

# CorkSport Performance

## AXO-9-342 Leather Steering Wheel

Installation Instructions for the CorkSport Steering Wheel for 2019+ Mazda 3, 2020+ Mazda CX-30, and 2023+ Mazda CX-50

Written By: Daniel Palomaki



## INTRODUCTION

In this installation guide we have provided step by step instructions to install the CorkSport Steering Wheel.

### Advisory:

- Temporary disconnection of the steering wheel airbag is required for installation. It is critical to de-energize the system and disconnect the battery to prevent damage and/or injury.
- Steering wheel heater (if equipped) will no longer function after installation of the CS steering wheel.

### TOOLS:

- 8mm Socket (1)
- 10mm Socket - Deep (1)
- 21mm Socket (1)
- 1/4" or 3/8" Drive Ratchet (1)
- 1/2" Ratchet (1)
- Ratchet Extension - 6in (1)
- 5mm Allen Key (1)
- 90 Degree Pick Tool (1)
- Flathead Screwdriver (1)
- Trim Removal Tool (1)

### PARTS:

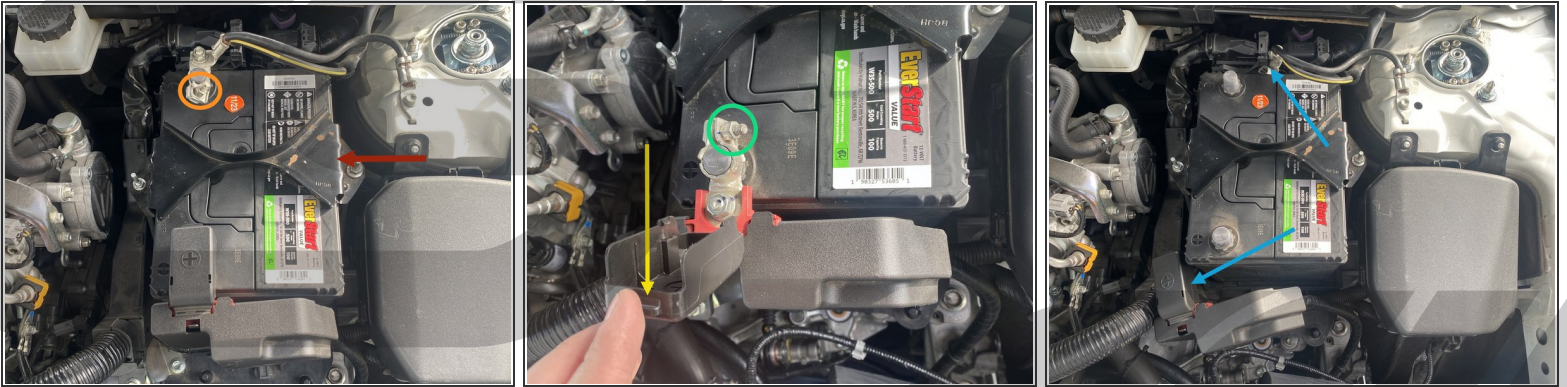
- CorkSport Steering Wheel (1)

## Step 1 — Getting Started



- First and foremost; **THANK YOU** for becoming a part of the CorkSport Family. We hope to bring you the highest level of Parts, Customer Service, & Support
- ⓘ How To Use These Instructions: The instruction format will relate colored marking in the image to the colored dot in the text to the right of the image
- The vehicle used in these instructions was a 2019 Mazda 3 without paddle shifters or heater. Other model and trim level differences will be noted.

## Step 2 — Disconnect the Battery



- Start by opening the hood and locating the battery
- Loosen the negative battery terminal nut with a 10mm socket and ratchet. Remove the terminal from the battery and set it out of the way
- Lift up the positive terminal cover
- Loosen the positive battery terminal nut with a 10mm socket and ratchet. Remove the terminal from the battery and set it out of the way
- Verify the battery terminals are off the battery and have no way of slipping back and touching the battery posts before moving on

