

# Installing New Steering Wheel Cruise Switches

By Todd Z

This project will help you to install new cruise control switches when the lights go bad. It is relatively simple and requires simple tools. This was done on my 2003 Sport Trac. The tools listed below were for my replacement and yours may vary.

TOOLS :        1 small flat tip screw driver  
                  1 8 mm socket with ratchet OR 8 mm nut driver  
                  1 Phillips screw driver

PARTS :        1 replacement switch.  
(I had one from a donor wheel so I don't know the Ford part number.)

- 1) Disconnect the batteries **Negative** terminal using the 8 mm wrench or ratchet and place it away from the battery so it does not touch the terminal. Wait 15 minutes before continuing to Step 2 and make sure all power is drained by turning on the headlights and other accessories.



- 2) Look on each side of the steering wheel. There are 2 round plastic covers. They are removed simply by using the small flat screw driver. Place it in the seam and twist and pull. Do this for both of them.



- 3) Now using the 8 mm again, remove the two bolts (one on each side) holding in the horn and air bag. You will see that mine are different type of screw. This is because I have the Anti-Theft air bag kit installed in my ST.



- 4) Now SLOWLY pull the center toward you, pulling the TOP more then the bottom. You're looking for the connector to the air bag. It is on top.



- 5) Un-clip that connector.



6) Remove the air bag and place in a safe place.



7) Find the wire connector that is attached to the switch. NOTE where the wire runs in the wheel so that you put it back in the same spot. Remove the connector. It may be tight and require a little help from the bottom with the screw driver. BE careful not to damage the wiring. !!!!



8) Remove the switch



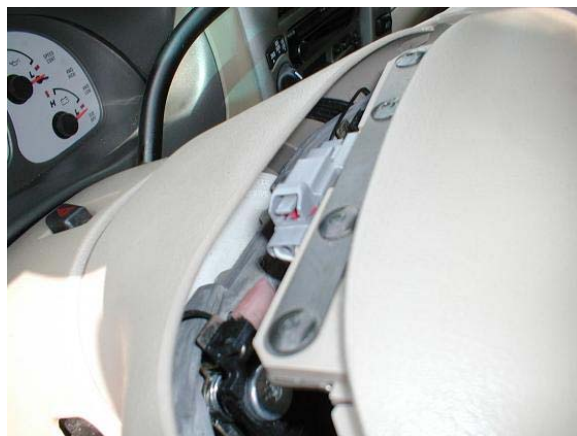
9) My switch had a locking tab on the bottom.



10) Connect the wiring to the new switch in the correct placement and screw the switch back to the wheel. NOTE that the switch sits in two recesses on the wheel where the screws go.



11) Once the switch and wiring are good, set the air bag back in place bottom first, holding the top open so you can re-clip the air bag connector back on.



12) Now re-install the bolts holding the air bag in. DON'T WORRY if you see the bag moving while you tighten the bolts. THIS IS NORMAL !!!

13) Place the round covers back on the wheel.

14) PUSH on the horn button and make sure it moves nicely and does not stick or feel weird. If it does, remove the screws and re check everything.

15) Once you're ok with the screws, re-connect the NEG battery terminal.

16) Test the horn. Make sure it honks and stops when you let go.

17) Start the truck !!!!

18) You're done !!!!!

NOTE: This is just a guideline and is not to be taken as substitute for having a professional work on your truck. If you are not comfortable working on the Air Bags DO NOT do this. Have a qualified Tech work on the vehicle.

The author is in no way liable if something goes wrong while you follow these instructions. You're using them at your own risk.

Thank you !!!