



Audi B8 (Pre-Facelift) Paddle Shift Extension Installation Instructions



Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

INTRODUCTION

The Project:

Today we are going to install our ECS Tuning Carbon Fiber Paddle Shift Extension Set into a Pre-Facelift Audi B8 S4, but keep in mind the process is the same for the Billet Aluminum kits. These Paddle Shift Extension Kits have been meticulously designed by our engineers to provide a product which can be easily installed in place of the factory paddles, without compromising their feel or operation. The mounting base is made of 6061-T6 aluminum to provide a perfect fit into the factory paddle shifter base. These paddles will provide some serious eye candy for your interior, and they feature high visibility upshift and downshift icons beneath a protective clear coat. Best of all these paddles only require a few basic tools to install, and we're going to walk you through the installation step by step. Once you're done you'll be able to just sit back and admire your work.

ECS Difficulty Gauge

**1 - Easy**

2 - Moderate

Advanced - 3

Pro - 4

Take your time and enjoy the project, it'll only take you an hour or two. Read these instructions completely first, and be sure to watch the short **YOUTUBE** video for disassembling the paddles (video link can be found on [Page 16](#)). With the project overview under your belt, you'll breeze right through the install. Just to make sure you have everything you need, reference the required tool list on [Page 6](#) before you begin. Thank you for looking to ECS Tuning for all your performance and repair needs, we appreciate your business!

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

Today we'll be working on the back side of the steering wheel to unbolt (but **NOT** completely remove) both original paddle shifters, then we'll show how to disassemble them and how to install our ECS Tuning Paddle Shift Extension Set onto the original shifter bases. During this install we will be showing photos which were taken with the steering wheel removed for clarity, you will **NOT** need to remove your steering wheel.



KIT CONTENTS - CARBON FIBER



Upshift Paddle Extension - **QTY 1**



Downshift Paddle Extension - **QTY 1**

KIT CONTENTS - BILLET ALUMINUM



Upshift Paddle Extension - **QTY 1**



Downshift Paddle Extension - **QTY 1**

(Available in **Black Anodized** or Clear Anodized)

REQUIRED TOOLS

Note: The tools required for each step will be listed by the step number throughout these instructions.

Standard Automotive Tools

Required For This Install

Available On Our Website

- Protecta-Sockets (for lug nuts).....[ES#2221243](#)
- **3/8" Drive Ratchet**.....[ES#2765902](#)
- 3/8" Drive Torque Wrench.....[ES#2221245](#)
- **3/8" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets**.....[ES#2763772](#)
- **3/8" Drive Extensions**.....[ES#2804822](#)
- Hydraulic Floor Jack.....[ES#240941](#)
- **Torx Drivers and Sockets**.....[ES#11417/8](#)
- 1/2" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets.....[ES#2839106](#)
- 1/2" Drive Ratchet
- 1/2" Drive Extensions
- 1/2" Drive Torque Wrench.....[ES#2221244](#)
- 1/2" Drive Breaker Bar.....[ES#2776653](#)
- Bench Mounted Vise
- Crows Foot Wrenches
- **Hook and Pick Tool Set**.....[ES#2778980](#)

- 1/4" Drive Ratchet.....[ES#2823235](#)
- 1/4" Drive Deep and Shallow Sockets.....[ES#2823235](#)
- 1/4" Drive Extensions.....[ES#2823235](#)
- **Plier and Cutter Set**.....[ES#2804496](#)
- **Flat and Phillips Screwdrivers**.....[ES#2225921](#)
- Jack Stands.....[ES#2763355](#)
- Ball Pein Hammers
- Pry Bar Set.....[ES#1899378](#)
- Electric/Cordless Drill
- Wire Strippers/Crimpers
- Drill Bits
- Punch and Chisel Set
- Hex Bit (Allen) Wrenches and Sockets.....[ES#11420](#)
- Thread Repair Tools.....[ES#1306824](#)
- Open/Boxed End Wrench Set.....[ES#2765907](#)

SHOP SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

Standard Shop Supply Recommendations: We recommend that you have a standard inventory of automotive shop supplies before beginning this or any automotive repair procedure. The following list outlines the basic shop supplies that we like to keep on hand. Shop supplies with a hyperlink are available on our website.

