

Disconnection of the ignition 'key detection' switch

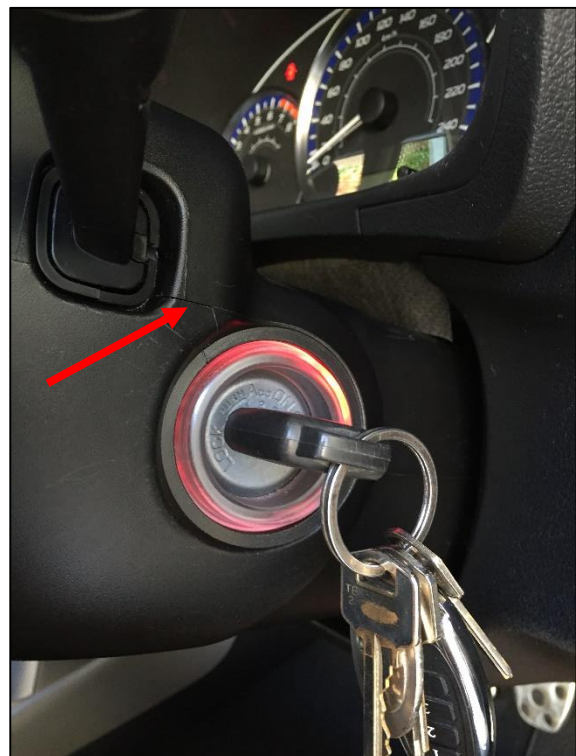
Equipment required:

- Mid-sized Phillips head screw driver
- Small cable tie (or tape if you prefer) and side-cutters to trim the end
- Little cup or similar to store the 4 x screws that you remove so you don't lose them

- First remove the Phillips head screw in the bottom of the steering column cover.
- I found it easiest to get in on your back in the foot well so you can see the screw head.
- Also, release the column adjustment handle (shown released in photo) as you can't get the bottom steering column cover off otherwise. It also helps if you pull the column as far out and up as you can (it should pretty much stay there without needing to close up the adjustment handle again).



- There is a split line in the steering column cover between top and bottom pieces that runs just above the key barrel and below the indicator/wiper stalks (you can see it in this photo).
- Once the bottom cover screw is removed, you can gently pull at the bottom cover and it should come loose – it has a couple of 'click-in' tabs that locate/connect it to the top cover so you have to manipulate it around a little to get it to release.
- Make sure the steering column adjustment handle is the unlocked position, then you should be able to remove the bottom cover.



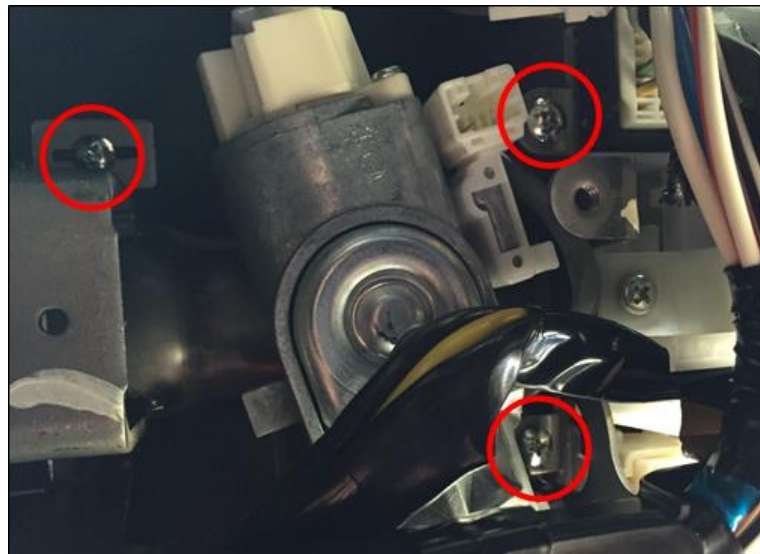
- The bottom cover looks like this once it is removed. Lay it aside somewhere but careful not to put the outside surface down on concrete or something that will scratch it (passenger foot well is a good spot!).



- The steering column should now look like this – you can see all the gubbins and wiring, but not yet the offending switch.



- There are now 3 Phillips head screws to remove in order to remove the top section of the steering column cover.
- This photo was taken from underneath, the right of the photo is towards the steering wheel (rear of the vehicle).
- They are a bit difficult to reach, but not too hard.



- You should now be able to remove the top cover. It is fiddly to get it all the way off, but you don't need to if you haven't got the patience, just prop it up out of the way.



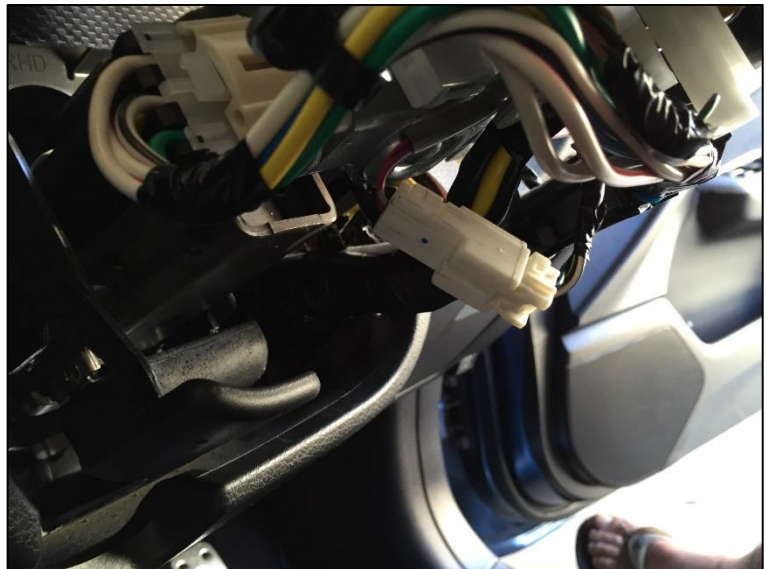
- You can now see the offending little switch in all its glory.
- Who would have thought it could cause so many issues? In fact who would have designed it in the first place?? (more on that later)
- I have seen a couple of people attempted to clamp the switch tighter to the column, or remove it and file down the mounts so it sits closer. I think the better solution is just to disconnect it based on the functionality 'lost' by doing so.
- The easiest way is to disconnect the other end of the wiring, which joins to the loom on the other side of the steering column.



