

# Saturn Sky Radio/Head Unit Removal and Replacement

Version 1

April 4, 2010

## Suggested tools:

- 7mm socket (required).
- Sharp, well-used medium standard screwdriver to remove force-fit panels (sharp blade seats behind panels with less damage, well-used tool has rounded secondary edges so it less likely to damage panels).
- Medium jewelers standard screwdriver (helpful to get some panels started).
- Small wonderbar or hive tool (helps remove some panels).
- Headlamp or flashlight.
- Strong fingers.
- Patience.

## Fastener Summary (7mm screw unless otherwise noted):

Left-side lower dash panel: Two on left side under panel, two along bottom edge.

Left-side lower dash cover panel: Two press-fit “thumb tacks”

Right-side lower dash panel: Two on right side under panel. Five in glove compartment area (two under small covers, one near latch bar, two along bottom).

Center dash panel: Two along left edge. (two are also shared with right-side dash panel).

Total 7mm screws: 13

## Procedure:

1. Open driver's side door and remove dash side cover panel. This panel is force-fit only.

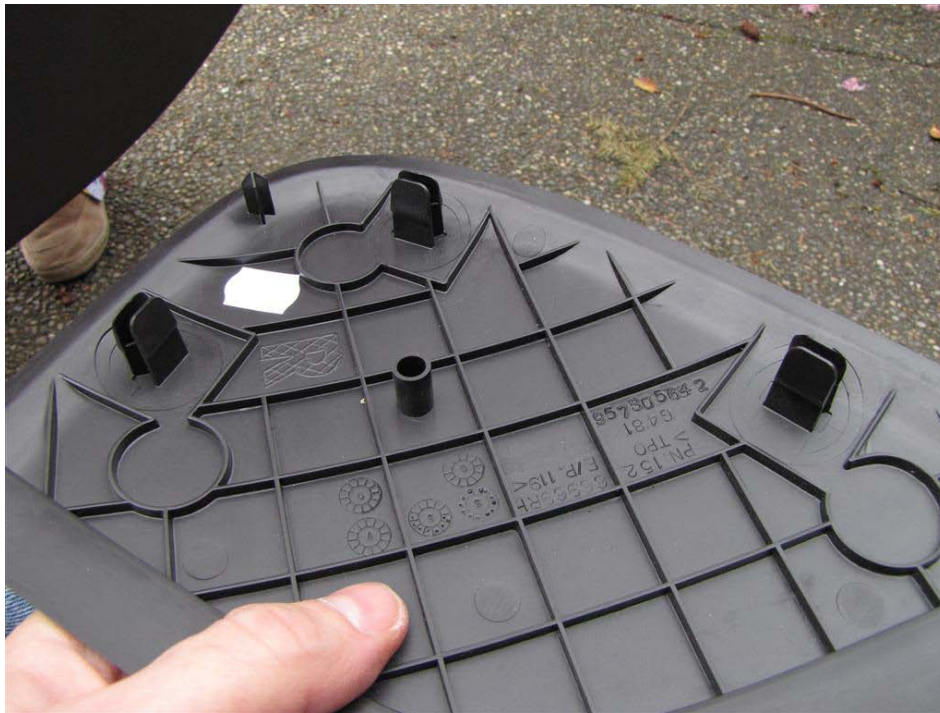


There is a flange that seats behind the door trim panel and three plastic force-fit retainers. It may be easiest to

use a medium jeweler's standard screwdriver to being popping out the panel where the three seams meet (circle). Once you can get your finger tips behind it, just pull it off.



Side panel coming off.



