

W208 (CLK) Antenna Amplifier DIY

Overview: if you have poor AM reception, then your antenna amplifier is probably bad. One test is to turn on the radio WITHOUT turning on the ignition – if you get decent reception without the ignition on, but then it goes bad when you turn it on...you probably have a bad antenna amplifier. The antenna amplifier is part # 208 820 13 89.... It's located in the passenger side C pillar (the interior panel above the back seat near the rear window). Here's how to replace it:

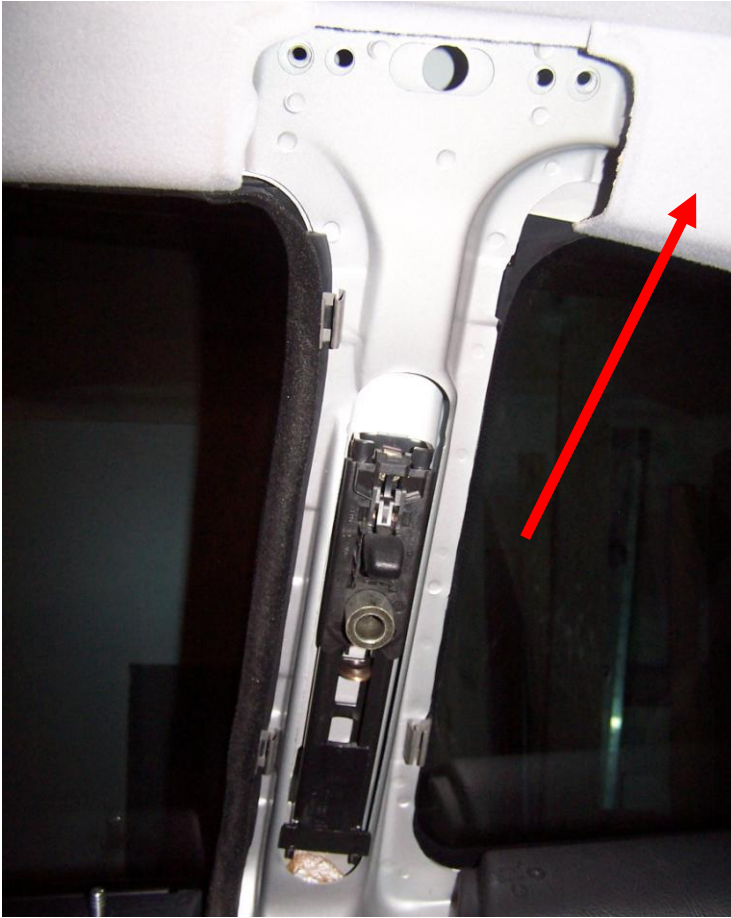
1. Remove the plastic cover of the seatbelt adjuster to reveal the bolt that holds the seatbelt assembly to the B pillar (see pic below). The plastic cover just pulls off. Once you pull it off you'll see the following:



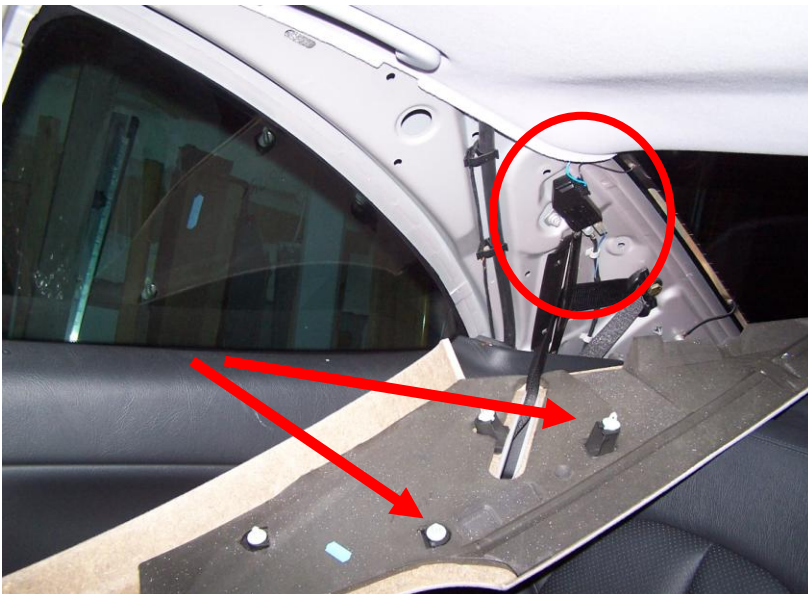
2. Remove the bolt with a 17mm socket. Once you remove the bolt, then you can pull off the B Pillar. Just gently pull and it will come off and then it lifts up and out. Here is a pic of it partially pulled off:



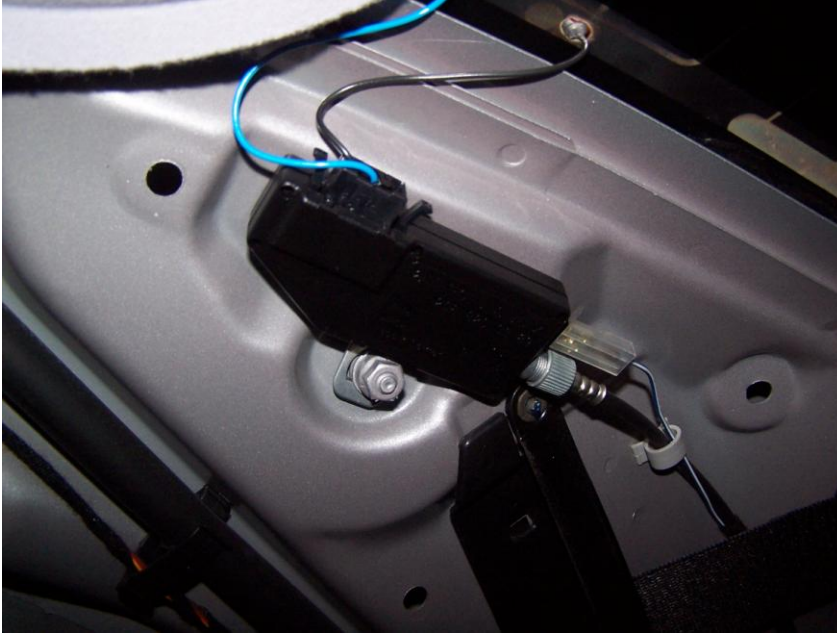
3. Once you have the B Pillar is removed you'll see this. Then, you'll remove the C Pillar (arrow points to C Pillar).



4. The C Pillar pulls off similarly to the B pillar. Start with the front and then slowly pull off as you move to the rear. Once you pull the clips out, pull it forward towards the front of the car to pull it up and down. It will hang down since the rear seat belt is still attached. Here's what you'll see (the amplifier is circled, arrow points to the some of the plastic clips that hold the C Pillar on):



5. Here is a close-up of the antenna amplifier. There are 3 connectors and one bolt. The black clip on the top is removed by pinching the clips, the plastic clip on the back just pulls off, and the other connector screws off. Once you've disconnected the 3 clips, then remove the bolt (10mm).



6. Then reconnect and install everything in reverse order. The clips holding the C Pillar and B Pillar are a PITA to get into the holes. I would suggest getting some extra ones as I broke at least 3 removing the C Pillar. Use a flashlight to make sure the clips are going into the holes.