

Issue Date: October, 2000  
Application: 90-93 Accords

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## Opening a Door With a Stuck Door Latch

### SYMPTOM

The drivers door will not open from either the inside or outside door handle. All the linkages are still in place yet, the door latch will not release.

### PROBABLE CAUSE

The door latch assembly fails internally. The latch is not serviceable.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

The fix is to replace the defective door latch with a new one. The problem is getting the defective one off the car. Honda never issued a TSB on this problem, but many techs in the field perfected a way to drill into the latch and release it, allowing the door to open.

Follow this procedure:

Remove the inner door panel. This can be tough since the door is stuck closed. It is usually easier if you un-bolt the drivers seat and slide it to the rear or totally remove it (if you can).

Measure from the center of the "pivot rivet" drop down 1 1/16" and center punch a hole. The hole should be horizontally about 1/8" from the embossed stiffening ridge (to the door skin side). See Image 1 for reference.

Drill this hole with a 1/8" drill bit. Stop when the bit goes through the first layer of metal. Redrill the hole using a 1/4" drill bit. After drilling through the first layer, let the drill bit go further and hit the internal parts of the latch.

Normally the drill bit will hit the right latch part and the latch will release. If it does not, use a

screwdriver through the 1/4" hole to release the latch. Simply turning and moving a flat screwdriver tip inside the 1/4" hole will usually release the latch. If all else fails, drill this hole larger and try again to hit the release.

Image 1

