

Replacing a clutch cable on a 1964 Corvair

The clutch cable on my 64 corvair was wearing out. I could tell because after tightening the cable it only took a few weeks before it needed adjusting again. Replacement cables are available online from various sources. I got mine through Clark's but I understand that for about the same price a better quality one can be had through Rafee's.

The corvair clutch cable comes with a bolt on one end for connecting under the car at the transmission and a coupler on the other end for hooking on the end of the clutch pedal.

Here's the process I went through to replace mine:

- 1) remove the carpet on the floor on the drivers side to give access to the pedals and the gear shifter as well as the cover on the firewall that is between the passenger and driver.
- 2) Remove the center cover on the firewall. I used a DeWalt cordless impact and I think it's a 1/2" socket.
- 3) Jack the car up and support it using a pair of jack stands. Also, block the wheels as an added safety measure.





Disconnect the clutch cable underneath the car.

- 1) You'll need a couple wrenches because the adjustment is locked with a nut. I think you need a 1/2" and either a 7/16 or a 9/16 open end wrench but a pair of crescent wrenches will do the same.
- 2) Once you loosen the lock nut, put one wrench on the bolt and rotate the main nut that the cable bolt is threaded into until it separates.



Remove the undercarriage covers.

The clutch cable passes through the undercarriage of the car protected by two sheet metal covers. These covers are held on by approx 15 or 20 bolts. I think they're ½" or 3/8".

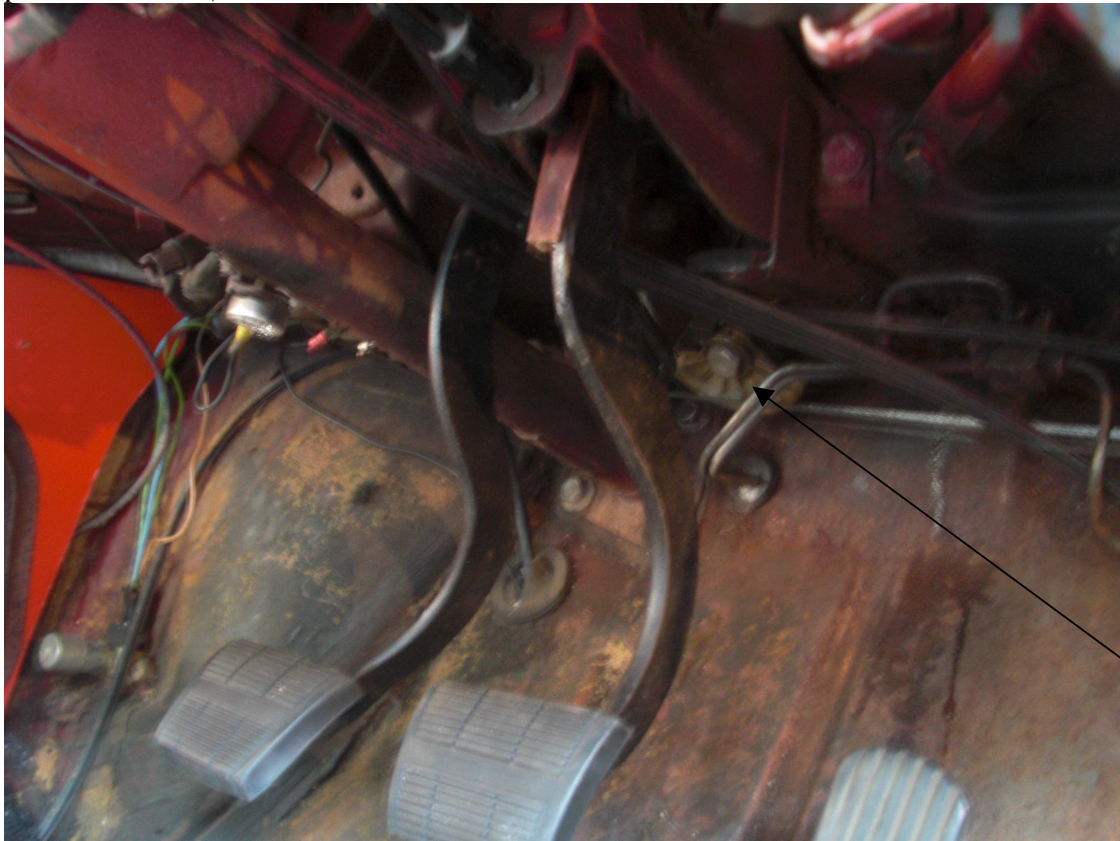
- 1) I removed them using a cordless impact driver.
- 2) The cable makes a turn into the cab of the car via a plastic pulley next to the gear shifter. Pull the cable free of any obstructions and allow it to hang below the car ready to be pulled from the cabin side.

Now, turn your attention to removing the clutch cable inside the car. The clutch cable end is held in place by tension on tongue at the end of the clutch pedal.

- 1) Press in the clutch pedal and wiggle the end of the cable until you can remove it.

Remove the single pulley above the clutch pedal (pictured below)

***Important! This pulley has a nut on the inside of the trunk securing this pulley. Its very common for people to disregard removing it and try to remove the bolt and snap the head of the bolt off. You must remove the nut first!!! The nut is located underneath the master cylinder in the trunk. Look just below and to the right of the master cylinder (no picture available).



Before proceeding, thread the new clutch cable onto the back of the clutch pedal, through the single pulley and reassemble the single pulley. It's a good idea to grease the sides of the pulley and any surfaces that will rub together since you have it disassembled. At this

point you should have one partially installed clutch cable and one partially removed cable.

To remove and replace the clutch cable in a corvair, you must remove the pulley cluster that is mounted on the center of the firewall in line with the shifter. There are three bolts holding this unit in place-the one in the center and two on the right. The lower pulley in this cluster is for the parking brake so you'll need to make sure the wheels are chocked and release the parking brake before removing the bolts securing this pulley housing.



- 1) Remove the three bolts
- 2) Remove the old clutch cable and slide the new cable in its place
- 3) Slide the bolt back through the housing. After sandwiching the housing with pulleys and sliding the bolt through, slide on the spacer and rebolt the assembly to the firewall. If you're struggling to get things aligned, give the cable for the parking brake (not the parking brake handle) a tug to give yourself some slack. While you have it disassembled, this is a good time to grease the sides of the pulleys.

Remove the old clutch cable through the hole in the bottom of the cab. Note the pulley that the clutch rolls around through the hole in the floor. Insert the new clutch cable through the area, pull up the slack and snap the clutch cable through the plastic clip on the firewall. (also indicated on picture above)

Don't forget to add the lock nut to the end of the clutch adjusting bolt end before attaching to the clutch arm underneath the car.

Reattach the cover plates under the car.

Adjust the clutch as needed. Test drive the car and plan on readjusting once more after the slack has been removed from the cable after driving for a couple hours.