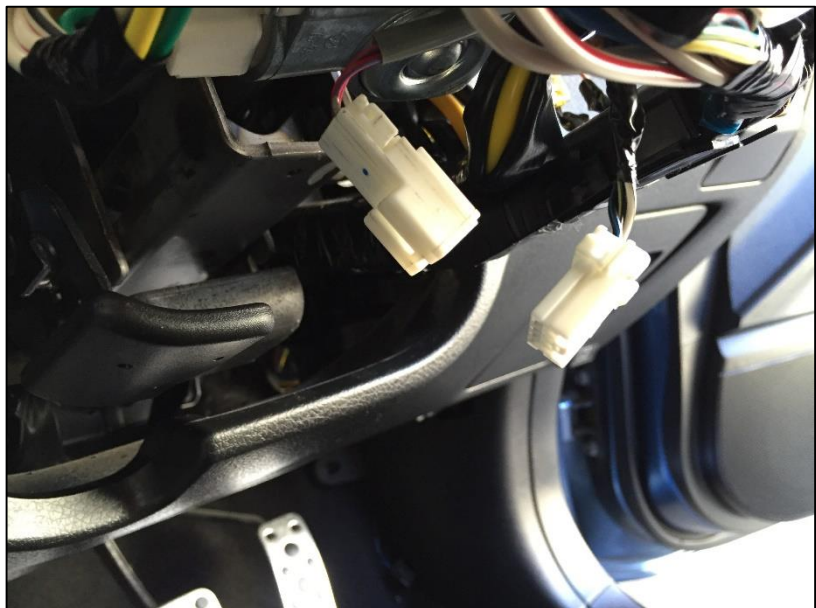
- If you follow the wires from the detection switch you will find it leads to this plug on the LH side of the steering column.



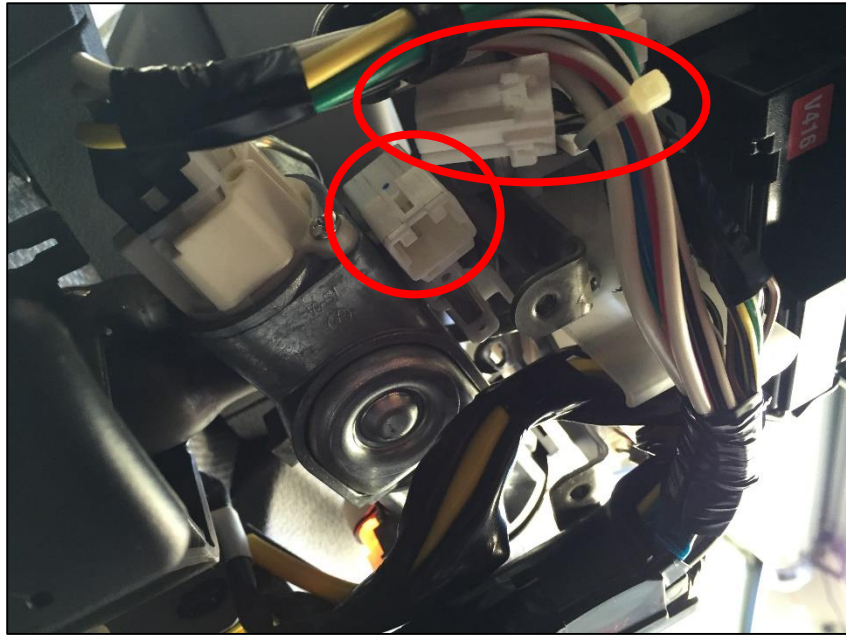
- The plug is in a slide mount to the side of the column frame, a bit of pressure in a downwards direction and it slides off this mount as this photo shows.



- It is then relatively easy to separate the plug - get a small screw driver or similar to help you push the clip button down.
- At this point you should be able to test that the symptoms (remote door lock not working, lights not switching off automatically when key taken out) have disappeared.
- It is OK at this point to shout loudly for joy.



- It is now time to tidy things up and secure the plug. I slid the main piece back onto the slide mount on the column, and used a small cable tie to tie the now loose plug end up to another loom out of the way.



After that, just follow the reverse of the above to put the steering column cover back in place, and you're done.

So what about the functionality?

It seems the only functions of this switch are:

1. If you like to leave the headlight switch in the 'on' position on the column stalk, this switch automatically switches the head lights on when you insert the key, and off when you remove it.
2. Prevent you using the remote fob to lock/unlock the car when the key is in the ignition. Of course this is what causes all the drama when the switch fails.

So if this switch is disconnected what happens? Well the headlights still switch on/off when you turn the key between the 'off' and 'acc' positions (see photos below), so you don't actually lose that functionality. The only difference is when you switch the car off, the headlights switch off (before you remove the key). In my case I think this actually a better functionality!



You can see in these photos, with the key in 'acc' position the lights are on, with it in the 'off' position the lights turn off.