

HOW TO FIX diverse squeaks and rattles in your car!

This is an ultimate "how to" on fixing the interior rattles on your car.

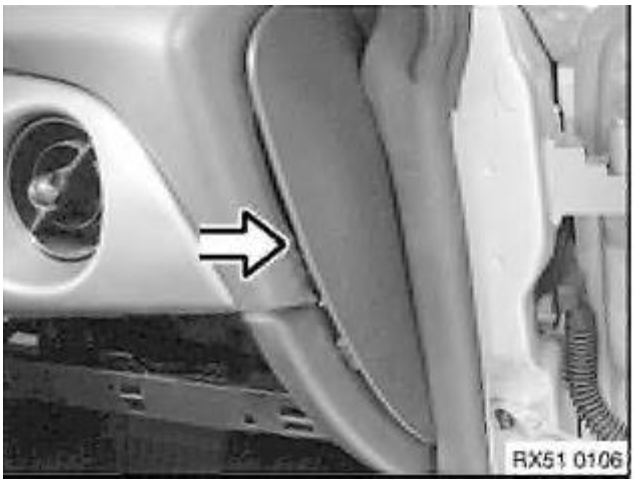
First let's begin on the

1. INSTRUMENT PANEL SQUEAKS

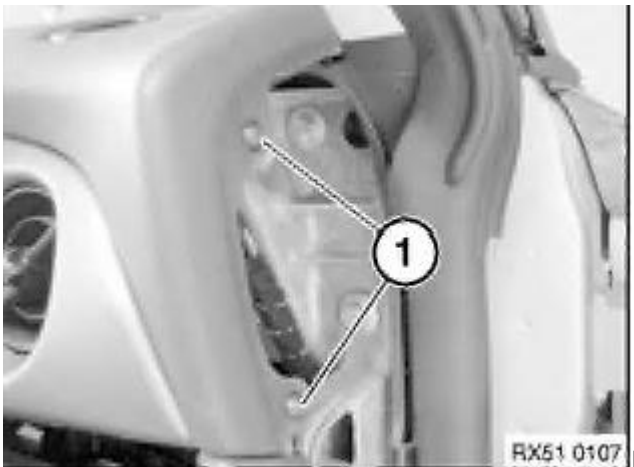
if you are having problems with squeaking or rattling from the instrument panel it can be due to either of two causes.

1. The top section panel trim moves underneath the plastic cover along the windscreen.
2. The top section panel trim touches the central air duct.

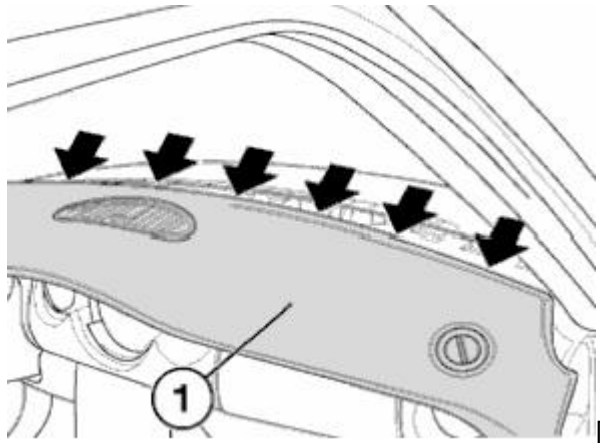
Remove the top section of the instrument panel in accordance to the pictures below.



Remove the plastic cover. Check if there is felt tape around. If not, add felt tape.

