Old and New side by side

Dremel Tool to cut along the edge where the glue/welding would be.

The corner where the key release button is mounted is completed cut off. Be careful not to cut too much to the other side where the RF id chip is located.

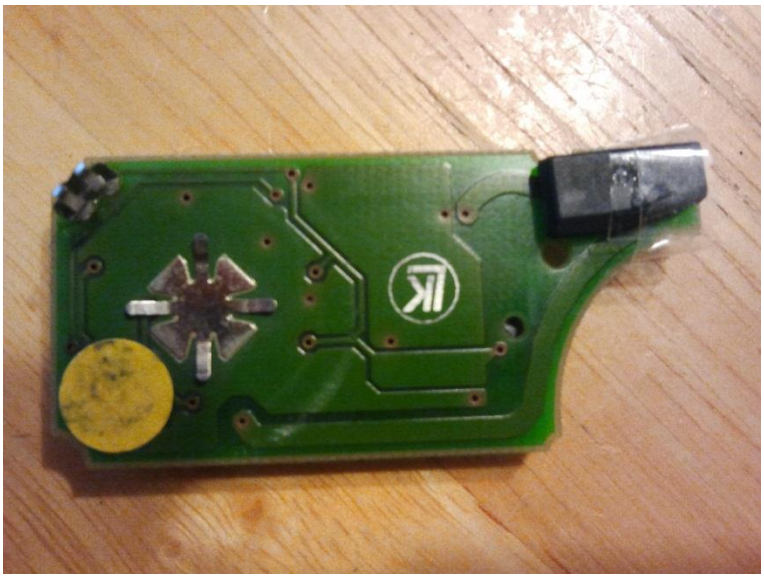
The cover on the left of the Mercedes logo is the battery cover. I trimmed it off and put it back on so that the batteries are still connected to avoid resync later on but I ended up have to resync it anyway, so just remove the battery cover. (I was careful the first time, keep checking to see it the remote still function along the way, that's why the batteries still in). By the way, what I observed was that if you take the batteries out for a brief time, then put them back, no resync is needed.

With the battery cover removed, or trimmed, you can continue to cut along the edge of the case around the battery housing.

When you feel enough cutting to get rid of the glue/welding along the edge, you can start separate the halves. Use small screw drivers will help.

You might **w**ant to start from the corner where the key release button used to be. Be gentle…

Be careful and make sure that you don't let the RF id chip flying off, it's small



I taped the RF ID chip here to show where about the chip is.

Not it's time to put it back together with new case.

Since the case I got from fleabay is not quite for ML350, it's fit ML320 and other models but I bought it anyway it's about $15 include shipping instead of at around $30, I had to do a bit of modification.

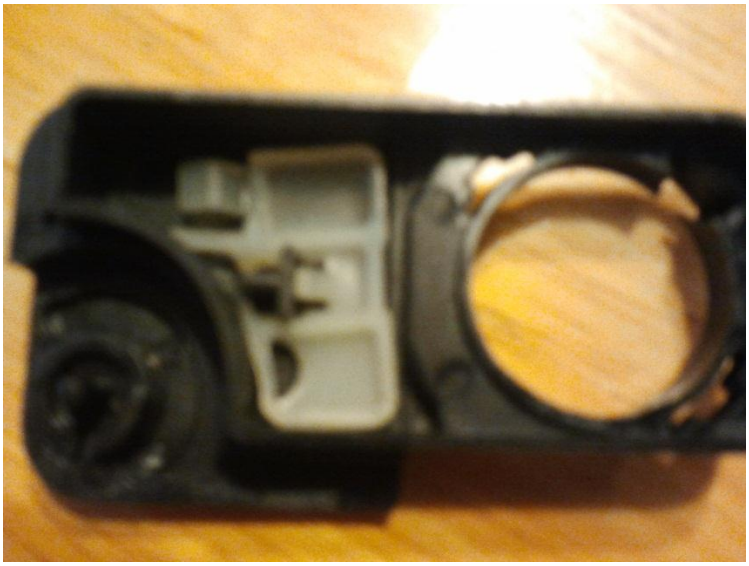
I had to peel off the key pad covers – don't worry, you can put them back – and widen the holes so that button switches from the circuit board will line up properly. Otherwise, the button(s) might be pressed all the time be the case and you will have hard time to resync (I learned the hard way)

This picture shows the uncut key plate assembly and my original key plate which fell off the key base.

