

Driver's Side Seat Belt Replacement

The driver's seat belt in my 2008 Vantage was fraying and since this is a safety item, which could fail a Virginia State Inspection, I decided to replace it. Total time for me was about four (4) hours, but I attributed that to taking my time since I didn't have step-by-step instructions. I can't say if the following instructions are applicable to the passenger side, but I assume that it would be similar. Basically, the procedure is to remove the sill plate, interior rear quarter panel, parcel shelf, sub-woofer tray, and semi-removal of the driver's seat. Sounds like a lot of work, but actually it wasn't the difficult. Hope the following instructions help.

Step 1

Remove the driver's side Sill. There are six (6) bolts, four (4) visible and two (2) under the Sill Plate. Use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the Sill Plate and remove the Six (6) bolts using an Allen Wrench. See figure 1.



Figure 1.

Step 2

Remove Parcel Shelf and the Aluminum rail. The Aluminum rail is held with five (5) Phillips screws and an 8mm bolt, which is located at the end of the rail behind the passenger seat, right above the battery. Once rail is removed you have access to remove the quarter panel assembly. See figure 2. NOTE: Remove Tool tray, which makes panel removal easier.



Figure 2

Step 3

At this point, you now have access to the interior rear quarter panel. This panel assembly is actually four (4) separate panels, the bottom carpet panel, the center leather panel, the top leather panel, and the speaker grille.

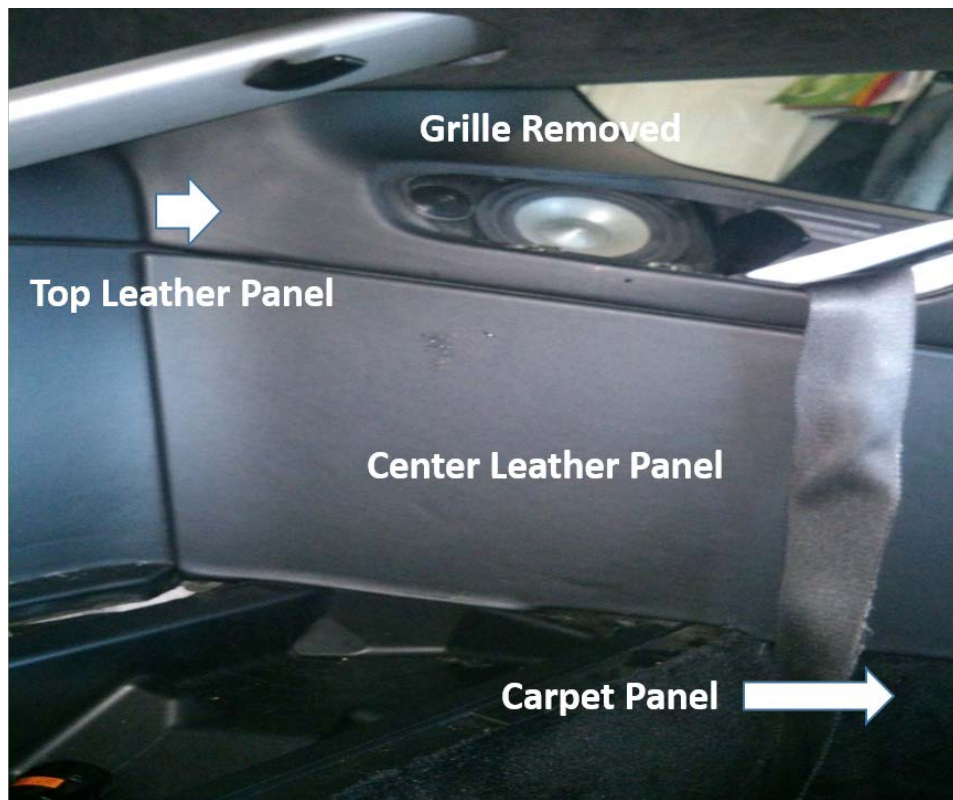


Figure 3.

The carpet panel and the center leather panel are screwed together and have to come out as one piece. This assembly is held in place with one (1) Phillips screw, one (1) spring clip, one (1) nylon/plastic fir clip, one (1) nylon/plastic disk, one (1) plastic tab, and a tab on the bottom of the carpet panel. See figure 4.



Figure 4.

