Boot Light Tilt Switch

One of the problems I have found with the 86 boot light is that if you have the key fob in your pocket, it can sometimes pop the boot lid if your moving around or sitting.

This has happened to me 3 times. On one of those occasions, the boot light drained the battery completely dead because the car was not used for several days and didn't know it had happened.

The problem is, the boot latch mechanism contains a switch which grounds the light and operates it as soon as the latch is "popped". So the light comes on before you actually lift the boot lid.

In this DIY I explain how to incorporate a tilt switch that will not operate the light until the lid is raised at least 6" Therefore if this problem should happen to you, it will not drain your battery.

I did some experimenting to see what distance the transmitter would still lock and unlock the doors/boot. My car was parked inside my totally metal garage with the roller doors closed. The metal makes it harder for the signal to be received. I then went inside the house (yet more material for the signal to get through) and sat in the lounge. Distance wise this would be a good 30 metres. Press the key fob button and went out to check the car and sure enough, it had activated. I then walked up the drive and across the road which would be a good 50 Metres and yet again the signal was able to cover the distance. Toyota, this is way beyond what is necessary, or my 86 is super sensitive!!

I have not tested beyond this distance.

Here is the switch you need. In my case purchased from Jaycar.

First remove the boot lid liner by removing the black plastic rivets.

Attach the switch to the boot lid in the position shown with the supplied double sided adhesive pad supplied with the switch. I lengthened the wires by about a metre so it will reach the light. If you happen to have a plastic bung or something similar to plug the hole where the wires go through, then use it. However it is not essential providing there are no sharp edges. Pull out the OEM rubber boot so you can thread the new wires into it, leading to the light.

Use a hooked, stiff wire to pull the new wires through.

Once the wiring is though the tube, refit the rubber boot ends back into the body.

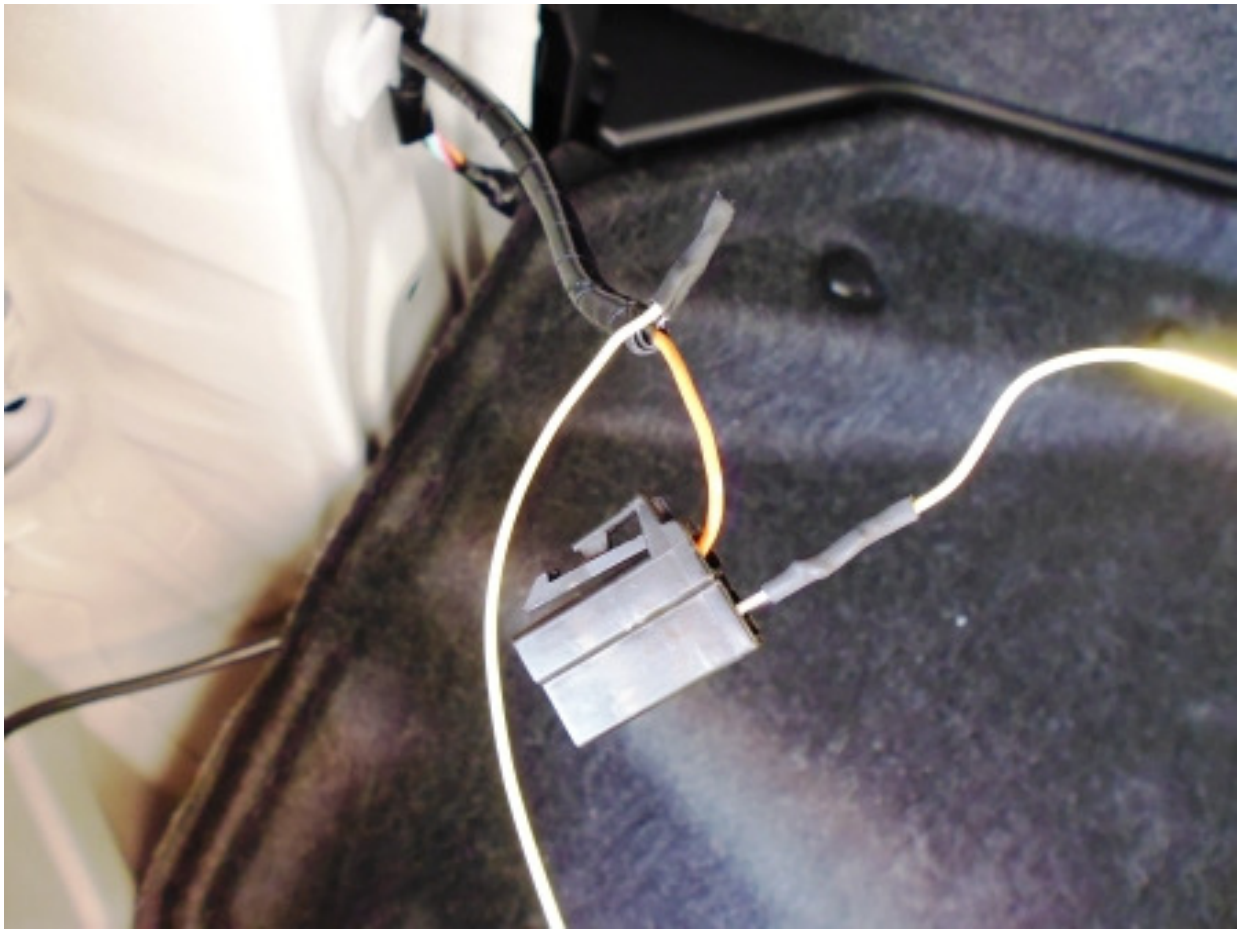
Unplug the connector from the light. ***Also unplug the connector from the boot release mechanism to isolate the light connector from ground*. Note that the Orange/White wire will still have +12V on it. If in any doubt while working "LIVE" on this, then disconnect the battery!

