

mass air flow sensor cleaning guide

procedure summary

This is a guide to cleaning the Mass Air Flow (MAF) sensor, infamously known to VW owners as a problem part. This problem seems to have become more widespread with the release of the Mk. IV platform, which is apparently due to a bad batch of sensors from the Bosch factory. Although most of the faulty MAFs have been weeded out after having failed on their owners, the more hardy MAFs often survive until just after the car's warranty expires. In most cases the owner is left holding a bill for several hundred dollars for a new MAF and labor costs.

The reason this guide was created is to help those owners who are having trouble with their MAFs. Symptoms include poor gas mileage, reduced power, poor engine performance, and often result in the MIL (Malfunction Indicator Lamp, also known as the "check engine light") being triggered. This guide was designed specifically for people who either have had no positive results after multiple dealer visits regarding MAF related service, or are out of their warranty period.

tools needed

- Philips head screwdriver
 - A helping hand or a vise grip of some sort
 - 91% Isopropyl Alcohol
 - Large Ziploc bag
 - Compressed air cleaning spray
 - Paper towels
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removal instructions

1. Open car hood.
 2. Unplug the MAF sensor, (see pic 1 and 2).
 3. Locate the two Philips head screws that secure the top of the airbox and loosen them (see pic 3).
 4. There is a ring that holds the hose onto the MAF, get your vise grip and press the two tabs together to loosen the ring's grip.
 5. Lift the airbox's top off by pulling upwards and towards the car cabin. There is a smaller corrugated hose connected to the airbox top directly below the MAF sensor, remove that by pressing the two press points together.
 6. On either side of the MAF are two philip's head screws that hold it in place, remove them.
 7. The hole that the MAF sensor resides in has a rubber ring that creates a seal, also making in difficult to get the sensor out, some wiggling and pulling will free it.
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cleaning instructions

1. Take the large Ziploc bag and place the MAF sensor in it.
2. Pour enough Isopropyl alcohol into the bag to completely cover the MAF sensor (see pic 4).
3. Gently shake the bag to allow the alcohol to pass through the sensor.
4. Take the MAF sensor out and let the excess alcohol drip off (see pic 5). Dipose of the Isopropyl alcohol according to local laws.
5. Set the MAF sensor down on a paper towel to drip/air dry (see pic 6). You may want to use the compressed air spray to blow dry parts such as the connector port.
6. Allow the MAF sensor to dry completely before reinstalling it in the car. This will take between 1-12 hours.
7. Reinstall using the above instructions in reverse.



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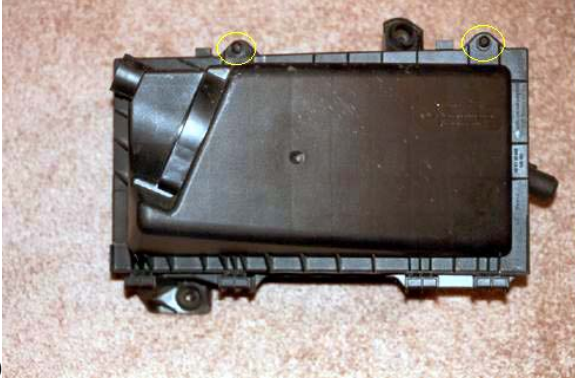
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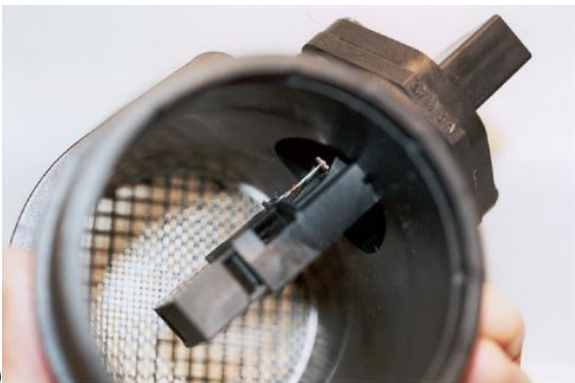
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