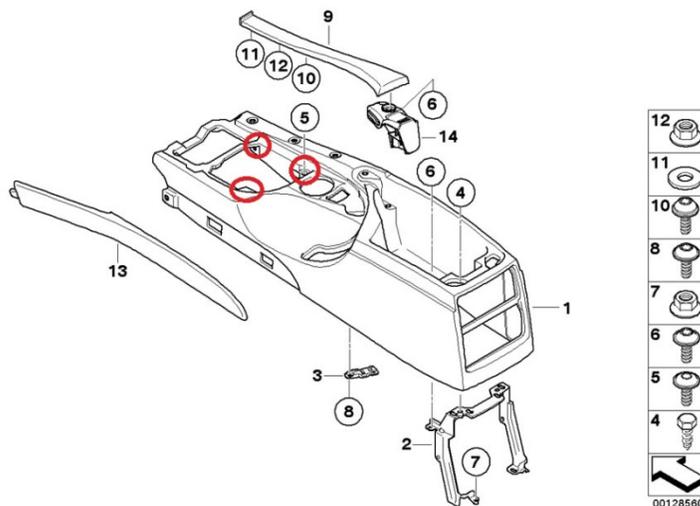
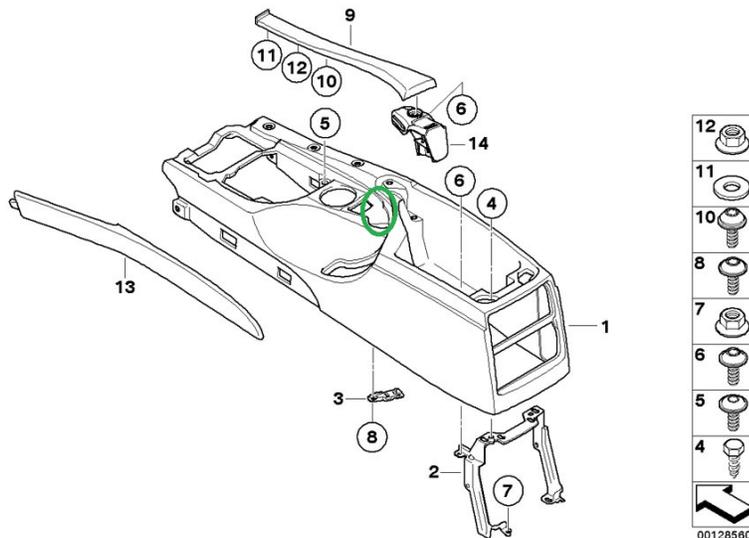


My handbrake teeth were all worn down so I decided to replace the mechanism myself. I searched and searched but couldn't find a step by step process for taking out the center console. I could find bits and pieces, but it wasn't until I finally combined all of those steps in the correct order that I was able to take the silly thing out. This was completed on a MT 2008 LCI – not sure how different it would be for an automatic, but the only difference I can think of would be the leather boot for MT vs plastic surround for AT. Be patient, this is a simple but rather tedious job...

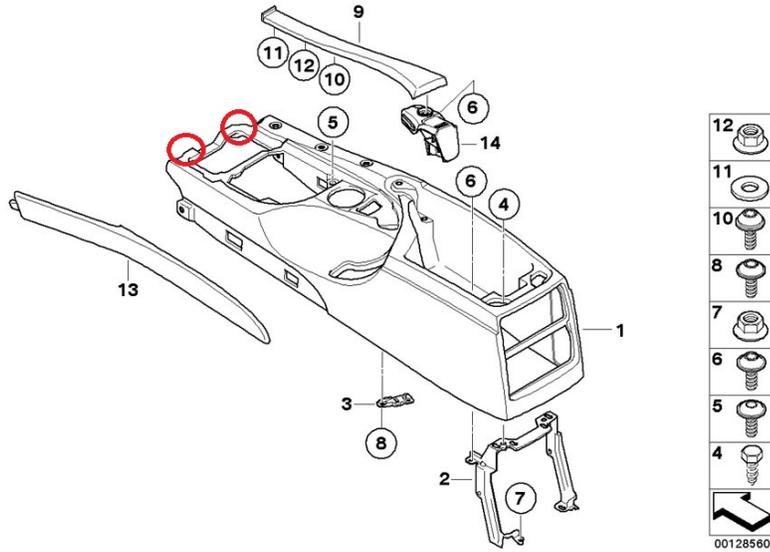
-
1. Remove MT knob by pulling straight up (don't put your face over it – black eye or broken nose may follow)
 2. Remove leather boot around MT
 3. Remove iDrive knob cover by pulling straight up
 4. Remove 3 torx screws hidden under the leather boot



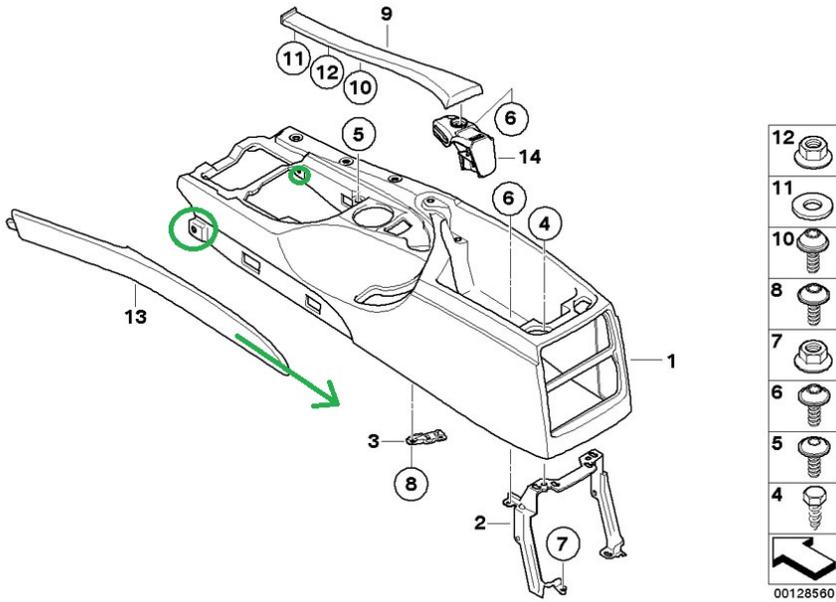
5. Using a pry tool, pull up on trim until the 2 clips (near pointed end) behind the "menu" button release. Disconnect the menu button. *Note: my metal clips came off and fell into the console; found them later.



