

TESLA MODEL 3 STEERING WHEEL INSTALLATION

RK950-01 – Carbon Fiber/Leather

RK950-02 – Ultra Suede/Alcantara

Est Time: 20-30min

Required Tools:

- Small Flat Screwdriver or Pin Punch
- 10mm Hex Bit Socket
- T25 Torx Bit Screwdriver

Removing the Steering Wheel:

NOTE: Prior to performing the installation, make sure the power within the vehicle is off. To do this, select "Safety & Security" and select "power off". Please note that touching the brake or the infotainment screen will turn power back on.

1. Insert a small flat screwdriver or a pin punch into the small hole on the passenger's side of the steering wheel as shown in image below. Apply pressure inboard and that side of the airbag module will come free. The inboard pressure is releasing a formed wire to free the airbag module, similar to a C clip.



(Referenced hole on either side of steering wheel)



(Internal view of the formed wire being released inside of steering wheel)

2. Repeat this process on the driver's side hole and press to release the other side of the airbag module on the steering wheel. (NOTE: You can release the insert by doing these steps in both holes at the same time. They do not need to be done independently). Do not apply excessive force to pull the airbag module free from the steering wheel. If it does not easily pull free, the wire retainer on one or both sides may not be entirely released.
3. Remove the yellow electrical connector by holding down on the top and bottom of the connector and pulling it free. Repeat this for the Purple/Maroon connector to remove the airbag module from the steering wheel core completely.



(Reference image of internals of steering wheel core with connectors still connected)

4. Using a 10mm hex bit socket (and breaker bar if needed), remove the bolt holding the steering wheel on the steering column. A second set of hands may be needed to hold the steering wheel stationary while breaking the bolt free.
5. Ensure the steering wheel is clocked in a neutral position with the front tires pointing forward. Pull the steering wheel towards you with a slight rocking motion to remove the wheel from the steering column.

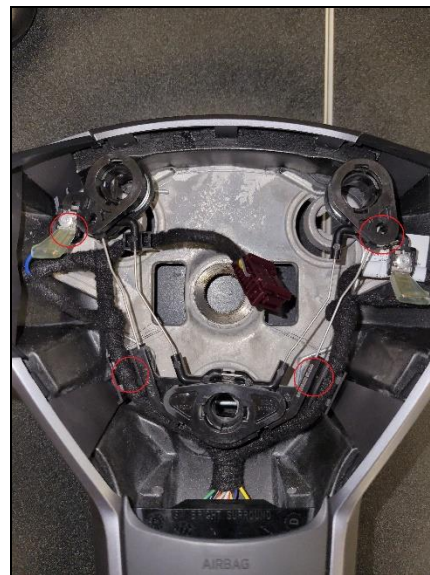
Removing OEM Steering Wheel Components:

1. Turn the steering wheel upside down and squeeze the three tabs arranged in a triangular shape (as shown in image below) to release the horn tabs from the steering wheel core.



(Referenced image showing back of steering wheel core and location of tabs to be removed from locked position)

2. Turn the steering wheel back over. Using a T25 torx bit, remove (x4) screws from the inside of the steering wheel core holding the controls bezel. Be sure to save the screws as they will be reused. Undoing the tabs from the prior step will make accessing these screws significantly easier.



(Reference of where T25 Torx Screws are located with/without hardware within steering wheel core)

3. After the screws are removed, pull on the steering wheel bezel applying upward pressure to pull the bezel with controls completely free of the core.
4. Remove the wire airbag retainer from the core of the steering wheel by squeezing it inward. It will be reused in your installation of the new steering wheel.

Installing the New Steering Wheel (Reverse Steps):

1. Insert the wire airbag retainer in place in the new steering wheel core by reversing the steps used to remove it from the old steering wheel core.
2. Align the control bezel to the new wheel. Apply pressure on all (x3) arms of the steering wheel until you feel the bezel click into place. Inspect the bezel all around to make sure it is fully seated into the new steering wheel core. All gaps should be uniform. If there are unusual gaps between the bezel and the steering wheel, one or more of the retention snap features may not be properly seated and must be addressed at this time.
3. Replace the (x4) screws within the cavity of the steering wheel. Care should be taken to ensure that all screws are tight. However, if the screws are overtightened, they may break the delicate plastic tabs used to secure the bezel.
4. Slide the circular horn tabs into their respective recesses until a click is heard. You can flip the steering wheel over and look at the arms of the tabs to confirm if they are securely in place.
5. Align the steering wheel with the top of the wheel pointing upwards and slide the steering wheel back onto the steering column. Note there is only one way for the steering wheel to go on the column due to the splined key way on the steering column and wheel.
6. Using a 10mm hex bit socket, reinsert the fastener connecting the steering wheel to the column. Tighten the steering wheel in place. Make sure this connection is tight and the steering wheel is fully seated on the steering shaft.
7. Reinsert the electrical connectors for the airbag into their representative places (purple/maroon on the left, yellow to the right). You should hear a click to confirm the connector is locked.
8. Roughly align the airbag/horn module with the (x3) locator pins arranged in a triangular fashion and press the module into the steering wheel airbag cavity. You can confirm that the module is properly installed when you can hear the horn activate.