

1981-LHD 4-Way Adjustable Performance Shifter Install Guide

Application:

- 2022+ Honda Civic, Civic Sport, Civic Touring (MT only)
- 2022+ Honda Civic Si
- 2023+ Honda Civic Type R¹

*This install guide uses illustrations from an Left-Hand-Drive 2022 Honda Civic Si and 2023 Honda Civic Type R, but is generally applicable to all 11th Generation Honda Civics (6 m/t).

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TOOL LIST

- Plastic Interior Panel Removal Tools*
- #2 Phillips Head Screwdriver
- Angled Pick Tool (Preferably Right Angle)
- 10mm Closed-End Wrench
- 14mm Open-End Wrench
- 8mm and 10mm Socket and Ratchet with Extension (6"+ Extension preferred)
- Magnetic Pickup Tool
- 5mm Long-Reach Allen Driver
- Torque Wrench Capable of 6-7.4ft-lbs (8-10Nm)



Skill Level: Intermediate

We recommend that only gearheads with a bit of experience attempt this install. If you've performed simple car maintenance operations, such as oil changes, air filter changes, and accessory belt replacements, you can handle this. If you have no experience working on cars, we recommend finding a more experienced friend or shop to help you with this install.



Typical Install Time: 90min

(assumes experience with similar tasks, plan for a longer install time if you do not have experience performing installations like this)





Package Contents

Please inspect all of the parts that came with your kit before attempting installation. Your kit should include all of the components shown below:

- 1x Height Adjustment Screw
- 1x Height Adjustment Nut
- 4x Mounting Screws
- 4x Mounting Washers
- 1X Shift Lever
- 1x 4-Way Adjustable Shifter Body



What to expect after installation:

A great deal of effort went into making this shifter robust, reliable, and highly adjustable, allowing drivers to tune shifts for an unparalleled driving experience. With over 2 years of development, testing, and refinement, including thousands of hours on ACUiTY's proprietary testing equipment, ACUiTY's 4-Way Adjustable Performance Shifter for the 11th gen Honda Civic & the 5th gen Acura Integra is perhaps the most sophisticated shifter ever produced for the Honda Civic.

As a testament to this shifter's competition-ready design, ACUiTY equipped two of these shifters to HONDA'S #25 & #24 FL5 race cars for the 2023 25hrs of Thunderhill race, where the vehicles impressively won 1st & 2nd in class, respectively.

IMPORTANT: Qualified technicians should perform installation. ACUITY LLC assumes no liability for issues arising from improper installation. This installation was performed on a 2023 USDM Honda Civic Si & Civic Type R. If your vehicle was manufactured for another market or has a different trim or year, it may naturally have some slight variations from this guide.

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Assembling Your ACUITY Performance Shifter

To prevent hardware from being lost inside your vehicle, we recommend installing the upper rod into the shifter before starting your installation. Insert the upper rod into the shifter, as shown below in Figure 1a.

Insert the supplied height adjustment screw and height adjustment nut into the adjustment body of your ACUiTY shifter (indicated by the blue arrows). Use a 5mm Allen key or socket to hand-tighten the adjustment screw until it holds the upper rod in place loosely. You will set and torque the upper rod height adjustment later in **Step 13** of this guide.

<u>Important</u>: The curved cutout on the height adjustment nut (outlined in red) must be aligned with the curved surface of the upper shift rod. If installed properly, the nut should be flush with the side of the adjustment body on your ACUITY Performance Shifter.





STEP 1 - Disconnect Negative Battery Terminal

Later in this guide, you will need to disconnect several connectors in your vehicle's center console. For safety, it is best practice to disconnect the battery. Pop the hood and locate the battery in the engine bay, as shown in Figure 1a (circled in blue).





STEP 1 Cont. - Disconnect Negative Battery Terminal

The negative terminal clamp on the battery is located behind the positive terminal (which has a red plastic cover on it), as circled in Figure 1b. This negative terminal clamp must be removed to safely disconnect the power supply from the vehicle.





STEP 1 Cont. - Disconnect Negative Battery Terminal

Loosen the negative terminal clamp using a 10mm socket and ratchet or a 10mm closed-end wrench (avoid using open-ended wrenches as they can damage the terminal).

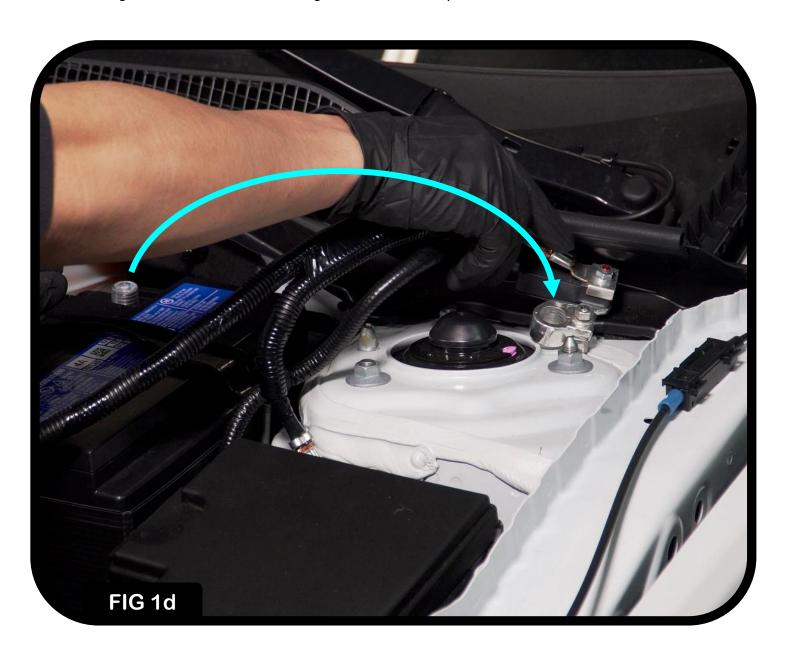




STEP 1 Cont. - Disconnect Negative Battery Terminal

Remove the negative terminal clamp and set it aside, as shown in Figure 1d. Doing this helps ensure that the terminal clamp does not make electrical contact with the positive battery terminal during your installation.

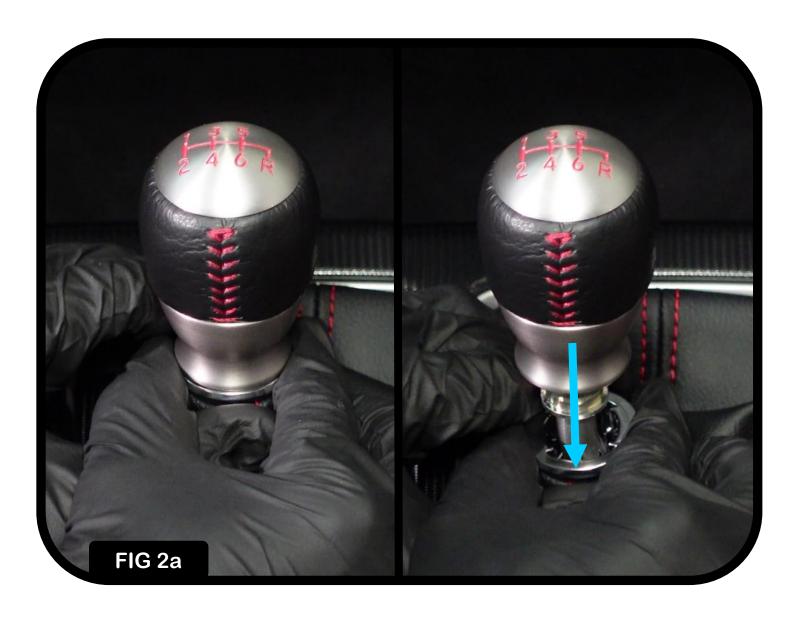
<u>Reinstallation Tip</u>: When reinstalling this onto the battery, snug the terminal clamp using the 10mm closedend wrench. Snug it up enough so that you can't twist or remove the terminal clamp with moderate force. Don't over-tighten this nut, as it can damage the terminal clamp.





STEP 2 - Remove OEM Shift Knob

To disconnect the shift boot from the shift knob, grip the boot just below the shift boot collar with both hands and pull it down firmly, as shown in Figure 2a below. If the collar is stubborn to pull off, wedge a plastic trim removal tool between the collar and the retaining nut while you pull down.

