

W124 Headlight Switch Replacement

Instruction

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Introduction

Broken headlight switch symptoms can be missing or too heavy „clicks“ when turning the knob, not staying put when the fog lights position is pulled or malfunctioning lights. The worst cases could lead to risk of fire due to incorrect switch position and flickering contacts. Luckily replacing it is a simple job that can be done by almost anyone.

My car is a German market 230 E from 1992, but the process is pretty much the same throughout the complete production era of the Mercedes-Benz W124 model.

Safety note!

It might be a good idea to disconnect the car battery, because any job related to electrical connections can lead to accidental shorting of wires or flying sparks. It is better to avoid it.

Disclaimer!

This instruction is just for reference and I do not take any responsibility for mistakes or misinformation it may contain. You can do this fairly simple job at your own risk.



Tools

The only tools you need are:

- 24 mm socket wrench,
- 8 mm socket wrench,
- crosshead screwdriver,
- plastic prying tool or flathead screwdriver.

Spare parts

There are plenty of second hand switches available, but the plastic inside those is some 30+ years old and prone to fail soon too. A new part is a better option in my opinion.

The headlight switch for 1992 230E has a Mercedes-Benz part number: **A0005456204**

At the moment (04.2026) the cost of the original part at the dealer in Estonia (EU) is 156 euros and the parts from other manufacturers vary from 35 to 70 euros. The price and availability will change in time for sure.

As replacing the switch is easy and it is convenient for me to use our main parts supplier I purchased a Meyle part (item no. 0148900003) and the first impression is ok. It does not look or feel worse than the original part and the overall feel of the clicks when turning the knob is also on the same level as the original ones have. The two extra pins are irrelevant as the part evolved during its life cycle. Only time will tell how long the new part will last though.



Replacement operations

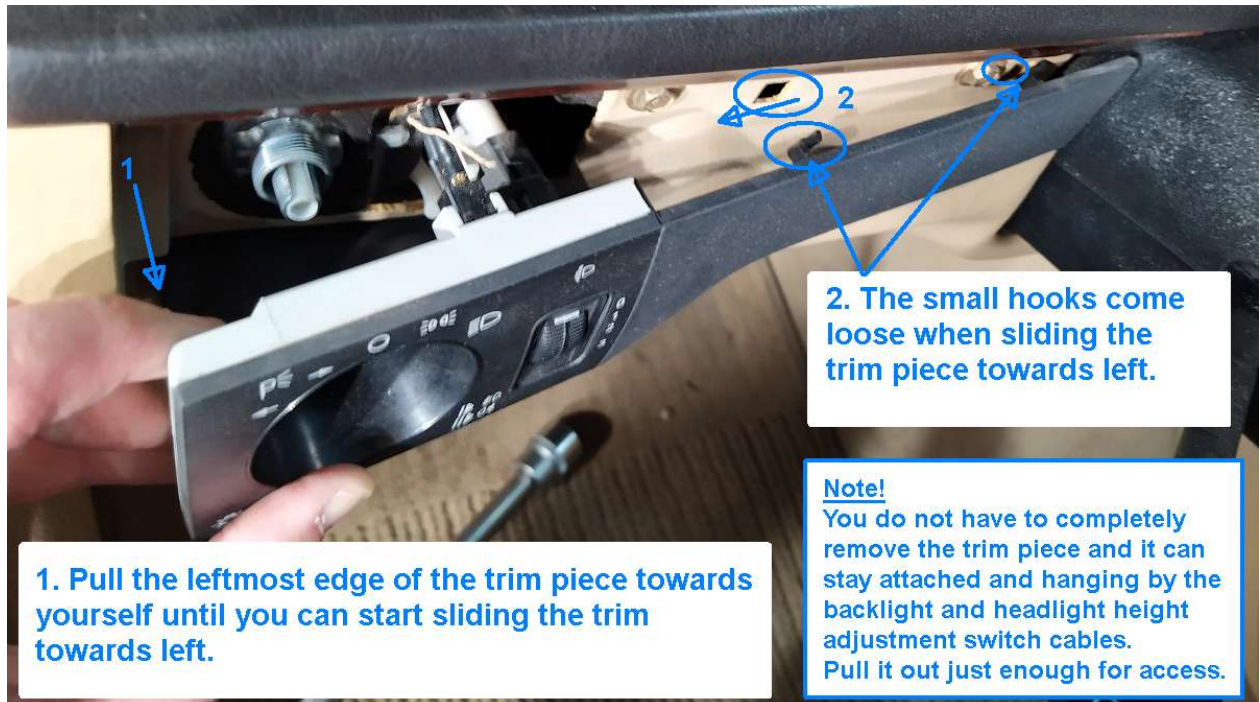
1. Pull off the headlight switch knob (might need some force if not done lately)



