

DIY Installations

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European Cup Holder

by B6 Boost

Overview:

This article is intended to provide a step-by-step installation guide for enthusiasts wanting to replace the cupholders in the center console of their B6 Passat with the European version. Total installation time should be around 2.5-3.0 hours for a first-timer with good mechanical aptitude. The factory R&R instructions say to remove the seats, but you should be able to work around them.

Note: Where this article refers to only one side of the center console, it is expected that you would repeat the process on the other side.

Difficulty Rating:



Parts Needed:

- European Cupholder

Tools Needed:

- Regular Screwdriver
- Torx T-20 Driver
- Torx T-15 Driver
- 10mm Socket/Driver
- Trim Removal Tool

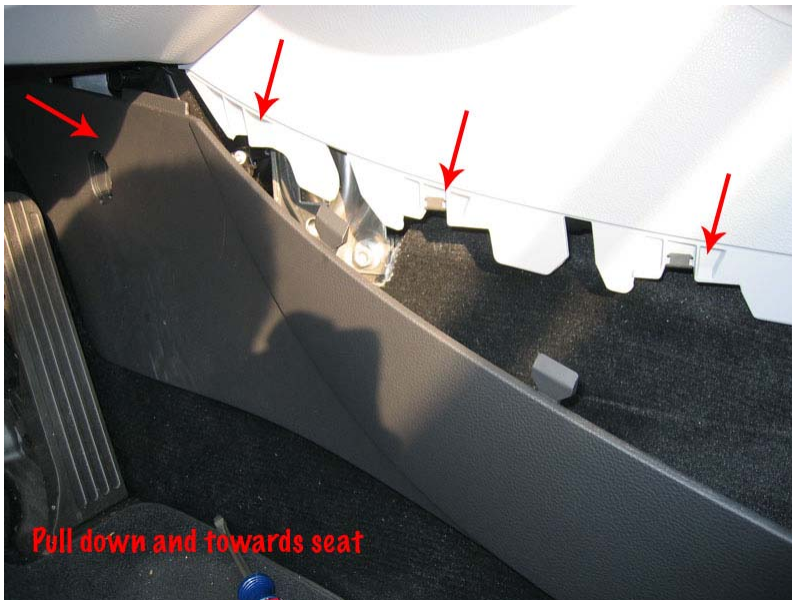
Phase One: Lower Console Disassembly

1.1 Open the drivers' door and look up under the dash by the gas pedal. You will see an oblong plastic insert in the center console. Gently pop that off with the regular screwdriver to reveal a T20 screw holding the front of the lower console cover in place. Remove this screw and set aside.

T20 screw has already been removed in this shot



1.2 That T20 is the only screw holding the lower console cover in place. The rest of it is secured with friction clips. Grasp the cover and pull down, starting from the rear. Once the cover is off, set it aside to be reinstalled later.



1.3 Once the panel is out, locate the T20 screw directly below the cup holder and remove it.



Hex Screw Underneath black footwell piece

1.4 Slide the front seat(s) as far forward and upward as possible. Moving to the rear seat, locate the oblong screw cover and remove it along with the T20 screw behind it.



Hex screw behind seat underside cover

1.5 Remove the rear ash tray and insert the regular screwdriver between the black and grey plastic piece and pull up. This will allow you to remove the large black vent piece. **Note:** On vehicles without a rear ashtray, gently pry the lower cover off with a screwdriver to expose the attachment bolts.



1.6 Unscrew the two nuts below the rear vents once black piece is removed, as shown above.

1.7 The center console is not disassembled and ready for removal, but do not do anything with it at this time.

Phase Two: Upper Console Disassembly

2.1 Adjust seats back to normal position and get in.

2.2 Using the trim removal tool, pry the plastic trim piece around the radio off. You can also do this with your fingers by grabbing the bottom and prying upward.

2.3 Once that trim piece is free, you can access and remove the plastic trim piece around the climate control panel.

2.4 The climate control assembly is held in by ten T-15 screws. Remove them carefully and set them aside.

Note: Radio trim surround should be removed by this time.



2.5 Once the screws have been removed, slide the climate control assembly toward you just enough to reach behind and unclip the three wiring harnesses.



2.6 Remove front ash/coin tray insert.

2.7 Unscrew two hex screws underneath ash tray bracket, but leave bracket in place for now.

2.8 Pry plastic chrome piece around the shifter away from the surrounding plastics. This piece will not be removed, but needs to be lifted out of the way to facilitate removing the console.



2.9 Pry/Pull up on the trim piece with ESP, Auto Hold and set aside, as shown above.

2.10 Below the trim pieces, you will find three wiring harnesses. Unplug these.

2.11 Once the trim piece surrounding the shifter is removed then you can remove the ash tray bracket you unfastened in 2.7 above.

2.12 Reach behind vent controls and unplug the spring mechanism to release the console.

2.13 The center console should now be loose. Do not remove it from the car, but proceed to the next section.



Phase Three: Cupholder Installation

3.1 Now that the center console is free, lift it up and locate the four hex screws (underneath) holding the rear storage bin in place. Remove them and set the storage bin aside to be reattached later.



3.2 Once storage bin is removed, remove the air tubs. There are two hex screws toward the front of the center console that release them.



3.3 Unscrew the six hex screws holding the U.S. cupholder in place and replace with the European cupholder.





Phase Four: Console Re-Assembly

4.1 Assembly is very much like disassembly, but in reverse! Take care when reconnecting wiring not to stress any of the connections and to use care when replacing friction-fit trim panels that you do not damage them.

4.2 One note for installation of the climate control module (from Niche): *The right knob has to be reinstalled the exact same way it came out. On the back, directly behind the far right knob is a tube that is grooved in three places, if it is not lined up to the housing hole it will pop the knob out when tightening the screws. **Make sure everything lines up exactly when reinstalling this component!***

4.2 Here are some in-process photos of the assembly process.





4.3 Once you have it done, this should be the finished product.





4.4 Enjoy your latest modification!

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