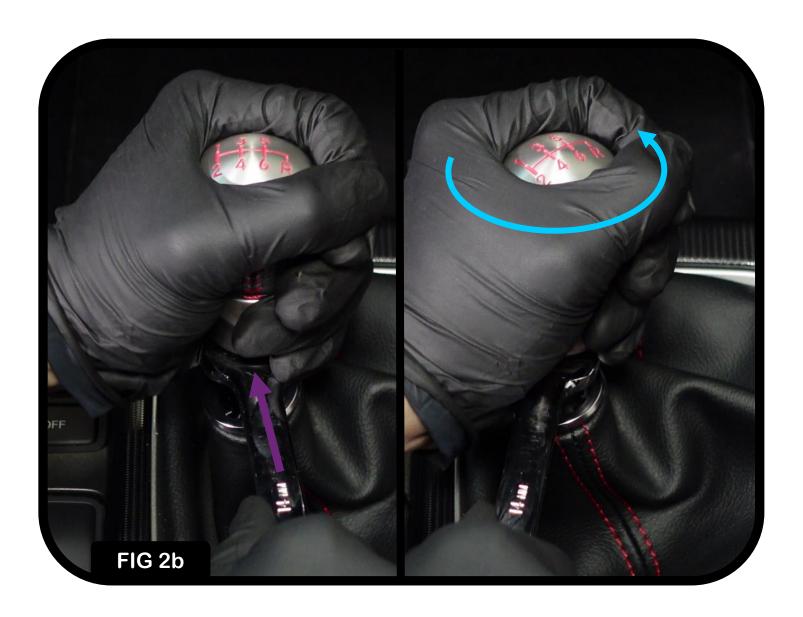




STEP 2 Cont. - Remove OEM Shift Knob

Use a 14mm open-ended wrench to hold the binding nut in place under the shift knob. Grip the shift knob by hand, and twist the shift knob counter-clockwise to break it loose, as shown in Figure 2b.

<u>Note</u>: If you are removing the shift knob from non-Si/Type R model, there may not be a binding nut holding it in place. Simply unclip the boot collar from the bottom of the shift knob, then unthread the knob turning it counter-clockwise.





STEP 2 Cont. - Remove OEM Shift Knob

Unthread the shift knob and binding nut from the shifter, as shown in Figure 2c.



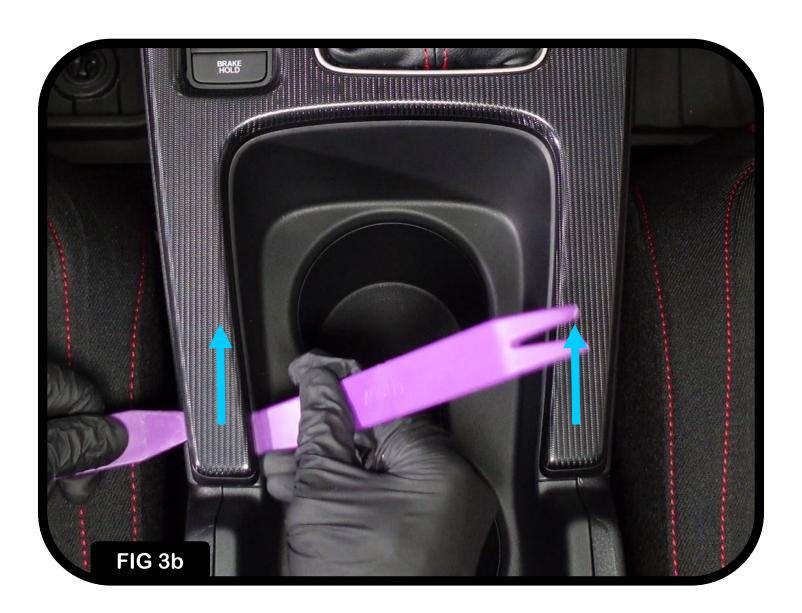


Next, remove the shifter surround trim. As shown in Figure 3a, several plastic clips secure this trim piece to the upper console panel (the location of these clips is indicated by blue arrows).



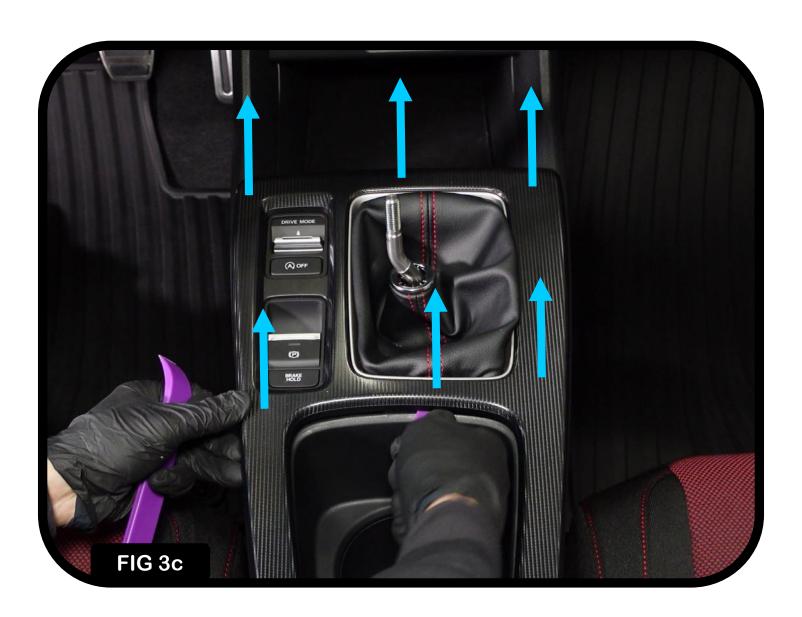


Grab your plastic trim removal tools and pry under the 2 rearmost mounting clips of the shifter surround trim (Figure 3b).





Continue prying up around the middle and top portions of the shifter surround trim to unfasten the remaining mounting clips from the top of the center console (Figure 3c).





Lift the shifter surround trim panel and identify the two electrical connectors that supply power to the buttons on it. To remove each connector, depress the locking tab on the connector (indicated by blue arrows) and pull it out in the directions shown in Figure 3d (indicated by purple arrows).





Before you can remove the shifter surround panel, there is one white clip that fastens a wiring harness to the bottom of the panel. Use a pick tool or a flathead screwdriver to depress each of the two locking tabs (indicated by blue arrows) on the clip to remove it, as shown in Figure 3e.

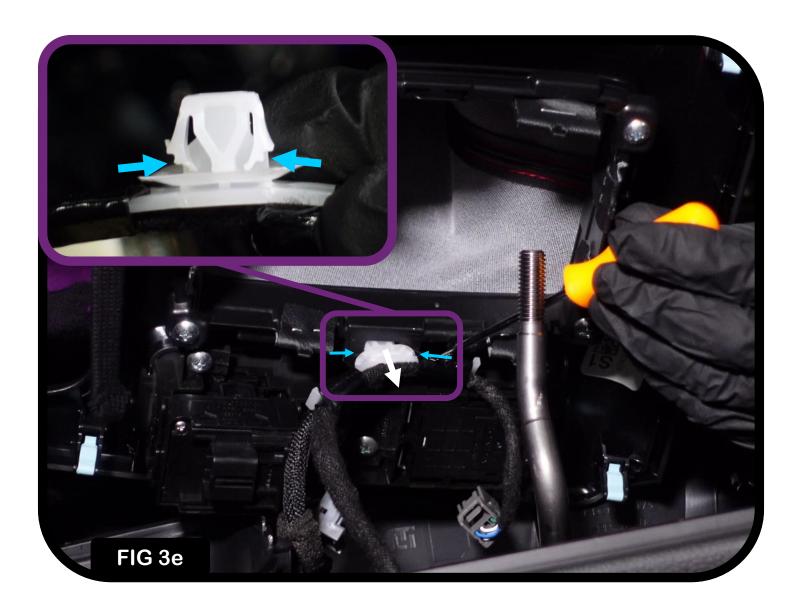




Figure 3f shows what the entire bottom of the shifter surround panel looks like once it is unclipped from the center console and disconnected from its respective wiring harnesses.





STEP 4 - Remove Upper Console Panel

Shift the transmission into an even gear, as shown in Figure 4a (indicated by the white arrow). Doing so will provide more clearance around the shifter as you remove the upper console panel from the center console (outlined in blue).





STEP 4 Cont. - Remove Upper Console Panel

Pry up on the upper console panel by hand, starting from the back of the panel and working your way forward, as shown in Figure 4b.





STEP 4 Cont. - Remove Upper Console Panel

Continue prying up on the upper console panel until you reach the dashboard, as shown in Figure 4c. Then pull the front portion of the panel out from under the climate control unit (indicated by purple arrows).





STEP 4 Cont. - Remove Upper Console Panel

Lift the upper console panel off the center console and turn it towards the passenger side of the vehicle to expose the wiring connectors, as shown in Figure 4d.



