

Replacing your Range Rover Classic Outside Door Release Handle

If your front outer door handle has broken, you may have trouble finding a replacement – particularly if it is the driver's door. It is also expensive, and if done by the book, will require swapping out the entire unit (\$100+) – including the lock mechanism with new keys, etc...

I was able to do the following repair in about an hour, using a replacement REAR outer door handle. It is very easy to remove the silver handle from the assembly and then use the silver handle only in my existing driver's door assembly. These are much easier to come by. In times of desperation, you could even sacrifice your rear driver-side door to get your driver's door functioning again.

(Note: If you want to do it by the book, you would completely remove the handle from the door, which requires first disconnecting #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12 shown in Figure 4 below)

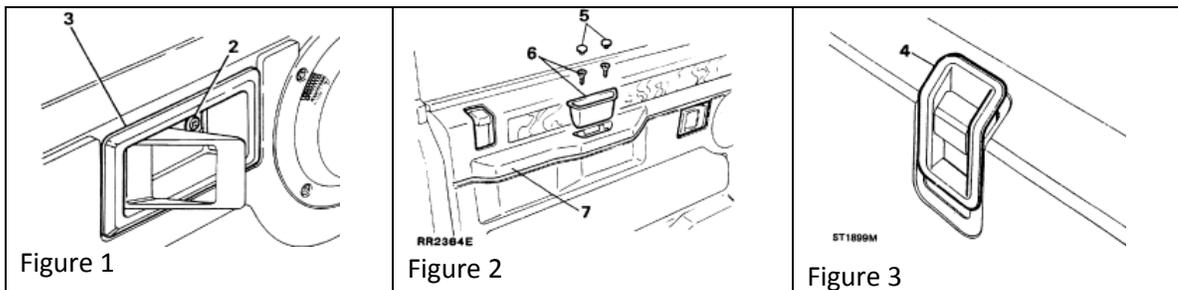
Also note that the diagrams below are showing the passenger door, but the same procedure is followed for the driver's door.

Tools Needed:

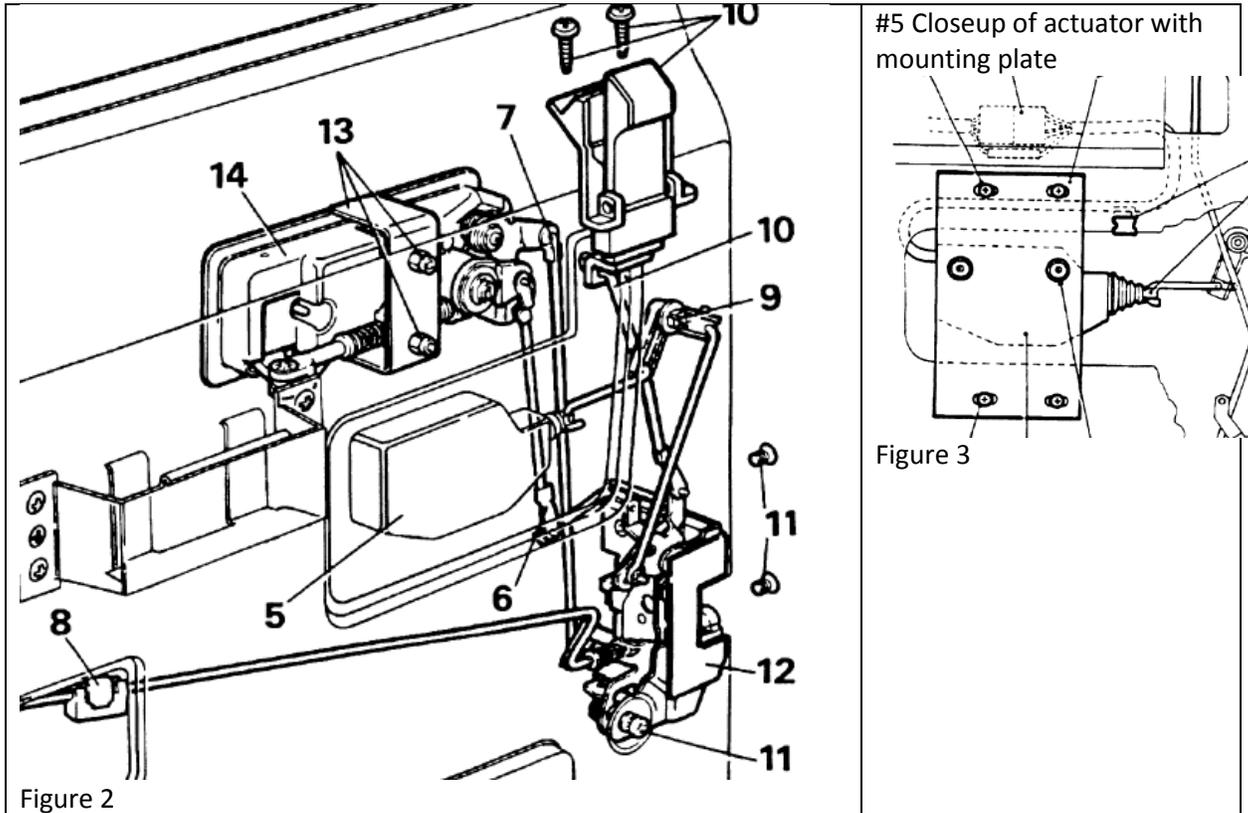
- Philips Screwdriver
- 8mm nut driver
- Needle nose pliers
- Punch
- Hammer
- Door panel pry tool (or standard screwdriver)

Shortcut way – without completely removing the assembly from the door.