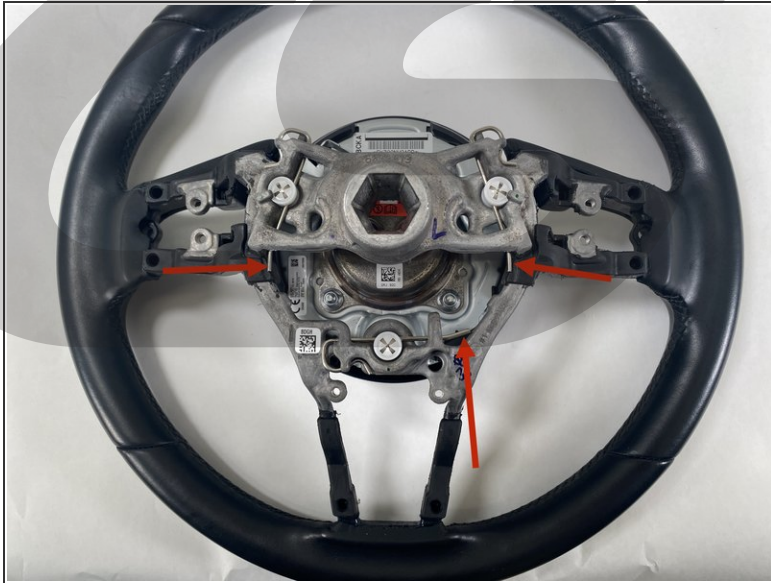
### Step 3 — De-Energize the Electrical System



- ① To verify there is no residual voltage leftover in you vehicle that may activate the airbag, the following is strongly recommended:
- Turn on your hazard light switch and leave it on for 15-30 minutes
  - To check the system is fully de-energized, verify that your interior lights will not turn on or flash at all



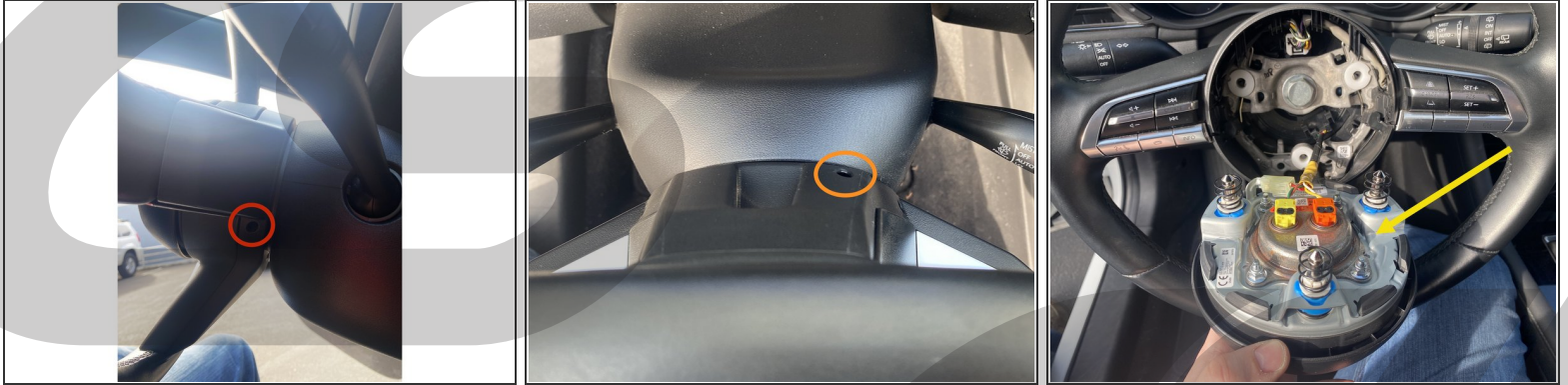
## Step 4 — Remove the Airbag - Part 1



- ① Removing the airbag is arguably the hardest part of the steering wheel install. It can be frustrating, so be patient and take your time so nothing is damaged
- The images in this step show the wheel and airbag removed from the vehicle with no trim on the wheel for clarity for the next steps
- The areas that will be pushed to remove the airbag are shown with the red arrows.
- The access holes in the steering wheel trim will place your tool approximately on the ends of the silver clips as shown
- The silver clips are springy and need to be pushed to release the airbag points from the white sleeves. The silver clips only need to be pushed 1/8"-1/4"