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STEP 4 Cont. - Remove Upper Console Panel

Disconnect the wiring connectors behind the upper console panel, then set it aside. Each wiring connector is removed by depressing its locking tab (indicated by a purple arrow) and pulling it out in the direction indicated by the blue arrows shown in Figure 4e. All connectors shown here are from a 2022 Honda Civic Si; therefore, differences in the style and the number of wiring connectors on this panel may exist compared to your specific Civic trim level. For example, if there is a wireless charging unit in the storage compartment of the upper console panel, you must also disconnect a wiring connector for it, located underneath the upper console panel (shown in the blue-outlined box in Figure 4e)

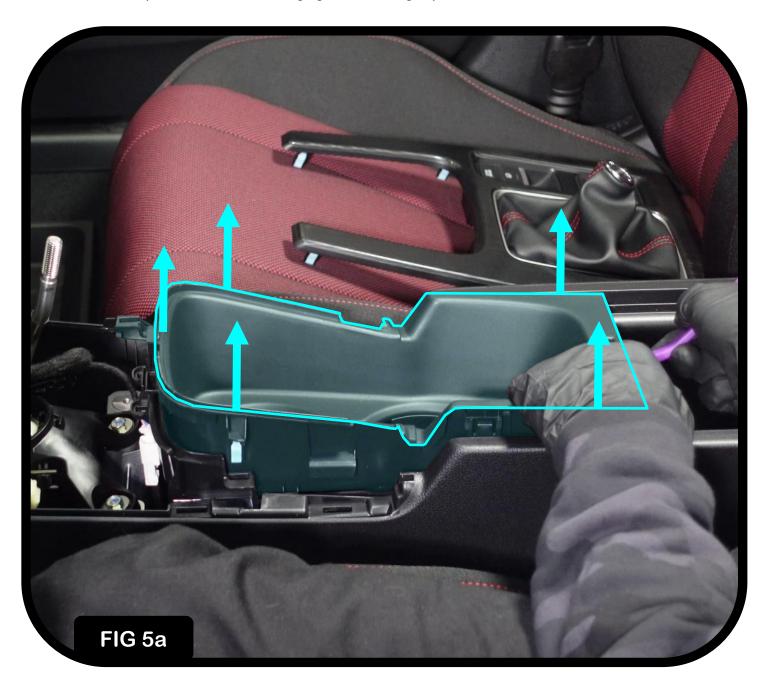


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STEP 5 - Remove Cup Holder

Firmly grab the sides of the cup holder assembly and pull it up to separate it from the center console (Figure 5a). If the cup holder is stubborn to remove, carefully pry around the cup holder to unclip it from the center console (see the following three pages for the location of all the mounting clips for this cup holder panel).

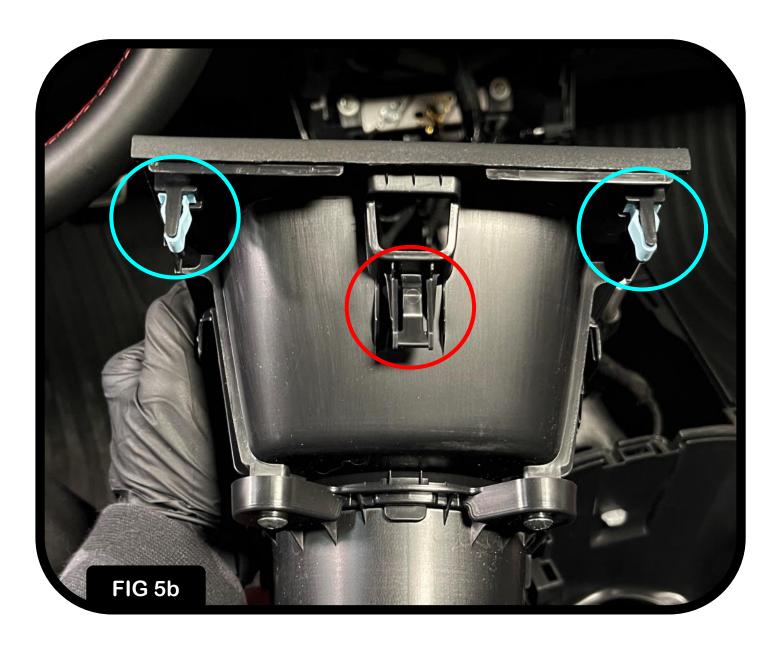
Important: As you pry each clip out from the console, it is essential to keep the entire assembly as parallel to the console as possible to avoid damaging the mounting clips.



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STEP 5 Cont. - Remove Cup Holder

Figure 5b illustrates the location of the mounting clips on the back of the cup holder assembly. We found that the clip circled in red to be the most fragile of all the clips on this assembly, so take care when prying around this clip to avoid damaging or breaking it. If this clip does happen to become damaged, we found that the other two clips (circled in blue) still have enough clamping force to keep the cup holder mounted securely on the center console when it is reinstalled.



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STEP 5 Cont. - Remove Cup Holder

Figure 5c illustrates the location of two mounting clips that can be found on each side of the cup holder assembly.





STEP 5 Cont. - Remove Cup Holder

Figure 5d illustrates the location of the mounting clip on the front of the cup holder assembly.





STEP 6 - Unplug Console Wiring Connectors

Inside the center console, locate the wiring connector that powers one of the proximity sensors for your car keys. Depress the locking tab on this connector (indicated with a blue arrow) and pull it off from the sensor, as shown in Figure 6a.





STEP 6 Cont. - Unplug Console Wiring Connectors

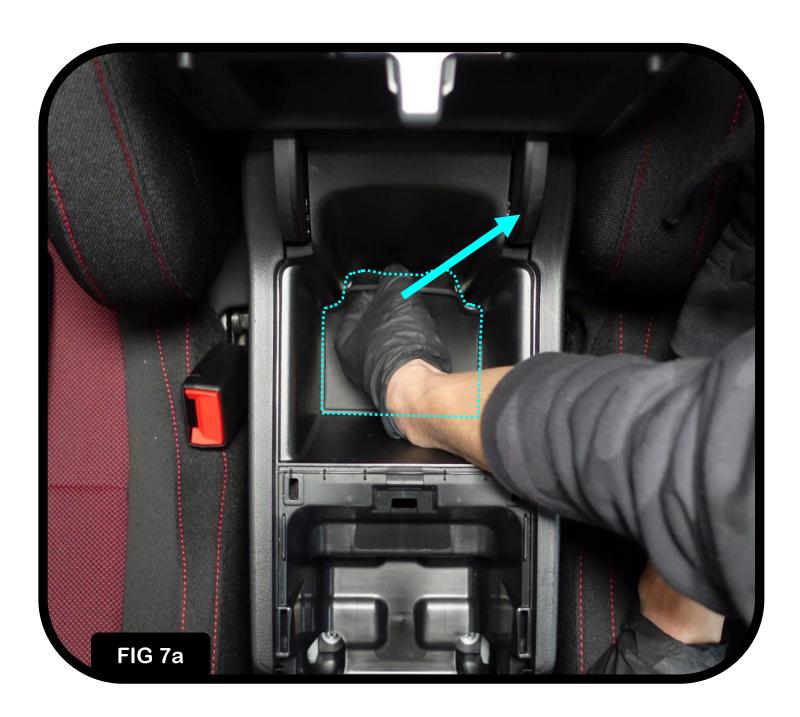
Unplug one more electrical connector just behind the shifter assembly, as shown in Figure 6b. Just like all previous wiring connectors, you'll need to depress the locking tab before the connector can be pulled out.

<u>Note</u>: For some Civic trims that have a charging port on the rear panel of the center console, this connector will be colored blue and is larger than the one shown in Figure 6b.





Lift up the arm rest on the center console and remove the rubber tray mat, as shown in Figure 7a.





The center console is affixed to the center tunnel of the car with six mounting screws. Four of the screws are visible in Figure 7b (circled in blue), and the remaining two screws are identified on the next page.

