

Fuel Accumulator Removal & Replacement

Parts & Hardware:

(1)100519 New Fuel Accumulator

Tools & Equipment:

- 19mm Wrench
- 17mm wrench (long handle)
- 17mm wrench (short handle)
- 14mm wrench
- Ratchet
- Ratchet extension arm
- 10mm Socket
- Flathead screwdriver
- Pliers

Have you been driving your DeLorean and encountered a "hot start" problem? The vehicle seems to be fine when you leave the house or the office after it has been sitting for several hours, but a quick trip into the grocery store, and you come back out to your beauty that just won't start. The engine cranks and turns over, but no start. There may be a very simple solution to this confounding problem.

Most "hot start" problems are associated with a bad fuel accumulator. The purpose of the fuel accumulator, located in the center "tunnel" of the frame, is to maintain pressure in the fuel system to prevent fuel vaporization while the vehicle is not in use. The system has several check valves inside that close, sealing off the fuel return lines to the tank. When the accumulator fails, or is beginning to fail, you will notice problems starting when the engine is hot as described above. Replacing the accumulator will cure most all "hot start" problems, though in some instances we have seen where the check valve in the fuel pump will fail, most often in the early 1981 cars with original fuel pumps. Replacement fuel pumps do not exhibit this problem.



Make sure to extinguish all flammables such as cigarettes or matches before beginning this project.



Make sure to protect your eyes with safety goggles as you may experience fuel leakage at different segments of completing this project.



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General location of Fuel Accumulator for removal.
Old accumulator in place.

Now, it's time to start the project, gather your tools and get set for a successful project!

1. Lift the car on jack stands or a lift to a comfortable working height. You should be able to lie underneath the car with your arms 3/4 extended.

2. Using the 17mm long handle wrench remove the metal fuel line at the rear of the accumulator that goes to the fuel filter. Take caution and wear protective eyewear, you may experience fuel leakage when removing the fuel line. Shown in figure A, on next page.

3. Remove the metal line that goes to the fuel filter using the same #17 wrench. Pop the line hard with the wrench to loosen it, and again, watch for fuel leakage.

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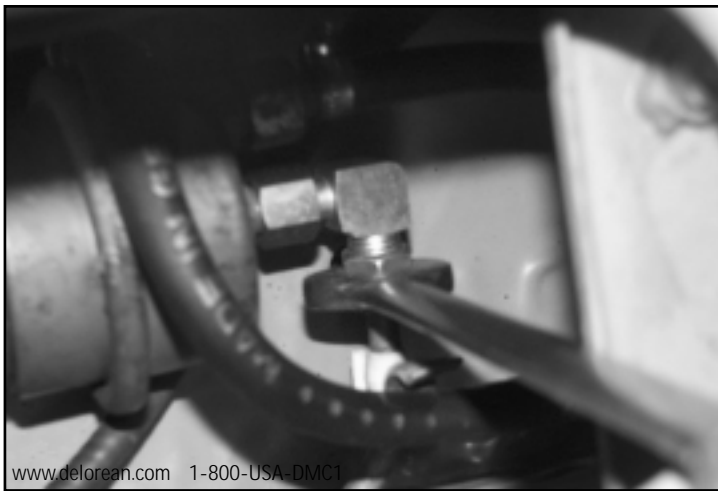


Figure A – Remove the metal line that goes to the fuel filter with the #17 wrench. Watch for fuel leakage.

4. Across the fuel accumulator you will notice a retaining strap. This must be removed. Use your extension arm and socket to remove the 4 bolts holding the retaining strap in place.

5. Once the retaining strap is removed, pull the fuel accumulator through the hole in the underbody so that it is hanging down loosely. From here you can remove the fuel pressure line. Again, make sure your eyes are protected, you may experience fuel leakage when removing the fuel pressure line, as shown in figure B.

6. Once you have the accumulator removed from all lines and detached from the car you need to remove the fuel fittings from the original accumulator, they will be used on the new accumulator. The fuel fittings can be removed with your wrench and may require the pressure of a vice grip to hold the accumulator in place as you remove the fittings.

7. Remove the insulator, the black rubber pad, from around the old accumulator and place it on the new accumulator. If it does not fit snugly, make sure to tape it well with black electrician's tape. Use the fittings from the old accumulator and put them on the new accumulator, making sure that they are installed on the new part in the same direction they were on the old part. Old accumulator with fittings and pad and new accumulator shown in figure C.

8. Reattach the fuel pressure line and put accumulator back up inside the underbody. Reattach, but DO NOT TIGHTEN, the metal line that leads to the fuel filter.



Figure B – Pull the fuel accumulator through the hole in the underbody so it is hanging loosely.



Figure C – new fuel accumulator positioned top of picture. Old fuel accumulator with fittings and black pad still attached positioned bottom of picture. Remove fittings and pad from old accumulator and place on new accumulator in same position.

9. Reattach the retaining strap tightening each bolt 1/2 way before tightening any one bolt all the way down. After those are in place you can tighten down all fuel lines.

10. Check all fuel lines to make sure they are not rubbing on the moveable shift linkage, and then secure them up out of the way with ties.

11. Once you have checked for any possible fuel leaks your project is complete. Congratulations!