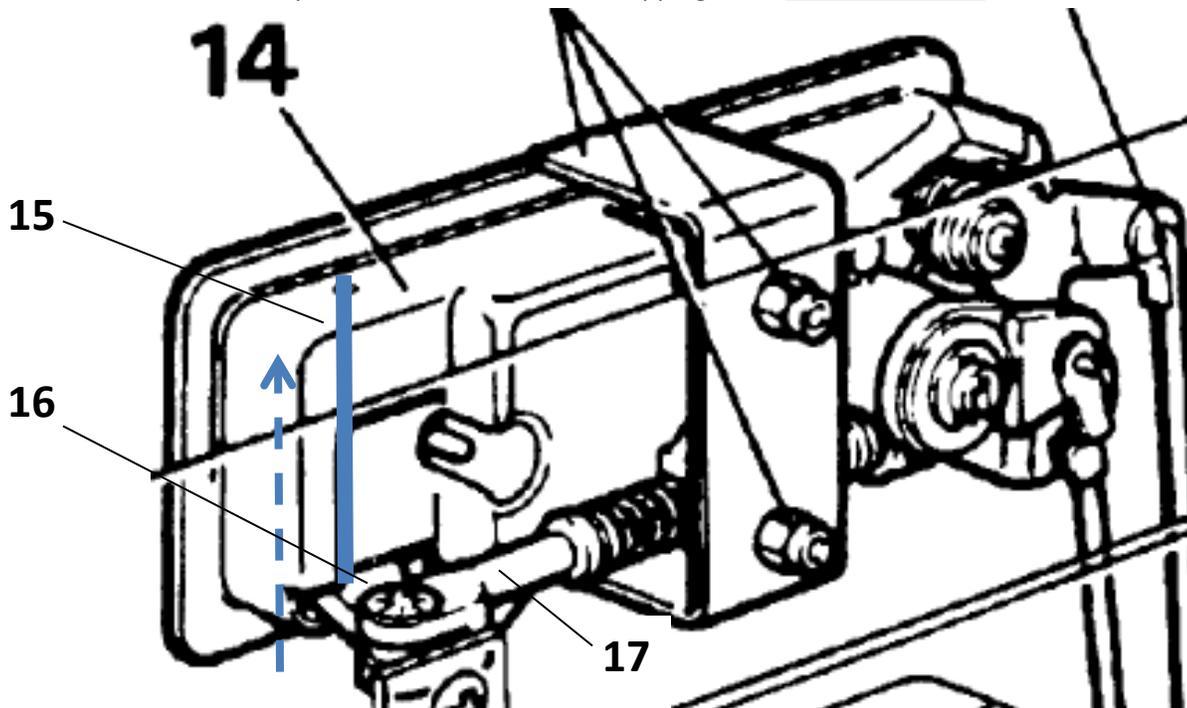
1. Remove your inner trim panel by removing the 3 parts shown in Fig 1-3 and then prying around the perimeter of the trim panel with a pry tool or standard screwdriver.



2. Remove the Front Door Power Lock Actuator Unit (#5 below) for easy access to the door handle assembly.
 - a. Remove 4 screws securing actuator bracket to the door. You can leave the actuator attached to the metal mounting plate.
 - b. Maneuver the actuator off of the linkage, disconnect the multi-plug and set the actuator aside.
3. Remove the 2 8mm nuts and the retaining bracket shown as #13 in the figure below..



4. Push the assembly through just enough so that you can access the pin (#15, shown in blue here) that keeps the handle pull secured to the handle assembly.
5. Remove the push nut (#16) and then the retaining pin and carefully remove the spring-loaded plastic control rod (#17) from the handle assembly, using caution as it will eject itself like a small missile.
6. Using a punch and a light hammer, gently tap out the pin (#15 below) that keeps the handle in the assembly as shown in blue below – tapping it out from the bottom.



7. Remove the broken handle and replace with new handle.
8. Reinstall the pin (#15) tapping in from the top.
9. Reinstall the pushrod and spring with a new push nut – there are other types of push nuts at your local home improvement store – some have caps on the top – either should work.
10. Lubricate everything well before re-assembling the door. I used WD-40 to soak all the moving parts, including the pin (#15) and lock barrel.
11. Install the retaining bracket and 2 8mm nuts.
12. Re-connect the power door actuator to the linkage and mount in place.
13. Before re-installing the inner door panel, lower the power window to make sure that all wires and linkages are not interfering with window movement.
14. Test the operation of the door handle and power lock – adjust if needed.
15. Replace the inner door panel.