

96 A6 IGNITION STUCK IN LOCK FIXED

When the weather is cold 40-50F, the ignition is hard to turn on or reluctant to get out from cable lock position. Many people changed the ignition switch, but mine was the cable lock cylinder pin got stuck. I had to lubricate the cable and the lock pin. This procedure also shows how to replace the ignition of the A6.

REMOVAL of INSTRUMENT CLUSTER:

There are 2 screws to secure the cluster lock panel.
There are 3 screws to secure the cluster itself.



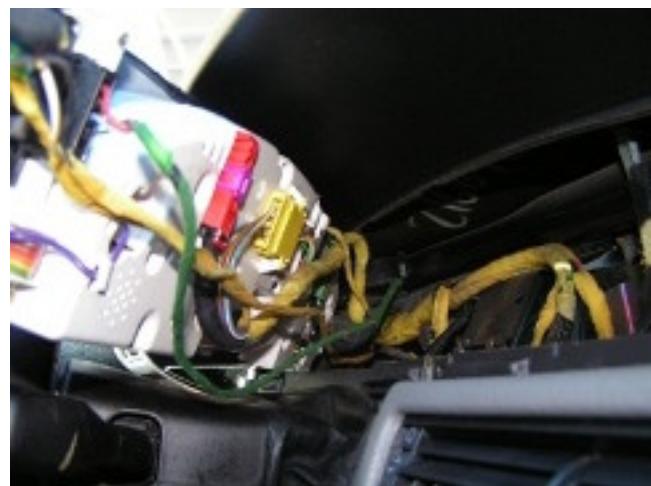
Slide the panel out and to the left for the lock pin to be out of place.

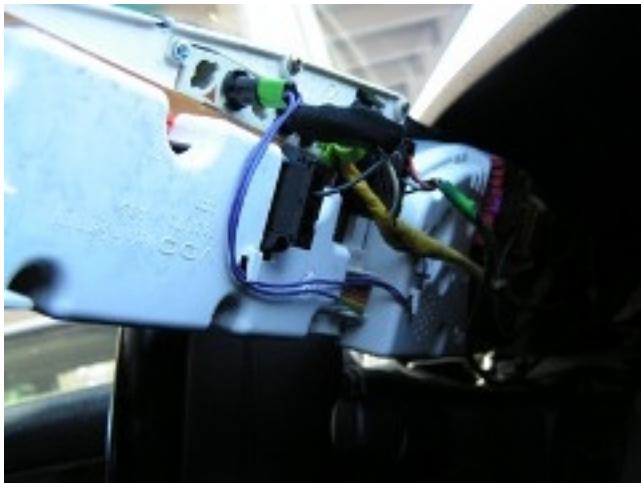


Remove 3 screws securing the instrument cluster



Pull the cluster out and tilt it forward to expose the wiring for disconnection. Lights & connectors are color coded so you don't have to worry about which goes where.





Remove the instrument cluster completely out of the dash. You can see the ignition lock cable and a relay in the way of removing the ignition switch, remove the relay and move it to the left side as picture shown.



Remove the black plastic Ignition cable lock cover circled to lubricate the cable, just lift it straight up from the back. Remove the 2 little screws securing the ignition switch, you may have to scrape off the red locktite before you can see the screws. Don't remove the screw totally out of the cylinder, just enough to release the ignition switch.

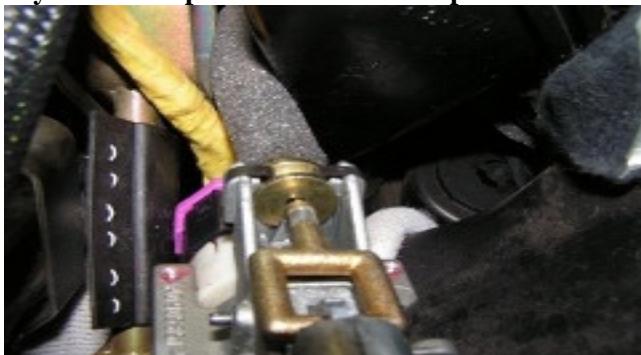


Use a little screwdriver to pry the ignition back and out of the slot on each side of the screw.



