

## How to Change Ignition Keys

Ross sent a recent Q/A from a Thunderbird Group he watches.

Joe asked how to rekey his ignition switch. I looked in the shop manual, but like most of our "How-to's", you almost need to know how to do it before you can understand the shop manual.

Per Ford's Shop Manual:

Disconnect the car battery. The ignition switch is removed by pressing in the switch body from the rear of the panel, rotating the retaining nut counterclockwise, then removing the switch at the rear of the instrument panel. Disconnect the wires from the switch terminals.

Pictured here is the old school use of a large screw driver to remove the retaining nut. A special tool CASCOLT-1 - \$6.80 is made to remove any of the dash bezels. A screw driver is not the preferred tool.

Here is the original communication from Joe.

Hi all! I've been reading this forum for some time now and have received some very good info on our little birds. I now need some help. I just received a new ignition switch cylinder and keys. It looks like you can just slide them together, but I just want to make sure there isn't a right or wrong way to do this. Any help will be appreciated.

Thanks,

Joe

CTCI president was quick to respond.

Joe,

You need to insert the key into the tumbler cylinder, turn the key about 1/8 clockwise, and then push the small button down at the top rear of the key tumbler cylinder. Then insert the tumbler into the switch housing and then turn the key back to the 12 o'clock position. You will see the button pop back up into a slot on the top of the switch housing. Remove the key. The tumbler cylinder now is locked into the switch housing. To remove the tumbler, insert key and turn 1/8 CW and push the button down, and the pull tumbler out of the switch housing using the key.

Martin Bierman  
Three '55's

