

1955-72 ELECTRIC TRUNK RELEASE UPDATE



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Randy has been involved in the Chevy parts business for over 25 years. He is a wizard at creating, making and modifying custom parts for Chevs.

Power windows, power door locks, power trunk release; when will it stop? It won't be long and we will be driving our cars via remote control from the couch. Well, that will never happen; driving our cars is the best thing about this hobby, but adding creature comforts like air conditioning, power steering and so on is the way to go. Now to pull up to a car show, back into your parking spot and hit a button that will pop the trunk open would be just way too cool! The Eckler's Classic Chevy Electric Trunk Release Kit P/N 35-201 is designed to work in conjunction with the stock trunk lock cylinder unlike other conversion kits.



Parts Needed:

- 35-201 1955-72 Electric Release Kit
- 54-39 1955-57 Trunk Lock Cylinder Retainer.

To order parts call 1-800-456-1957 or visit ClassicChevy.com

Tools Needed:

- Pliers
- Wire Cutter/Strippers
- Vise Grips
- Electric Drill With 3/16" and 1/4" Drill Bits

- Cut-Off Wheel or Grinder
- Hacksaw

Time Frame:

Who knows??

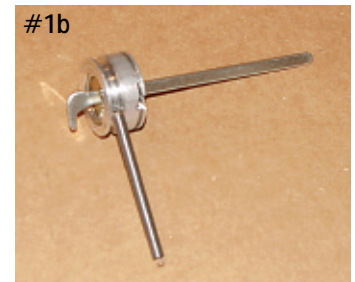
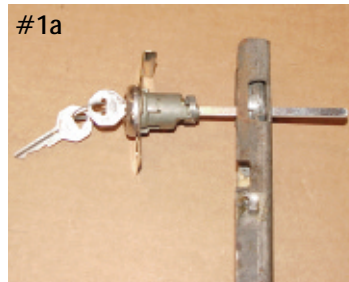


Photo #1a & 1b: The stock trunk lock cylinder is coupled to the trunk latch assembly with a solid flat shaft. The stock shaft will be replaced by the new shaft and clutching device that will allow the trunk lid to be opened with either the key from the outside of the car or with the new electrical solenoid from the driver's seat.



Photo #2: The clutching device fits between the trunk lock cylinder and trunk latch assembly.

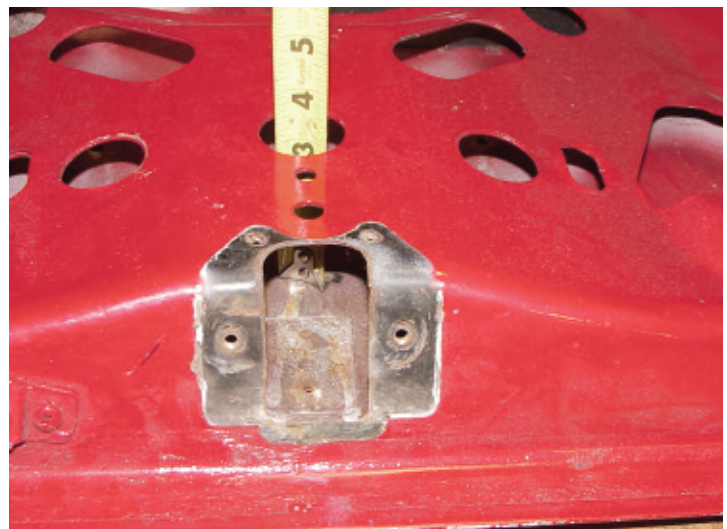


Photo #3: If you measure the clearance between the inner and outer trunk skin on ten cars, you will get ten different measurements. When installing the clutching device between the trunk lock cylinder and trunk latch, it can sometimes get pretty tight. The drum of the clutching device must work freely and not be in any kind of bind.

