

Avanti Repair

How to Tell if You Have An Inside Door Handle, Remote Control Broken Return Spring, on 1963-1985 Avanti

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Dan Booth has over 45 years of exclusive, hands on Avanti sales, service, collision and parts, not Studebaker cars or trucks, just 1963-1985 Avantis.



Photo on the left (below) shows a rebuilt remote, 1350543R, with a N.O.S. return spring. Photo on the right shows a remote with a missing or broken return spring.



1350543 N.O.S. left inside door handle remote.

1350543R Rebuilt left inside door handle remote.

Quite a few 1963-1985 Avanti Owners don't realize that their inside-door handle remote control, 1350543 left or 1350542 right has a broken spring. If the inside door handle doesn't return to its correct spring loaded position. The door may not latch completely and/or hold that lock position. Which could allow that door to come fling open when you turn a corner or when you stop. It's very easy to determine if your remote spring is broken and/or the remote assembly is just plain worn out. It's normally the spring is broken. Lift up on the inside handle. It should have a lot of resistance from a strong spring and 100% of the time it should return to it's starting position with a clunk, when you let go of it.

Tools needed:

- Phillips Screw Driver
- Standard Screw Driver
- Inside door Handle Clip Removal Tool
- Set of Sockets or Box/Open End Wrenches
- Felt Tip Marker Pen

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If you have never removed an inside door handle or window crank handle, this is what you will be looking at. If you don't have a door handle clip tool, I have them for about \$5.



The removal tool will push out the horseshoe retainer clip from a slot. The open end of the horseshoe clip should be facing the long end of the handle, if it was installed properly. After the clip is removed the handle will pull straight off.



Remove the inside door handle with the door handle clip remover, Photo #4.

Remove the window crank handle (if you have manual windows) with the same tool.

If you have a 1970-84 Avanti with the door pull strap, photo #5. Remove the 2 chrome caps and then remove the 2 screws. If you have an 1985 Avanti with the arm rest and pull handle as a unit, then remove 3 screws.



Remove the screws that secure the door panel to the door.

If you have the chrome bullet shaped outside mirror installed from 1971-1983 remove the 2 screws that secure the mirror to the door. Then turn the remote cable and chrome mirror assembly counter clock wise, leaving the chrome escutcheon and lock nut on the door panel.

If you have electric mirrors, late 1983-1985, unplug the switch from the wiring harness. If you have any questions about the mirror removal, please call before you break something Dan Booth 248-349-4884

Remove your door panel. Mark the outline of your old remote. Remove 2 -1/4" x 20 bolts. Remove the rod from the remote. Reinstall your rod in the rebuilt remote, Now install it on the door using your felt tip marks as a guide. Install your inside door handle and make sure your door handle is unlatching the door look correctly. If not, adjust to correct position, then finish your installation of removed parts. Don't forget to tape up all the holes, the tape serves as a vapor barrier. When you're finished, the inside door handle should snap back with a thud.