- Hand Cleaner/Degreaser - [Click Here](#)
- Pig Mats - for protecting your garage floor and work area from spills and stains - [Click Here](#)
- Spray detailer - for rapid cleaning of anything that comes into contact with your paint such as brake fluid - [Click Here](#)
- Micro Fiber Towels - for cleaning the paint on your car - [Click Here](#)
- Latex Gloves - for the extra oily and dirty jobs - [Click Here](#)
- Medium and High Strength Loctite Thread lock compound - to prevent bolts from backing out - [Click Here](#)
- Anti-Seize Compound - to prevent seizing, galling, and corrosion of fasteners - [Click Here](#)
- Aerosol Brake/Parts Cleaner - for cleaning and degreasing parts
- Shop Rags - used for wiping hands, tools, and parts
- Penetrating oil - for helping to free rusted or stuck bolts and nuts
- Mechanics wire - for securing components out of the way
- Silicone spray lube - for rubber components such as exhaust hangers
- Paint Marker - for marking installation positions or bolts during a torquing sequence
- Plastic Wire Ties/Zip Ties - for routing and securing wiring harnesses or vacuum hoses
- Electrical tape - for wrapping wiring harnesses or temporary securing of small components

INSTALLATION NOTES

- **RH** refers to the *passenger side* of the vehicle.
- **LH** refers to the *driver side* of the vehicle.
- Always use the proper torque specifications.
- If applicable to this installation, torque specifications will be listed throughout the document and at the end as well.
- Please read all of these instructions and familiarize yourself with the complete process **BEFORE** you begin.

GENERAL PREPARATION AND SAFETY INFORMATION

ECS Tuning cares about your health and safety. Please read the following safety information. This information pertains to automotive service in general, and while it may not pertain to every job you do, please remember and share these important safety tips.

- Park your car in a safe, well lit, level area.
- Shut the engine off and remove the key from the ignition switch.
- Make sure any remote start devices are properly disabled.
- **ALWAYS** wear safety glasses.
- Make sure the parking brake is applied until the vehicle is safely lifted and supported.
- If using an automotive lift, be sure and utilize the factory specified lift points. Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear.
- When lifting a vehicle using a jack, always utilize the factory specified lift points. Lifting a vehicle in an incorrect location can cause damage to the suspension/running gear. **ALWAYS** support the vehicle with jack stands.
- Always read and follow all safety information and warnings for the equipment you are using.



NEVER get underneath a vehicle that is supported only by a jack, and ALWAYS make sure that the vehicle is securely supported on jack stands.

REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 1:

Begin by turning the steering wheel 90° from center in either direction.



Step 2:

Looking behind the steering wheel at the top and bottom of the column, you will see two small plastic screw covers, these are used to hide the screws which secure the airbag to the steering wheel. Pay close attention to the far right photo, it shows the small access slot in the bottom of the steering column. Be sure that the screw cover is perfectly centered inside this slot **BEFORE** proceeding to the next step.



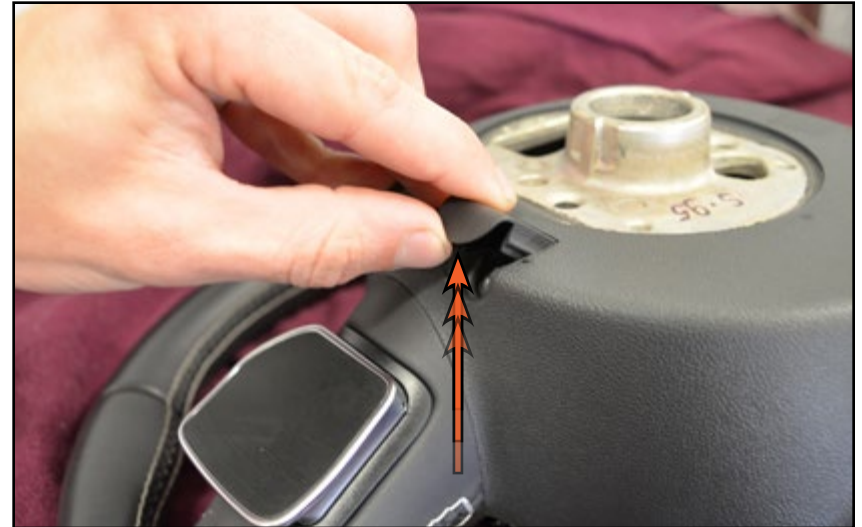
REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 3:

The photo on the right was taken with the steering wheel removed from the vehicle, this is **NOT** necessary for this install, we have only done this in order to provide a clearer image of how to remove the paddles. Simply grab the screw cover and lift it out of the steering wheel as shown in the photo.



