

Replacing the soap dispenser on a KitchenAid Dishwasher

Remove at least the bottom roll-out tray from your dish washer.

Get something that you can put under the fully opened dishwasher door to support it while you are removing the front panel...



Using a torx driver, remove the panel screws around the edge of the door. There are also 4 (2 on each side) screws that mount the door to the hinges (see white circles). They are oriented 90 degrees relative to the majority of the other screws; but all use the same torx tip.



Replacing the soap dispenser on a KitchenAid Dishwasher... (pg2)

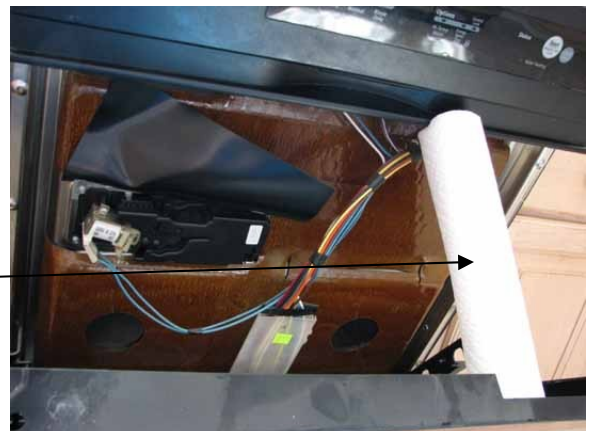
At this point, the inner and outer portion of the door panel will separate...



The inside of the dispenser is now exposed. There is a mud-flap looking thing that lays over top of the inner portion of the dispenser, and 2 wires that connect to the solenoid.

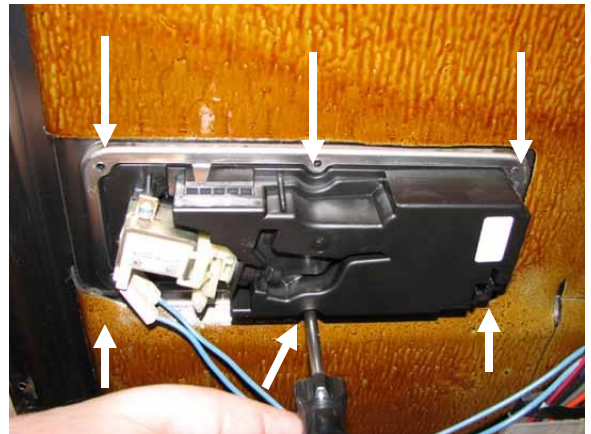


I found it quite helpful to put something between the plastic front panel and the inner portion of the door just to give me some working room to remove the dispenser. A paper-towel tube did the trick for me. _____



Replacing the soap dispenser on a KitchenAid Dishwasher... (pg3)

Now its time to remove the old dispenser...
There are 6 3/16" hex head screws that need to be removed...



The solenoid has 2 control connections and they are separate, and could easily be reversed. Even though it may not matter if they are, its always best to just put it back together the same way it came apart, so I labeled the two with 'I' (for inner) and 'O' (for outer)...



With all 6 hex screws removed and the solenoid wires detached, there's still one more thing to do before the dispenser just falls out the other side of the door. There are two tabs (one above and one below) that need to be lifted slightly to allow the unit to fall out. I just put a screwdriver under the top tab and then the unit was easily removed. Be gentle here so that the tab doesn't bend out of shape.



Replacing the soap dispenser on a KitchenAid Dishwasher... (pg4)

Now you have an easily accessible hole into which the new dispenser can be placed. Below is a view from the outside (left) and the inside (right)...



I spent a few minutes cleaning the edge of the hole so that the new unit's rubber seal would be able to do its job effectively.



When you first drop the new unit into the hole you'll probably hear a "click" (as I did). This is the sound of the two metal tabs dropping into place, and even without any screws you'll see that the unit is held in place.

Replace all 6 hex-head screws. Be careful because you're screwing into plastic. You'll know you've screwed it in tight enough when you can look at the edge of the dispenser and see it tight up against the inner metal wall of the dishwasher door.

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That's it! Now just replace each of the torx screws to re-mount the door panel. I found it easiest to put in the top 6 screws that hold the upper portion of the outer door panel to the inner portion of the door. Then, replace the 4 lower screws (2 on each side) that are oriented 90 degrees relative to the remaining screws. Finally, replace all other torx screws. As a general rule, don't tighten anything down until you've gotten all screws started and firmly in place, then (as my dad taught me) always tighten down opposite edges of the assembly (top left, then bottom right, then bottom left and top right).



The final step is to make sure nothing leaks!!! As I do with any work that involves water, I use the "dry paper towel" test... Just put a few dry paper towels around the area in question (in our case, the front of the dishwasher), run it through a cycle and make sure that the towels are dry at the end of it all...

Hope this helps. I've gotten enough good help from other fellers that have shared their experience, so I figured the least I could do is share mine...