panel and pulling it towards you to release the clips.



Step 2:

Using care to not scratch the center console, flip the HVAC Controller down to gain access to the harness connectors.



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 3: Flat-Blade Screwdriver

Gently pry up on the connector retaining tabs to unlock the connectors.



Step 4:

Release and unplug the connectors and position them out of the way, then set the HVAC controller aside in a safe location.



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 5: Trim Removal Tool

Gently pry up on each side of the shifter boot to release it from the console. Lift the boot up over the shift knob.



Manual transmission shown. The procedure for an automatic is the same, but you may need to put the shifter into neutral to clear the console panel.



Step 6:

Grasp the center console panel as shown in the photo and pull upward to release the retaining clips, starting towards the rear and working your way forward. Once the panel has been released, snap the shift boot back into place.



CAUTION: Work carefully in this step, tape the surrounding area to prevent damage. Do not pry anywhere in this area with steel or other hard tools or you run the risk of damaging some very expensive plastic.



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

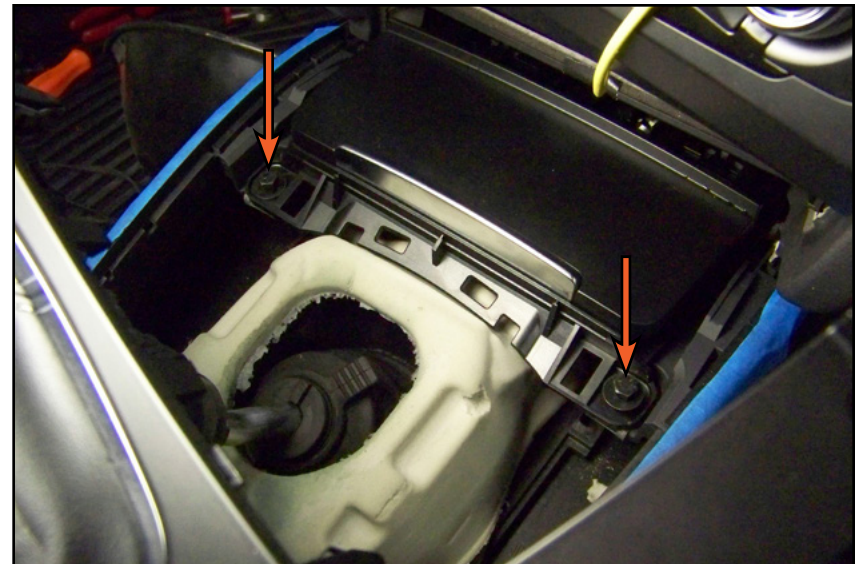
Step 7:

Rotate the center console panel 90° and pull it backwards away from the dashboard slightly in order to give you the space you need to remove the ashtray.



Step 8: 8mm Socket, Ratchet

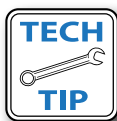
Remove the two screws holding the ashtray assembly in the console (arrows), then slide the ash tray assembly toward the shifter and out of the console. There is no need to disconnect the electrical connector in the back of the ashtray.



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 9:

Carefully flip the ashtray assembly upside-down and lay it on the passenger's seat.

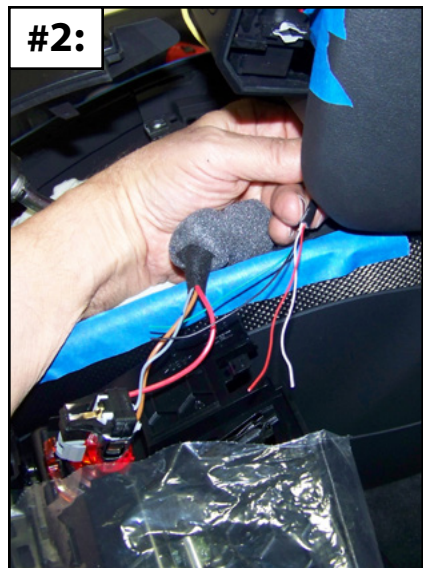


Before flipping the ashtray over to access the power socket wiring, you may wish to slide a clean plastic bag over the assembly to prevent scratching the smooth plastic surfaces.



Step 10:

Fish the power harness up from the driver's side footwell, through the side of the center console (**Photo #1**), into the opening behind the ashtray (**Photo #2**).