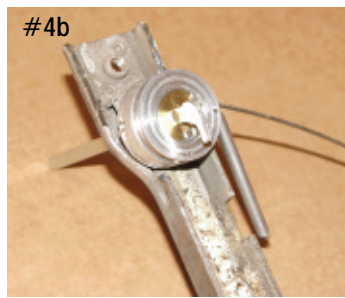
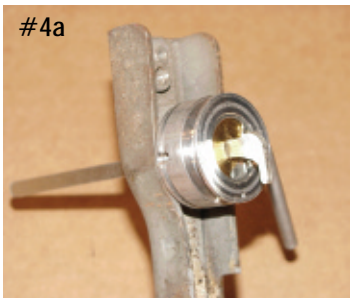


Photo #4a & 4b: If necessary, the inner framing of the trunk latch assembly can be trimmed to allow for more clearance.

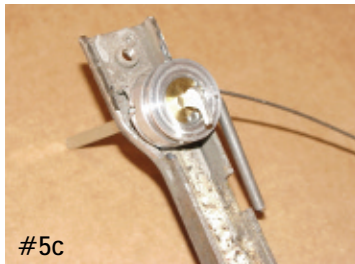


Photo #5a & 5b & 5c: A 1/8" stranded cable connects to the drum of the clutching device. The cable wraps around the drum and when pulled by the electric solenoid, the drum will rotate and unlock the trunk without the lock cylinder turning.

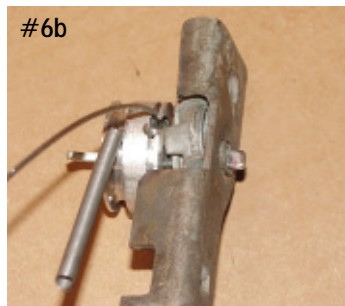
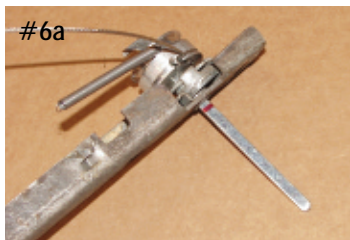


Photo #6a & 6b: The clutching device shaft for the trunk latch is extra long for other applications. Install the clutching device shaft into the latch and mark the shaft leaving about 1/4" protruding through the latch and cut to length.

Photo #7: The electric solenoid mounts on the driver's side of the trunk lid between the inner and outer skin. When the solenoid is activated, it will pull the stranded cable and unlock the trunk latch. With the modified trunk latch installed in the trunk lid, install the clutching device into the latch on the inside of the trunk lid. Now, place the electric solenoid at about 4:00 o'clock to the clutching device aiming the ram of the solenoid in the direction of the pull cable and drill two 1/4" mounting holes.

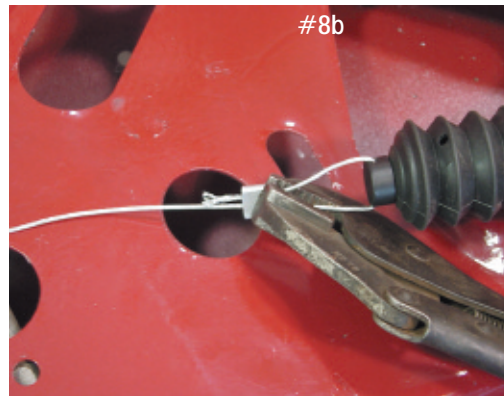


Photo #8: The pull cable loops through the hole in the end of the ram and connects back to itself with the supplied cable clamp. A pair of channel locks or vice grips will work fine to crimp the cable clamp.

With the solenoid and clutching device installed on the outside of the inner trunk skin, wrap the pull cable around the clutching device drum making sure it is seated in the groove of the drum. Next, loop the cable through the hole in the solenoid ram and pull the slack out of the cable. Now, cut the cable to length and using the cable clamp, clamp the cable into place.



Photo #9: With the cable installed on the solenoid ram, the ram may be removed from the solenoid for ease of installation.

