



Convertible Top Creaks, Pops, or Rattles While Driving Over Rough Roads

SYMPTOM

The convertible top creaks, pops, or rattles while driving over rough roads. This noise is only noticeable with the top raised and the driver's and passenger's windows closed.

PROBABLE CAUSE

This noise can be the result of any of these causes:

- Gaps between the mounting bracket and the plastic trim of the convertible top lock handles
- Rubbing of various weatherstrip pieces and plastic parts on the convertible top frame
- Dry pivot points on the convertible top frame

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Raise the convertible top, and close all the windows. While an assistant test-drives the vehicle to duplicate the noise, use a stethoscope to pinpoint the source. Then do all the steps in the **REPAIR PROCEDURE**.

NOTE: This repair procedure fixes the most common causes for this convertible top noise. Using the stethoscope helps in the diagnosis to make sure there are not other sources that need to be looked at.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Shin-Etsu Silicone Grease:

P/N 08798-9013, H/C 4642294
(One tube repairs about 25 vehicles.)

White Lithium Grease:

P/N 08732-0005, H/C 2963718
(One can repairs about 25 vehicles.)

NOTE: Make sure you use white lithium grease in the aerosol can. It has special solvents that allow deep penetration into small areas of the joint to effectively dampen any noise caused by movement. It also sets up quickly to form a thick coating as the carrier gas evaporates. Other grease or application methods do not work as well.

EPT Sealer (3T):

P/N 06990-SA5-000, H/C 2086643
(One roll repairs about 100 vehicles.)

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

In warranty: The normal warranty applies.

Operation Number: 814012

Flat Rate Time: 0.5 hour

Failed Part: P/N 86024-S2A-003
H/C 6244230

Defect Code: 042

Contention Code: B07

Template ID: 03-023A

Skill Level: Repair Technician

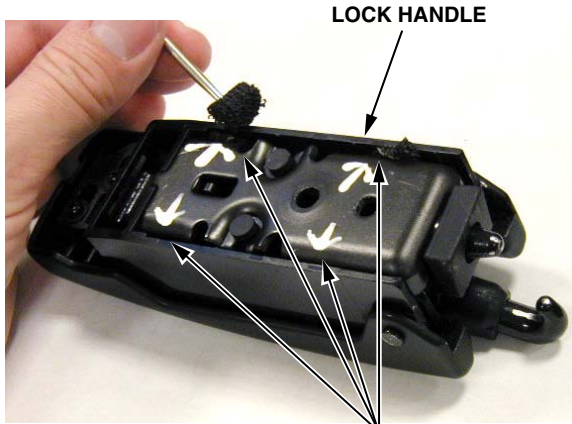
Out of warranty: Any repair performed after warranty expiration may be eligible for goodwill consideration by the District Parts and Service Manager or your Zone Office. You must request consideration, and get a decision, before starting work.

DIAGNOSIS

Raise the convertible top and close all the windows. While an assistant test-drives the vehicle to duplicate the noise, pass a stethoscope (with the probe removed) over the area of the convertible top lock handles and along the side of the convertible top frame to pinpoint where the noise is coming from. Go to the **REPAIR PROCEDURE**, and do all the steps to eliminate the noise.

REPAIR PROCEDURE

1. Cut eight 10 mm x 10 mm pieces of EPT sealer (3T).
2. Remove the adhesive backing from each piece, then fold each piece over on itself to form a 10 mm x 5 mm wad.
3. Remove the lock handle (two screws), and turn it over.
4. Use a small pocket screwdriver to stuff four wads of EPT sealer between the plastic trim and the mounting bracket of the lock handle as shown.



Stuff EPT between the trim and the bracket in four places.

