

DIY LX Gauge Cluster Swap

Instructions and pictures for removing the DX Cluster and replacing with the LX Cluster.

§Created and edited by [Bellz](#)§

§FAQ written by Skipbarber, with special thanks to XxSoVeReiGNxX§

Normally, I'd put the FAQ at the end of the article. But this time, I feel it's necessary for you to know all the facts before buying and installing a new Gauge Cluster. So without further ado, here's Skipbarber's FAQ, originally posted in the [7thGenCivic.com Forum](#). -Bellz

DX Cluster Upgrades FAQ. by SkipBarber

I thought I'd gather some of the info I've learned here so that new DX owners have a one click place for their cluster upgrade questions.

What fits: for model years 2001 and 2002 you can only change the cluster to 2001 or 2002 model years. 2003 and above is not an option. This applies the other way around too.

EX and LX clusters do fit the DX directly. It doesn't matter if they have side airbags or ABS, since the fix for that is to lift the gauge faces and cover the lights with black tape, or cut the LED's completely. the SRS light will remain functional since it's a separate light triggered by a different circuit.

MILEAGE: This is the big one. If you were lucky enough to have purchased a cluster with more miles than your car did, the best thing to do is wait until your car reaches that mileage and do the swap. If you're like me and got stuck with a cluster with fewer miles than your original car mileage, it IS possible to change the mileage. You must take your car to a speedo calibration shop so that they can crack the computer and tap the original miles from the ECM..contrary to popular belief, the ECM DOES STORE ORIGINAL MILES. If the cluster miles do not match the computer miles perfectly, it will not work...the miles on the cluster will default right back to the mileage it had when it was removed from the first car. While the computer will still keep track of the original miles.

If you live in the MD/VA/DC area the number to call is: 410-787-7332

I was quoted \$100 for the service

That's all I can think of right now, but I know some of you other DX owners might have more things to share.

Props to XxSoVeReiGNxX for the help.

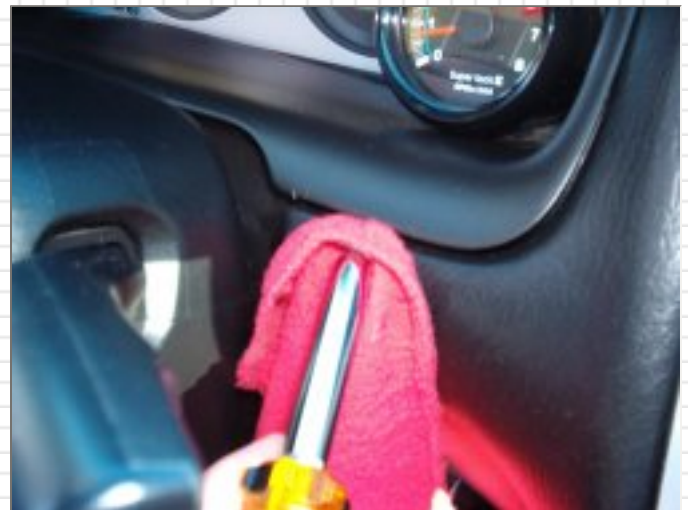
Again, I typed it all up for the newbs.

I got mine from ebay. The most popular seller for them is M-K!

DIY Instructions

After you've bought an LX cluster and figured out how to deal with the mileage issue, it's time to install!

Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove the two screws at the top of the outer bezel. The next part is a little tricky. There are two snap fitting clips holding the bottom on each side of the steering wheel. I've circled their location in the 1st picture below. The easiest method of popping these loose is to use a flat-head screwdriver. Place a rag under the screwdriver to protect against scratches and slide the flat-head under the bezel. Slowly push down on the handle end of the screwdriver until the bezel pops loose. Repeat for the other side. See the pictures below for detail.



Pull out the trim piece and you'll see the three screws that hold the cluster and clear shield in place. Remove the three screws and carefully pull the cluster toward you and tilt it to show the two electrical plugs at the top. Unplug both of them and the cluster will come out.



Now, depending on whether or not your new cluster includes the plastic shield and black trim piece will determine if you need to remove them from the old cluster. To remove the plastic shield, push on the four tabs shown in the first picture below. The black trim piece is held on by 7 tabs, shown in the second picture below. And finally, the last picture shows what the bare DX cluster looks like. Kinda plain, isn't it?!

Reverse all the steps above to install the new cluster. Remember that the mileage that is shown on the new cluster is the mileage of the car that it was removed from. There may be legal issues to consider now. By changing the cluster, you have tampered with the mileage that is shown to any prospective buyer or dealer if you trade it in. The true mileage of your car is still contained in the ECU computer and cannot be changed. You should contact your local dealer to see what you need to do to stay legal. Please read the disclaimer below!!





Disclaimer: I am not responsible for your mileage tampering if you sell or trade your car and don't admit to the new owner that you changed the cluster. You must show the legal mileage somewhere on the car. I have read that the dealer will put a mileage adjustment sticker on the door jam if you take it to them.