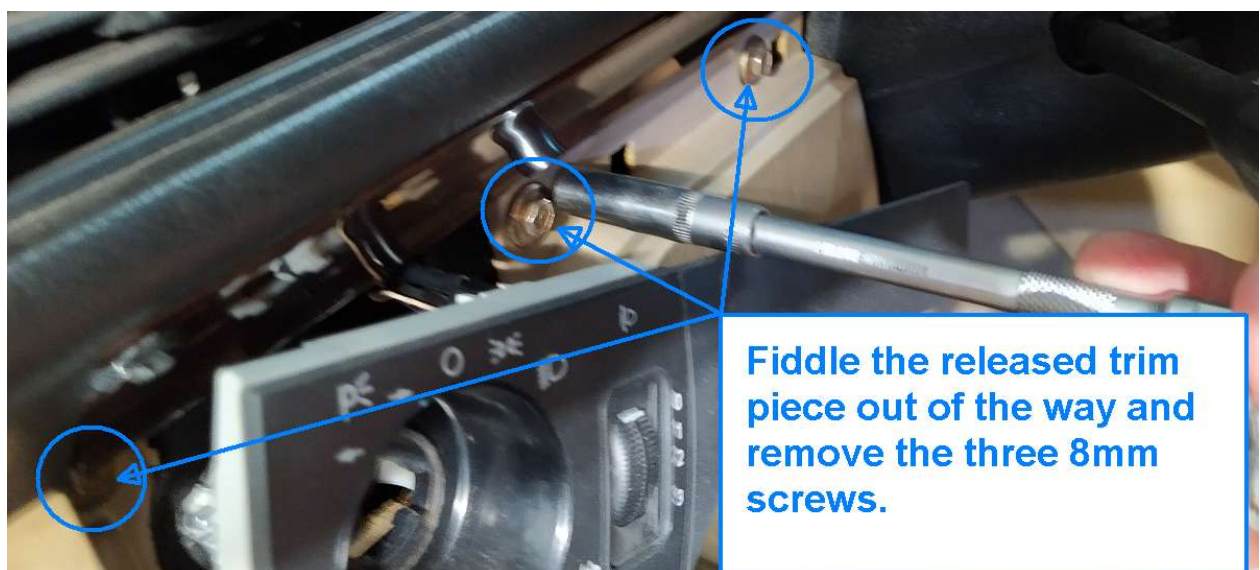
2. Release the 24 mm nut around the headlight switch