If you have trouble removing the lower screw cover because of the steering column, you can rotate the steering wheel 180° in order to access that screw cover from the top side.

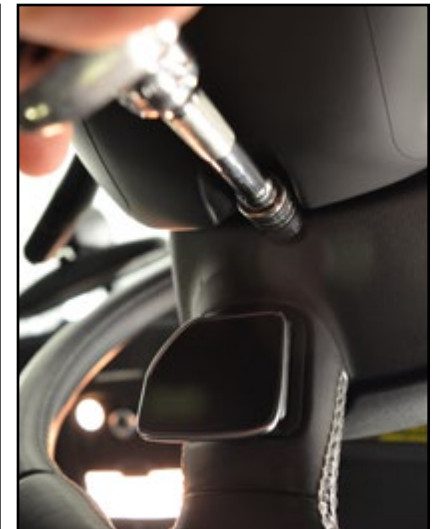
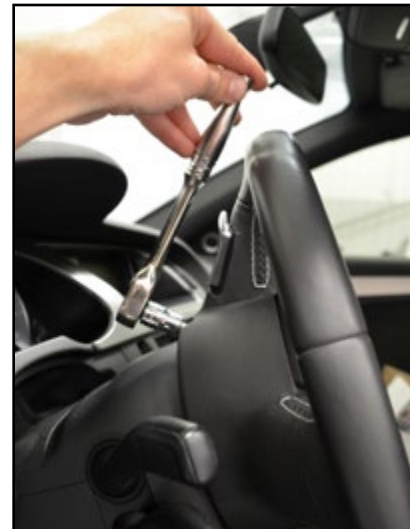


Step 4: T30 Torx

Loosen the two screws which secure the airbag to the steering wheel, but **DO NOT** remove the airbag from the wheel at this time.



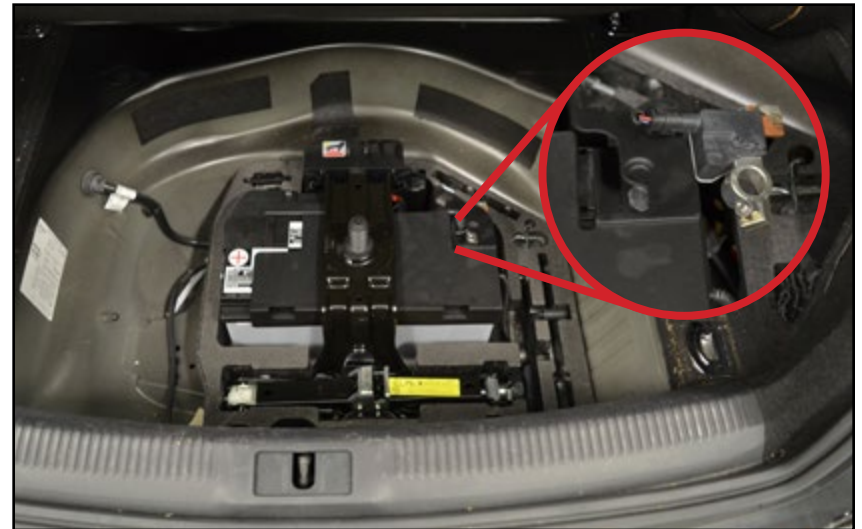
DO NOT attempt to remove the airbag until you disconnect the negative (-) battery terminal. Instructions on how to disconnect negative (-) battery terminal are on the next page.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 5: 10mm Socket & Ratchet

Open the trunk and access the battery by removing the spare wheel and the battery cover. Disconnect the negative (-) battery terminal and set it off to the side so that it cannot accidentally come into contact with the battery.