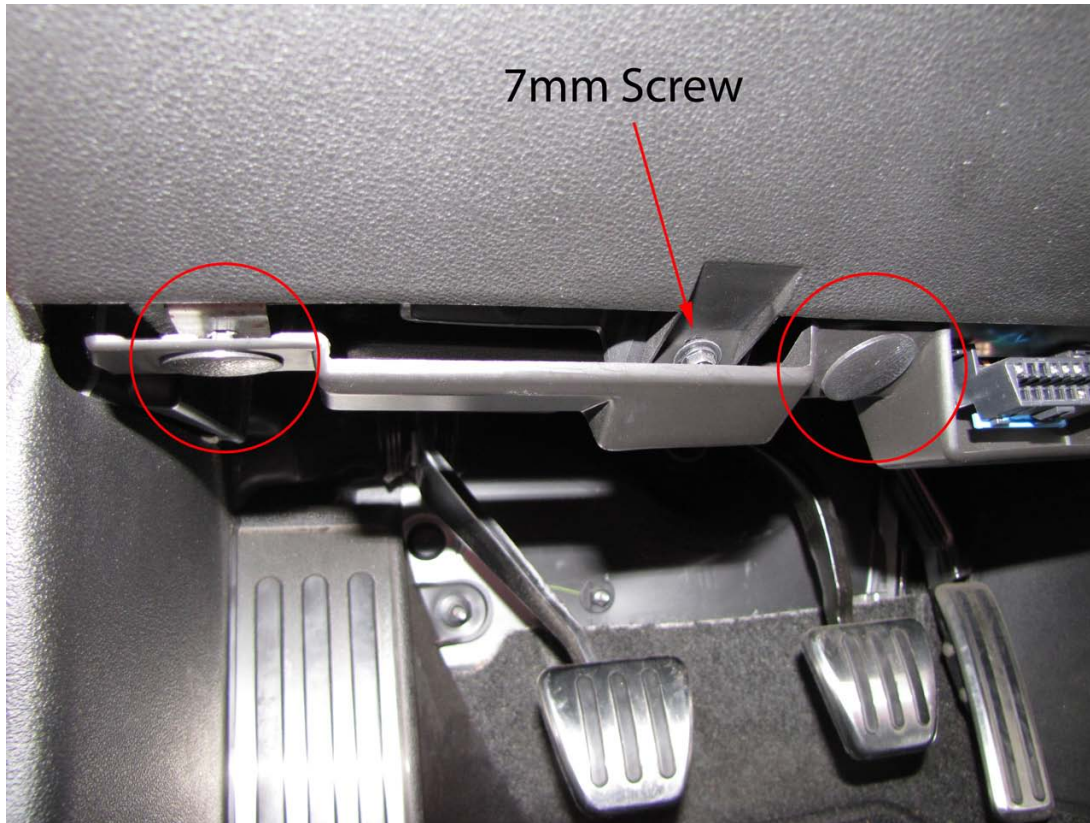
Passenger side cover panel showing plastic retaining clips.

