

## Front Door Panel Removal 1992-99 Bonneville

The intention of this tech article is to provide step-by-step instructions for removing the front door panel on 1992-1999 Bonneville.

### Liability Statement:

Perform this task at your own risk! Neither the author nor anyone associated with this article accept ANY liability if you damage your car, hurt yourself, or otherwise screw something up. This is a guideline designed to help you perform the tasks described herein, therefore the risk is yours and so is the responsibility.

### Application Note:

The following procedure was performed on a 1993 Bonneville SSE. It should, however, be applicable to all trim levels of 92-95 Bonneville. 96-99 Bonneville are pretty much the same with very minor differences (e.g. bolt sizes).

### Skill Level Required ~ **2-2.5**

On a scale of 1 to 5 where

- 1 = What's a wrench?
- 1.5 = I've *seen* a wrench before.
- 2 = Got me some tools!
- 2.5 = Got me some tools, and I ain't afraid ta use 'em.
- 3 = Decent mechanic, but some things scare me.
- 3.5 = Good mechanic – ain't skeert.
- 4 = Highly skilled in the mechanical arts.
- 4.5 = Mechanical wizard.
- 5 = Automotive god...don't try this at home.

### Tools Needed –

Small common screwdriver

7mm socket

10mm socket

3" extension

Ratchet

T15 Torx driver

Panel retainer pliers\*

Slight amount of patience

\*Not required, but very, very handy (and cool, too).

A note of caution before we get started. There are several plastic parts on the door panel and the plastic tabs that hold these parts on are prone to breakage. The liability statement above is applicable – if you wind up breaking anything, that's your deal.

## FRONT DOOR PANEL REMOVAL

1. Refer to figure 1. There are 3 trim items you need to remove to get to hidden screws. They're labeled 1, 2, and 3. Note that in the picture there's a speaker grille, an armrest reflector, and a courtesy light lens removed. Those items were taken by someone else and don't need to be removed to pull the door panel. The courtesy light assembly needs to be removed, but the lens can be left on.



Figure 1

2. There is a small torx-head screw holding the trim piece in place around the door handle (#1 in Figure 1). To get to this screw you need to pop a little trim cover off. Do this by sticking a small common screwdriver in the slot identified in Figure 2. Pry up and it will pop right off revealing the hidden screw (Figure 3, item A).



**Figure 2**

3. Remove the small screw, Figure 3, item A. The trim piece will come loose but will not come off because of the lock knob. To remove the trim piece, work it over the door handle then pull it as far forward as the lock knob will allow (the orange will disappear). Pull the front of the trim panel toward you and the lock knob will pop off the lock rod (Figure 4) and the trim piece will be free.



Figure 3

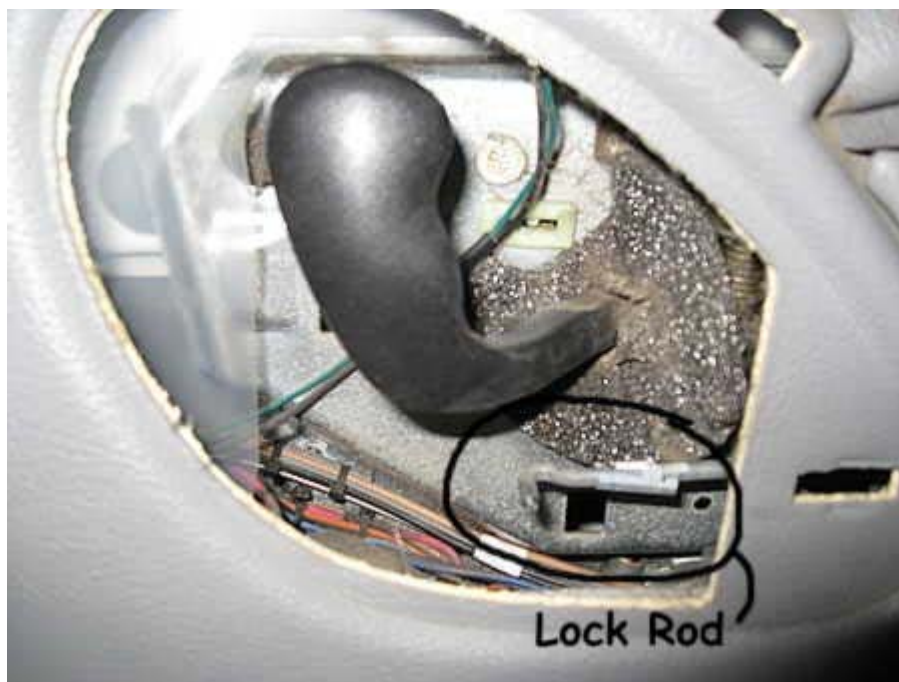


Figure 4

4. Now you can remove the piece of trim with the window control illuminator in it (Figure 1, #2). Stick your little common screwdriver under the front of this trim piece and pry up. Once it pops loose, pull it forward and it will be free. There's a spring clip on the front of this piece (Figure 3 B), and on the back (Figure 3 C) there's a solid retaining tab that happens to be broken off on this one. Break the electrical connection and set this dude in a safe place. Notice the 10mm bolt you've revealed.
5. Time to go after the courtesy light (Figure 1, #3). You want to work your common screwdriver under the aft area (Figure 5 D) of this item to pop it out, then slide it back to remove it. There is a retaining tab on the front that forces you to slide it back (Figure 5 E). Break the electrical connection and set this in the safe place next to the window control illuminator. Take note of the two 10mm bolts you've just found.



Figure 5

6. Dude, you're practically there! Next, if your car has them, there are a couple 7mm screws near the lower door speaker, shown in Figure 6. Remove them.



**Figure 6**

7. Get your 10mm socket and remove the three 10mm bolts you discovered earlier.
8. The only thing holding you back now is the plastic trim clips all over the back of the panel. You can work these out with a common screwdriver, but if you have a clip tool that's even better. And a sweet pair of trim clip pliers (Figure 7) wins you added cool points with the mechanic wannabe's in your neighborhood. You can see them in action in Figure 8. Figure 9 shows you the approximate locations of the panel clips.





**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**



**Figure 9**

9. Once you have all the trim clips loose the door panel will slip up and out. Not too bad, eh? And knowing all the secrets to those little plastic parts, reassembly will be a breeze. Now go take the dog for a walk and tell him all about it, he'll be happy to listen.