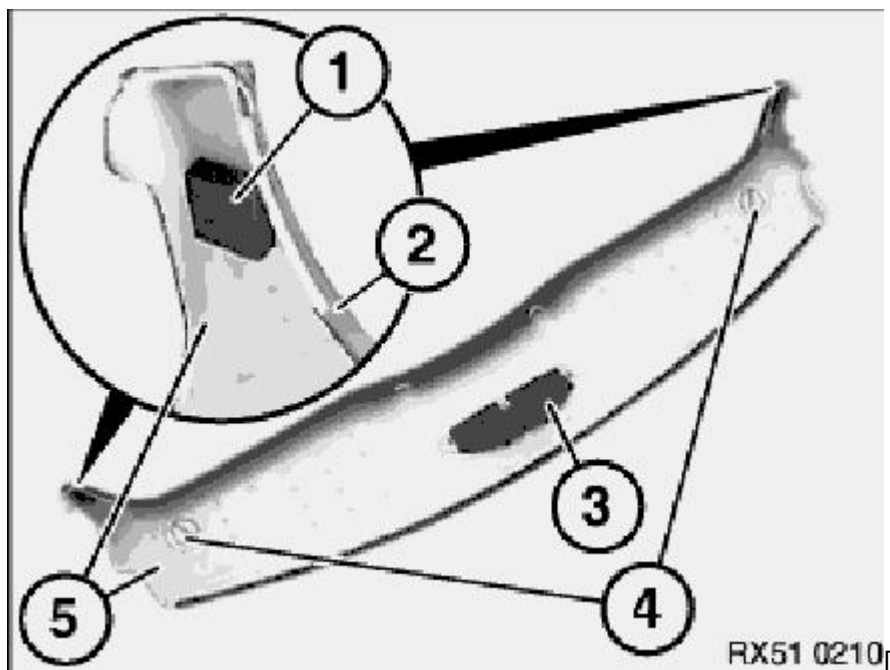


Remove the 2 screws



Pull off the top according to the picture, be careful!

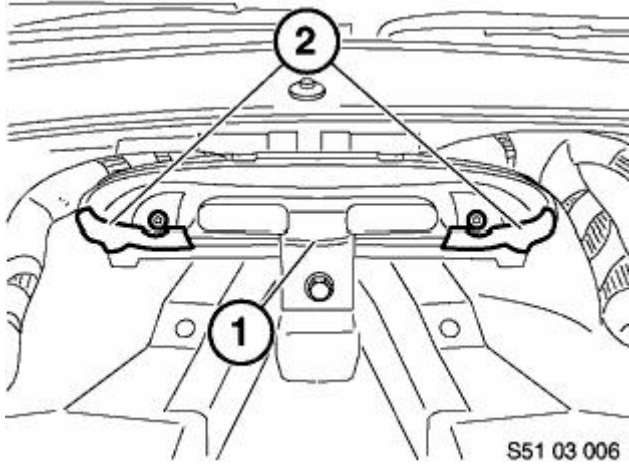
Add felt tape along the top edge of the panel you just removed. Make sure it would not be visible when the panel is back in place.



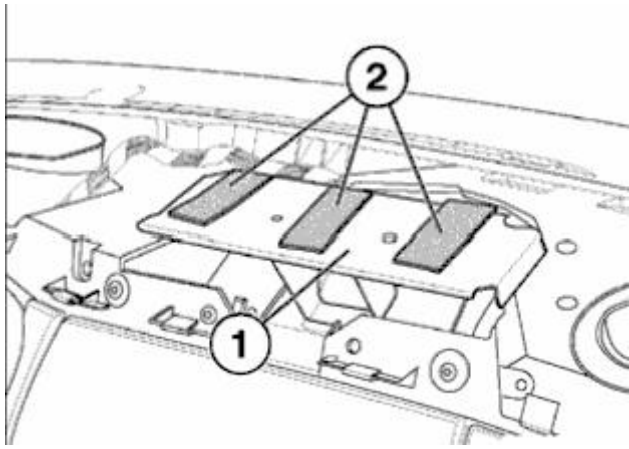
Turn the panel around so you can see the back of it.

Check if all these are in place, if not, add the foam bits and felt tape as shown.