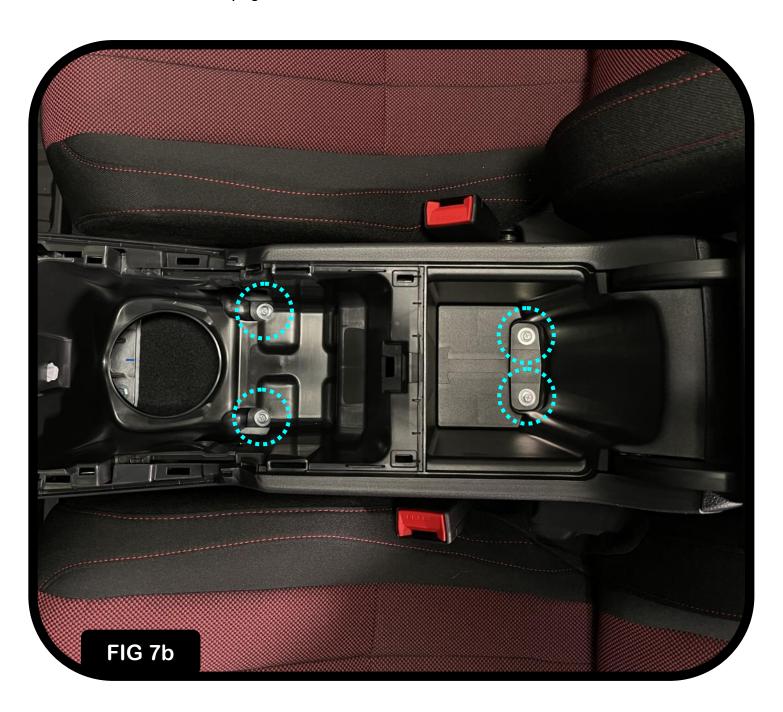
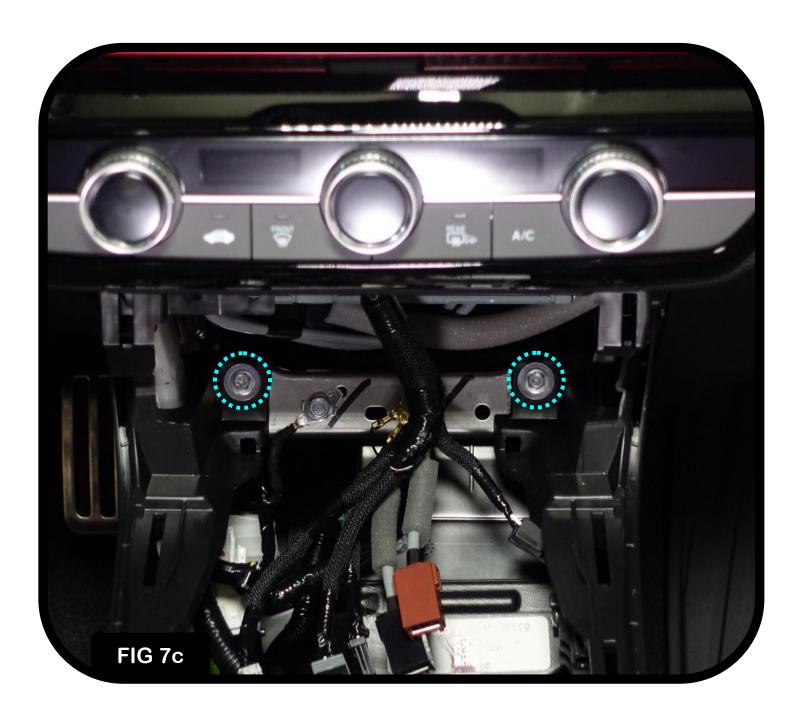




Figure 7c shows the location of the front two mounting screws that secure the front section of the center console underneath the dashboard of the vehicle.





Use a #2 Phillips screwdriver to remove the two mounting screws in the rear storage compartment of the center console, as shown in Figure 7d.

Note: Alternatively, you can also use an 8mm socket, extension, and ratchet.





Use a #2 Phillips screwdriver to remove the two mounting screws from the center of the center console, as shown in Figure 7e. Upon removal, we recommend using a magnet to pull these screws out from the center console to avoid dropping them under the surrounding carpeting and seats.

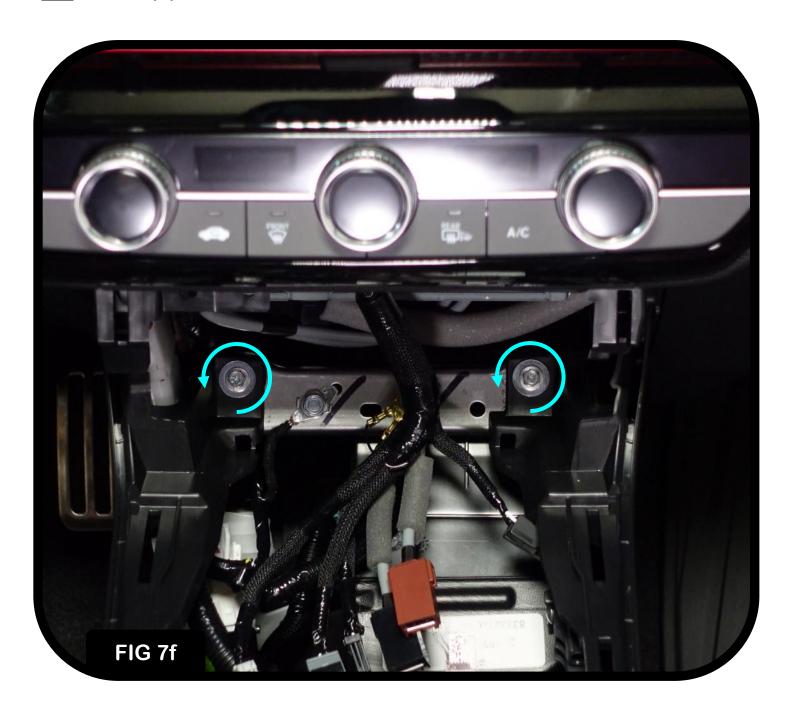
Note: Alternatively, you can also use an 8mm socket, extension, and ratchet.





Use a #2 Phillips screwdriver to remove the last two mounting screws at the front of the center console (Figure 7f).

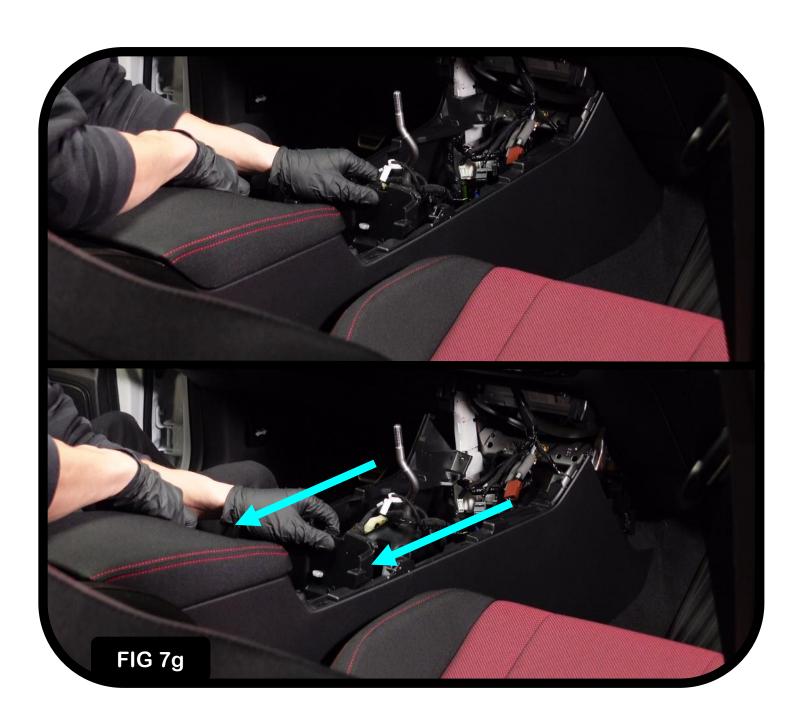
Note: Alternatively, you can also use an 8mm socket, extension, and ratchet.



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STEP 7 Cont. - Remove Center Console

Firmly grasp the center console, as shown in Figure 7g, and pull it back to unclip it from the dashboard. Then, carefully lift the center console off from the center tunnel and set it aside.





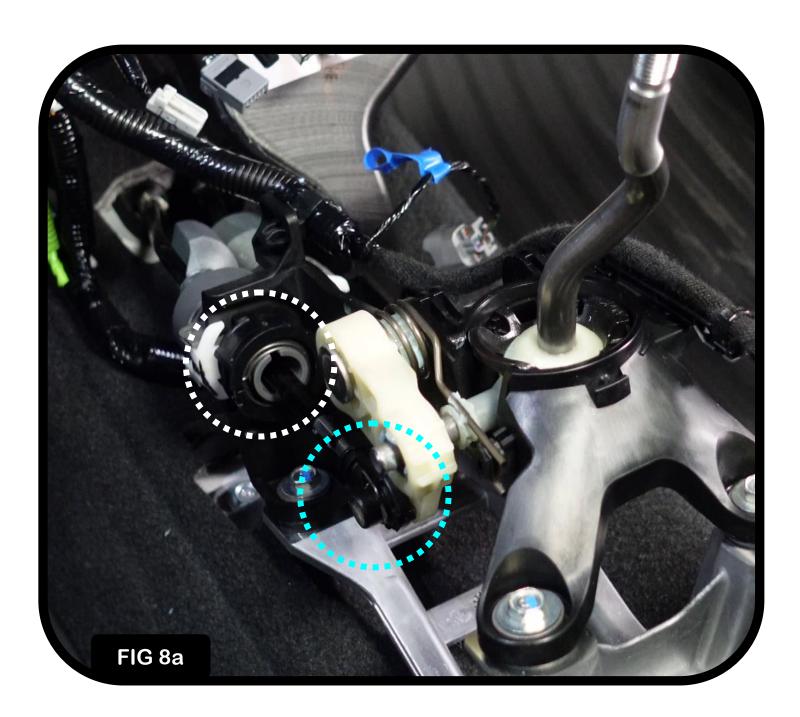
STEP 7 Cont. - Remove Center Console

Figure 7h shows what the shifter looks like with the center console removed. Circled in blue is the location of the four mounting screws that we will be removing in the next few steps.