**Step 5 — Remove the Airbag - Part 2**

- On the left side of the back of the steering wheel, there should be an access hole in the trim panel
- Using a 5mm or 6mm Allen wrench push the silver clip that was shown in the previous step. Very little force should be required
  - ⓘ Your tool will not need to go very far into the wheel to touch the silver clip
  - ⓘ The silver clip should be nearly perfectly lined up with the access hole. No severe angle or prying will be required
- If done correctly, the airbag will pop out slightly on the left side as shown

**Step 6 — Remove the Airbag - Part 3**

- Repeat the previous step on the right side of the steering wheel
  - ⓘ Occasionally the airbag will come loose completely with only two clips released. It should stay in position with the final clip, but be ready to catch the airbag just in case
- The final clip's access hole is on the bottom of the wheel offset to one side as shown.
  - ⓘ You may find it easier to rotate the wheel 180° as shown to access this hole
- Push the final clip inward and release the airbag from the wheel. Ensure you have a hand ready to catch the airbag so it does not fall and damage its wiring.

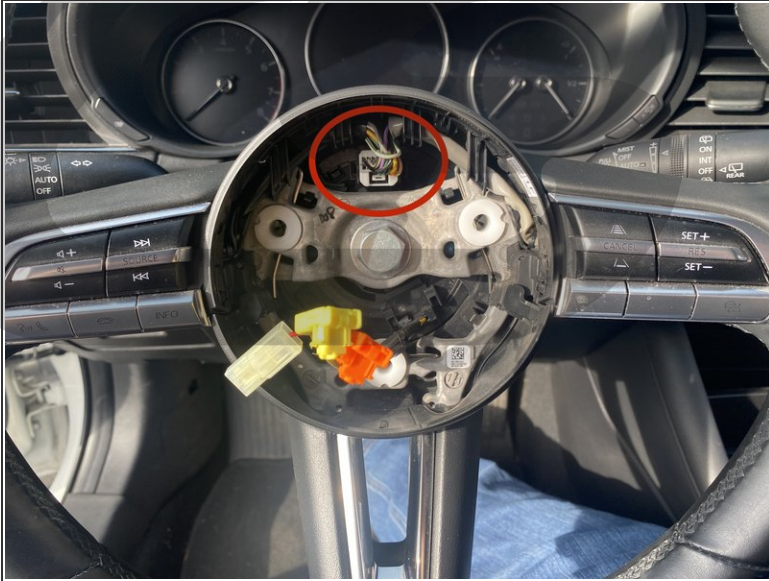


## Step 7 — Unplug the Airbag



- Remove the black airbag wiring retaining clips by prying them upwards. Use a pick tool or tweezers to free them from the yellow and orange connectors
- Unplug the yellow and orange connectors. They do not have a retaining clip or tab but they can be somewhat difficult to remove
- Push in on the center of the clear connector to release the retaining clip, and remove it from the airbag
- The airbag can now be set aside in a safe location

## Step 8 — Remove the Steering Wheel - Part 1



- ① Straighten your steering wheel if you have not already done so
- ⚠ Do not attempt to unplug the yellow airbag wiring harness
- Unplug the white connector from just above the steering wheel center bolt. Push the tab upwards and unplug the connector
- ① If you do not have a heated OEM wheel, move onto the next step
- If you have a heated OEM wheel, there will be one additional connector as shown in the second image. Unplug this connector as well