Photo #10: With the pull cable and spring attached to the clutching drum, install clutching drum to the trunk latch. Clip a pair of vise grips on the latch shaft to hold the drum in place while connecting the trunk lock cylinder.



Photo #11a & 11b: The trunk lock cylinder is held in place with a retaining clip **P/N 54-39**. Feed the lock cylinder through the trunk lid and connect it to the clutching device. Next, anchor the lock cylinder in place using the retaining clip. Now, remove the vise grip pliers from the shaft on the inside of the trunk. Turn the key making sure there is no binding or dragging of the clutching device between the lock cylinder and trunk latch.

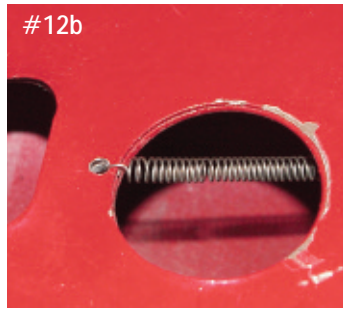
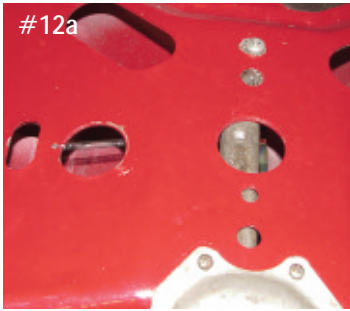


Photo #12a & 12b: The clutching drum has a return spring that will keep tension on the pull cable. Drill a 3/16" hole in the inner trunk skin to connect the return spring to. Wrap the return spring around the clutching drum clockwise as you are looking at the drum from the inside of the trunk lid, making sure the spring is in the groove of the drum and attach the spring to the hole in the inner trunk skin.

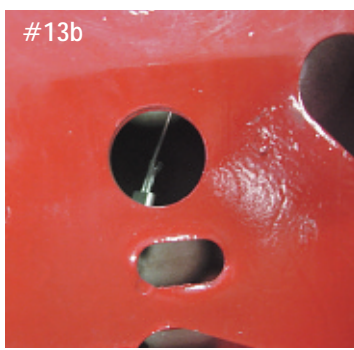
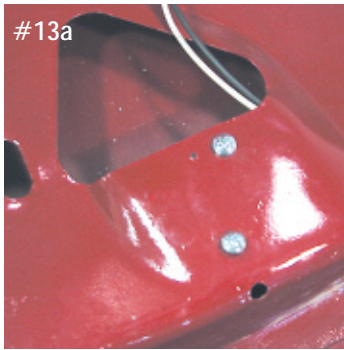


Photo #13a & 13b: Next, mount the electric solenoid between the inner and outer trunk skin using the supplied hardware. Wrap the pull cable around the clutching drum counter-clockwise as you are looking at the drum from the inside of the trunk and install the ram back into the solenoid. The corrugated rubber boot on the solenoid will keep tension on the pull cable. Once again, turn the trunk lock key to make sure everything is working freely.

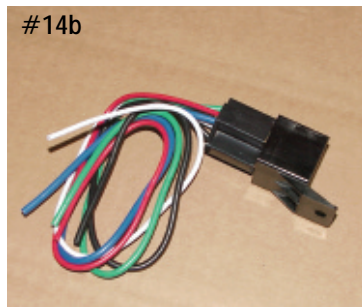
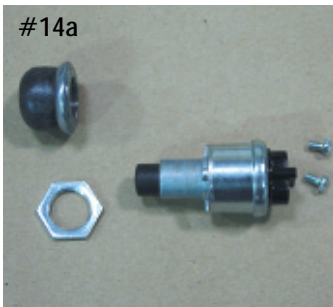


Photo #14a & 14b: Mount the supplied trunk release push-button switch in a location where you can reach it from the driver's seat like under the dash or in the glove box. Using the supplied wiring diagram, wire up the switch and before closing the trunk lid push the trunk release button several times to make sure the solenoid is operating properly.

Good Luck. ✓