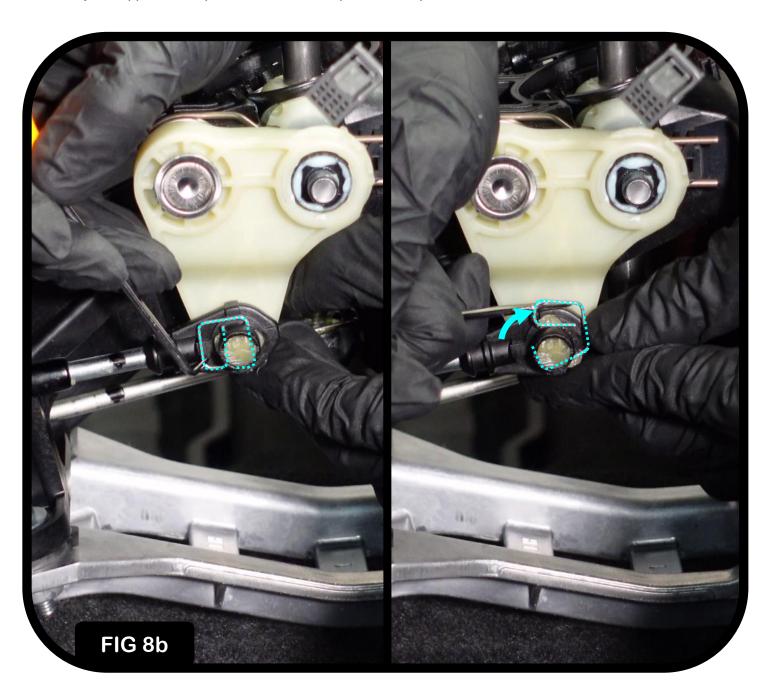
The gate cable must be removed from the shifter to access one of the front mounting screws (Figure 8a). This cable features a rod end that is clipped into the gate rocker of the shifter (circled in blue), and the cable base is secured to the shifter body (circled in white).



STEP 8 Cont. - Remove Shifter Cables From Shifter

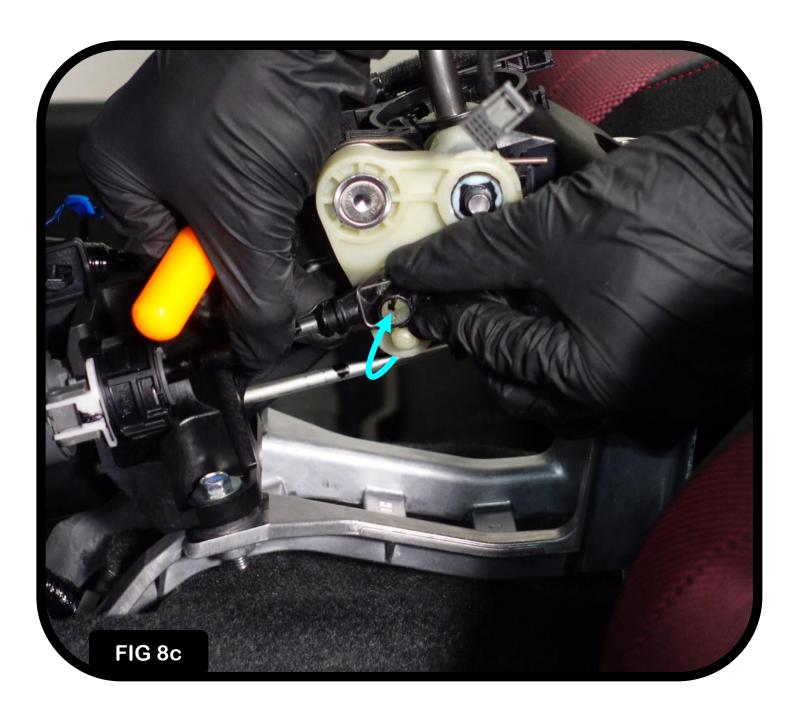
The gate cable rod end is affixed to the gate rocker with a metal retainer clip. Use a pick tool or flathead screwdriver to turn the metal retaining clip 90 degrees clockwise, as shown in Figure 8b (outlined in blue). You can also remove this clip entirely, but be careful not to lose it.

Note: If you happen to misplace this retainer clip, the OEM part number for it is 54321-TBA-A01





Pull the gate cable rod end off from the gate rocker pin, as shown in Figure 8c. Then, move or reinstall the retainer clip back into its original position on the cable rod end.





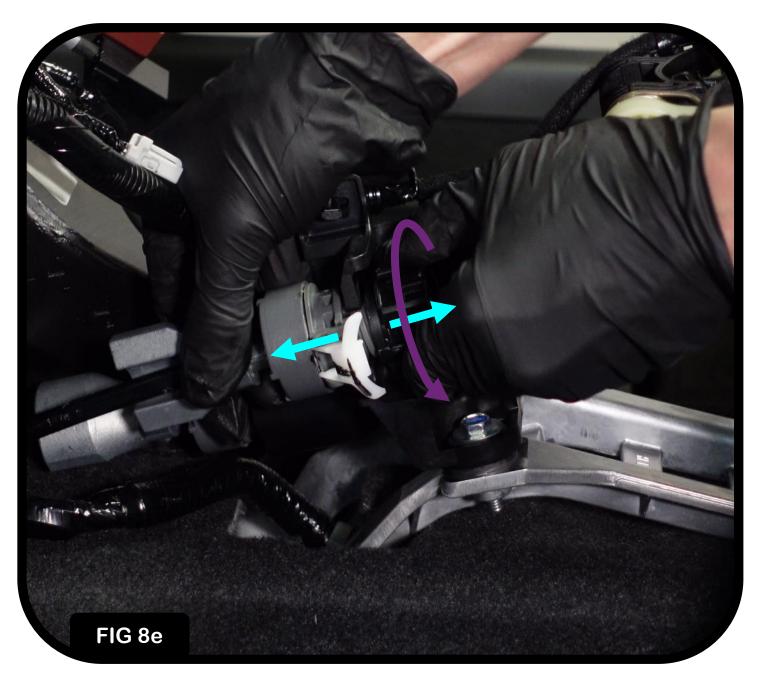
Next, unlatch the white locking clip away from the cable base, as shown in Figure 8d.





Carefully twist the front half of the cable base counter-clockwise (indicated by the purple arrow in Figure 8e). Twist it enough so that the two halves of the cable base begin to separate from their mounting slot on the shifter (indicated by blue arrows).

<u>Note</u>: Maintain a firm grip on the cable base, as it can easily slip during this process and snap back in place. If this happens, it is normal for the cable base to feel "stuck," in which case you may need to exert more force to break it loose again and twist it apart.





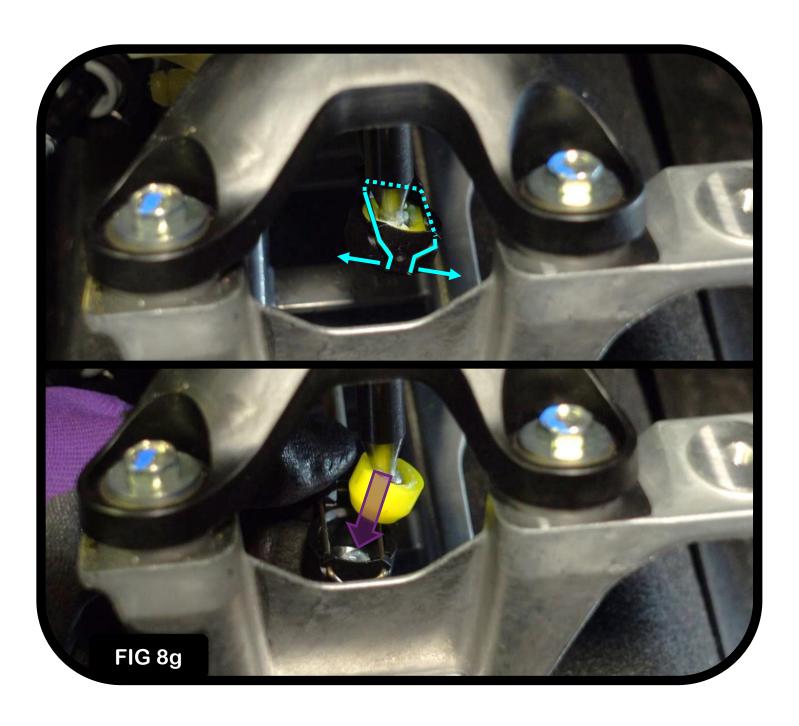
Continue twisting the cable base apart until it can slide out from its mounting slot and set it aside, as shown in Figure 8f.