## Step 9 — Remove the Steering Wheel - Part 2



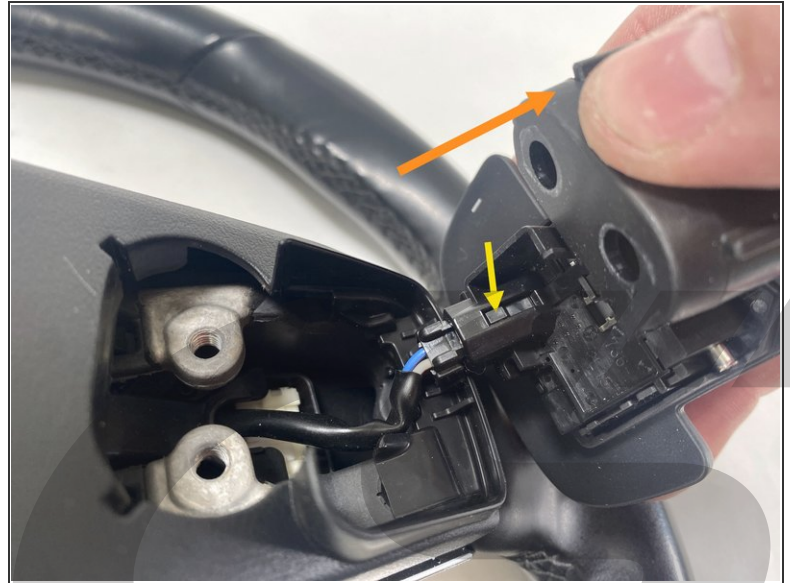
- Using a 21mm socket and ratchet, remove the center bolt from the steering wheel
  - ① Typically you can use your knees to hold the wheel while loosening or tightening the center bolt
- The OEM steering wheel can then be removed from the vehicle. Use caution to not get snagged on the airbag wiring harness
- Do not rotate the clock spring shown in the second image. It may be damaged if it undergoes significant rotations.



**Step 10 — Remove the Trim & Buttons- Part 1**

- ① Place your steering wheel on a soft surface so it does not get damaged during trim removal
- At the bottom center of the wheel, lift upwards on the lower trim piece to pop the bottom of it out of position
  - ① You can also use a plastic trim removal tool to pry between the wheel and trim
  - The trim will have a gap at the bottom when done correctly as shown
- Lift up on the sides of the lower trim piece to release the remaining two clips positioned in the locations shown
- The lower trim piece can then be removed and set aside

## Step 11 — Remove the Trim & Buttons- Part 2



- ① If you do not have steering wheel shift paddles, you can skip to the next step
- Flip over the steering wheel so the backside is facing up
- Using an 8mm socket and ratchet, remove the four bolts that attach the shift paddles to the wheel
- Gently pull upwards on one of the shift paddles to free it from the wheel and expose the wiring
- Push inward on the tab as shown to release the paddle connector. The paddle can then be set aside until later
- Repeat the last two steps on the other shift paddle



**Step 12 — Remove the Trim & Buttons- Part 3**

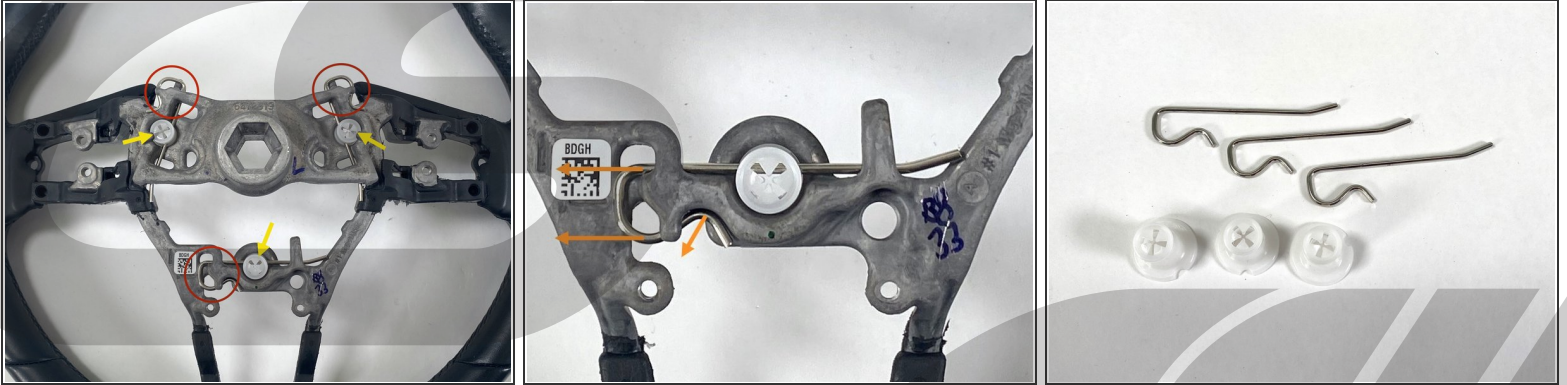
- The rear trim panel is the next to be removed
- Begin by pulling the bottom center of the trim free from its clips. If done correctly, there will be a gap as shown
  - ⓘ You can use a plastic trim removal tool to pry between the wheel and the trim if having difficulties
- Next, pull the sides of the rear trim panel in a similar manner to release the outer clips
- Finally, there are 4 plastic tabs in the center of the wheel that must be pushed off the metal casting. Gently pull the trim away from the wheel while releasing the tabs
- The rear trim should then be able to be removed

