

Remove & Replace Power Antenna

The following procedure was accomplished on a 1993 Pontiac Bonneville SSE, but should be applicable to several different years and makes/models.

Replacing the power antenna on your car is probably one of the simplest tasks you can do. You can purchase a used antenna at a junk yard, or off one of the parts peddlers on Bonneville Club (recommended), or buy a brand new one (about \$100). Any way you choose, there's no longer an excuse for having a permanently half-extended antenna on your car. Swapping your broken antenna is so easy. It's a matter of removing two screws, disconnecting two connectors, and pulling the antenna out. Should take you about 15 minutes, including trips to the fridge.

Liability Statement:

The author of this article, his relatives, associates, acquaintances, neighbors, pen pals, dog, goldfish, etc. accept no liability whatsoever should you damage your vehicle, body, or mind in any way. In other words, you are responsible for your own actions should anything negative happen as a result of your ineptitude or due to sheer accident.

Tools Required:

10mm socket

Ratchet

Extension (optional, but handy)

Panel retainer puller or screwdriver

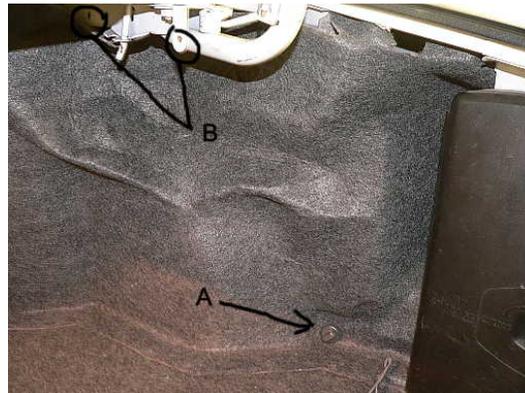
Tools NOT Required:

Cuss words

NOTE: This procedure is applicable to OEM (original equipment manufacturer) antenna assemblies. If you choose to install an aftermarket unit you will probably have to do some serious mods to electrical and coaxial fittings, and it may require mods to the fender mount. Personally, I'd go with OEM 'cause it's easy and I'm lazy – if you decide on aftermarket, you're on your own!

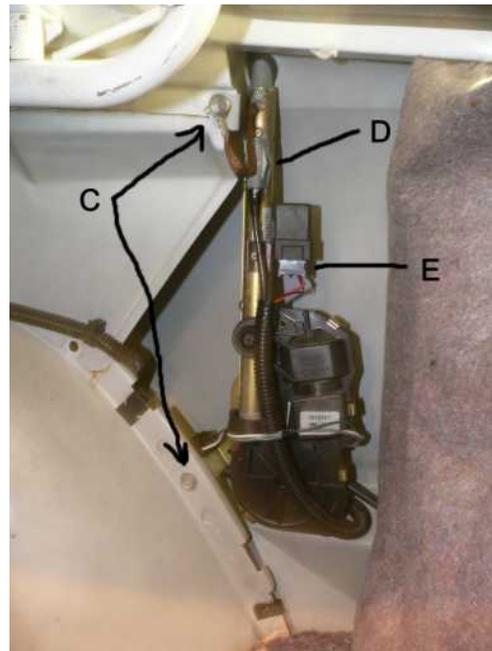
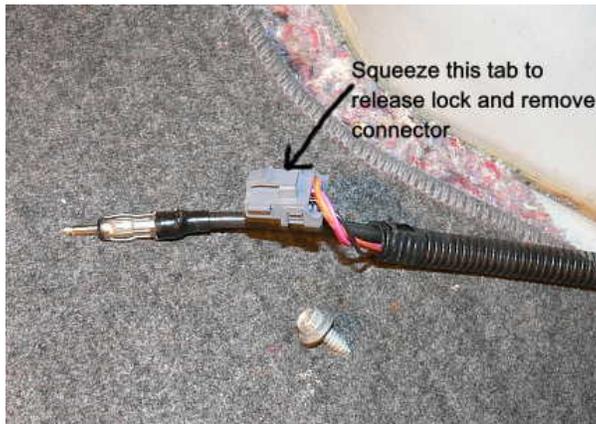
Here's how to do it, by the numbers:

1. The antenna in a 93 Bonneville is located in the right rear quarter panel. To access it you need to pull the formed carpet out of the way. There are two plastic panel retainers securing the top of the carpet in locations "B" (they're already removed in the picture). There's a very cool tool available to pop these dudes out – it looks like a pair of pliers with forks on the end. If you don't have one, consider investing in one. They work on door panels, body panels, just about anywhere these plastic retainers are used. Or you can work these loose with a



screwdriver. You will also need to remove the cargo net hook "A". It just unscrews.

2. Pull the carpet back and you'll see the power antenna. The first thing you need to do is pull the electrical connections at "D" & "E". D is the antenna coax, just pull straight down on it and it will come out. There are actually two connectors at E. The one you can see in the picture can stay in, there's one right behind it that needs to come loose. I found it easier to remove the one you can see, even though you don't need to. There's a little tab in the center of the connector that you'll have to squeeze to release the lock and pull the connector out.



3. The hard part is done. Remove the two 10mm screws at locations "C". The top one is chassis ground for your dash board electronics, the lower one actually holds the antenna in place. There's a water drain hose at "F" that you will need to pull out too. Once you do this you merely pull down on the antenna assembly and it comes right out. It will still come out if your antenna is extended too – you just have to pull it out at an angle.



4. Put a little silicon grease or spray some silicon lube on the end of the new antenna (the end that will go up through the fender). This helps it go through the grommet. Notice that the grommet has serrations in it and the top of the antenna housing has matching serrations, so you will need to position the antenna assembly properly before shoving the antenna home.
5. Install the lower retaining screw (C). You're practically done!
6. Push the drain tube into its hole (F) and seal it up with the black tar from the old tube. Make sure to work it in good – you don't want any more leaks.

7. Connect the antenna coax (D) and the electrical connector (E). They should push into place easily.
8. Now's a good time to clean up the contact surfaces on your ground point (upper screw (C)). Use a piece of sandpaper or a wire brush to brighten up the mating surfaces, then install the ground. A little dielectric grease applied here will help prevent corrosion.
9. All that's left is to position the carpet, press in the retainers (B), and screw the cargo net hook into place.

Go turn your radio on. Antenna goes up. Radio off, antenna goes down. Radio on, antenna goes up. Radio off, antenna goes down. OK, that's enough. Ya done good.