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STEP 8 Cont. - Remove Shifter Cables From Shifter

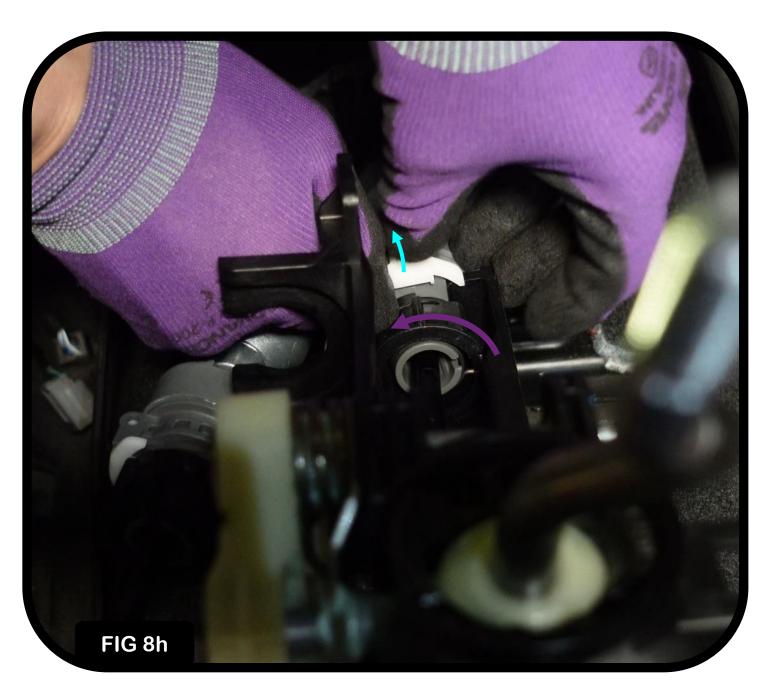
Spread the retainer clip apart (indicated by blue arrows) and pull the gear change cable rod end off from the bottom shift lever (purple arrow), as shown in Figure 8g.



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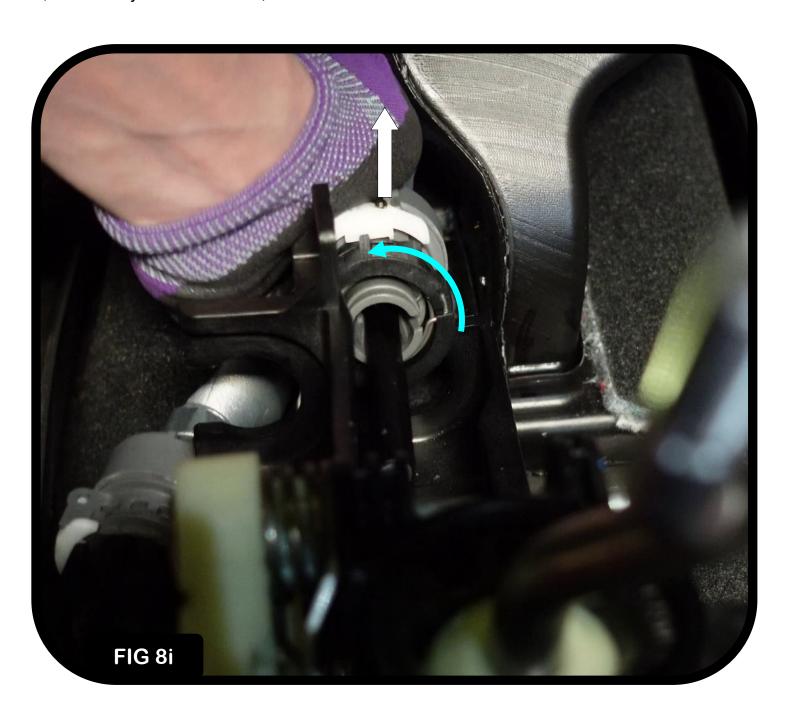
STEP 8 Cont. - Remove Shifter Cables From Shifter

The removal of the gear cable follows a similar process as you've already performed with the gate cable. Start by unlatching the white clip, as shown in Figure 8h below (indicated by the blue arrow). Twist the front half of the cable base enough so that the two halves of the cable base begin to separate from their mounting slot on the shifter (indicated by the purple arrow).



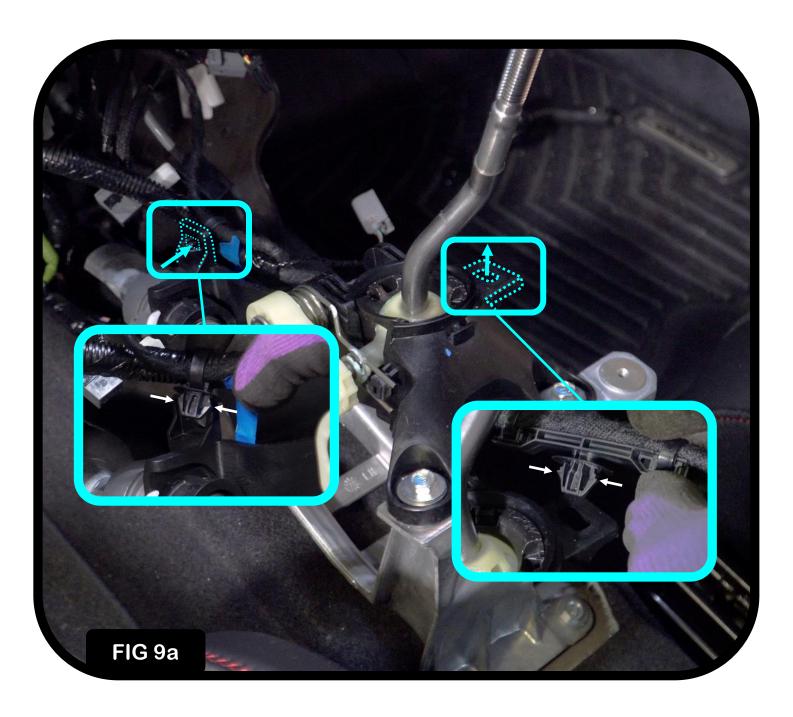


Continue twisting the front of the cable base apart (indicated by the blue arrow) until it can slide out from its mounting slot on the front of the shifter, as shown in Figure 8i (indicated by the white arrow).



STEP 9 - Remove OEM Shifter Assembly

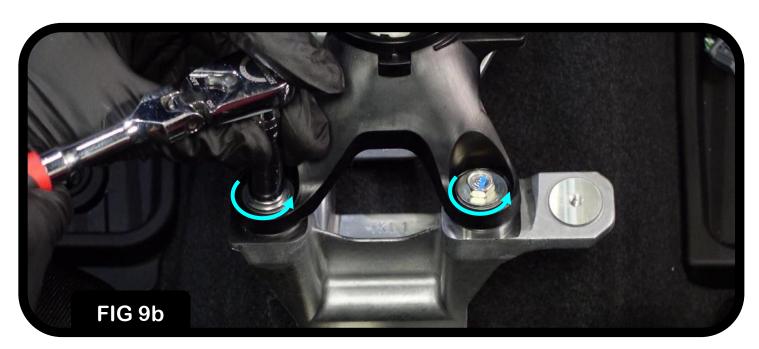
Next, the console wiring harness needs to be unclipped from two locations on the OEM shifter (outlined in blue in Figure 9a). Pinch the two locking tabs together on each clip (indicated by the white arrows) and remove them from their respective mounting slots (direction indicated by blue arrows).