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

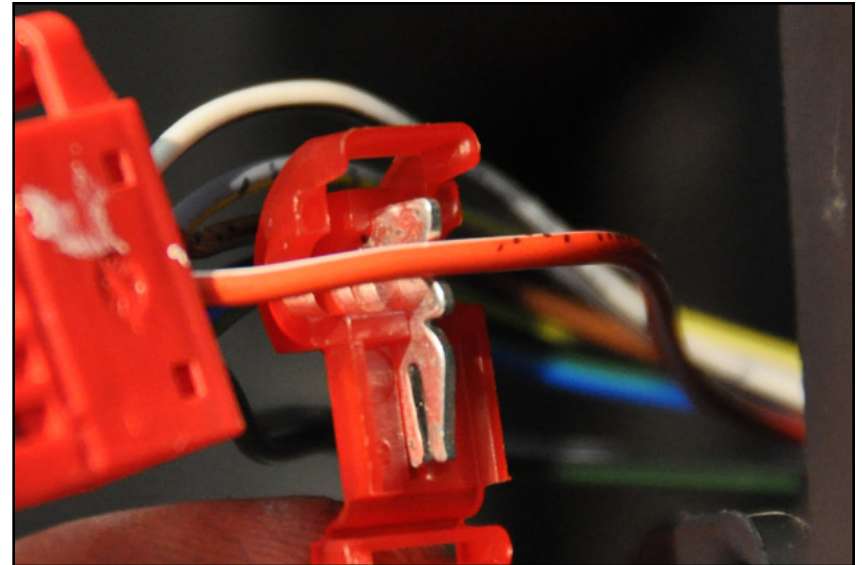
Step 11:

OK, we're just about ready to make the electrical connections. We're going to use the T-taps and the spade terminals included with the kit. Before we continue, here's a quick review on correctly installing T-taps.

Determine the wire that you are going to use, then place it in the groove of the T-tap blade, as shown in the picture on the right.

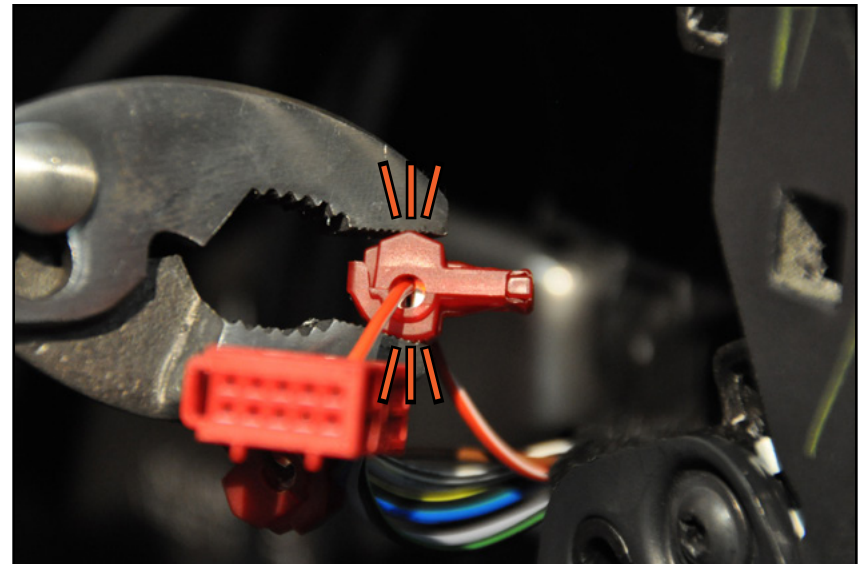


Don't forget, these pictures are just for example and do not reflect the wire colors on your car. The correct wiring guide will follow these examples.



Step 12:

Fold the T-tap closed, then squeeze it together with a pair of curved jaw pliers just until you hear a "click" indicating that it is fully closed. At this point the T-tap will strip the insulation and contact the wire inside, providing a perfect connection point for the spade terminals.

