

SERVICE BULLETIN

HONDA

AUTOMOBILE SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Model 1997 PRELUDE	Applicable To ALL	File Under PDI	Bulletin No. 96-053
			Issue Date MAR 17, 1997

1997 Prelude: PDI and New Model Information

(Supersedes 96-053, 1997 Prelude: PDI Information, dated November 4, 1996)

Most systems and components on the 1997 Prelude look and operate the same as those on other Honda vehicles, but some do not. This bulletin describes differences in these systems or components:

- Immobilizer System
- Parking Brake
- Fuses
- Accessory Power Socket
- Headlight Bulbs
- Supplemental Restraint System (SRS)
- Service Connectors
- Control Unit Memory
- PGM Tester Usage
- Automatic Transmission
- Front License Plate Installation
- Shift Lock Release Cover
- Automatic Torque Transfer System (ATTS)

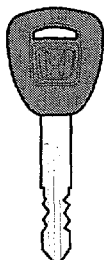
NEW

IMMOBILIZER SYSTEM

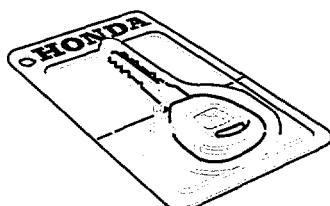
This system prevents the engine from starting if an "unauthorized" key is used in the ignition switch. When the correct key is used, a transponder inside the key sends an identification (ID) code to the immobilizer receiver. The receiver then sends the code to the immobilizer control unit, allowing the engine to start. If an incorrect key is used in the ignition switch, the engine's fuel delivery and starter circuits are disabled.

The car comes with two master keys (black grip), one valet key (gray grip), and one learning key (red grip). All keys have a transponder inside them that outputs an ID code used by the immobilizer control unit to start the engine. *There are no batteries or repairable parts inside the keys.*

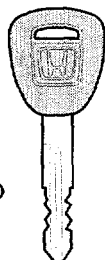
MASTER KEY
(BLACK)



LEARNING KEY
(RED)



VALET KEY
(GRAY)



The **master key** operates the ignition switch, the doors, the trunk, the trunk release handle, the rear seat trunk access, and the glove box.

The **valet key** works like the master key, except it does not open the trunk, the trunk release handle, the rear seat trunk access, or the glove box.

The **learning key** has a unique ID code that is matched to the car's immobilizer control unit. It allows you to recode or replace a key, but **it will not start the engine**. If you try to start the engine with the learning key, it may disable the fuel supply system and the starter system. If this happens, you will need to do the "ADDING OR REPLACING KEYS" procedure in Service Bulletin 96-051, *Information on the Immobilizer System*. Give the learning key (in its original package) to the customer when the car is delivered, and explain its use.

System Check

Insert each master key and the valet key in the ignition switch, and turn the switch ON (II). Check that the immobilizer system indicator light comes on for two seconds, then goes off. When this happens, it means that the keys are OK, and the engine can be started.

PARKING BRAKE

The brake indicator light comes on when the ignition switch is turned ON (II), whether or not the parking brake is applied. If the light does not go off after the engine starts, check the parking brake switch and the brake fluid level. Refer to the Service Manual for details.

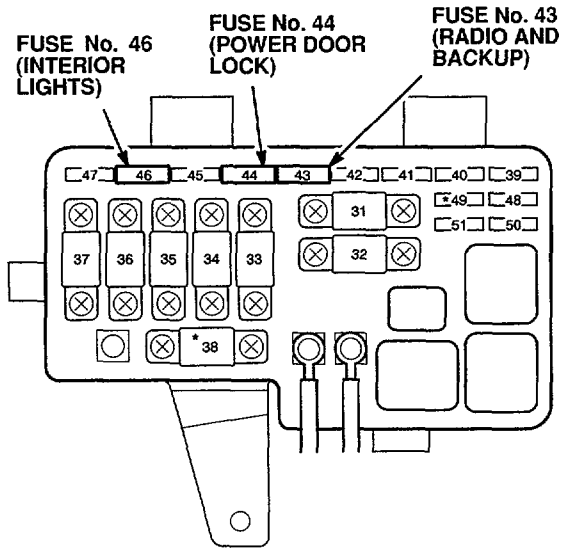
Index # 047477

FUSES

To prevent battery drain, three fuses are not installed in the under-hood fuse/relay box at the factory:

- Fuse No. 43, 7.5A, radio and backup
- Fuse No. 44, 10A, power door lock
- Fuse No. 46, 15A, interior lights

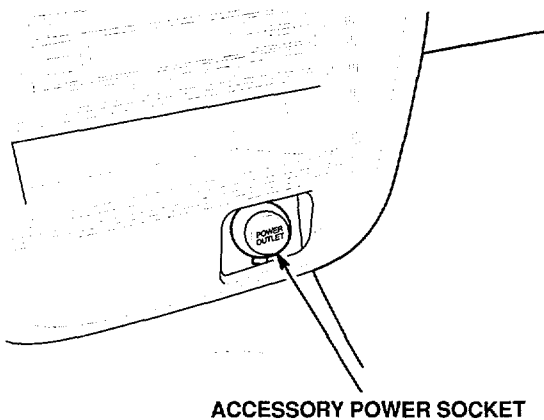
Remove the three fuses from the coin pocket, and install them in the under-hood fuse/relay box.



ACCESSORY POWER SOCKET

The accessory power socket takes the place of a cigarette lighter. This socket supplies 12 volts of DC power to accessories rated up to 120 watts (or 10 amps).

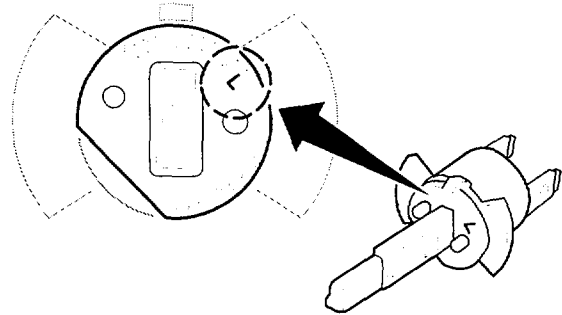
To use the accessory power socket, pull the cover down, plug in the accessory, and turn the ignition switch to ACCESSORY (I) or ON (II).



NOTE: A cigarette lighter element will not work in the accessory power socket.

HEADLIGHT BULBS

The H1 headlight bulbs used on the '97 Prelude have a longer life than regular H1 bulbs. These long-life bulbs are available through Honda Dealers only. You can tell them apart from regular bulbs by the "L" mark on the base.

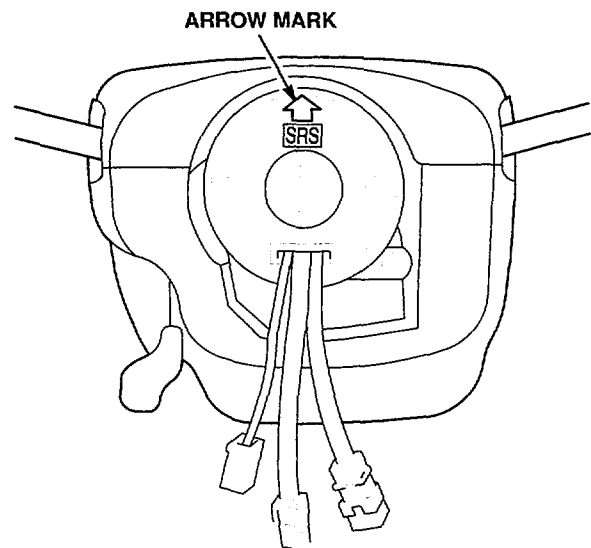


If you need to replace a headlight bulb, but an "L" bulb is not available, you can use a regular H1 bulb, but the life of this bulb is less than the life of the "L" bulb.

SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRAINT SYSTEM (SRS)

The cable reel on the steering column does not have an indicator to confirm center alignment. If you are reinstalling the cable reel, use this procedure to align it:

1. Set the front wheels straight ahead.
2. Turn the cable reel clockwise until it stops.
3. Turn the cable reel about two and a half turns counterclockwise, making sure the arrow points straight up.

