

Model: Model S

Vehicle System: 12 - Exterior Fittings

Region: All

Tech Note: Loose Rivnuts in Sill

Tech Notes are announcements that help to communicate and track new information about Tesla Service concerns. Such concerns may or may not be VIN specific. These instructions assume knowledge of motor vehicle and high voltage electrical component repairs, and should only be executed by trained professionals. Tesla Motors assumes no liability for injury or property damage due to a failure to properly follow these instructions or for repairs attempted by unqualified individuals.

Tesla uses Rivnuts (internally-threaded rivet nuts) in the sill of Model S to provide fastening points for the bolts that secure the rocker trim. These Rivnuts can come loose during repair, especially if an impact gun is used to remove or install the bolts that secure the rocker trim.

⚠ CAUTION: Use only conventional wrenches to remove or install a bolt that goes into a Rivnut (Figure 1). Do not use impact guns on these bolts (Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

If a Rivnut becomes loose, perform the following steps:

1. Use an X-press 800 rivet tool (Figure 3) or a Rivnut installation tool (Figure 4) to attempt to tighten the original Rivnut (Figure 5).



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

If the Rivnut is secure and the bolt can be installed, discontinue this procedure.

2. If the Rivnut still spins when the bolt is installed, select a punch that is small enough to fit inside the Rivnut but large enough to catch on the inside lip of the Rivnut. Use the punch and a hammer to punch out the Rivnut (Figure 6).



Figure 6

3. Use a telescoping magnet to remove the Rivnut from the sill, or blow the Rivnut out of the sill with compressed air.

NOTE: To prevent a future NVH concern, ensure that the Rivnut is removed from the sill before continuing this procedure.

4. Use an X-press 800 rivet tool or a Rivnut installation tool to install a new Rivnut of the same size (M6-1.00x3, Tesla part number 2007016) (Figure 7).



Figure 7

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