I didn't in my case, just exercised extreme care.

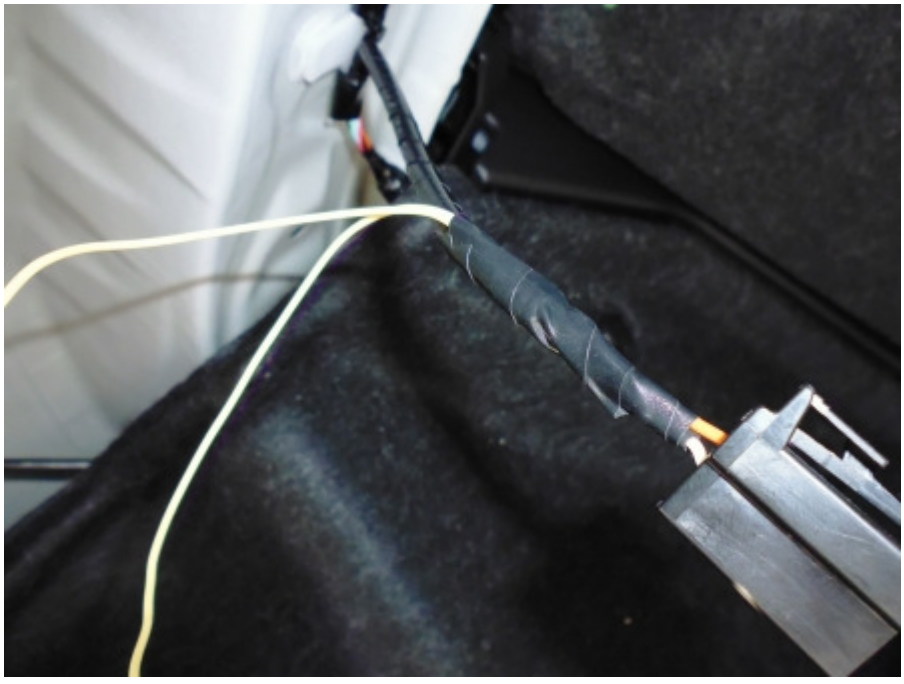
***Note:* *If you close the boot lid during this time, you will have to open it manually with the key!*

Remove some of the black tape around the OEM wires to allow more room to connect the new tilt switch wires.

The only wire you need is the **White/Black** wire which is the ground wire. Cut ONLY this wire at a convenient place to allow the fitment of the tilt switch wires.



Connect the tilt switch wires to the ends of the White/Black wire you have just cut and insulate the connections with heatshrink sleeving.

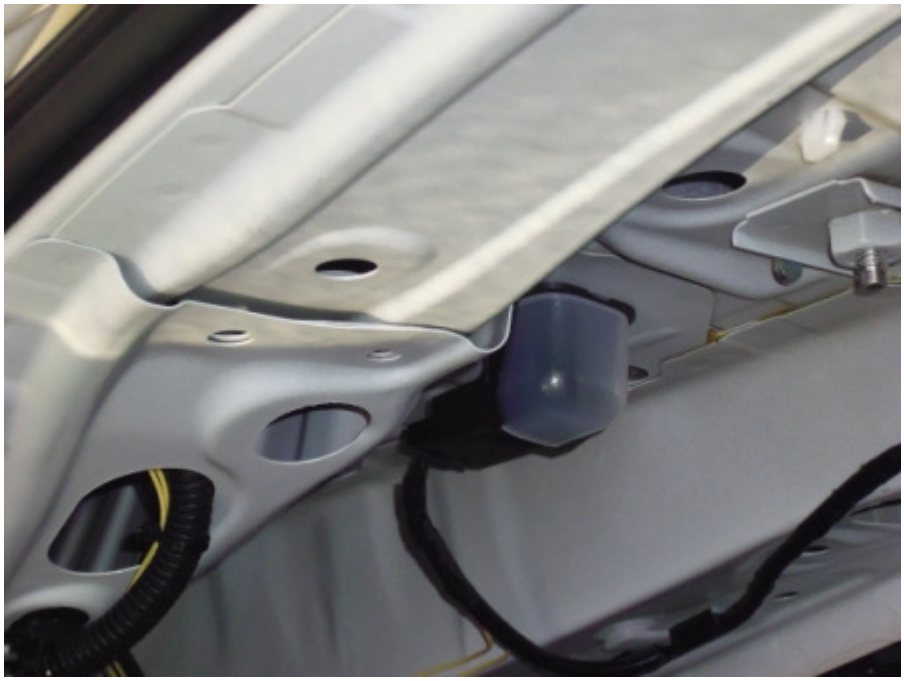


Tape the wires to the existing OEM lead.

Push the connector back into the light socket and use some short cable ties to tidy up the wire routing.

Push the connector back into the locking mechanism. At this point the light should come on. (if you didn't disconnect the battery)

Lower the boot lid slowly and you should see the light turn off around 6" before it closes.



This is how far you need to lift the boot lid before the light comes on.

Refit the boot lid lining and your done!