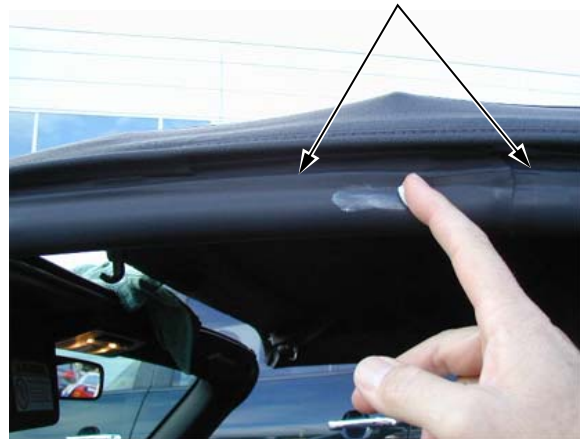
5. Reinstall the lock handle.
6. Repeat steps 3 thru 5 for the other lock handle.
7. Apply a dab of Shin-Etsu silicone grease to the A-pillar header weatherstrip. Use your finger to rub the grease thoroughly into the weatherstrip material.

A-PILLAR HEADER WEATHERSTRIP

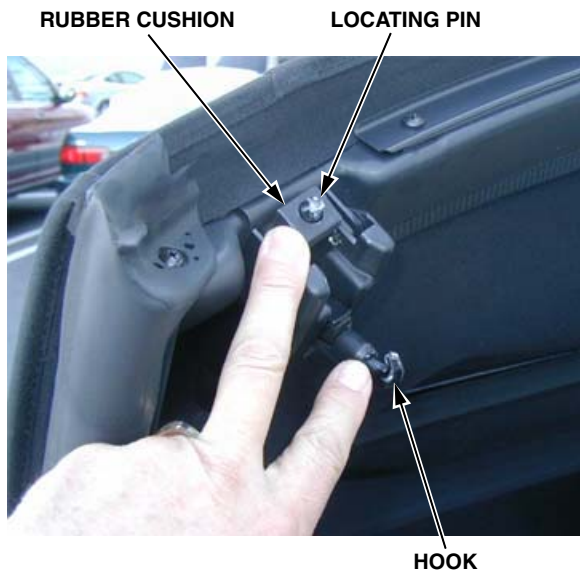


8. Apply a dab of silicone grease to each of the door glass weatherstrips (six total) on the convertible top. Use your finger to rub the grease thoroughly into the weatherstrip material.

DOOR GLASS WEATHERSTRIPS



9. Apply a dab of silicone grease to the hook, locating pin, and rubber cushion of each lock handle.



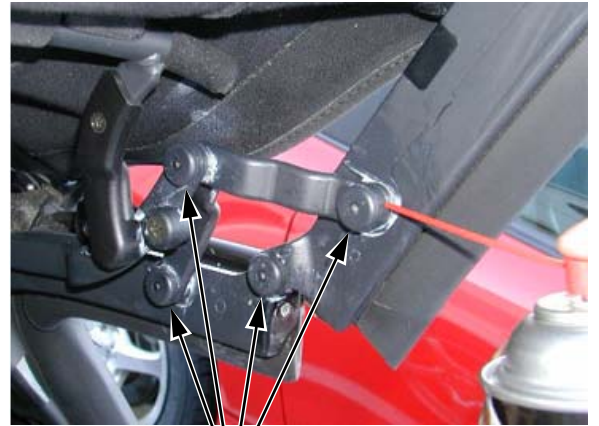
10. Open the convertible top halfway, and apply a dab of silicone grease to the hard plastic caps on the ends of the convertible top frame and to the ends of the door glass weatherstrips.

END OF THE CONVERTIBLE TOP FRAME AND DOOR GLASS WEATHERSTRIP



11. Use a shop towel to cover the back side of each convertible top frame pivot point.

12. Spray white lithium grease onto each of the pivot points.



TOP FRAME PIVOT POINTS (FROM INSIDE)

TOP FRAME PIVOT POINTS (FROM OUTSIDE)



13. Test-drive the vehicle to make sure the noise is gone.