

# Removing and Installing the 2005 SL 500 C Pillar Flap Cover

Here are some additional notes to help removing and installing what will be called "the flap cover".

**Why Remove the Flap Cover?** The small, moveable flaps on the rear of my SL are both broken off the vehicle. To reinstall them, I am using the **Spangler SL R230 flap repair kit** found on ebay by searching "Spangler Mercedes". I prefer to remove the left and right flap cover assemblies from the vehicle to get at the back of them for proper alignment of the small flap and the flap cover.

**Disclaimer:** These procedures were only performed on a 2005 SL500 R230 model. Other year models may use different instructions, tools, and procedures.

**Tools Needed:** Torx 15 tip and nut driver, 8mm socket and ratchet wrench, Mercedes wedge or other plastic tools designed for interior car disassembly. (Harbor Freight has a variety of these.)

**Reference:** Attached Mercedes STAR Service Library Model 230 DVD: "Remove/Install paneling on top of center pillar" This DVD is invaluable for those who want to really get into the vehicle. Part number: 2700-230-07 This DVD is discontinued so may be hard to find. Covers R230 models from 2003-2006 with AMG and Bi Turbo. Must install a work-around viewer to use on Windows 10.

The Mercedes instructions for this procedure are woefully under documented. The removal of a Torx 15 screw during the removal was totally *undocumented*.

**Removing:** Put the roll bar up, and raise the trunk lid. Loosen the 8mm bolt (location shown in middle picture of the Mercedes documentation attached). Mercedes says to remove the bolt, but it only needs to be loosened to release its hold down of the back flap cover.

Put the EZ loader in the up position to raise the cover behind the roll bar for access to the right or left flap cover. The EZ loader is activated by pressing the red button on the right in the trunk to move the folded roof up for "EZ loading" of luggage, etc.

There is an undocumented Torx 15 black headed screw on the rear of the flap cover that needs to be removed. It's located under where the center flap covers the side flap cover when the top is down. When the screw and flap cover are removed, there is a metal clip under that screw position that provides threading for that screw. Remove or not at your option.

Remove the 4 Torx 15 screws that hold the metal end covering (Mercedes #2) in place, and remove.

Note the metal clip under the metal cover on the inside of the flap cover. This clip provides the threading for the Torx 15 screw removed from that position. Remove it or not at your option.

Gently pull upward on the back of the flap cover in the relative location of the two plastic clips shown in the third picture of the Mercedes documentation. The plastic clips will "pop" loose easily.

Gently pull upward on the front of the flap cover to release it from the interior. This should release the flap cover for removal from the vehicle. You may need to use a wedge or other plastic interior tool to pull the lower interior panel aside so the flap cover will release.

**Reassembly tips:** First, slide the flap cover under the black rubber flap seal at the rear near the trunk.

Position the flap cover so the back Torx 15 screw hole lines up, and with your hands, make sure the plastic clips line up with their set holes. Push down on the flap cover to snap the plastic clips into their set holes. Reinstall the Torx 15 black screw and clip, if removed.

Tighten or re-install the 8mm bolt and washer to secure the back of the cover flap to the vehicle. Push down on the flap cover while tightening the bolt to secure the flap cover down to the chassis. This is a little tricky, and may require the EZ loader to be manipulated to get the mechanics of the top lifter out of the way.

Use a mounting wedge (See the Mercedes documentation attached) to gently pull the interior panel away to allow the plastic catches in the front of the flap cover to seat downward.

Replace the metal threading clip in the front inside, if you removed it.

Replace the metal cover by reinstalling the 2 Torx 15 short screws in the bottom, and the two longer ones in the head of the metal cap.

Maybe 30 - 45 minutes the first time, but much less after that.