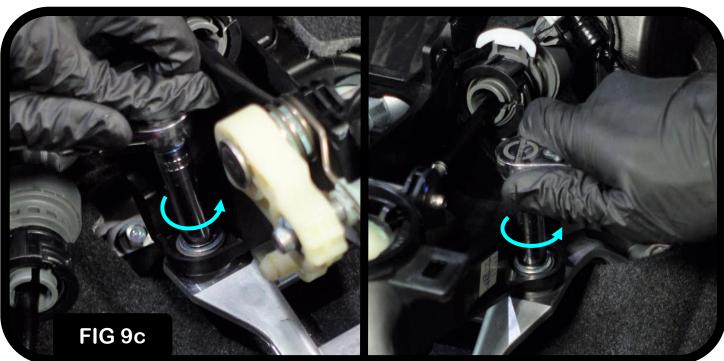


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STEP 9 Cont. - Remove OEM Shifter Assembly

Use a 10mm socket and ratchet to remove the 4 OEM base mounting screws from the shifter as shown in Figure 9b and Figure 9c.







STEP 9 Cont. - Remove OEM Shifter Assembly

Remove the entire shifter out from the car and set it aside (Figure 9d).



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STEP 10 - Install Gear Cable Onto ACUITY Performance Shifter

Take your new ACUiTY 4-Way Adjustable Performance Shifter and insert the gear cable rod end through the front of the shifter, as shown in Figure 10a (outlined in blue). Then, push the rod end onto the white bushing at the bottom of the adjustment body (indicated by the white arrow). As you push the cable rod end onto the white bushing, the retainer clip (outlined in white) will spread apart, allowing the white bushing to slide into the cable rod end. The retainer clip will snap back over the white bushing once it is fully seated inside the gear cable rod end.

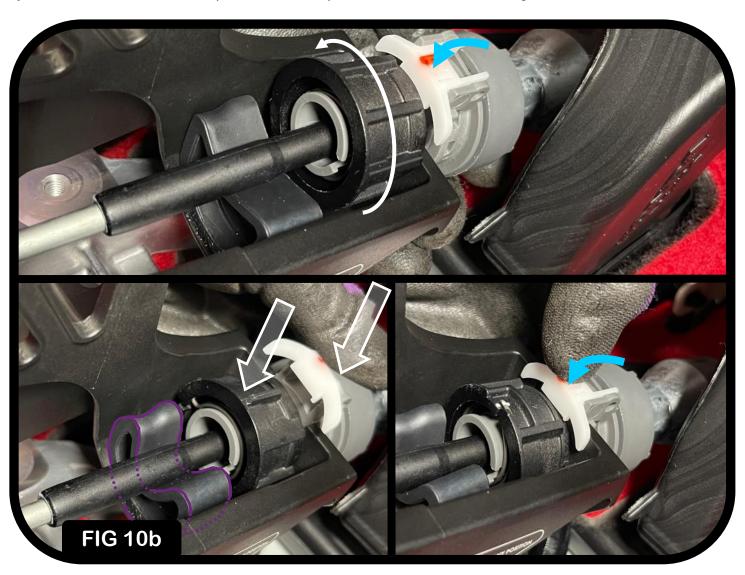


STEP 10 Cont. - Install Gear Cable Onto ACUITY Performance Shifter

As shown in Figure 10b, unwind the front portion of the gear cable base (indicated by the curved white arrow) until the two halves spread apart enough to allow the white locking clip to close and lock them in place (indicated by the blue arrow). Then, align the cable base with its mounting slot and press it down into the shifter frame.

If done correctly, the white locking tab will unlatch as the cable base is inserted into the mounting slot, allowing the front of the cable base to rewind itself together and tighten onto the shifter frame. The rubber support beneath the cable will also deform to help insulate NVH (noise, vibration, and harshness) from the transmission and cable operation (outlined in purple). Once the gear change cable base mounts to the shifter, push the white locking clip back down.

Note: Locking the gear cable's cable base open before installation makes reassembly easier. Alternatively, you can twist the cable base apart and hold it open to slide it into its mounting slot.





STEP 11 - Install ACUITY Performance Shifter and Set Knob Position

Align the shifter mounting points with the mounting holes on the shifter support bracket and loosely install the four mounting screws and four purple base bushings with a 5mm Allen key or socket by hand (circled in blue in Figure 11a).

<u>Important</u>: The mounting holes on the shifter are slotted. Once you loosely install all four mounting screws and four base bushings to the aluminum support frame on the center tunnel, you will be repositioning the shifter as required in the mounting guide (explained on the next page).



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STEP 11 Cont. - Install ACUITY Performance Shifter and Set Knob Position

The SKU 1981 4-Way Adjustable Performance Shifter features slotted mounting holes, allowing for the adjustable position of the shift knob relative to the driver. Adjust the shifter according to the mounting guide below.

SKU 1981-LHD & 1981-RHD Mounting Guide:

For SKU 1981-LHD (Left-Hand Drive Vehicles):

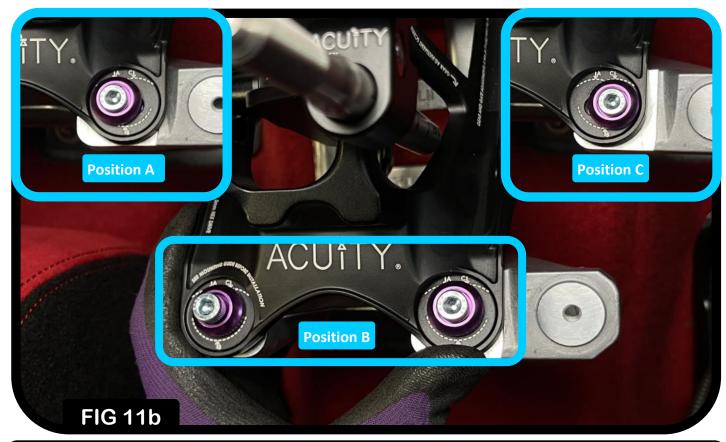
- Non-FL5 Civic trims and ALL Acura Integra trims:
 Use any position (A, B, and C)
- FL5 Civic Type R: Use positions B or C

For SKU 1981-RHD (Right-Hand Drive Vehicles):

All Civic Trims:
 Use position B or C



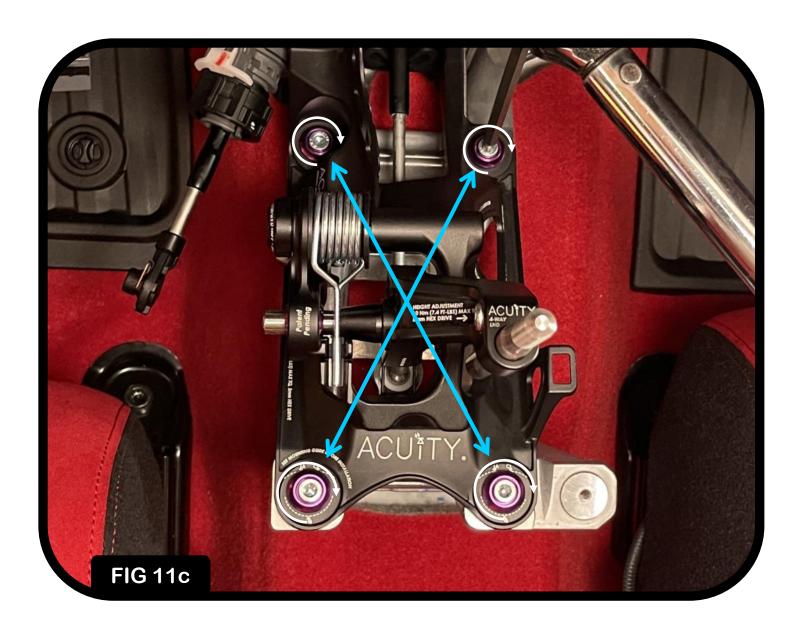
Important: To maintain proper clearances between moving parts and the center console components, you must follow this mounting guide. If you are removing the console or interior components from your vehicle, all three mounting positions are compatible. As you reposition the shifter, it is also normal for the gear cable to push back on the shifter due to how it routes through the center tunnel, naturally guiding the shifter into position "B." Only a firm push/pull on the side of the shifter is necessary to move the knob position "A" or "C."