1. Foam
2. Felttape
3. Foam
4. Felttape



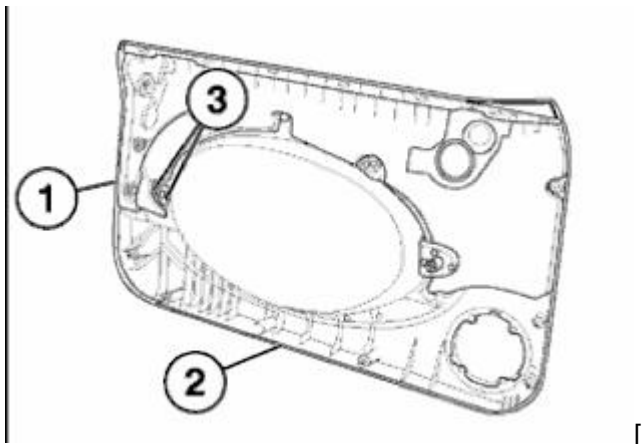
Now when the panel is of you will see the central air duct in the middle (1), look if it is metal or plastic. If plastic add felt tape (2). If metal, bend the metal so it doesn't come in contact with the top section of the instrument panel.



Go over to the passenger airbag (1) and add expanding foam as shown (2) to fix the rattles on that side. Now when everything is done, put everything back together and drive around a bit...

2. DOOR RATTLE

this should fix the door rattle!



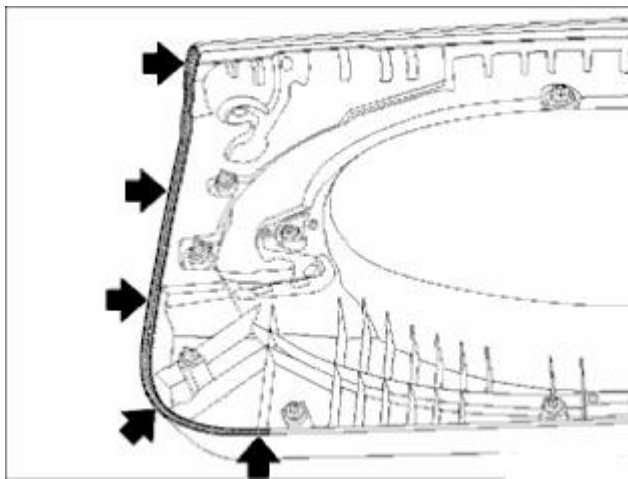
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Press the door trim according to the picture to pinpoint the rattle.

1. from the rear vertical edge?
2. from the bottom horizontal edge?
3. from the fastener between the door trim and the back panel inside?

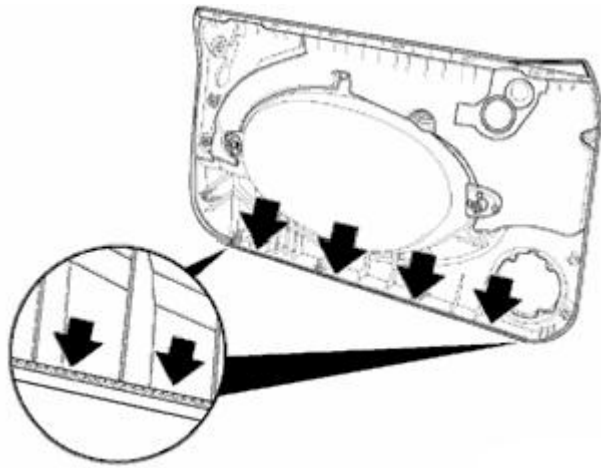
Solution!

1.



Affix felt tape according to the picture and make sure it insulates the door trim from the inner panel of the door.

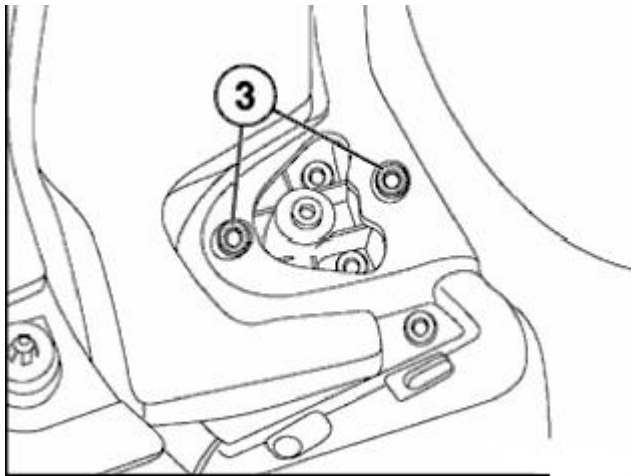
2.