Step 6:

Insert the key into the ignition to discharge any residual power in the power circuits, then remove the key and set it aside.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

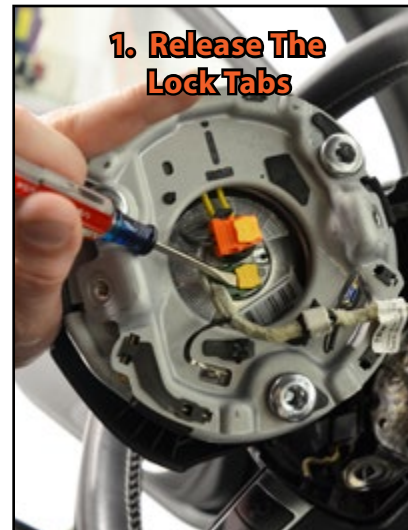
Step 7:

Now that the battery is disconnected and all of the residual power has been discharged, it is safe to remove the airbag. First, we need to pull the airbag slowly out of the steering wheel, then rotate it gently in order to access the electrical connectors on the back side.



Step 8: Small Flat Blade Screwdriver

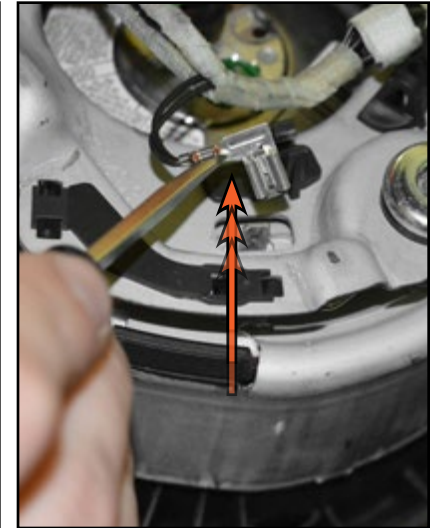
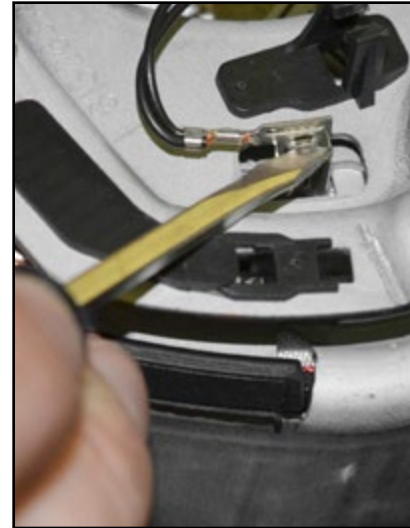
Release the **YELLOW** plastic locking tabs on both the **ORANGE** and **GREEN** electrical connectors by **GENTLY** prying them upwards, then unplug the connectors by simply pulling them out of the airbag.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 9: Small Flat Blade Screwdriver - or - Small Pick

Next, we're going to need to remove the two metal connectors from the back of the airbag. Let's start with the 90° connector shown in the photos on the right. There is a small tang built into the connector, this tang is used to lock the connector into place. To remove it, you only need to depress the tang slightly with a small screwdriver or pick, then pull the connector up and off.



Step 10:

Use the same process as Step 9 to remove the remaining connector on the back of the airbag.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 11:

Remove the plastic trim ring from inside the steering wheel by gently pulling it outward.



Step 12:

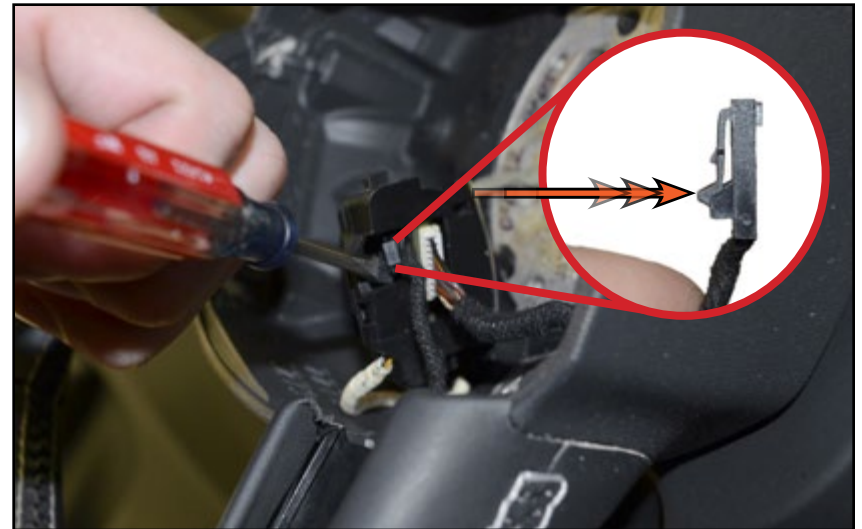
Remove both of the steering wheel control switches by simply sliding them toward the center of the steering wheel.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 14: Small Flat Blade Screwdriver

Now flip the steering wheel control switches over and release the paddle shifter electrical connectors by **GENTLY** pushing the lock tab in and pulling the connectors out. We are only disconnecting these to provide enough slack to release the paddles in a later step, there is no need to completely remove the electrical connectors from the steering wheel.



