



Applies To: **1997 – 98 Prelude – ALL**
1999 Prelude – thru VIN JHMBB6...XC010811

July 20, 1999

Door Is Difficult to Open From the Inside (Supersedes 97-052, dated August 27, 1997)

SYMPTOM

One or both doors are difficult to open with the inside door handle.

PROBABLE CAUSE

The inner handle rod is too long or the door is out of adjustment.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

For 1997 models:

Check the inside door handle operation. Replace the inner handle rod with the part listed under PARTS INFORMATION and/or adjust the door fit as needed.

For 1998 – 99 models:

Inspect the fit of the doors and adjust as needed.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

In warranty: The normal warranty applies.

OP #	Description	FRT	Template ID
818103	Replace inner handle rod, adjust cushions and striker, left door – 1997 Models	1.1	97-052A
819103	Replace inner handle rod, adjust cushions and striker, right door – 1997 Models	1.1	97-052B
818104	Replace inner handle rods, adjust cushions and striker, both doors – 1997 Models	1.5	97-052C
818321	Adjust cushions and striker, left door – 1998 – 99 Models	0.3	97-052D
818322	Adjust cushions and striker, right door – 1998 – 99 Models	0.3	97-052E
818323	Adjust cushions and striker, both doors – 1998 – 99 Models	0.6	97-052F

Failed part: Left door – P/N 72171-S30-003
 H/C 5206362

Right door – P/N 72131-S30-003
 H/C 5206214

Defect code: 079

Contention code: B01

Skill level: Repair Technician

Out of warranty: Any repair performed after warranty expiration may be eligible for goodwill consideration by the District Service Manager or your Zone Office. You must request consideration, and get a decision, before starting work.

PARTS INFORMATION

Inner handle rod:

Left – P/N 72171-S30-999, H/C 5644877

Right – P/N 72131-S30-999, H/C 5644869

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Lithium dielectric grease:

P/N 08798-9001, H/C 3720976

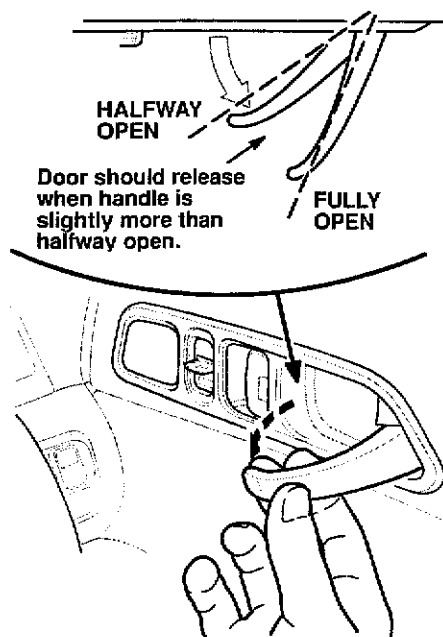
INSPECTION PROCEDURE

NOTE: Inspect only 1997 models. For 1998 – 99 models, go to step 7 of REPAIR PROCEDURE.

Inspect the operation of both door handles, even though the customer may have complained about the operation of only one door.

Visually check how far you have to pull out the inside door handle before the door releases.

- If the door releases with the door handle pulled out slightly more than halfway, there is no need to replace the inner handle rod. Go to step 7 of REPAIR PROCEDURE.
- If you have to pull the door handle out almost to the fully open position to release the door, replace the inner handle rod. Go to step 1 of REPAIR PROCEDURE.