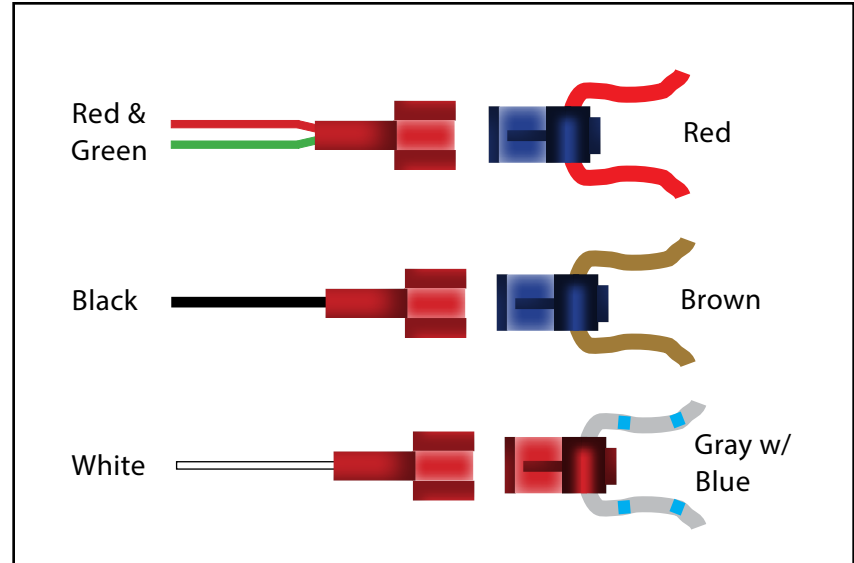


MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 13: Curved Jaw Pliers

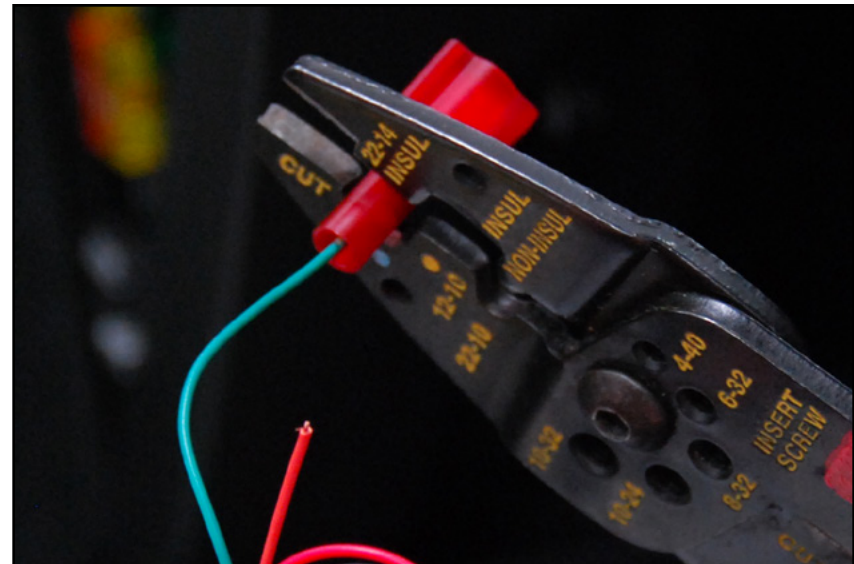
Now that we've reviewed the installation of the T-taps, here's how the wiring will be connected:

Boost Gauge Wire Color	Function	Power Socket Wire Color
Green	12V switched	Red
Black	Ground	Brown
White	Illumination	Gray w/Blue



Step 14:

Strip away a short length of insulation from each of the power harness wires to expose bare copper strand, then crimp one insulated spade terminal over the white wire copper, and another over the black wire. Twist the red and green wires together, and crimp them in a third insulated spade terminal.