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Use a carpet knife to remove burrs or sharp edges of the plastic and fit felt tape as I did.

3.



Check the hot welded studs around the door panel! If loose or missing then strengthen the fastening by heating the studs with a solder iron.

Mine were loose around the door speaker!

When door panel is off, presses on the speaker grill to check if they are fastened tight; if not apply the how to as described.

Drive around and check if the doors are fixed 😊

PS:

This thread will be updated on more about rattles; the goal is to have everything regarding the interior fixes in here. Watch out for this thread for it will become the ultimate How To´ for fixing the interior rattles in the car 🙏

ADDENDUMS:

(i) Passenger side airbag upper plastic bracket or shield shown in last picture of (1) above. As well as foam or felt on the top, examine the plastic "fingers" underneath. Chances are, like mine, the plastic assembly was riveted on crooked so that the fingers rubbed against the metal rod that anchors the airbag straps causing much squeaking. Solution, remove rivets and bracket, put felt on the metal rod or grind off clearance on the fingers, reinstall bracket. Anyone know what this piece of plastic actually does? Perhaps it serves as some protection for the tether straps in the event of an accident.

(ii) Upper side demister vents (that point to the side front windows). The ducting for this vent is molded into the plastic dash after removal of the top dash pad. The trouble is that the duct is semi-molded by plastic welding a hemispherical tube onto the underneath of the top flat plastic part. There is an appreciable amount of overlapped flat plastic just next to the round duct part which clearly rattles when you tap on the top with your finger. Something like a blind panel underneath the upper part that you can see. Solution: Drill a hole in the flat overlapped part (going through two thicknesses of plastic) and insert a rivet to bring the two faces of the plastic (the upper bit you can see and the underneath bit that forms part of the welded on duct) together tightly.

(iii) Central Tachometer (in Australia), Speedometer rim squeaks? Remove central dash panel complete with outer plastic ring. Notice the hot melt glue that holds the ring in place. The glue sits up quite a bit and is not flush with the interior edge of the plastic ring. The glue squeaks against the outer edge of the clear plastic cover "glass". Solution: Trim off the excess glue while leaving enough for the glue to hold the ring in position, or, smear a bit of white lithium grease on these parts to prevent dry squeaking.

(iv) Passenger side parcel shelf: Take it out and examine carefully how it is made. There is a folded over section of plastic that clips into place (and one central screw). Evidently this is not supposed to be unclipped or taken apart but squeaks like crazy due to moving plastic parts when you tap the shelf with your fingers. Apply silastic to prevent movement of the clipped joint.

(v) Lower air conditioner outlet black plastic cover (in footwell near bottom of vertical silver tubes) - left hand side in Australia). There is a post with a wedged clip that goes into a hole (pointing inwards towards centre of car). Trouble is that the once you clip the post into position, there is clearance between the back side of the clip and the panel to which it locks (i.e. it is not a tight clip). Solution, apply silastic to prevent clip from tapping due to clearance.

(vi) Side A post interior trim. This is a sure source of squeaks, but it is difficult to remedy. The trim panels are held in place by small tethers that are designed no doubt to prevent the things from flying away in the event of a side curtain airbag inflation. If you are very careful, you can lever out the clips that hold the tethers in place without breaking them. However, you may do well by just removing the covers as much as can be allowed and inserting some felt where the plastic interior ridges in the molding are designed to bear against the metal of the A post interior.

(vii) As well as putting felt along the edge of the dash upper panel, also make sure that the dash panel that is closest to the windscreen is not actually hitting on the windscreen glass. A small piece of black felt can be wedged into position to stop this happening.

(viii) Regarding the noise you still have is it coming from the center dash?

Check the pillars around the CD player, the pillar should have a small gap between the dash so it can flex and it should be secured tightly. Remove them and add felt tape on upper, lower and sides that is in contact with CD player and the AC control. Check the black plastic cover also on the sides that is next to the gas pedal. Check all the dash trim and rev counter.