## Step 13 — Remove the Trim & Buttons- Part 4



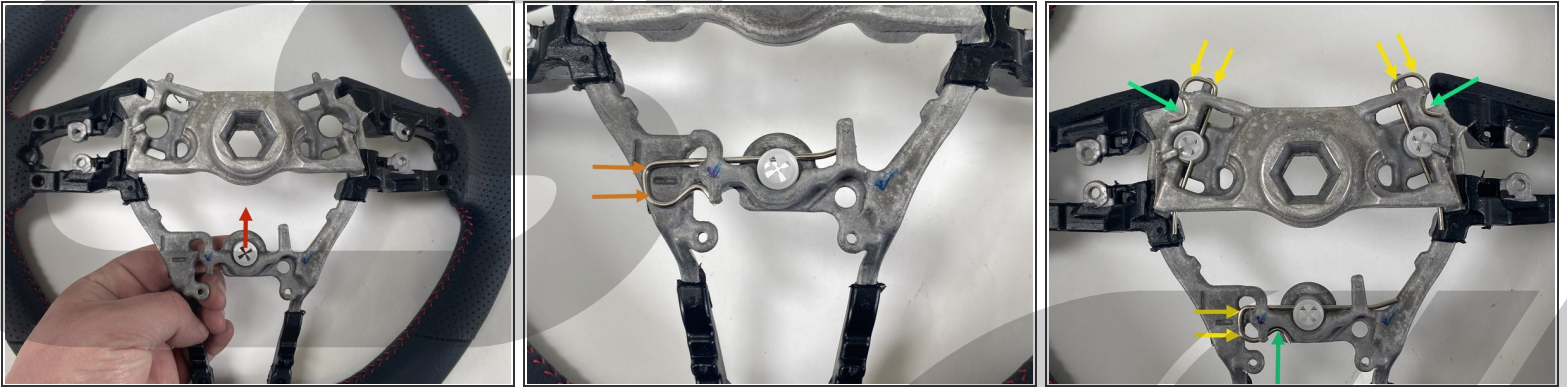
- Place the wheel face down for the button removal
- With the help of a flathead screwdriver or similar, push the plastic tabs holding the buttons in place downward & out of the wheel
  - Outer tabs
  - Inner tabs
- ⓘ Go slowly and work between the different tabs to prevent any damage. The buttons and the final upper trim piece should come out as one section.
- The second image shows the buttons partially removed for reference
- Note: if you have a factory heated steering wheel, the factory control unit does not need to be removed and can stay in position

## Step 14 — Remove the Airbag Retaining Clips



- The clips that keep the airbag in position must be swapped to the CS wheel
- Using a flathead screwdriver or similar, pry outward on the silver clips in the locations shown
  - Each clip snaps onto the wheel with the curved portion shown. This needs to be freed from the wheel casting to remove the clip
    - ⓘ The silver clips are springy, so when released they may pop out quickly
  - The white sleeves are held in position by the silver clips. When the clips are removed, the sleeves will also fall out of the wheel