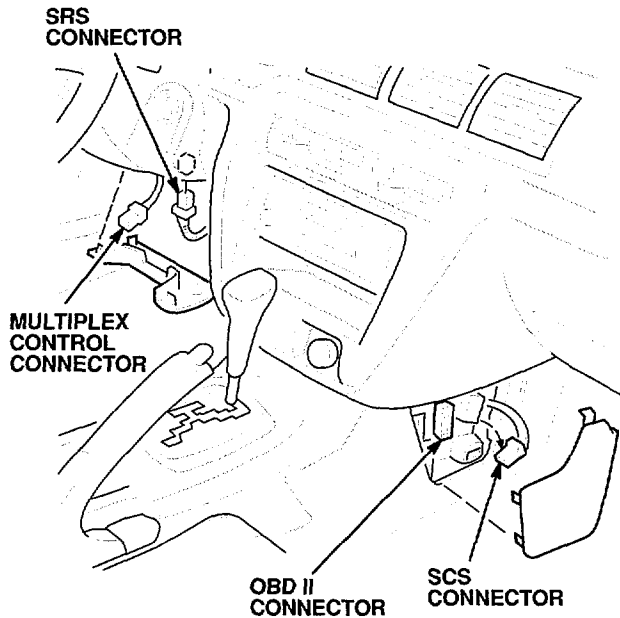


SERVICE CONNECTORS

There are four service connectors, one for each of these systems:

- Multiplex control
- On-board diagnostics (OBD II)
- Service check connector (SCS)
- Supplemental restraint system (SRS)

The OBD II connector and the SCS connector are under the access cover, on the right side of the center console. The multiplex control connector and the SRS connector are under the dashboard, to the left of the steering column.



CONTROL UNIT MEMORY

The ABS and the SRS control units each have an "EEPROM" chip that does not allow their memories to be erased by removing the backup fuse or disconnecting the battery. To erase the memory on these control units, use the PGM Tester or the SCS connector. The procedures are explained in the Service Manual.

PGM TESTER USAGE

The PGM Tester can be used on these systems:

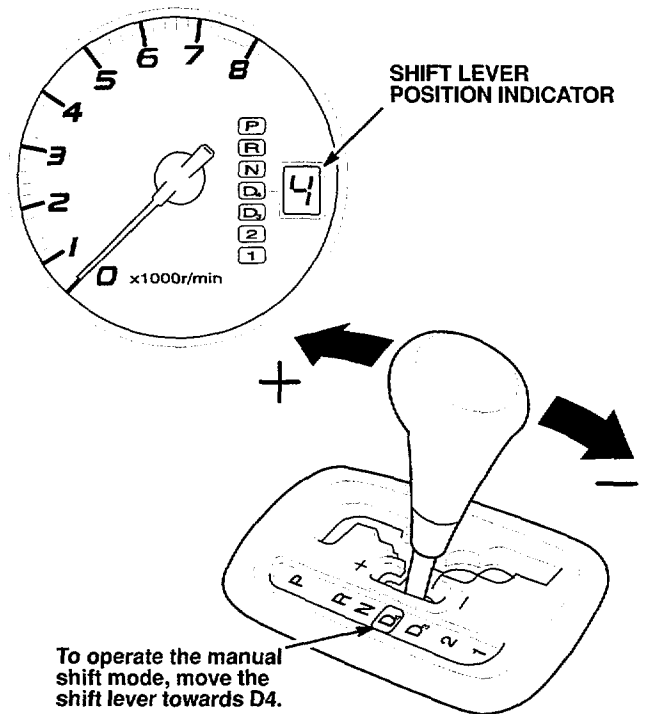
- Fuel injection (PGM-FI)
- Automatic transmission (A/T)
- Anti-lock brake system (ABS)
- Supplemental restraint system (SRS)
- Immobilizer

AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION

The automatic transmission has a gated shifter and a manual shift mode. To move the shift lever from PARK to other gear positions, depress the brake pedal, turn the ignition switch ON (II), move the lever to the right, then pull it down to the desired position.

Manual Shift Mode

In manual shift mode, you can shift the transmission much like a manual transmission. To activate manual shifting, move the shift lever to the left when in D4. In this position, pushing the lever forward causes the transmission to upshift one gear, and pulling the lever backward causes it to downshift one gear. The shift lever position indicator on the instrument panel displays which gear you are in.



Here are some other characteristics of the manual shift mode.