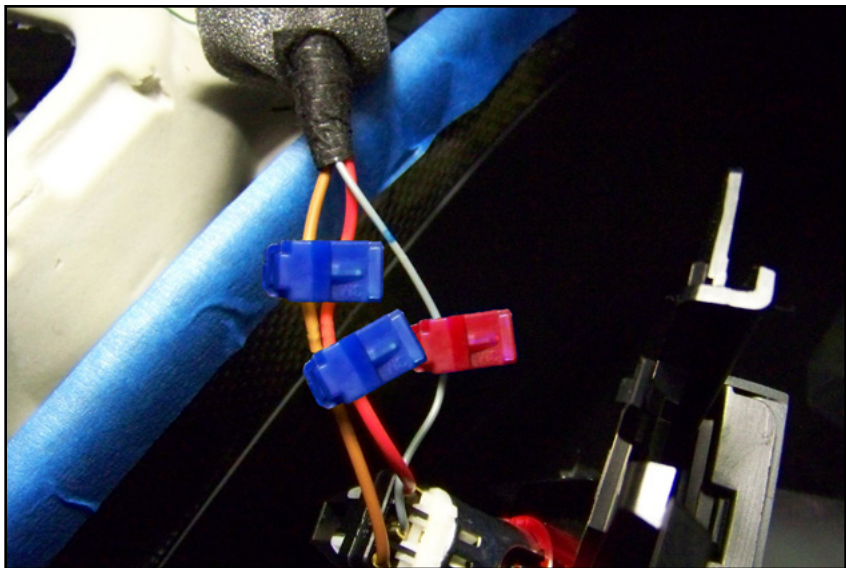
MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 15:

Crimp blue T-taps over the red and brown power socket wires. Crimp the red t-tap over the gray/blue wire.



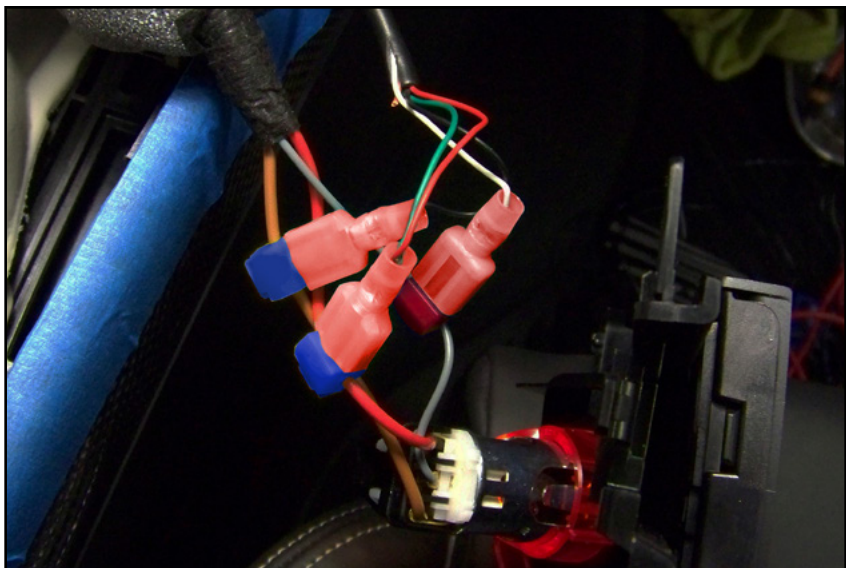
CAUTION: Be sure to use the correct T-taps on the correct wires. They will not make contact correctly and can damage the wires if the wrong sizes are used.



Step 16:

Plug the spade terminals onto the T-tap connectors. The spade terminals will be a tight fit. You will have to support the T-tap and push fairly hard to fully seat each spade terminal. Make sure they are installed per the wiring diagram in step 33:

Boost Gauge Wire Color	Function	Power Socket Wire Color
Green	12V switched	Red
Black	Ground	Brown
White	Illumination	Gray w/Blue



MAKING THE ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS

Step 17:

STOP here, we want to check our electrical connections before we start to reassemble the dash.

Turn on the dash lights, this should illuminate the gauge background, and go from full-bright to dim with the rest of the rest of the dash lights when the dimmer control is used.

Switch the ignition to the ON position, this should cause the gauge to go through its initialization process as soon as it is powered. The gauge needle will rotate counterclockwise to 30, before settling back at zero.

If the gauge passes these tests, the wiring is correct and we can continue.



Step 18:

Reinstall the ashtray, making sure the wires are not pinched in the process.

Reinstall the center console panel into the console. Align it, and press it in place.

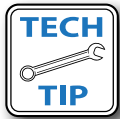
Reinstall the HVAC Controller. Slide it into the dash until it snaps in place.



