



Removing the door panels of your IFS Hilux

Article and photos by Polarbear2008 aka Theunis Visser

Although not an everyday event, it may become necessary to access the inside of the doors on your IFS Hilux, either because something has broken and needs attention, or you might want to change the speakers that are located in the doors.

In my case, I wanted to change the dirt encrusted Panasonic stock speakers of my IFS Hilux, although the basics are the same, should you need to remove the door panels for whatever other reason. I set about it as follows:

Tools required:

1. #2 Philips screwdriver
2. #3 Philips screwdriver
3. small Flat screwdriver

For the sake of this document I will describe the driver's door, although for the most part, all the doors work very much the same.

1. Park the IFS Hilux in a space where you can open the door fully (It helps if the area below the vehicle is clean and well lit) because should you drop something (or should something drop from the panel once removed, it will be easier to find).
2. Open the driver's door and locate the left top (triangular in shape) corner of the door panel. About half way up there is a #2 Philips screw – remove this. Be careful not to mix this one with the one you will remove in the next step.



Flathead screw halfway up the triangular piece of the doorpanel.

3. Locate the inner door release handle. Remove the #2 Philips screw located in the centre of the handle rear. Do not confuse this screw with the one removed in 2 above – if compared, this one, although having the same diameter thread, has a countersunk head, and not a broad flat one like in 2 above (see photo1). Using your fingertips, grasp hold of the right side of the door release handle's frame and push it towards the door hinges – this will dislodge it, so that you can pull the whole assembly towards you. Locate the green clasp that holds the wire pulling mechanism, and unclip it, by pushing it towards you. Now slide the handle down, away from the L-shape bend in the wire.



Retaining screw clearly visible



The green retainer between the door release and door panel, clearly visible.



(Flat head on left & countersunk on right)

4. Locate the electric window switch panel on the door armrest. Insert the small flat screwdriver on the left side of the assembly and gently push upwards. Once the assembly has released, slide it towards the door hinges and up to release. Turn the assembly on it's side, and disconnect the white multi-connector by pressing the release in the middle of it, and pulling the plug housing away from the assembly. Now is a good time to inspect the connectors for grit or contamination – clean either.



The electric window switch panel once removed.



The panel view from below.

5. Locate the U-shaped cover that is located next to the electric window switch assembly. Insert the small flat screwdriver on the left side of the cover, and gently pry upwards. Once it has released, slide the cover towards the door hinges in the same way as 4 above.



The doorpanel armrest viewed from below (after removal)

6. Using the #3 Philips screwdriver, remove the 2 large screws that are located on either side of the door grip area.



The driver's door panel with the armrest removed to expose the #3 Philips screws (x2) on either side of the "U" shaped area on the right side of the photo.

7. Using your left hand, locate the gap, at the bottom left corner (below the speaker grille) between the door panel and the door. Insert your fingers and pull towards yourself to release the cover. Using both hands, repeat this process up both sides of the door panel, until you reach the area in line with the window. While holding the bottom end of the door panel with your right hand, using your left hand, tap the door panel from below, upwards. It should release from the window seal area. Push the panel further upwards, until it clears the door pin.



The driver side rear door in the same state – the armrest and the window switch removed.

8. While holding the panel away from the door, remove the multi-connector removed in 4 above, through the hole in the panel.

- Place the door panel, which is now free, out of the way to access the speaker assembly, or next gently remove the plastic sheet covering the door cavity to access the inner area on the door for locks, etc.



The driver's door with the panel removed – the speaker and plastic sheet clearly visible.

This procedure works on all the doors. The only difference is on the rear doors, where the window switches are much shorter, and can thus be removed by prying on either side with the small flat screwdriver, otherwise



Driver's side rear door with everything back in place.



The rear door's window switch – once removed.

- To re-assemble, simply follow this process in reverse, taking care not to confuse the two #2 Philips screws (1 removed from the door release handle assembly (countersunk head) and the 1 removed from the triangular area of the door panel (flat head)).



(Flat head on left & countersunk on right)

NOTE:

When re-assembling the door panel, first re-insert the cable through the hole in the panel, and re-attach the door release handle, then re-attach the plastic retainer clip. Now insert the window seal (black strip that touches the window) into the door, allowing the door pin to slip into the hole provided. Gently press on the window seal to allow it to seat. If the panel is now correctly aligned, the hole on the triangular part of the door panel, will line up with the threaded hole behind it. Now using the part of your palm closest to your wrist, tap the door panel all the way around the edges, starting from the triangular area to the door pin area, ensuring that all the retainers have engaged – you can check this by seeing if the door panel is flush with the door all the way around (except in the area to the left of the speaker grille, where there is a natural gap).

Hope this helps.