

Instructions for Fixing the Tesla Model X Load Floor Handle

So you've broken your Tesla model X load floor handle and you've ended up with some parts like this. Don't worry, I've got you covered.

Step 1. Save all the metal and rubber parts to reuse.



Step 2. Let's get an inventory and check you have everything.



1. The black metal handle
2. Hinge pin – this pin is tapered and can only be drawn out of the handle in one direction.
3. Spring – take care not to lose the spring after you remove the hinge pin.
4. The handle fitting – we'll replace this with the new one.



5. Rubber bumpers – these pull out upwards, note the ridge and orientation.
6. 4 x Screws – these screw through the load floor into the handle assembly. They are concealed under some felt.

Step 4. Tools

You are going to need a few tools to fix the load floor handle as follows:

1. Cross head screwdriver
2. Needle nose pliers
3. Small hammer
4. Cable tie



Step 5. Prepare the Spring



Use a cable tie (or something similar) to hold the spring ends together under tension. Take the cable tie and form a loop then place the ends of the spring inside the loop and draw the cable tie closed, until the spring ends are held together. Position the square lock of the cable tie in line with the spring ends, rather than to one side, in order make re-assembly easier.

Step 6. Prepare the New Handle Fitting

Note I've printed this new handle fitting in silver so that you can see everything clearly in the photos, however the replacement I send out is printed in black to match the handle and load floor.



Feed the rubber bumpers into the new handle fitting from the top and pull them gently until the ridge on the bumper is drawn through the hole on the new handle fitting.



Next take the hinge pin and test insert it through arches on the new handle fitting, in order to check that it goes through and to clear out the holes. It should be a tight fit and may need a light tap with the hammer to ensure it goes through fully. Once in position remove it – you may need to use the screwdriver and hammer to drift out the hinge pin until you can get the pliers onto and pull the free end

Step 7. Mate the Handle and the Handle Fitting

Note that the hinge pin is tapered and can only be inserted into the metal handle one way around and from one side – to check which is the thinner end, try loosely insert the hinge pin through the hinge eyes in the metal handle.

Note also that the plastic handle fitting has 4 arches to secure the hinge pin and to make the design stronger than the original.



Place the metal handle over the plastic handle fitting in the correct orientation. Then insert the hinge pin, with the thinner end first, through the first arch of the plastic handle fitting and the first eye of the metal handle and the second arch of the plastic handle fitting.

Step 8. Insert the Spring

Using the needle nose pliers (or tweezers) hold the spring in position with ends facing outwards, while pushing the hinge pin through the spring. You may need to wiggle the spring a little to get it to line up.



Right photo showing correct positioning of the spring with its ends facing downwards

Step 9. Send the Hinge Pin Home

Push the hinge pin through the third arch of the plastic handle fitting, the second eye of the metal handle and the fourth arch of the plastic handle fitting. It's a tight fit and not only will you need to wiggle the parts to ensure a good alignment but you may also have to encourage the hinge pin with some light taps of the hammer.



Ideally the hinge pin will be neatest positioned centrally however it's tapered so it may be slightly more to one side than the other. So long as the hinge pin is secure and has passed through all 4 arches on the plastic handle fitting and 2 eyes on the metal handle, it will be fine.

Step 10. Release the Spring

Now cut and remove the cable tie holding the spring under tension and check the operation of the handle. If you inserted the spring with the ends facing outwards, then it will correctly keep the handle closed.



Fully assembled and ready to refit to the load floor.

Step 11. Refit the Handle to the Load Floor.

Reattached the handle to the load floor using the 4 screws and then re-cover the screws with the original black felt (if necessary using a little fabric glue).