6. Once the trim is removed, you'll be able to see 2 additional torx screws securing the console to the front dash. Remove these 2 torx screws.



7. Slide carpet covers on each side of the console (#13) toward the back of the car. This will expose 2 screws securing the sides of the console.

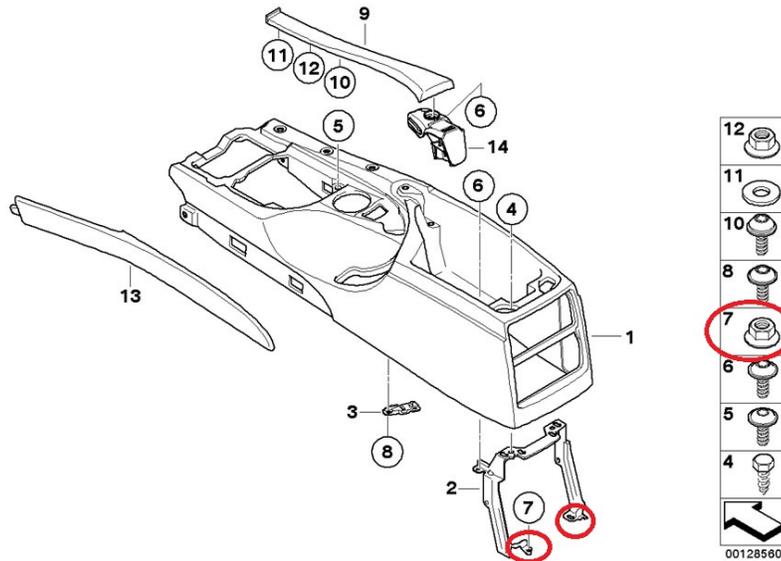


Now you're ready to move to the back.

8. Remove the rear trim piece by inserting trim pry tools along the sides and pop it out (held on by 2 small clips). Disconnect lighter and heated seat and aux plugs (as applicable).

9. Remove the rear vents. You should see 2 metal clips along the bottom edge of the vents – use a small flathead screwdriver and pry them off by pushing downward. Once remove, the vents just slide down and out. Disconnect the temperature plug.

10. You should now see 2 bolts (10 mm I think) holding down the rear part of the center console – remove those.

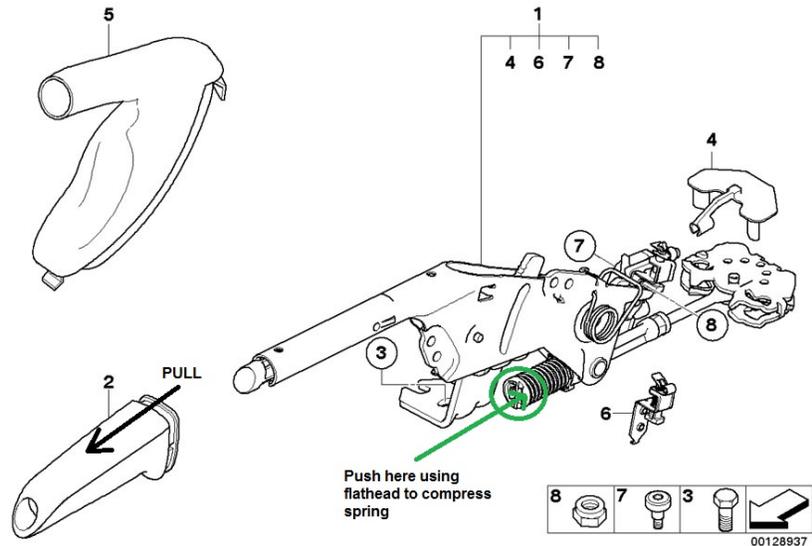


Mine had an additional plug with wires connected to the back (I believe it was for the cell phone cradle). It's held on by a plastic clip and small torx screw at the base of the center of the rear part of the console. Lift console up and remove the torx screw if you have this.

11. Remove leather boot around handbrake and pull off handbrake handle (only held on by 2 pressure clips so keep pulling toward front of car, it does just pop off...eventually)

At this point your center console should be free from all connections (except for some electrical connections I'll mention in a moment). This is where I got stuck for over an hour trying to figure out my next step. **The key is releasing the pressure on the handbrake handle!**

12. Ensure the handbrake handle is all the way down, then lift up the driver's side of the center console. Using a large flathead screwdriver, push the handbrake spring back toward the back of the car until you hear it click and see it remain compressed.



13. Once that spring is compressed, you can raise the handbrake handle all the way up – enough to allow you to remove the console. This was my **AH-HA!** moment.

14. Lift up the passenger side of the center console to disconnect the iDrive knob and aux/usb connection inside the console (if applicable).

The center console is now ready to be lifted straight up and out! Just reverse all of the steps for installation.