

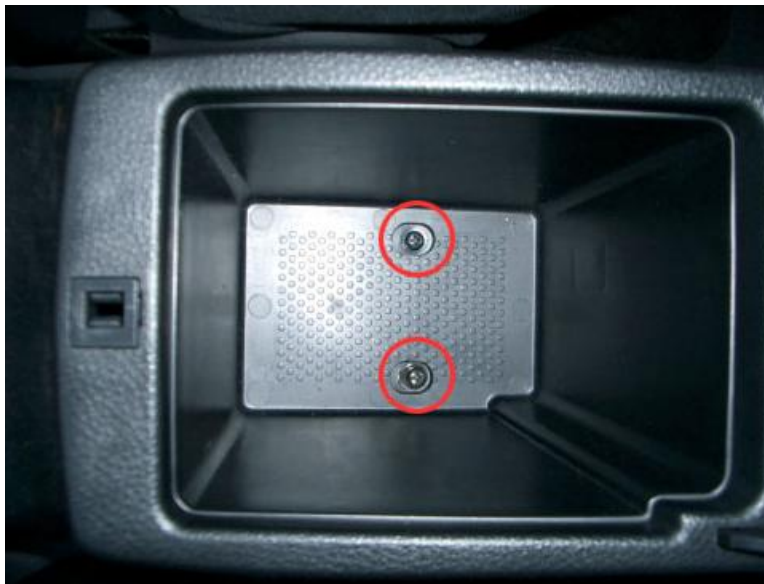
## Changing Interior Light Colors

Okay boys (and girls) here we go. Everything you ever wanted to know about changing light bulbs, clock color, dismantling your center console in one handy dandy thread.

Tools needed: nothing but a phillips (otherwise known as cross) screwdriver. Really. It's not as hard as you thought it was.



Begin at the center box (armrest). Unscrew the two screws holding the box down, and pull the whole unit from the back up, releasing it from the two clips at the front.



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Next, unscrew the two screws, and disconnect the cable which powers the cigarette lighter, ashtray, and shifter (if you have auto) bulbs.



Now to the left lower part, beside the pedals. Using your screwdriver, unscrew the plastic screw holding the panel in, and pry away the panel. It has tabs that attach it to the center console.



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Using the head of your screwdriver, push the center part of this little ingenious device in, and pull out the grommet.



Now to the right passenger side. This panel is completely smooth, held in with clips. Pry gently outward with constant force, it should pop right out.



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Once again, with the ingenious grommet, push your screwdriver head into the middle, and pop the piece out. You have now completely released the center console, and it should lift right out with the proper angles. If you drive auto, it helps to have your car in neutral at this point to help guide the console out.



To change the bulb in the ashtray, remove the ashtray and replace with desired bulb color. This is the bulb that lights the ashtray when the ashtray is open.



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Flip over the center console. You'll see the cigarette lighter assembly, the circled item is the bulb you want to replace.



Bulb unscrewed, replaced. Now put it back.





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For auto drivers, this is the bulb you want to change out. A simple twist, and it comes right out.



Once again, bulb replaced, reverse procedure to put it back in.



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Moving on to the gauge cluster and clock mod, first remove the two screws holding in the top of the gauge cluster.



Next, remove the 3 screws holding the gauge cluster in place.



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With the gauge cluster loose, pull it slightly out of its sitting place. Now on to the climate controls. Twist all knobs all the way to the left, this makes it easier to put them back in later. Simply pull them out.



Unscrew these two screws holding the knob controls to the face plate.





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With your fingers in the holes, pull out with even pressure to remove the face plate.



Unscrew these 4 screws, holding in the light guide and the Defogger/AC/Recirc buttons.



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Removing the light guide and buttons should give you clear access to the two bulbs you need to change.



Now for a more tedious task, getting at the clock. First, remove these two screws holding the vent panel in.



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Now you'll understand why the gauge cluster had to be loose. Starting from the left, begin to pry the vent panel up and outward. Don't worry if little white clips start flying everywhere, you can re-attach them back later.

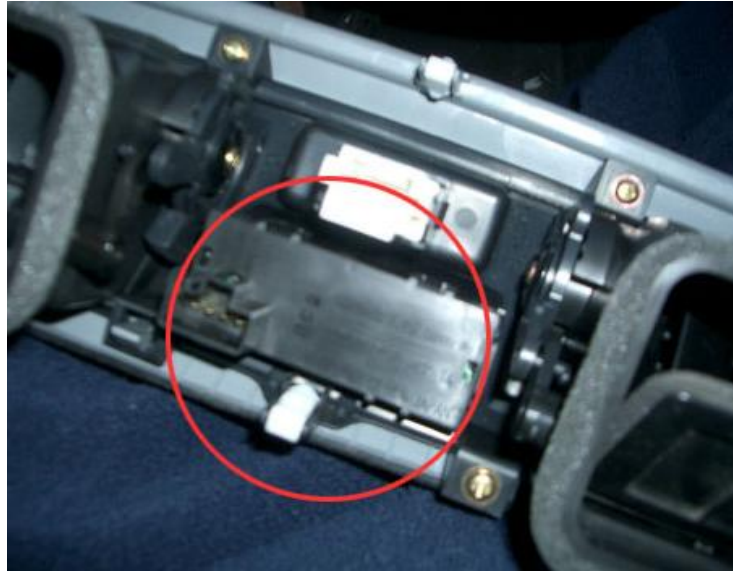


It's a little scary to look at, but here's what you end up with. Disconnect the two cables for the clock and hazard lights.