2. Remove the bottom two 7mm screws:

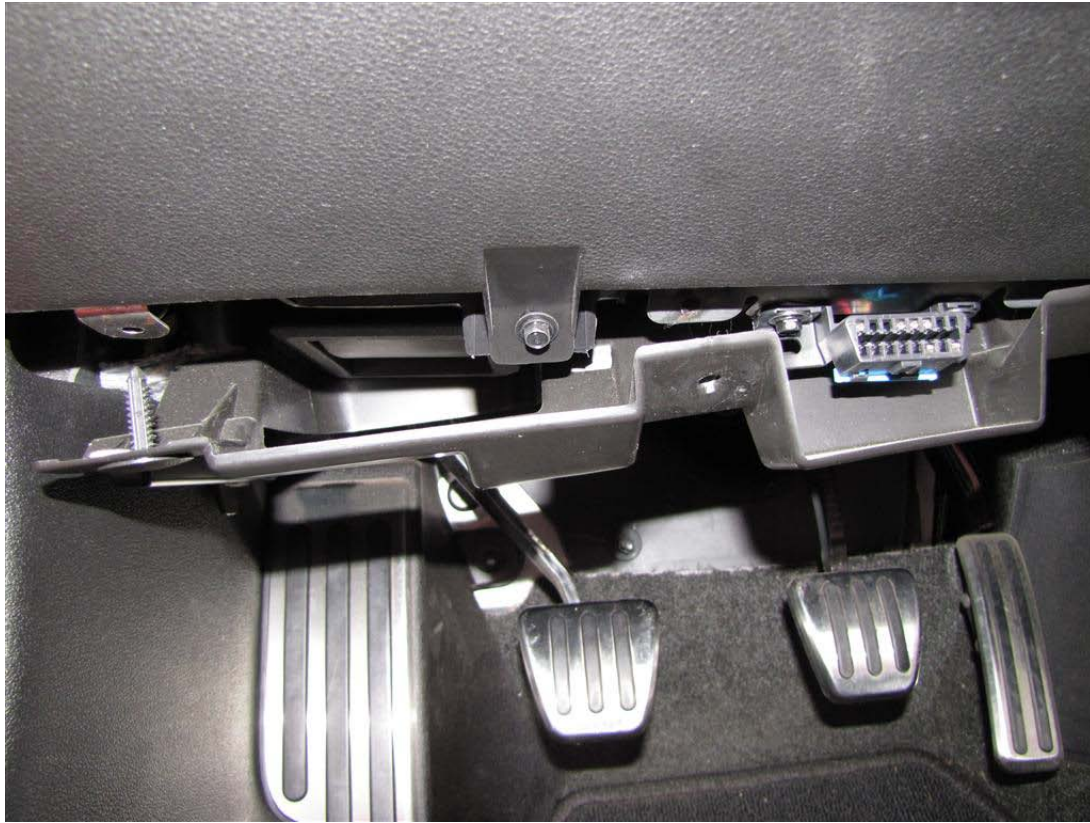




3. Partially remove the cover panel under the dash so that you can remove the 7mm screw. This requires removing two plastic “thumb-tack” type retainers and loosening a third.



The third “thumb-tack” is off-screen to the right, on the other side of the diagnostic tool interface. The two circled have to be removed in order to remove the 7mm screw (arrow). Use a combination of large standard screwdriver, hive tool or mini wonderbar, and fingers. You should be able to work them loose without breaking them.



“Thumb-tacks” removed.

4. Remove the second 7mm screw to the right on the one removed in step 6.
5. Remove the lower dash trim panel. This requires some wiggling and gentle tugging.

6. Remove the dash side cover panel from the passenger side. Repeat the procedure from the driver side:





7. Open the glove compartment and remove the two screw cover panels:



The right cover is removed already in this picture. Use a medium jewelers standard screwdriver to gently pry them loose from the top. Leave the 7mm screws in place for now.

8. Detach the glove compartment damper cable. It looks like you can unhook the cable from its attachment point, but it's easier to detach the attachment point from the glove compartment itself.



Glove compartment damper cord. Do not try to detach the cord from the hook.



Release the damper cord by pulling it to create slack, then pushing the circled nub down and then through the enlarged hole in the glove compartment sidewall.

9. Detach the glove compartment hinges and drop the glove compartment down and out of the way of a 7mm screw. This requires a good deal of force on the sides of the glove compartment where the retaining tabs are located, and on the retaining tabs. You may need to work back and forth between both sides. Before the assembly comes loose.

\*\*\*DRAFT NOTE: THIS STEP MAY NOT BE REQUIRED WITH CORRECT TOOLS ( NUT DRIVER EXTENSION AND ¼" DRIVE RATCHET).





The retaining tab is on the other side of this circled tab.