Step 13: T20 Torx

Hold the steering wheel controls out of the way so you can remove the two screws which secure the paddle shifters to the steering wheel.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 15:

Release the paddle shifters from the steering wheel by first lifting the inside edge upward slightly (LH Photo), then pulling the shifter out of the wheel (RH Photo). Allow the paddles to hang from the wheel to install the new ECS Paddle Shift Extensions.



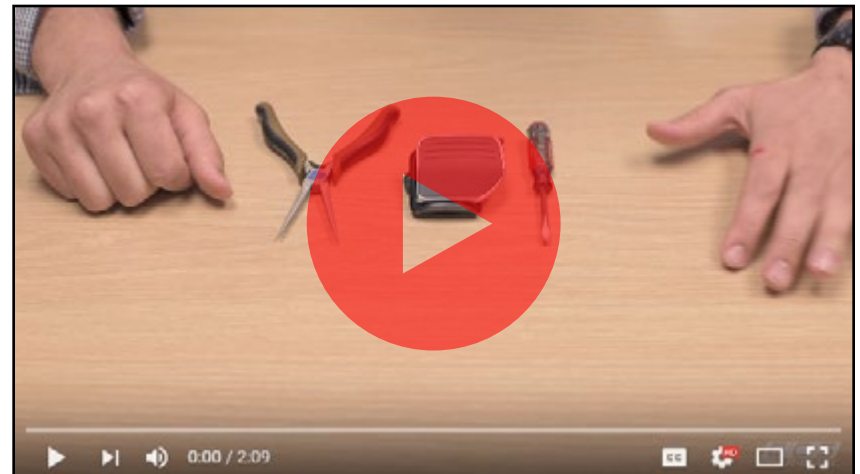
It is **NOT** necessary to completely remove the paddle shifters from the steering wheel in order to install the new paddle shift extensions, but many of the photos in the following steps were taken with the paddles removed in order to provide the clearest possible photos



Step 16:

Now it's time to release the original paddles from their bases, for this we have put together a short video to better illustrate how to disassemble the paddles, that video can be found by clicking [HERE](#), or by clicking on the photo to the right.

Once you have watched the video, you can either continue to Step 17 on [Page 16](#) to see the written instructions for disassembling the paddles, or you can continue to Step 1 on [Page 18](#) to begin installing your new ECS Paddle Shift Extensions.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 17: Small Flat Blade Screwdriver

Gently pry the pivot pin out of its seat as shown in the LH photo, being absolutely sure that the tip of the screwdriver is in contact with the pivot pin and **NOT** the plastic seat built into the paddle. Once the pin has been released you should see approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " of it as shown in the RH photo.



We recommend you work on one paddle at a time to keep from mixing up components.



Step 18: Small Needle Nose Pliers

Gently grab a hold of the pivot pin and pull it completely out of the paddle.



CAUTION: Be gentle here, it takes very little force to remove the pin from the paddle, you don't want to damage the pin by clamping it too hard with the pliers.



REMOVING THE ORIGINAL PADDLES

Step 19:

So now we're ready to pull the paddle shifter out of the base. The only thing that is holding the paddle shifter together is the Tab/Clip in the upper corner of the paddle. There is no way to release this clip, so to remove the paddle from the base you need to **GENTLY** pivot the paddle $\frac{1}{8}$ " - $\frac{1}{4}$ " as shown in photo #1 below, then **STOP**. Next, you need to rotate the paddle slightly to release the Tab/Clip (the upshift paddle needs to be rotated clockwise, the downshift paddle needs to be rotated counterclockwise). The paddle will now come apart, but be sure that the spring does not fly out as shown in photo #2.



INSTALLING THE NEW ECS PADDLES

Step 1:

Install the new ECS Paddle Shift Extension into the original base in the reverse order of removal, then push the pivot pin through the hole until it "clicks" into place.



We will be installing our carbon fiber paddles, but the process is identical for the billet kits.