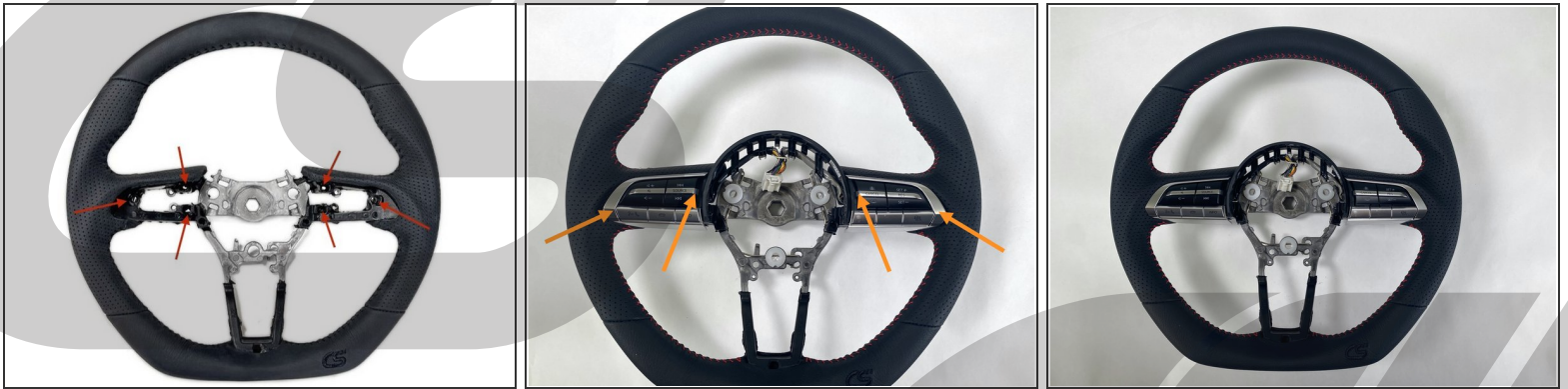
## Step 15 — Install the Airbag Clips on the CS Wheel



- ① Ensure your new CS wheel is placed on a soft surface where it will not get damaged during trim installation
- ① Backside of wheel shown
- Each white sleeve has a slot through the side where it is held by the silver clip. Hold the first sleeve as shown, with the slot oriented in the direction of the arrow
- Install the silver clip as shown, making sure the white sleeve is retained
- Push the clip into position with a little force. It should lock into place as shown with the curved portion fitting into one of the curves of the wheel casting
- Green arrows show the areas that lock into place
- Repeat for the other two clips. The final image shows all three clips & sleeves fully installed



## Step 16 — Install the Trim & Buttons on the CS Wheel - Part 1



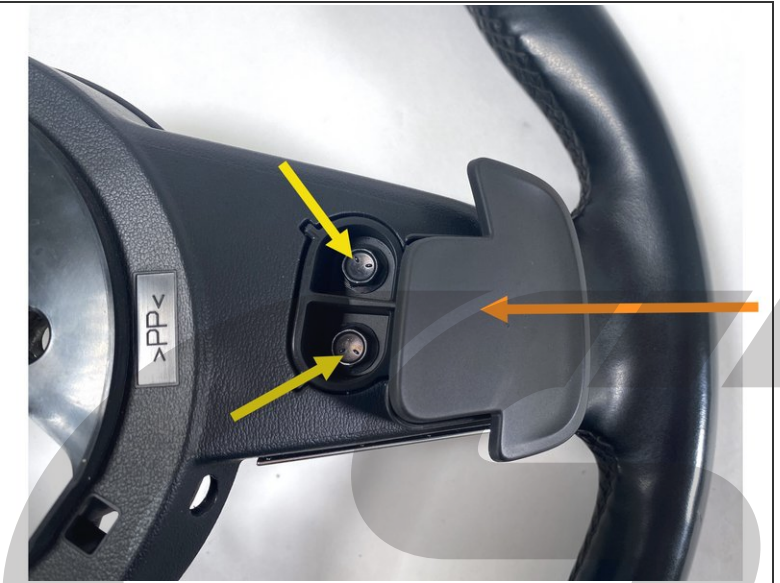
- The buttons will install first. Align the tabs on the backside of the buttons with the holes shown
- Push the buttons until the clips slip into position
  - ⓘ Push the buttons in uniformly to ensure correct fitment and no damage
  - ⓘ Second image shows buttons partially installed, third image shows fully installed