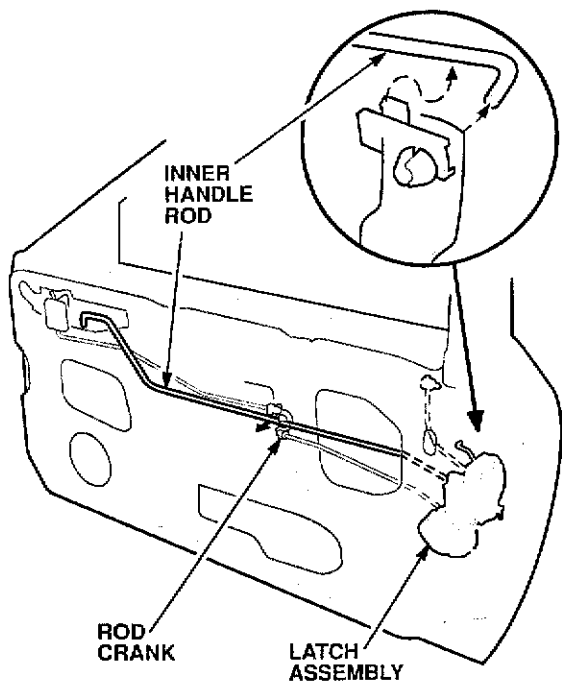
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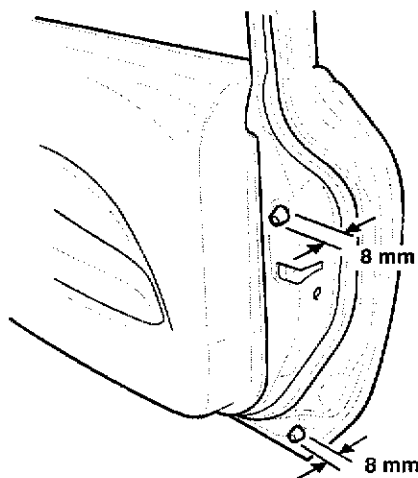
CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use *only* by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

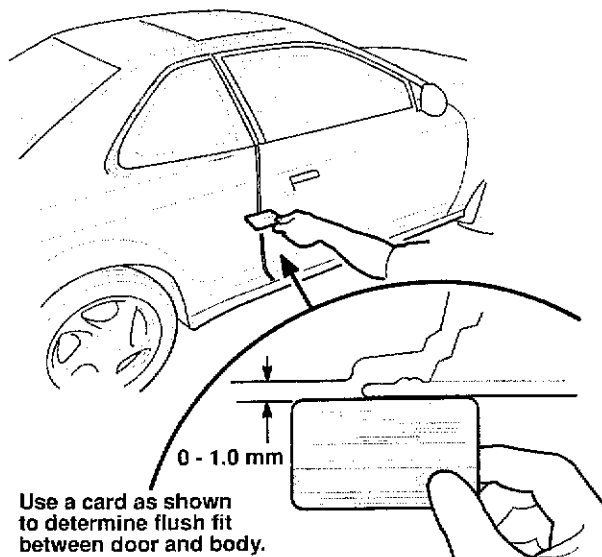
1. Remove the door panel. Refer to page 20-4 of the 1997 - 99 Prelude Service Manual.
2. Remove the plastic rain protector by cutting the adhesive with a razor blade.
3. Disconnect the inner handle rod from the rod crank and the latch assembly. Remove the rod from the door.



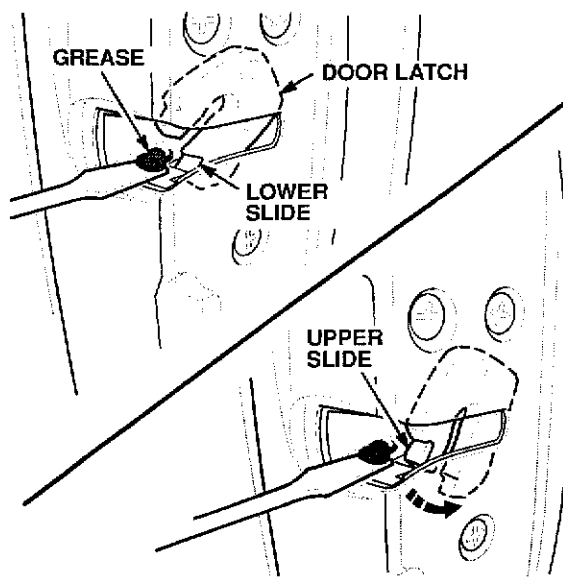
4. Install the new inner handle rod to the latch assembly and the rod crank.
5. Reinstall the plastic rain protector.
6. Reinstall the door panel.
7. Adjust both door cushions to 8 mm.



8. Use a credit card or driver's license to inspect the fit at the rear of both doors. The door edge should be flush with the body to 1.0 mm away from the body.



9. If the door edge is recessed or if there is a gap of more than 1.0 mm, adjust the striker.
10. Clean the latch with shop air to remove any dirt.
11. Use a pocket screwdriver to apply a small amount of Lithium dielectric grease to the lower slide. Use the screwdriver to close the latch to the first click, then apply a small amount of grease to the upper slide.



12. Lift the door handle to release the latch before closing the door.
13. Close and open the door four times.
14. Wipe any excess grease off the striker.