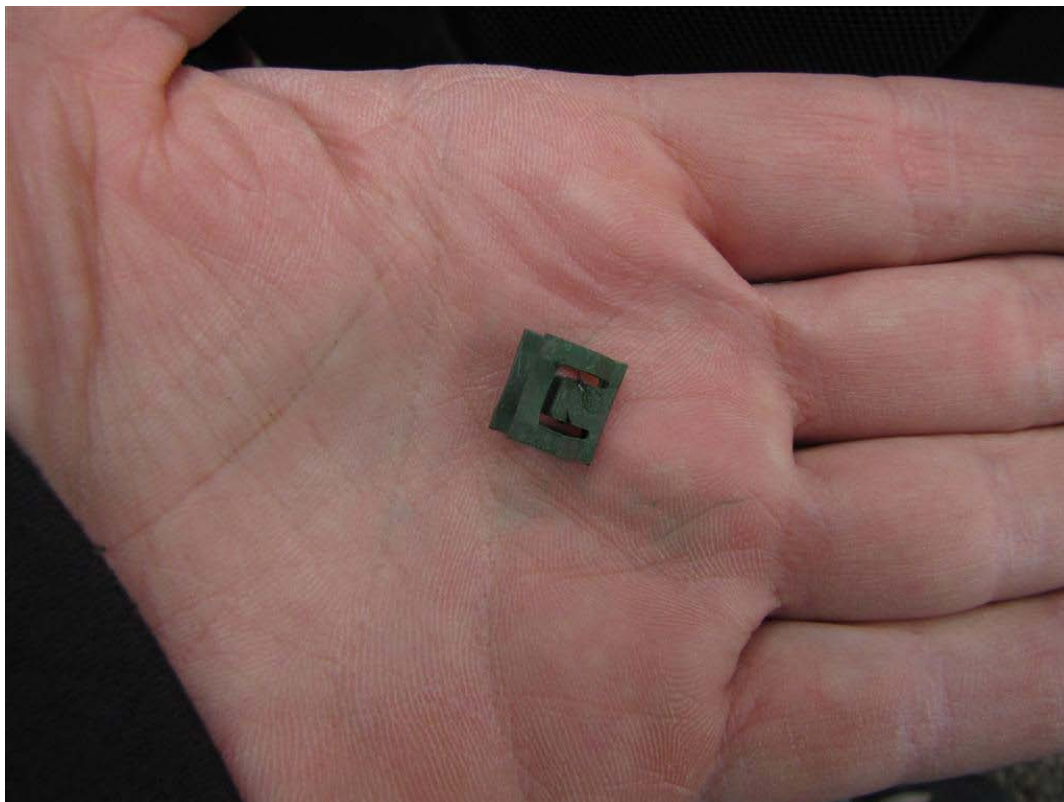
This picture shows the retaining tab with the glove compartment dropped down. The tab cannot be seen until the glove compartment is released.

10. Remove the five 7mm screws:



The top two are shown with the covers on.

11. Remove the lower dash cover panel and glove compartment. You do not need to disconnect the trunk release wiring. Several press-fit clips and alignment pins hold it in place. You may find a loose green retaining clip once this panel is removed:



It goes here:



This is the top right corner of the passenger side lower dash panel. There is a matching green clip on the driver's side, but it seems much less prone to coming loose when the panel is removed.

12. Carefully remove the upper piano black climate control cover. Though it is painted with exterior paint, it is prone to scratching and this panel is difficult to remove.





I started with a medium standard jeweler's screwdriver at the point where the three seams meet (circled), then worked along the bottom edge with the sharp medium standard screwdriver, using a piece of cardboard to protect the radio face. The panel basically slides forward, but it's easiest to work the bottom edge first. Once it is loose you can lift it and set it on the dash- you don't have to disconnect any wires.

13. Remove the 7mm screw on the left side of the center lower dash cover panel (driver's knee area):

\*\*\*DRAFT NOTE: There is a second screw here. Is it out of frame above???



14. Remove the center lower dash panel. It's a snug fit against the other panels, so it takes some gentle tugging and pulling.



15. Remove the airbag indicator and traction control cluster from the center lower dash panel. This is easy and saves removing the connectors from the back of the cluster:



16. Set the center lower dash panel in the passenger side, so you can get to the four 7mm screws that hold the head unit in place.
17. Remove the four 7mm screws from the head unit:





18. The head unit should now slide part way out of the dash. Make sure the car is in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or reverse to maximize clearance. It will feel like there isn't enough wire length to remove the head unit, but the extra is just coiled behind a metal bracket behind the head unit. Pull gently until you reach behind the head unit and pull the spare wire out. There are two multi-wire connectors and an antenna connector.



This shows the holes behind which the extra wiring is coiled.

19. Release the wires from the head unit:



The two multi-wire connectors have retaining clips on the top. Depress the clips and wiggle the cables loose. The antenna cable is force-fit and takes a good amount of force to remove.

20. Connect the new head unit. You may want to turn the key to the ACC location now to make sure it works before completing reassembly.
21. Reverse the process to reassemble. The most difficult parts are making sure the various wires are push into the proper locations so they don't obstruct the head unit and trim pieces from seating properly. Make sure to retrieve the glove compartment damper cord before reseating the glove compartment retaining tabs. There is a flange on the center lower dash panel that seats behind the head unit:



22. Plug in your iPod and ENJOY!