To remove this panel, first remove the Phillips screw, which is located at the bottom rear of the center leather panel, just above the sub-woofer tray. You will see a small channel on top of the tray, which aligns the Phillips screw driver. See figure 5. Once undone I used a magnet wand to make sure the screw did not fall down behind the sub-woofer panel. If it does, you can retrieve it later once you remove the sub-woofer assembly.



Figure 5.

With the screw removed then panel comes out first by pulling from the bottom of the leather panel, right at the sub-woofer tray, and sliding it down away from the speaker panel. This will slide the nylon/plastic disk and spring clip away from the top leather panel. Next push the bottom of the carpet panel (at the floor) towards the side of the vehicle until the tab slips out of the slot. Pull forward a bit to keep the tab from sliding back in. At this point the only thing holding in the assembly is the nylon/plastic fir clip. Use a trim tool to pry the clip off the body of the vehicle. See figure 6.



Figure 6.

The panel is now loose and you can just pull it forward towards the seat and remove it. You now have access to the seat belt assembly. See figure 7.



Figure 7.

Step 5

At this point you can see the seat belt is fastened with only one (1) bolt and a guide tab for alignment. You are correct! Unbolt the seat belt and it comes out easily. **WRONG!!!** The seat belt unit also has a wire and multi-connector, which is attached to the seat belt bracket behind the rear panel. This is why you have to remove the sub-woofer assembly so you can disconnect that connector. See figure 8.



Figure 8.

Step 6

The sub-woofer assembly is held in place with four (4) nuts and two Phillips screws. Two (2) of the nuts and the two (2) Phillips screws are located on top of the assembly and the remaining two (2) remaining nuts are located on the floor under the rear carpet. See figure 9.

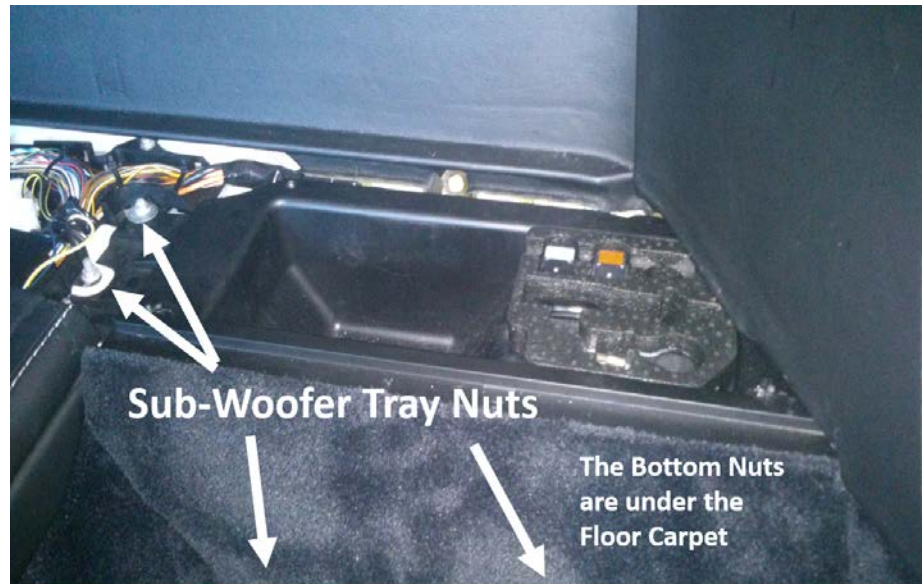


Figure 9.

Once the nuts and Phillips screws are removed, you can just pull the unit away with disconnecting and wires and access the multi-connector to unplug the old seat belt unit and install the new unit.

The only step to do now is to feed the new seat belt through the guide, which is located at the top of the rear quarter panel assembly.

Step 7

To remove the old belt and install the new belt through the top seat belt guide, remove the speaker grille, which just pops off and then remove the top leather assembly, which also hold the rear speaker. There are only two (2) bolts that hold this piece. One (1) is located on top between the speaker and the guide and the other is at the front of the panel, just behind the driver's door.

Step 8

Once the top panel is removed you can remove the seat belt guide by removing the four (4) bolts. There is an Allen screw on the rear of the seat belt guide, which you can remove to slide out the old belt and install the new one.

Step 9

Assemble everything in reverse order and you are done.