3. Release the trim piece around the headlight switch



4. Remove the three 8 mm screws behind the released trim piece



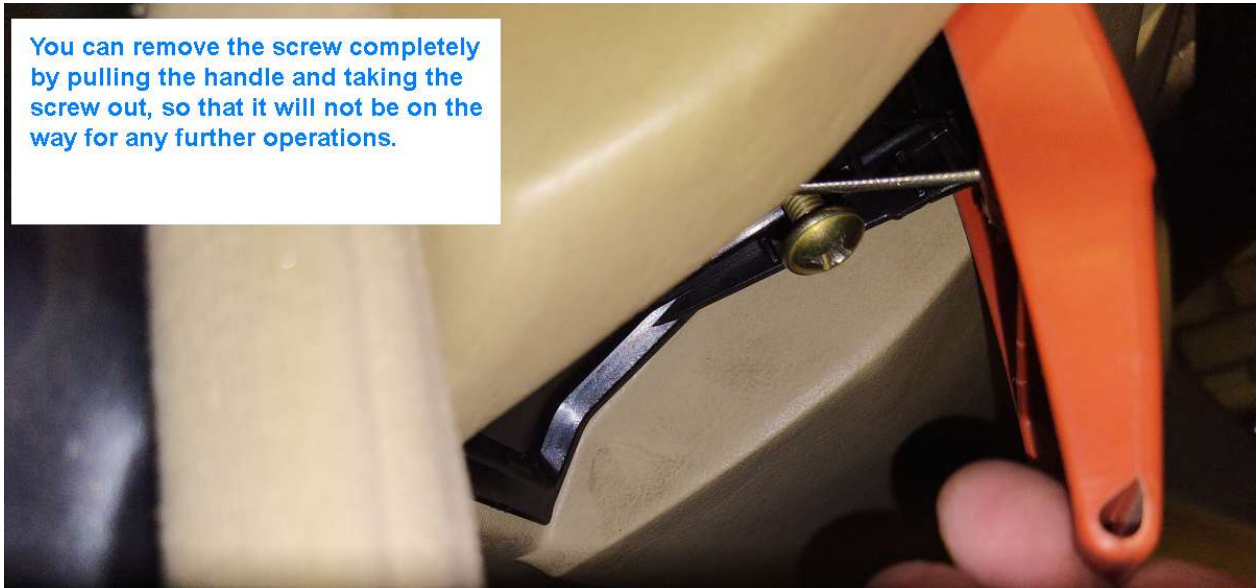
5. Pull the trim piece around the ignition switch loose from the left side



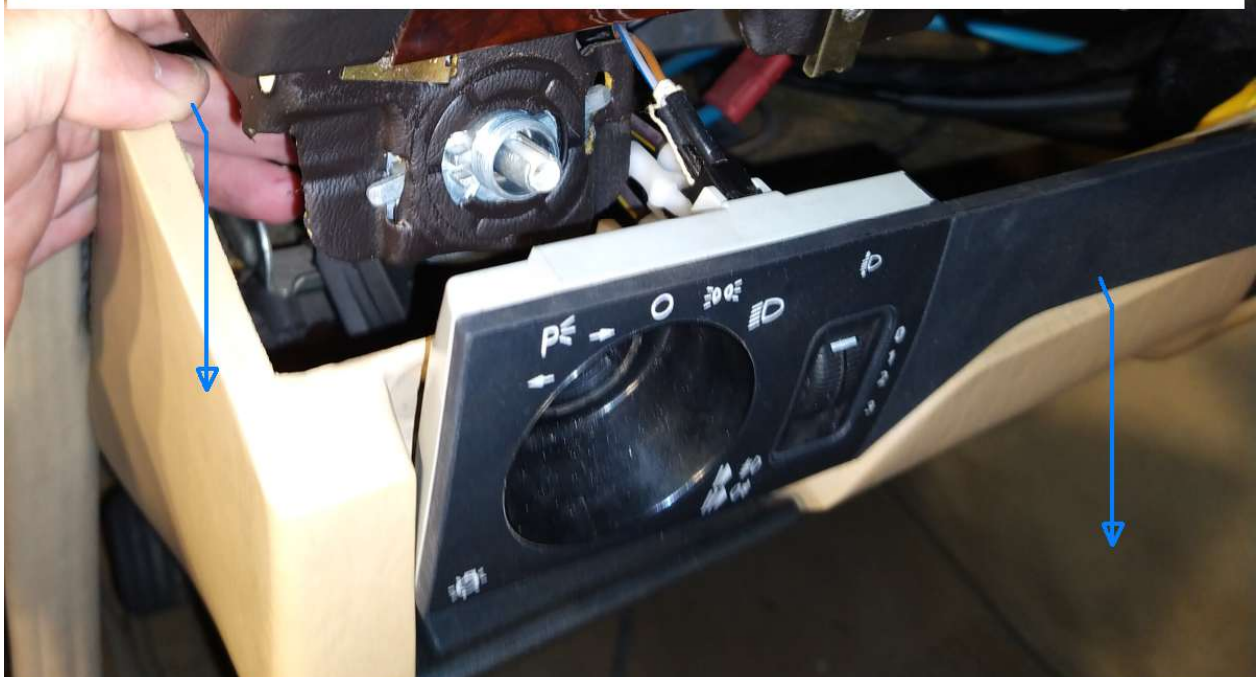
6. Slide the released trim piece slightly towards left and pull it off**7. Remove the two 8mm screws behind the removed trim piece****8. Release the screw behind the bonnet release handle**

9. Pick the screw out of its socket to avoid losing it

You can remove the screw completely by pulling the handle and taking the screw out, so that it will not be on the way for any further operations.

