

This write-up applies to replacing the horn buttons (can also apply to replacing the air bag). If you have a convertible, it is more convenient to put the top down. Work should take 60 – 90 minutes. Read through this tutorial before proceedings.

Tools: #20 and #30 Torx with a short neck (for removing air bag) and the appropriate tool to remove the car battery cables (i.e.: crescent wrench).

1. Picture #1: With the engine turned on, turn the steering wheel so the airbag is at a near vertical position (for easier access to the screws behind the air bag).



2. Turn off the engine, disconnecting the negative battery cable first and then the positive (to desensitize the airbag). Go have a cup of coffee and a danish. The air bag has an auxiliary power unit for deployment in case of an accident that causes the car battery not to work. It takes 30 minutes for that auxiliary capacitor to fully discharge (before handling the air bag) once the car battery has been disconnected.
3. Picture #2: With 30 minutes passed since you disconnected both negative and positive battery cables, adjust the tilt steering wheel to its lowest point (it should seem to be sitting on your lap). Using a #30 Torx, remove the four screws behind the steering wheel/air bag housing (see red circles). You may need a 'short neck' attached to the #30 Torx in order to access the screws and not be hampered by the instrument panel. I suggest loosening all four screws first and then go back and remove the bottom two screws to release the lower portion of the air bag (the screws won't remove but will stay attached to the steering wheel housing. You will know success when you no longer feel resistance from the screws). Supporting the lower portion with one hand, remove the two top screws. Slowly separate the entire air bag from the steering wheel but **do not move it more than an inch or two away.**



Picture #3: With the airbag less than an inch or two away from the housing, there are two attachments you need to remove. One is the black spring horn cable with a retention notch for horn activation (circled in **green**) and the other is the **yellow** feed for the air bag circled in **purple**.

Support the air bag with one hand while you first remove the black spring horn cable. By hand, gently turn it $\frac{1}{4}$ to the left (or maybe right) and pull out. You should now be able to pull the air bag another inch or two away from the housing/steering wheel (you still have the connection for air bag deployment still attached). For the yellow air bag connection, separate the yellow connector feed from the steering wheel *from* the yellow connector on the back of the air bag. You should now be able to separate the entire air bag (with horn buttons) from the steering wheel.



4. Picture #4: Turn the air bag over. On both sides to the rear of the air bag there are two screws that hold each horn button in place (see blue circles). But first, remove the black horn cable lead connection from the rear of each horn button (circled in orange) by pulling back gently (if it won't separate, you may need a tool like a small pen knife to loosen the connection). Then, with a #20 Torx, remove each screw from the first horn button and it should fall out (you may need to tap it out from the rear as it has been there for over 20 years!).



5. Place your new horn button in the housing, attach with the two screws you just removed and re-attach the one feed of the horn cable to the back end of the horn button.
6. For the second horn button, repeat the last half of step 4 and of the previous step.
7. Picture #5: With new horn buttons in place, start reversing the process. First re-connect the yellow air bag connector with the yellow connector feed coming from the steering wheel. Then re-insert the black spring horn cable into the air bag/steering wheel housing (see **burgundy** circle for insertion point). Place the air bag inside the housing and re-attach (go to step 3 but reverse the process). White circles are the screws that attach the air bag with the steering wheel.



8. With the air bag (and horn buttons) securely re-attached to the steering wheel, re-connect the battery cables (positive first and then the negative cable). Go back to the steering wheel and see if the horn buttons work.



9. Grab yourself a cold beverage to celebrate a job well done!