STEP 11 Cont. - Install ACUITY Performance Shifter and Set Knob Position

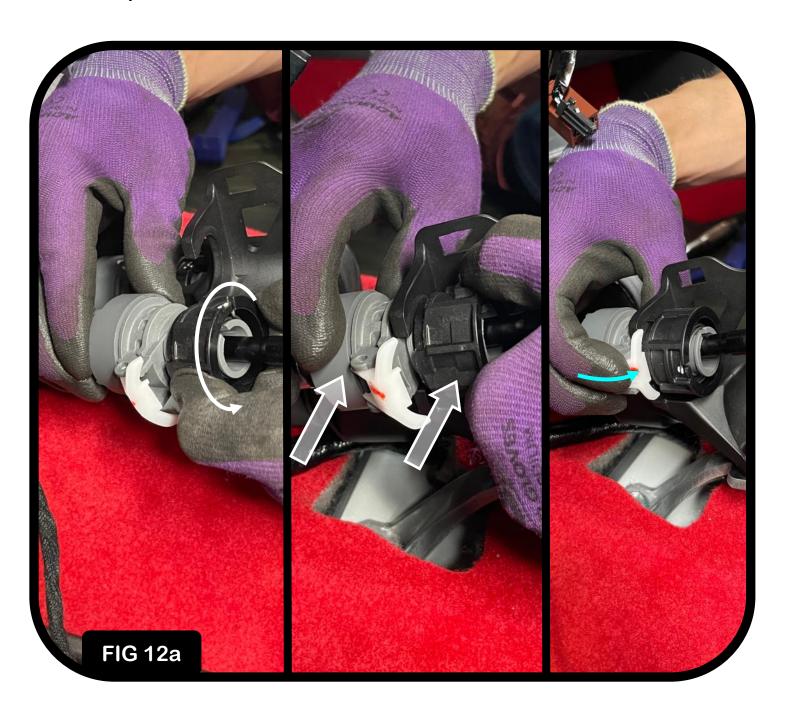
Once you have selected your shift knob position, use a 5mm Allen driver and torque wrench to tighten down each of the four mounting screws to **6.6 ft-lbs (9 Nm)** in a crisscross pattern, as shown in Figure 11c (indicated with blue arrows). Be sure to go around a second time to double-check that each mounting screw is tightened to the specified torque.



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STEP 12 - Install Gate Cable Onto ACUITY Performance Shifter

Unwind the gate cable base and insert it into the mounting slot on the side of the ACUITY Performance Shifter, as shown in Figure 12a. Allow the cable base to rewind itself and tighten onto the shifter frame, then latch the white locking clip back into the cable base (indicated by the blue arrow).



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STEP 12 Cont. - Install Gate Cable Onto ACUITY Performance Shifter

Push the rod end of the gate cable onto the Gate Adjustment Pin. As the rod end is pushed on, the retaining clip (outlined in blue) will snap into the groove on the Gate Adjustment Pin, as shown in Figure 12b.

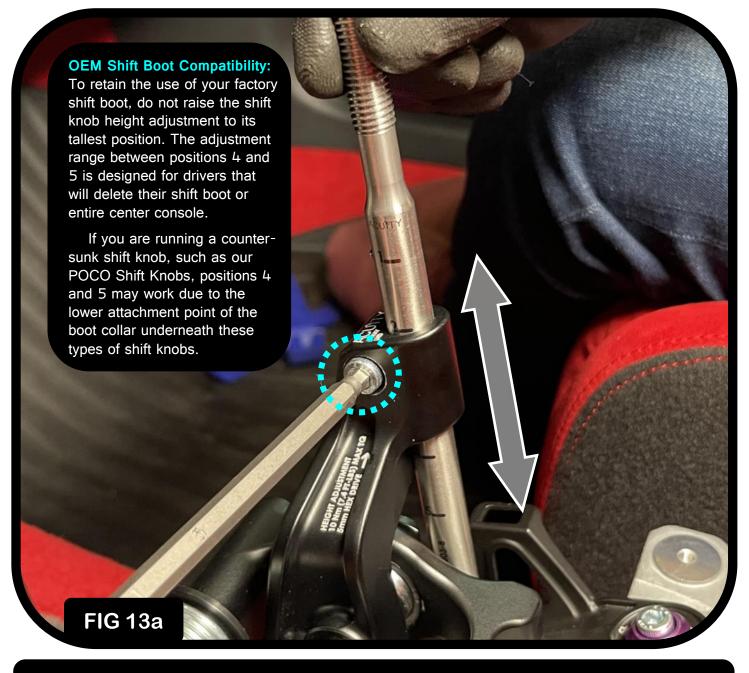




STEP 13 - Set/Torque Height Adjustment

Take a 5mm Allen socket and loosen the shift knob Height Adjustment Screw (circled in blue), as shown in Figure 13a. Set your desired knob height within the numbered range indicated on the upper rod and tighten down the Height Adjustment Screw to **7.4 ft-lbs (10 Nm)**.

Important: Setting the height adjustment to position 1 will not only provide the lowest knob height, but it will also shorten the shift throw and narrow the gate spacing. The SKU 1981 Performance Shifter features a 75mm range of shift knob height adjustment, allowing it to be positioned 25mm lower than the stock knob position and up to 50mm higher than the stock knob position.



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STEP 14 - Set/Torque Gear Throw And Gate Spacing Adjustment

Use a long-reach 5mm Allen socket and ratchet to loosen the Gate Adjustment Screw (circled in blue) from the right side of the shifter, as shown in Figure 14a. Move the gate cable rod end to your desired gate spacing adjustment on the Gate Rocker, and tighten the adjustment screw to 6 ft-lbs (8 Nm).

Important: Ensure your gate spacing adjustment is tightened to the correct torque specification. This adjustment screw is hand-tightened from the factory to make it easy for the end-user to loosen and to keep the adjustment hardware intact during shipping.



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STEP 14 Cont. - Set/Torque Gear Throw and Gate Spacing Adjustment

Use a long-reach 5mm Allen socket and ratchet to loosen the Gear Adjustment Screw (circled in blue) from the right side of the shifter, as shown in Figure 14b. Move the gear cable rod end to your desired gear throw adjustment, then tighten the Gear Adjustment Screw to 6 ft-lbs (8 Nm).

<u>Helpful Tip:</u> Take advantage of the adjustments to make the H-pattern perfect for you. Consider starting with the gate and throw adjustments set to 1 for a mild reduction compared to stock. Once you've adjusted to the shift feel with those adjustments, increase the reductions to suit your driving style better.

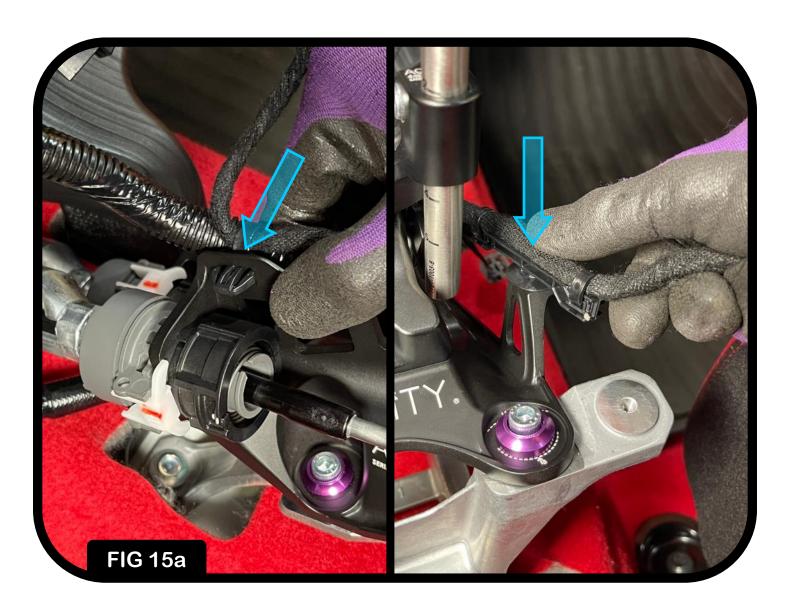
<u>Important</u>: Ensure your gear throw adjustment is tightened to the correct torque specification. The adjustment screw is hand-tightened from the factory to make it easy for the end-user to loosen and to keep the adjustment hardware intact during shipping.



ACU TATY®

STEP 15 - Mount Factory Console Wiring To ACUITY Performance Shifter

The precision die-cast frame of your ACUiTY Performance Shifter features two mounting points to secure the factory console wiring harness in locations similar to those of your OEM shifter. Push the two mounting clips for the wiring harness into their respective mounting holes, as shown in Figure 15a.





STEP 16 - Reassemble Factory Components

Reassemble the center console, shift knob, and negative terminal clamp for the battery, following Steps 1-7 in reverse order. Upon starting your vehicle, you may notice that several warning or error indicator lights on your dashboard pop up. Don't worry! Follow the instructions on your navigation screen, then perform a short drive (\sim 5-10 minutes) to allow the vehicle to reboot all electronic systems. Once you turn off the car and restart it again, the warning/error codes will reset. Congratulations, you have completed your install! We hope you enjoy your new upgrade.





Revision History

Rev 1.0

Date: May 30th, 2025

Change: Document Published

Rev 1.1

Date: June 11th, 2025

Change: Added more technical instruction/notes to Step 11 and Step 14. Updated all instructional

text for better clarity.