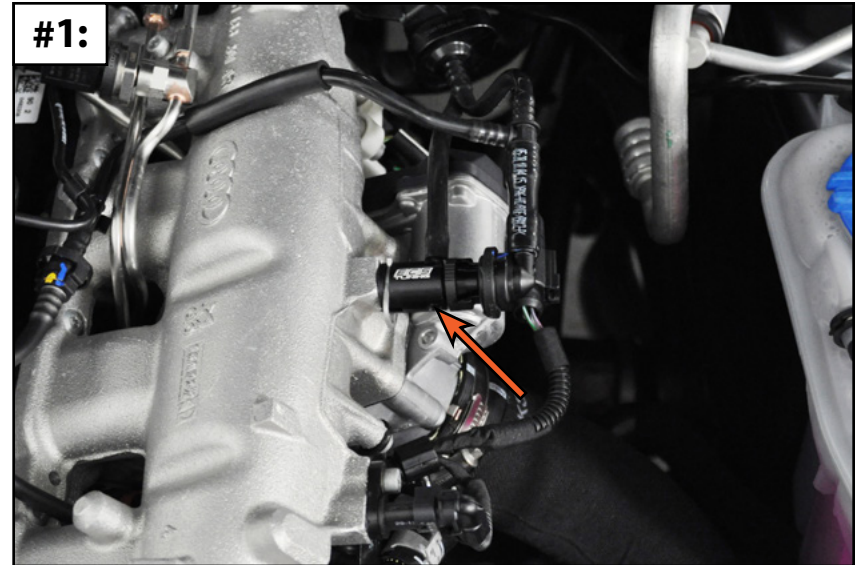
INSTALLING THE BOOST TAP

Step 1:

You'll need to install a boost tap or other suitable vacuum source onto the engine to supply your new boost gauge. **Photo #1** and **Photo #2** show our boost taps installed onto the intake manifold.



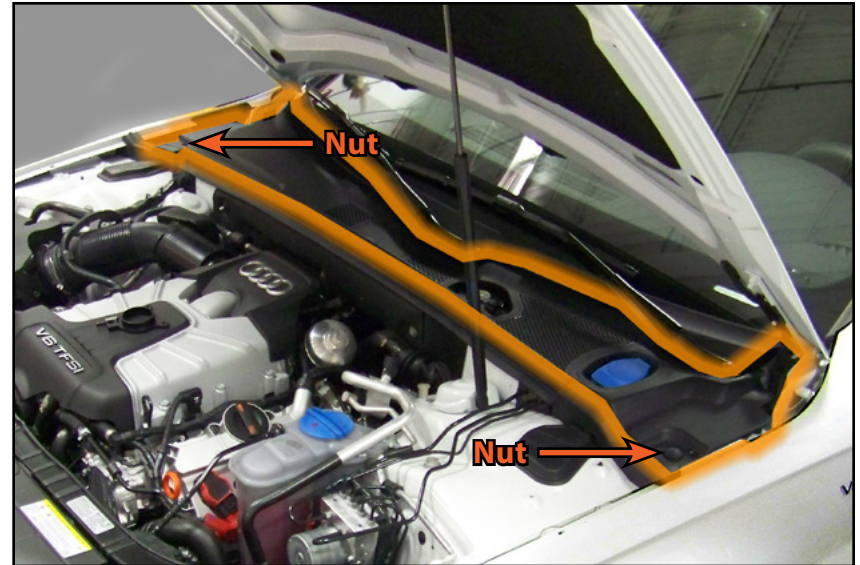
Please reference the installation instructions on [ES#2718328](#) or [ES#2992381](#) for more information.



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 1:

Now it's time to run the vacuum line from the boost transducer under the dash to the boost tap on the intake manifold. First, locate the two plastic nuts on the left and right of the rain tray.



Step 2: Flat Blade Screwdriver

Remove both nuts by turning them counter-clockwise.



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 3: Trim Removal Tool

The rain tray is also held in place by a plastic retainer pin, located beneath the plastic cover for the positive jump start lug. Pry up on the head of this clip to remove it.



