

AUDI A4 2003 (B6)

FRONT DOOR HINGE ADJUSTMENT – FIX A SAGGING DOOR

On a very windy day in Cape Town I made the mistake of opening my front door without holding on to it firmly. The wind pulled the door open with such force that the bottom hinge shifted forward slightly, resulting in the door sagging, and not closing properly, as show below.



The top hinge bolt is fairly easily accessible, but the bottom one is difficult to reach. To get a spanner on it is nigh impossible, unless you go through the wheel arch.





Adjusting the door hinge

Usual disclaimer: I take no responsibility for any damage, loss or injury caused by following these steps. Please use caution and common sense.

1. Jack up the car, place a jack stand underneath, and remove the wheel.
2. In the wheel arch, remove the Torx screws that hold the black plastic cowling in place. I used a T25 Torx bit.
3. Remove the cowling (it's a hard plastic liner/shield that fills most of the wheel arch).
4. Behind the cowling is a black plastic 'box' that has some pipes going into it. You don't need to remove it or disconnect the pipes, just pull it out enough to remove the soft black filler behind it. The 'box' has a Torx screw holding it (red arrow in the pic below), then two lugs at the top that you need to remove upwards out of their holes (green arrows). The black filler has a Torx screw, or maybe two (mine had only one - yellow arrow)





5. Remove the soft black filler to reveal the bolt head on the hinge. The first pic below shows the lower hinge bolt, and the 2nd pic shows the filler removed.



6. Replace the wheel, lower the car and remove the jack.
7. Before loosening the bolt you need to place the jack under the door to prevent it sagging further when the bolt is loosened. **Important:** use a piece of wood to support the underneath edge of the door - 38x38mm (1½ x 1½") works great. If you **don't** do this then you will most likely damage your door. This part is a bit tricky if you have a jack like mine, because the foot rotates, and the jack either pushes the door closed, or open, and slips off. I got it to push the door towards the closed position, and wedged the door open with another

piece of wood.



8. Slowly turn the jack until it lifts the door a bit. Then loosen off the bolt on the hinge, just enough so that the hinge can be moved.
9. The next step involves a bit of trial and error. You need to jack the door up about $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch *above* the line of the rear door (pic below). The reason is that when you tighten the bolt and loosen the jack, the door will naturally sag a bit as the hinge takes up the strain. Don't be afraid to make several attempts. If you have got this far you may as well try get it perfectly aligned, as the door will close a lot easier.



10. When you've got it right, remove the jack, and reverse the above procedure, replacing everything as it was.

Hope that helps! 😊