Be sure to insert the grooved side of the pivot pin into the paddle first, this is what secures the pin into place.

Step 2:

Repeat this process to install the other paddle.



INSTALLING THE NEW ECS PADDLES

Step 3:

Reinstall the paddle shifters into the steering wheel by first inserting the hinged side into the wheel (LH Photo), then pushing the other side of the shifter into the wheel (RH Photo).



It is helpful during this step to keep **VERY LIGHT** tension against the wire by pulling it with your other hand, this will ensure that the wire doesn't get bunched up or pinched.



Step 4: T20 Torx

Reinstall the mounting screws into the paddles, then tighten them until they make contact + $\frac{1}{8}$ turn.



INSTALLING THE NEW ECS PADDLES

Step 5:

Reconnect the paddle shifter electrical connectors to the steering wheel control switches, then slide the switches into their slots in the steering wheel.



Step 6:

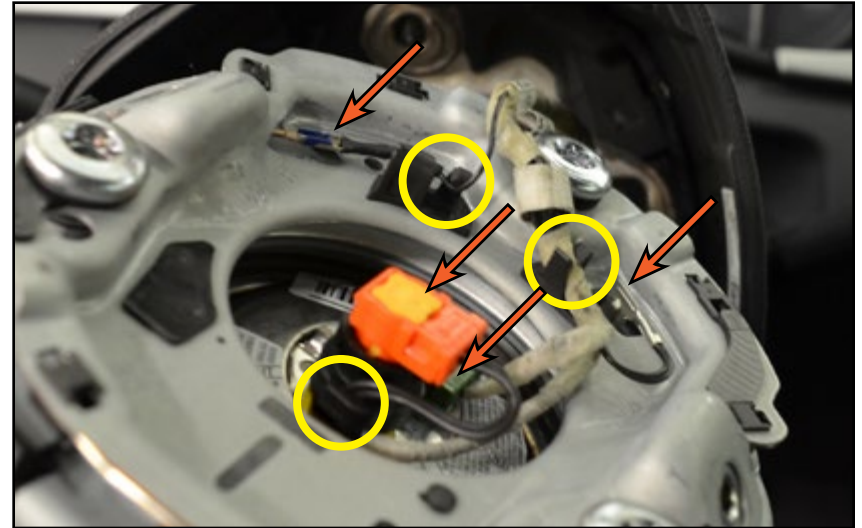
Line up the four (4) pins on the back side of the trim ring with the matching holes in the steering wheel (circled in **YELLOW**) and reinstall in the reverse order of removal.



INSTALLING THE NEW ECS PADDLES

Step 7:

Reconnect all of the electrical connectors into the back of the airbag (**ORANGE** arrows). Be sure to reinstall the wires into the three wire retaining clips (**YELLOW** circles), this will keep the wires from being pinched or damaged when the airbag is reinstalled into the steering wheel.



Step 8:

Reinstall the airbag and torque the two T30 mounting screws to 7 Nm (5.1 ft-lbs).

Reinstall the airbag mounting screw covers.

Reconnect the negative battery terminal, then reinstall the battery cover and the spare wheel.

Your ECS Paddle Shift Extension Set installation is now complete!



CARBON FIBER CLEANING AND CARE

ECS Tuning Carbon Fiber products are clear coated for excellent finish durability and UV resistance right out of the box.

Carbon fiber can be washed with any gentle cleanser or soap. If it is safe for the paint on your car, it will be safe for the carbon fiber.

Be extra careful not to nick or deeply scratch the clear coat on the carbon fiber. This can lead to water intrusion into the carbon fiber which will damage the finish.

If the clear coat does get nicked or deeply scratched to expose the carbon fiber, seal the damaged area thoroughly with a clear coat touch up or clear nail polish.

To retain UV resistance and protect the finish, we recommend regular waxing with a high quality caranuba wax.

Small surface scratches and light oxidation can be buffed out using the same methods and cautions you would use on the vehicle paint.

