

UPDATE: '05 MINIS

On '05 MINIs the trim piece below the toggle switch panel has been redesigned to incorporate a storage area; this makes it **VERY** difficult to remove, and the “blind install” procedure described for earlier MINIs does not work.

If you wish to install the MINI circuit on an '05 MINI without removing the downtubes, it is still possible but people (like me) with large hands will find it painful! Here is a description from Murray: *No need to remove any trim, I simply flipped the trim piece down using the two tabs and there was plenty of 'give' on the hinge to open it. Then I suggest you do the install from the right-hand side (USA passenger side) if you kneel outside the car your hand can go up the opening where the trip panel is opened. your first finger can press the release catch while your 2nd finger can flip the clip off the connector.*

I think it's easier to connect to the switch panel prior to connecting the cable to your circuit. Also, it then pays one to look at the way the car's connector and your connector differ (cars connector is much thicker) and helps you think about locating your connector more in the middle of the switch panel's socket (does that make sense?)

Here is a picture from Luke, showing the partly open trim piece, with the original toggle switch connector removed, extracted, and plugged into the MINI circuit:



You can also still do the “downtube removal” install if you prefer. Bill writes: *I decided to be safe and NOT do it the "blind" way. (If I was going to do it blind I'd follow the advice in the feedback of Murray since the 2005's larger "Trim" piece is a major pain to completely remove.)*

My 2005 didn't have any screws holding down the "Fascia". A sharp tug was all it took. (Note: The plastic surrounds from the Hazard, and Dash light buttons also popped out as a result of the tug, but wasn't a problem to replace later.) I also didn't have to remove, or even open the "Trim" piece, as there was enough room to pass the connected MiniCircuit through the hole behind the "Toggle Switch Panel."

On the other side of this sheet are some pics provided by Bill ...



This pic from Bill shows the downtubes removed, the toggle switch panel removed, and the original toggle switch panel connector plugged into the MINI circuit



This pic from Bill shows the MINI circuit pushed in behind where the toggle switch panel normally fits, with the harness from it going to the toggle switch panel (the downtubes are still removed)

Thanks to Murray, Luke, Bill and the many other MINI owners who have helped to improve these directions!