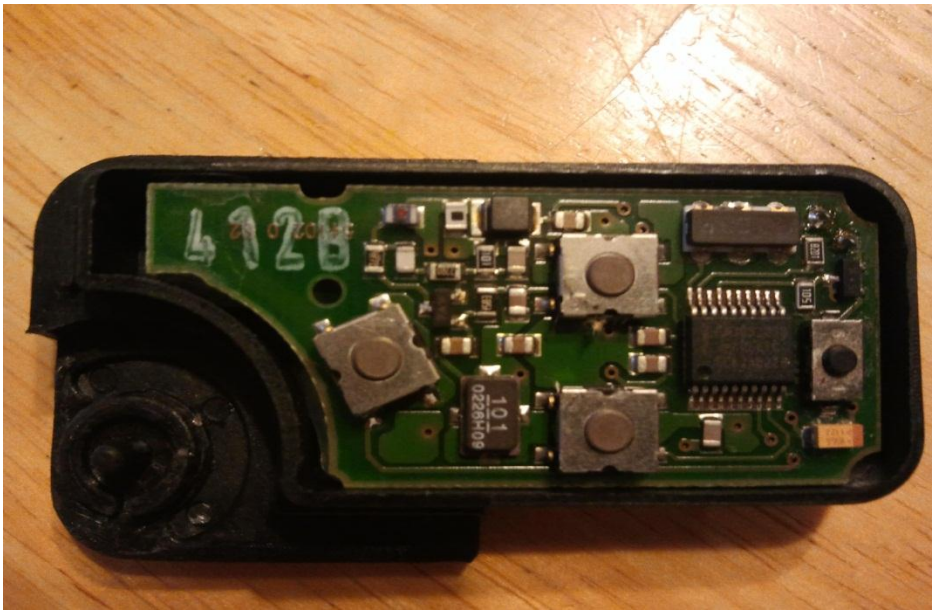
For the key plate, I had to transfer the old plate over because the base of my original one broke …which is the reason for the upgrade….I t would be easier if I could find a place to cut the plate, but could not

find any place they would do that for a reasonable price. Hopefully you don't have to do the same thing. It a bit involved just swapping the key plate.

You see the white plastic? That's to hold down the RF ID chip. The new case does not include this and I had to cut/modify it a bit.



Now, put the PCB on top after placing the RFID chip underneath the tab, don't forget the RFID chip. Without the chip, the car won't start. A piece of double tape will help to keep the chip in place too.



Sorry that I didn't take picture of the spring and the pivoting button….but it should be straight forward when you play with the new key case to see how it's installed, and you reinstall it the same way.

You have to make sure that the spring is loaded when in "docking" position along the side of the case, so that the key will pop out when the button is released.

Please note the slots on the button and key case then you will be fine the.

Note how the buttons line up nicely with the centers of the holes.

Carefully press the two halves together then put back the covers (keypads) for the buttons – note smalls holes –these are the mounting holes for the key pad .

Install the batteries… you might want to get new batteries as well. The original 2025 batteries are a bit loose, so extra piece of paper to make fit in better and to have better electrical contact. I plan to use 2 2032 instead and get rid of the piece of the paper.

Here is the pic after you close the battery cover.

You might need to resync the key, check the user manual of your car for the procedure how to do it.

But for ML350 (2003), plug in the key, turn to position 2, then turn back to position 0, remove the key. Within 10sec, press the lock button and hold it down, at the same time press the unlock button 5 times. Then release both lock and unlock button. Then press any button once: either lock, unlock or the truck button.