## Step 17 — Install the Trim & Buttons on the CS Wheel - Part 2

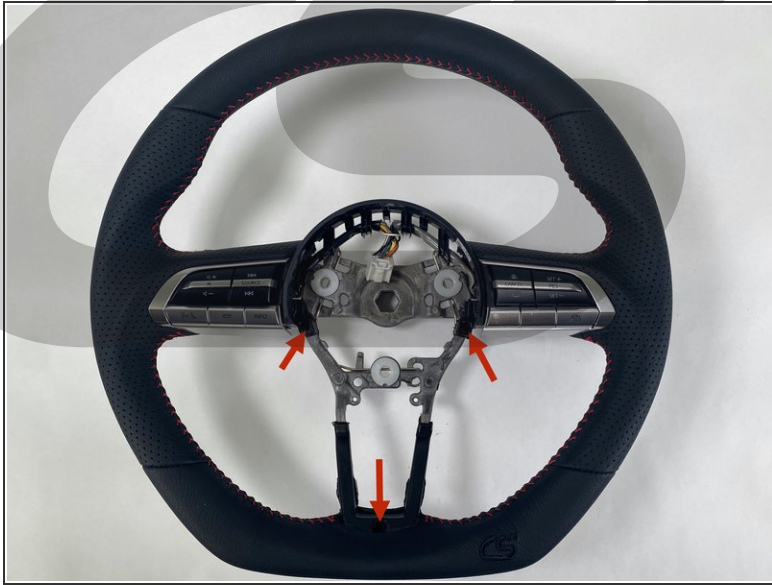


- The rear trim panel will install next. Place the wheel face down. Align the tabs on the backside of the rear trim with the holes shown
  - ⓘ OEM wheel is shown, but the locations are in the same positions
- If you have paddles, ensure the wiring for the shift paddles is coming out of the paddle holes and will not get caught inside the trim
- Push the rear trim until the clips slip into position



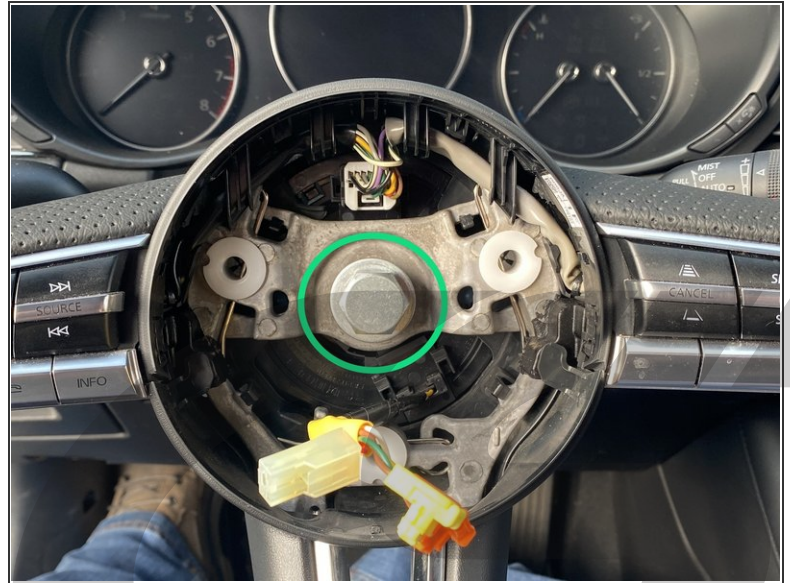
**Step 18 — Install the Trim & Buttons on the CS Wheel - Part 3**

- ① If you do not have steering wheel shift paddles, you can skip to the next step
- Plug the shift paddles back in and ensure the wiring clips into place
- Position the paddles in the rear trim as shown
- Secure the paddles with the 8mm head bolts removed earlier. Tighten until snug

**Step 19 — Install the Trim & Buttons on the CS Wheel - Part 4**

- The front trim panel will install last. Place the wheel face up. Align the tabs on the backside of the front trim with the holes shown
- Push on the trim until the clips slip into position. Its easiest to push in the top two first, then the single lower