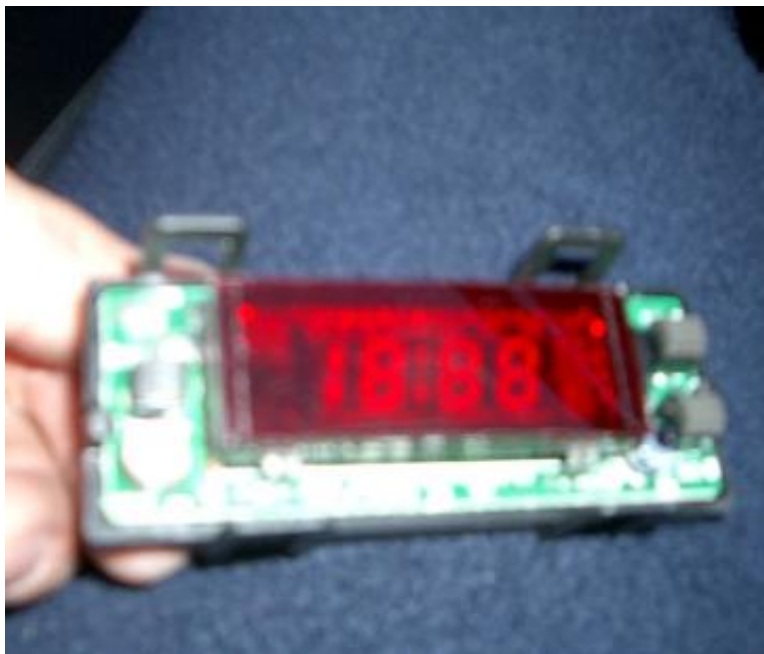


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Now you have access to the clock piece. Four tabs, two at the top and two at the bottom hold the clock in. Gently undo these to release the LCD.



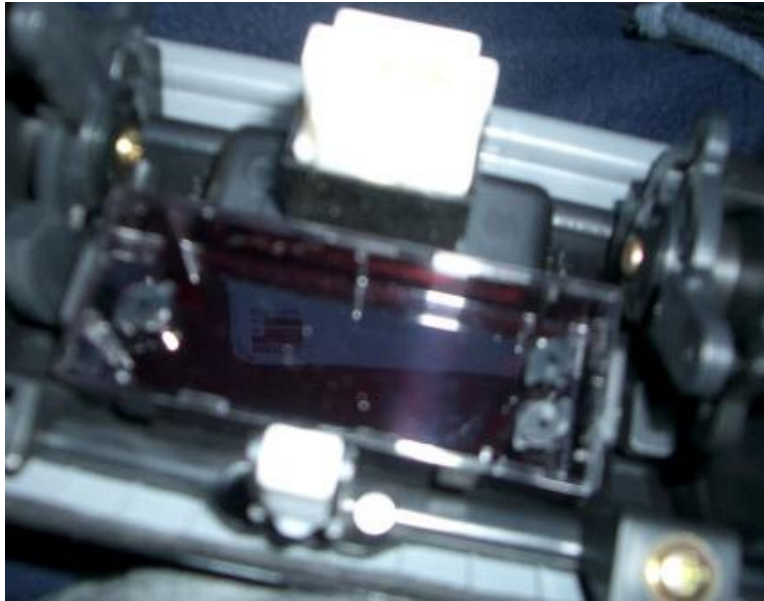
The red clock mod requires two pieces of colored filter. The first one I taped directly onto the LCD.





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The second piece which deepens the color even more is just dropped in to the clock housing. Without this piece, the clock turns orange. Yuck.



At this point, your dash looks pretty messed up. Let's hope you remembered where all the screws are and can put it back together. 😊



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So you want to take this one step further? Undo the clear part of the gauge cluster. There are two clips holding it in at the top, gently push down to release the face.



More clips at the top and bottom hold the black plastic face in. I guess at this point you could remove it for a paint job also.



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Now that the gauges are exposed, gently pry out the needles, remove the gauges, and replace the two bulbs shown. I didn't finish this part, because I left mine the stock color.



If you've paid attention, now is the time to reverse all the removal and unscrewing, and get your dash back to normal. For the climate controls, if you've done everything correctly, the light guide should look like this:



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Assuming you have no extra clips, screws, or assorted parts left over, you've put everything back the way it was. Now sit back and marvel at your work. 🤖



Colored film used for clock mod is called "theatrical gel", and is used to color spotlights in film and theater. Can be purchased at A/V equipment stores.