Step 4:

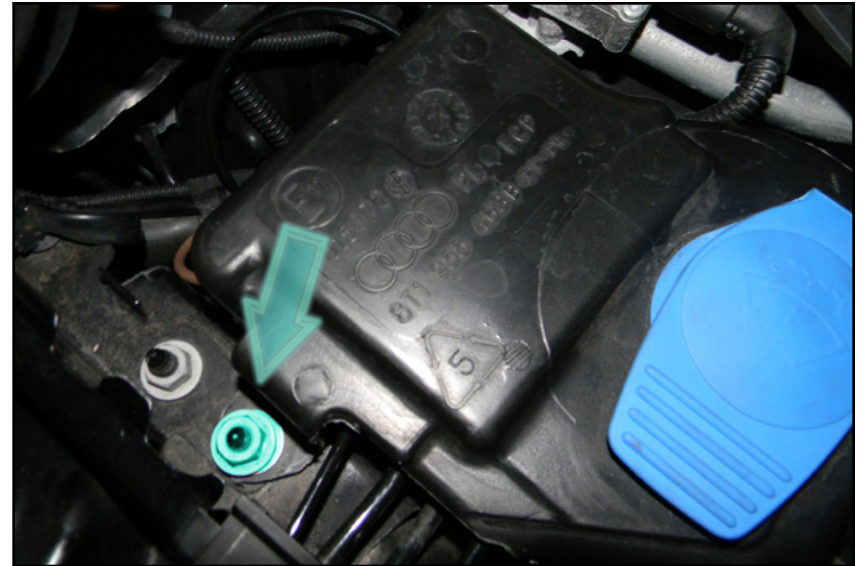
Lift the rain tray up at the front and pull it forward to remove it.



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 5: 13mm Socket, Ratchet

Remove the hold down nut for the washer fluid fill spout, then pull the fill spout up and out.



Step 6: T30 Torx

Remove the three screws and lift off the ECU cover.



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 7:

Route the rigid plastic vacuum tubing starting from inside the vehicle and push it through next to the ECU, into the cowl area.



Step 8: Small Angled Pick

Locate the rubber wiring boot for the ECU harness. Route the plastic tubing through the harness boot as shown in the picture. Using a small angled pick will help you expand one of the existing holes in order to slide the tubing through.



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 9:

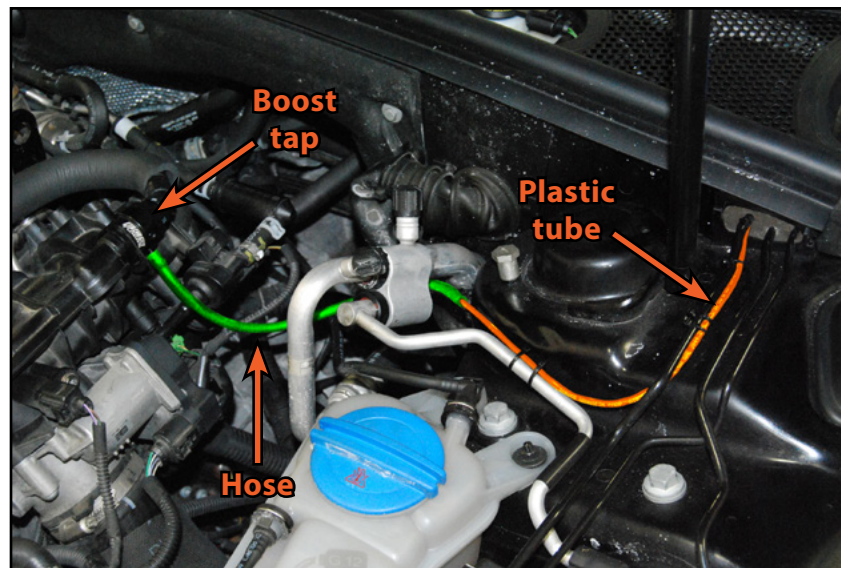
Route the plastic tubing through the foam seal just in front of the ECU housing. Secure it with wire ties, then cut a piece of vacuum hose (the length will vary depending on your intake), and install the hose from the tubing to the boost tap. Make sure there is enough slack so the hose is not pulled tight with engine movement.

Reinstall the ECU cover.

Reinstall the washer fluid spout.

Reinstall the rain tray.

Reinstall the engine cover.



Step 10:

Back inside, cut a short piece of the rubber vacuum hose and connect the plastic tubing to the filter. Cut another piece of hose and connect the filter to the transducer (the filter can be installed in either direction).