**10. Pull the lower dashboard panel down enough to get access to light switch**

No further screws or parts need to be undone to pull the lower dashboard panel down enough to get access to the headlight switch and to replace it.
Just pull the outer edge of the whole panel carefully a bit towards yourself and then downwards.



11. Rotate the switch assembly counterclockwise to release it from the dashboard**12. Pull the switch connector off**

13. Fiddle the switch out through the gap between dashboard panels**14. Install the new headlight switch the same way you removed the old one and reassemble everything in the reverse order of operations.****15. Slide the fixation element of the left outer corner of the lower dashboard panel back behind the metal retainer clip when reinstalling (see also photo at point 13 for reference)**

16. Check that the ignition lock trim gets reinstalled just as nicely as it was before

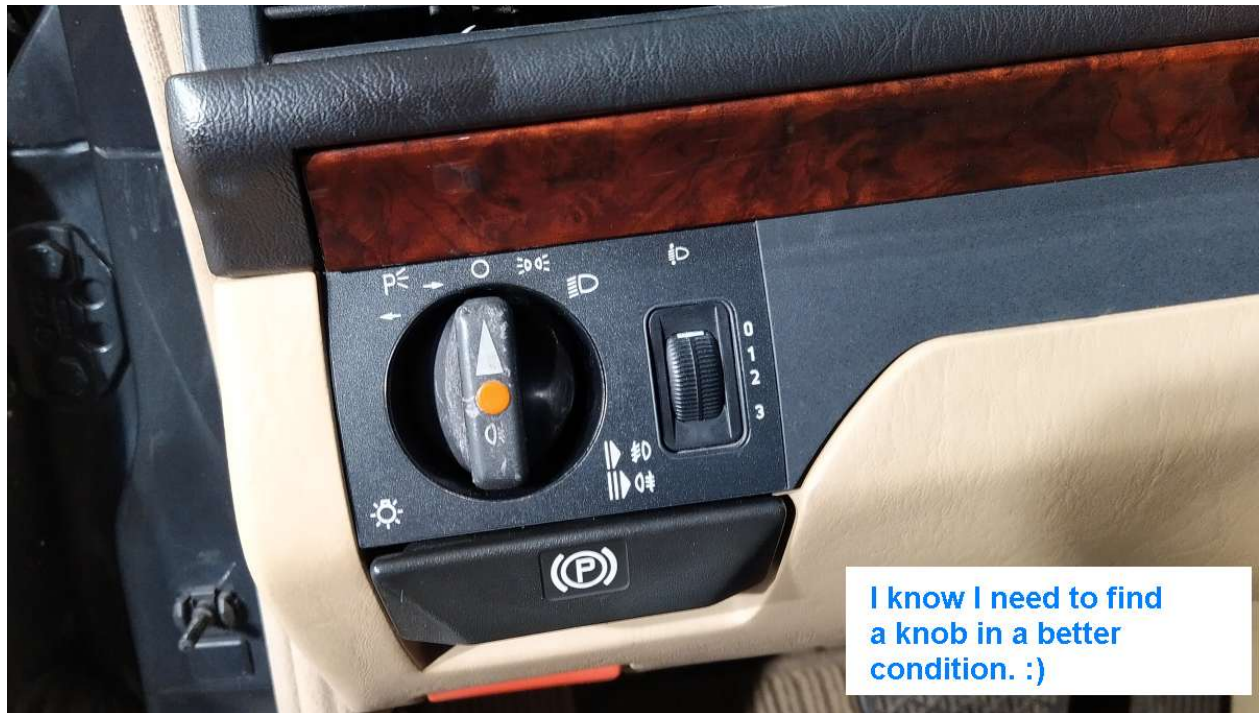


17. Do not use force at all when reinstalling the big nut around headlight switch



18. Install the rear fog light indicator bulb in the center of the headlight switch



19. Reinstall the headlight switch knob

Congratulations! Your car has a new headlight switch!