

# GUIDE TO REPAIR A 2003 SL55 AMG PASSENGER SIDE HID BALLAST

By: JTSE

**Disclaimer: Repair at your own risk, I am not responsible for any damages or bodily injuries caused by your negligence. This guide is for educational purpose only. If in doubt, consult you're your nearest authorized dealership.**

*Sorry everyone, I had to say that to save my ass.*

I just bought the 2003 SL55 about a month ago and my passenger side HID lights went out. Since new HID lamps didn't work, after searching online, I figured out it was my HID ballast that is probably bad and so I bought one off of ebay.

Here: <http://www.ebay.com/itm/NEW-03-07-Mercedes-SL500-SL55-SL-500-Xenon-HID-Headlight-Ballast-Controller-Unit-/321706399240?hash=item4ae7321608:m:mCFsNmPt49BZzbNRA166Psg&vxp=mtr>

It arrived good and I thought about asking an independent shop to repair it but I read from another forum that somebody else replaced it themselves WITHOUT taking the bumper off, so I went ahead and check under and saw that it was possible.

Here is the guide to how to do it for the passenger side, keep in mind that this is a moderately simple task if you are handy and can screw without seeing where you are screwing (by feel). I assume that the driver side is easier because there is no SBC pump, I haven't done it or really checked it out so let us know if you do try it.

Here are the tools you will need:



First, jack the car up until you can get under it. TURN THE LIGHT CONTROL AT THE DRIVER to ZERO (O) as shown below:



Then, take the front passenger side bottom cover off. Use the Wrench in the picture or equivalent tools.



THEN, remove the 4 side screws by the wheel wells. Use the wrench here again.

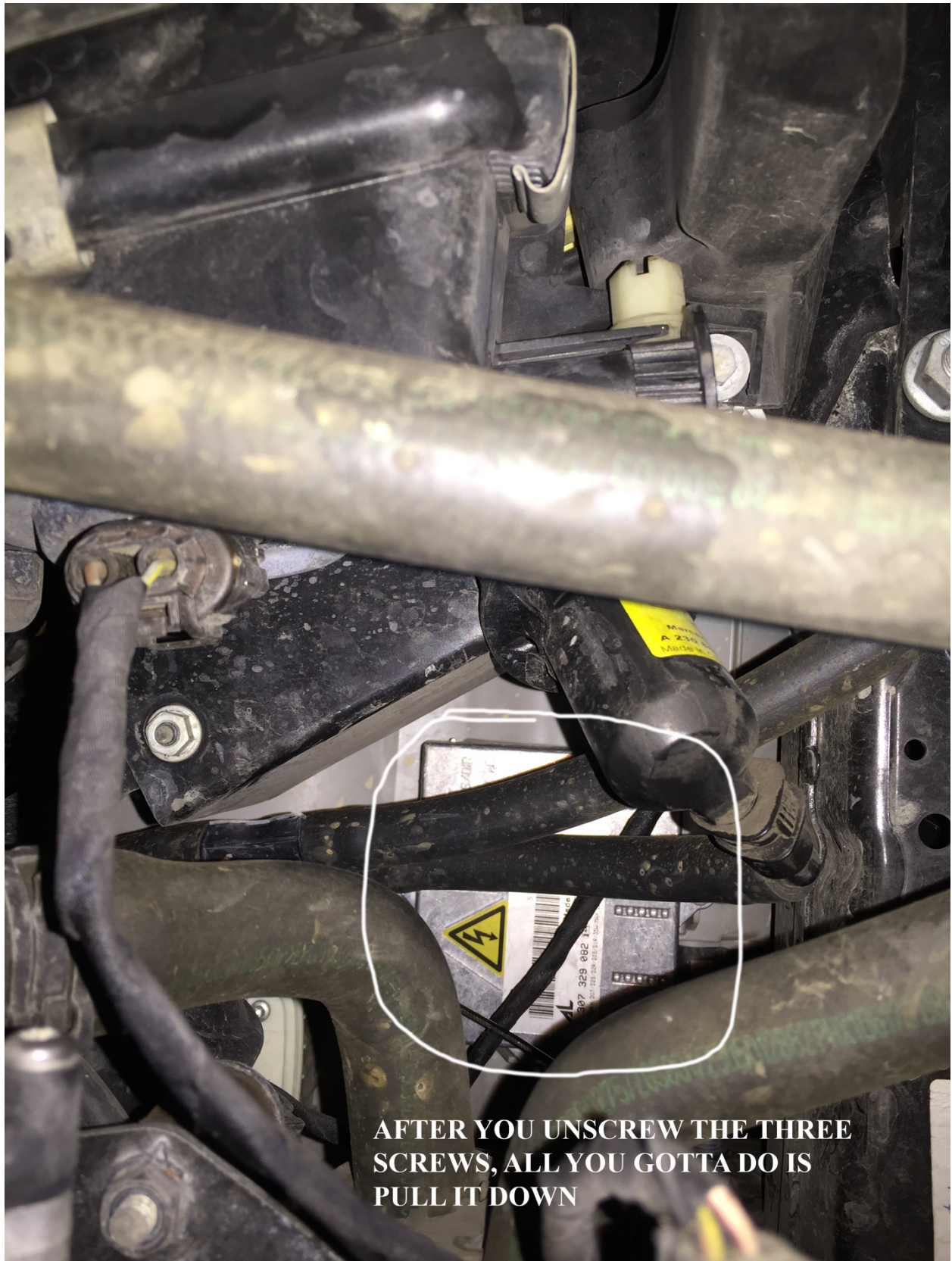


Now, you can slide the side bottom front cover off.

Then, you see this:



Here is a more direct view:



**AFTER YOU UNSCREW THE THREE  
SCREWS, ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS  
PULL IT DOWN**

Now you see the item you have to replace. Use the T20 TORX BIT. There are three screws total. Remove those and you can pull the sucker down. There are cables and lines in the way, just work your way around it, it will come down. Don't get too excited.

This is the back view of the Ballast. As you can see there is this connector built into this ballast, all you got to do is push the new one back up to the same place.



Screw the three TORX Screws back. Go test the lights and see if it works. If it works, GOOD JOB!

If it doesn't and you have eliminated a bad light bulb, then chances are the red igniter cable that has gone bad. I have no idea how to change that, so good luck and sorry that this didn't help you. ☹

Then, put it back to ZERO again for the light switch on the dash (for safety sake).

Reassemble everything back. Go have a drink, or go for a victory drive around the neighborhood. (DON'T DO BOTH)

The dealership here in Hawaii quoted me \$1500 + Tax to do this job. Obviously, for 10% of the price, you can repair it yourself. Took me about 30 minutes.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Mahalo!  
JTSE