CONNECTING TO THE VACUUM SOURCE

Step 11:

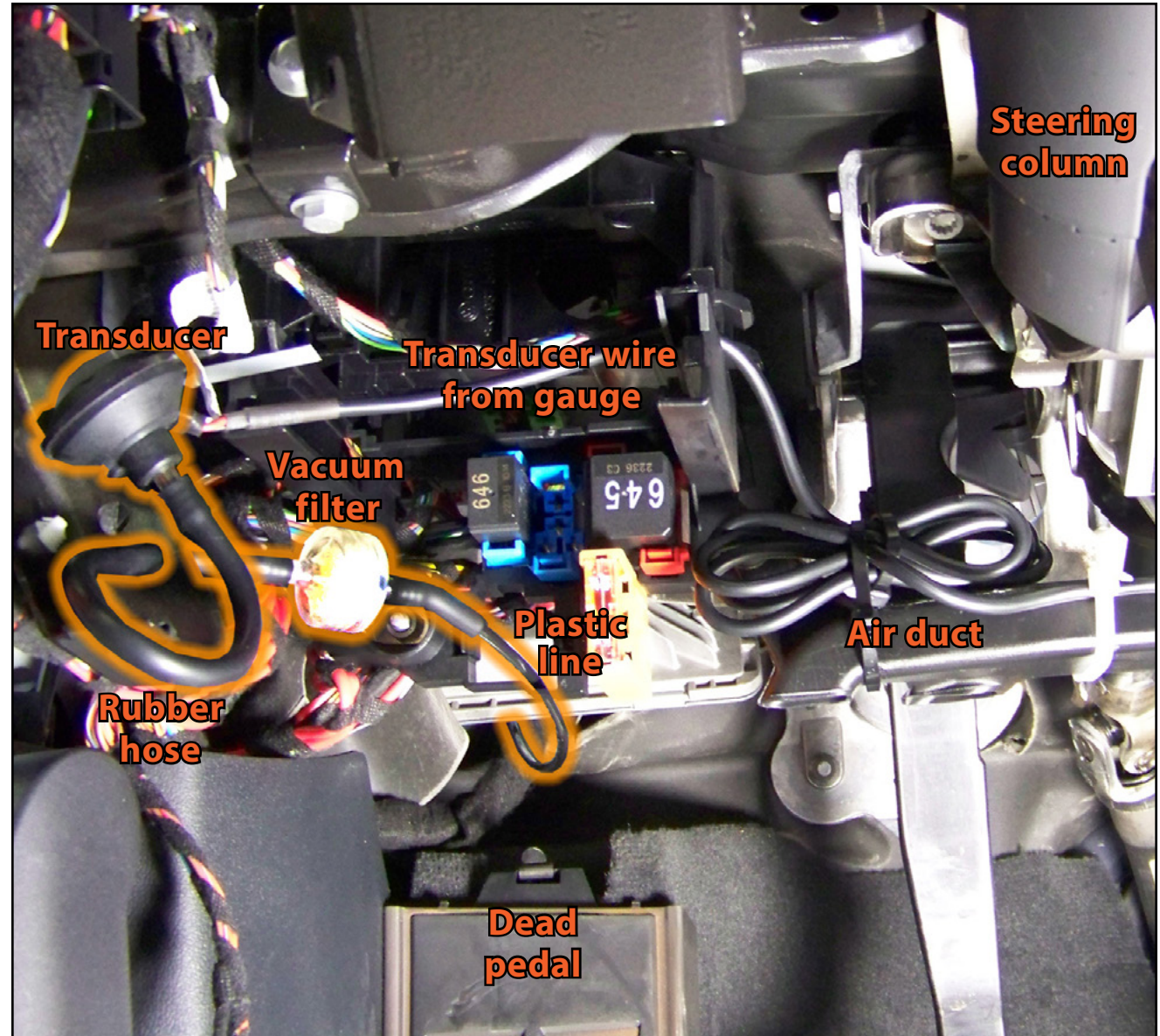
Zip tie the transducer to the metal support bracket at the left side of the dash. Make sure the nipple of the transducer points downwards so any moisture in the hose cannot collect inside the transducer body. Secure the vacuum hose and line using zip ties.

Route the transducer wire from the gauge across the air duct, above the pedals. Tie any excess length into a neat bundle, then use zip ties to secure the cable to the duct so it cannot get tangled in the pedals, steering linkage, or any other moving components.

Reinstall the knee panel.

Reinstall the LH dash side cover.

Congratulations, your vent pod and boost gauge installation is complete!



Your Vent Pod Boost Gauge 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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