## Step 20 — Install the CS Steering Wheel



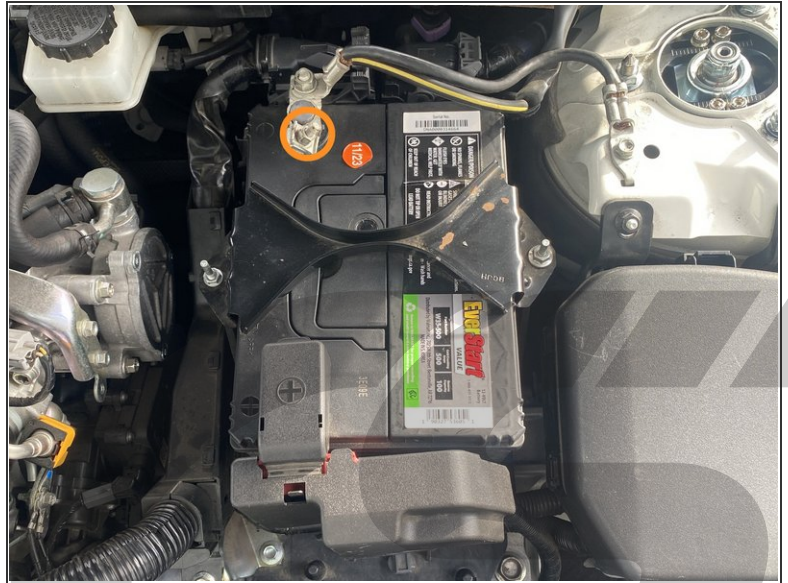
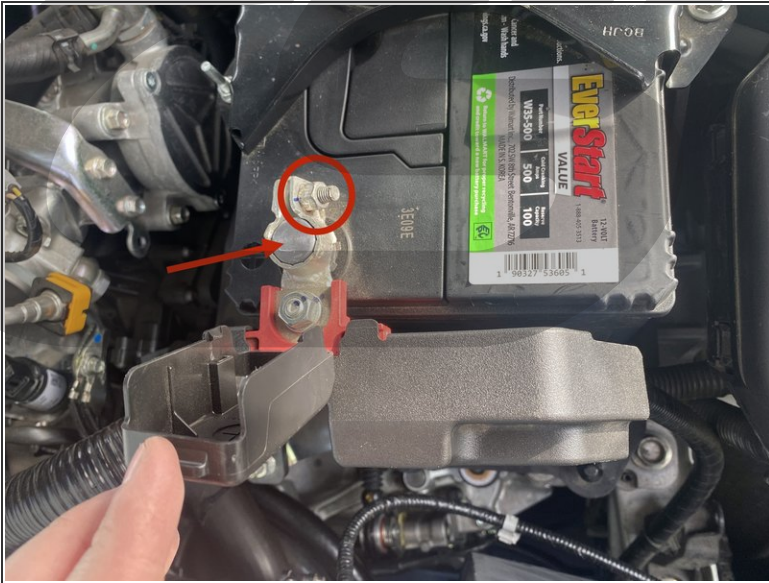
- Install the CS wheel over the steering shaft as shown
- Ensure the airbag wiring passes through the lower hole in the wheel
- Ensure the two clock spring pegs align with the holes shown. Minor rotation of the clock spring to align the pegs is OK
- Plug in the button connector that was removed earlier
- ⓘ If you vehicle had a steering wheel heater, the lower left plug will no longer have anything to plug in
- Reinstall the OEM steering wheel bolt. Tighten to 32ft-lbs. with a 21mm socket and torque wrench
  - ⚠ **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN.** It is very difficult to fix if the bolt breaks. We intentionally list the lower end of the Mazda torque specification to account for torque wrench differences.



**Step 21 — Reinstall the Airbag**

- Reinstall the airbag wiring harness connectors:
  - Clear connector on the exposed metal tab
  - Orange connector in the orange port
  - Yellow connector in the yellow port
- Reinstall the black retaining clips into the yellow and orange connectors
- The airbag has three metal "prongs" on the backside. Line these up with the white sleeves installed into the wheel earlier. The airbag wiring will be rotated slightly, this is OK
- Push in on the airbag like you are honking your horn. The airbag "prongs" should click into place
- ⓘ The airbag should now be locked into position like it normally appears and pressing on it feels like a normal horn press

## Step 22 — Reconnect the Battery



- Reinstall the positive side battery terminal. Tighten the lock bolt until snug with 10mm socket and ratchet
- Reinstall the negative side battery terminal. Tighten the lock bolt until snug with 10mm socket and ratchet



## Step 23 — Installation Complete



- This completes your installation of the CorkSport Performance Steering Wheel!
- ⓘ Verify your hazard lights and any interior lights turned on previously are turned off so they do not kill your battery!
- Contact us with any questions or concerns at [sales@corksport.com](mailto:sales@corksport.com) or (360) 260-2675.
- Please leave a review here: <https://corksport.com>
- Share your experience using #CorkSport on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.