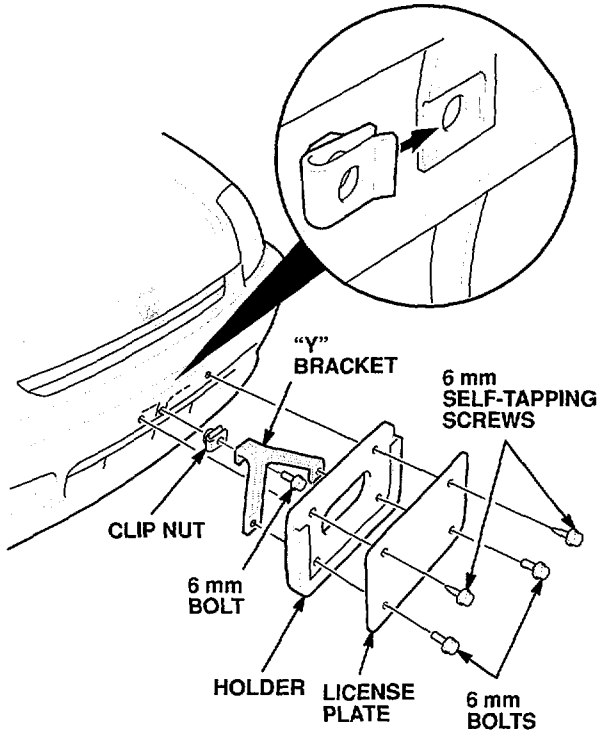
- When the car is not moving, the manual shift mode does not operate, and the transmission selects first gear.
- When the transmission fluid temperature is low, the manual shift mode does not operate, the shift lever position indicator is off, and the transmission selects normal shifting modes until it is warmed up.
- If downshifting to third gear would cause the engine to "over-rev," the shift lever position indicator flashes "3" for a few seconds, but the transmission remains in fourth gear.
- If downshifting to second or first gear would cause the engine to "over-rev," the transmission remains in the gear previously selected.

NEW

FRONT LICENSE PLATE INSTALLATION

NOTE: In some states, front license plates are not required. Check with the customer before you install the plate because if it is removed later, the bumper will have two screw holes in it.

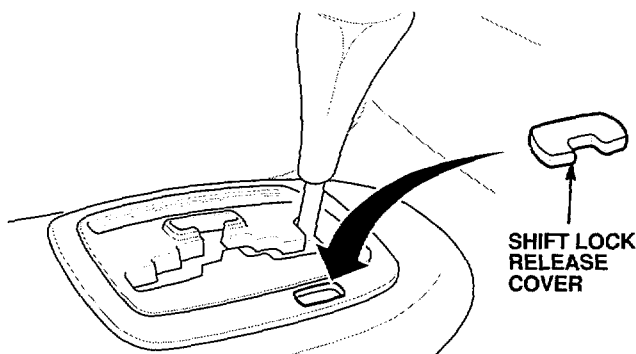
1. Push the clip nut over the rib in the center of the front grille. Attach the "Y" bracket to the rib with a 6 mm bolt.



2. Attach the top of the plate to the bumper with two 6 mm self-tapping screws.

SHIFT LOCK RELEASE COVER

On vehicles from VIN JHMBB624*VC009675, to allow shift lever movement during shipment, the shift lock release cover is not installed. On these vehicles, remove the shift lock release cover from the plastic bag in the glove box, and install it on the A/T gear position indicator panel.



AUTOMATIC TORQUE TRANSFER SYSTEM (ATTS)

Type SH models are equipped with the Active Torque Transfer System (ATTS). The ATTS is an "active" differential. It determines the torque needed at each driving wheel based on available engine torque, gear position, acceleration, and cornering angle.

⚠ WARNING

Using the engine to turn a front (drive) wheel while the other one is on the ground can cause the vehicle to move suddenly. This could result in death or serious injury to people in the area. Before using the engine to turn one of the drive wheels, always raise both of them off the ground.

NOTICE Turning a drive wheel with the other one held stationary can damage the ATTS unit.

When on-car front wheel balancing or front brake disc refinishing is needed, follow these precautions:

On-Car Front Wheel Balancing

- Keep both front wheels off the ground.
- While balancing a front wheel, let the wheel on the opposite side turn freely; do not prevent it from turning.

Front Brake Disc Refinishing

NOTE: The '97 Prelude Service Manual recommends using a motor-driven on-car brake lathe (a lathe with its own power drive). As long as both front wheels are off the ground, it is OK to use either an engine-driven or a motor-driven lathe.

- Keep the transmission in second gear.
- Keep both front wheels off the ground.
- While refinishing a front brake disc, let the disc on the opposite side turn freely; do not prevent it from turning.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

None. Information in this bulletin is part of pre-delivery inspection (PDI).

NEW

NEW