The ignition switch in my car is White as you can see (where the screwdriver is), you may have the black one. Remove the back socket (black & pink) and install the new ignition switch if you want to do so, it's very tight but move the switch and cable (yellow) to the right of the ignition locking cable.

The ignition lock cable pulls the shifter lock pin at the shifter, when the lock pin got stuck, you can rotate the ignition key to the ON position. Look at the pictures when the ignition is off and on. The movement is about $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

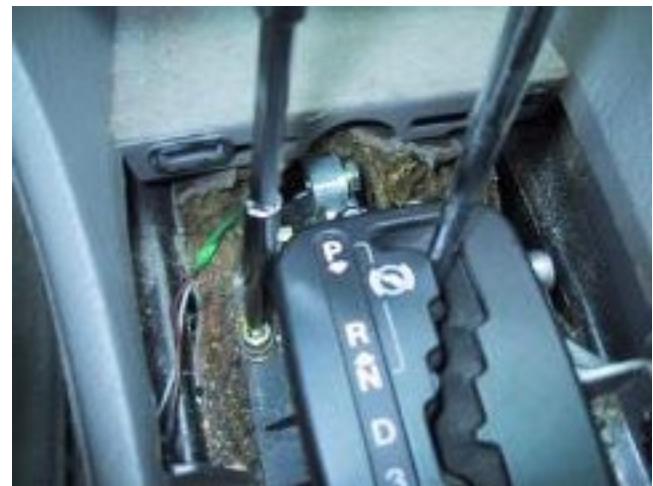


Now you can lubricate the cable, I used multipurpose oil for machinery.

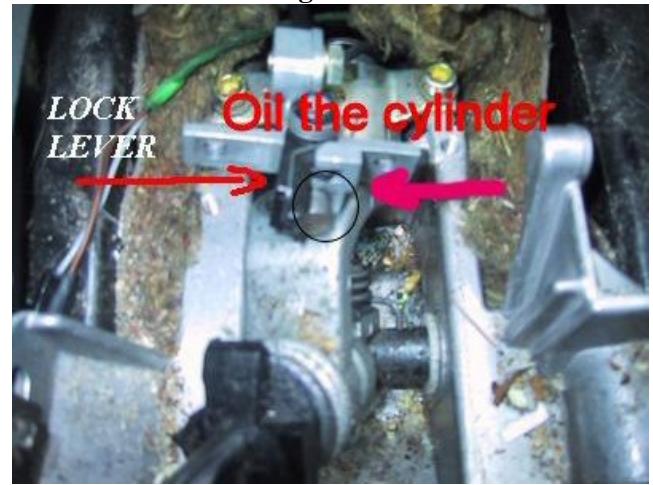
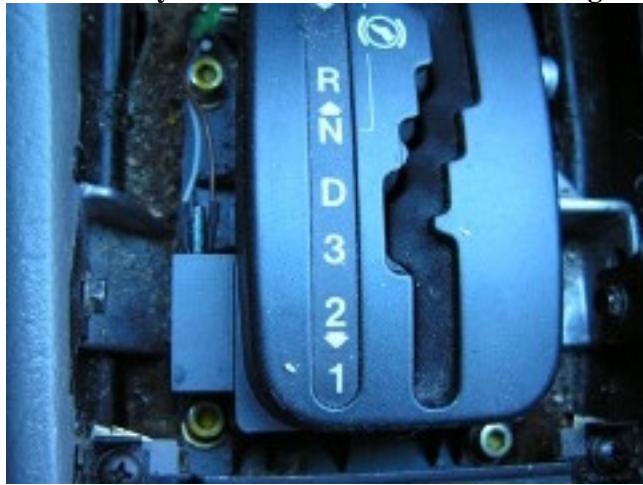
The next step is to lubricate the shifter lock pin. We need to remove the shifter cover out.

REMOVAL OF SHIFTER COVER

Use a small letter opener, pry up each side of the wood plate, slowly but firmly.



5mm hex key needed to remove 4 bolts securing the shifter box as shown. The light bulb is at the left of box.



After lubricating all cable and lock pin cylinder and lock pin cable, the ignition is as good as new at any temperature.

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