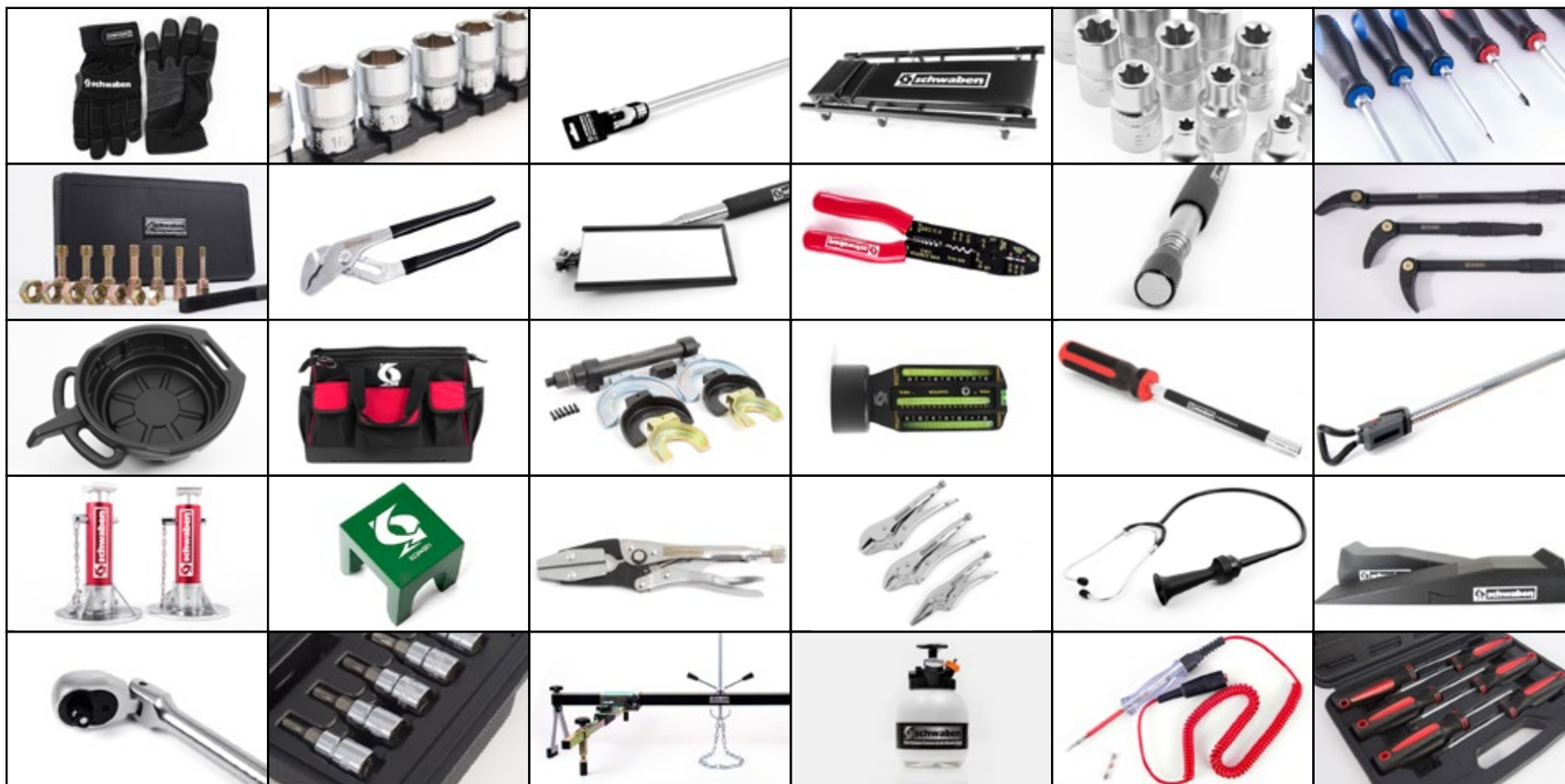
Carbon Fiber Cleaning and Care Kit, available at ecstuning.com.

[ES#2914954](#)



SCHWABEN - BUILD THE ULTIMATE TOOL COLLECTION

At ECS Tuning, we carry a line of high quality Schwaben Tools and Equipment to help you build your ultimate tool collection. Never before has affordability and quality been so closely related. Our entire Schwaben line is subjected to strict in house testing for strength and durability. See what we have to offer and equip your garage without breaking the bank.



Your ECS Paddle Shift Extension Set Installation is complete!



These instructions are provided as a courtesy by ECS Tuning

Proper service and repair procedures are vital to the safe, reliable operation of all motor vehicles as well as the personal safety of those performing the repairs. Standard safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed at all times to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety.

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