

**2001-2004 Acura MDX**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Row Seat Forward Recline Repair**

(Adapted from: <http://www.acuramd.com/forums/showthread.php?s=&threadid=30875>)

First, you will want to take the little tab off the top recline lever (I forgot to take a pic of this but if you lift the lever in picture 16 it's the cover that covers the screws that the arrow point to in picture in 10. Pry to cover off with a small flat headed screwdriver (be careful not to damage the plastic with the screw driver). Then take out the screws.

Then go to the other recline lever on the side of the seat (pic 1).



Take out the little screw in the knob at the end of the lever and pull the knob off. Pry off the stickers that show how the seat reclines (I used a butter knife for a lot of the prying, it will make it a little easier to pry without damaging the parts because it has a wider surface area). Then take out the screws under the stickers and remove the recline cover.



Then move to the bottom of the seat and pull back on the cover that I have my finger on in picture 3. It should just pull back. Then take out the screw (you will need a torx bit to take this out).



Then you will need to pull the cover off the back of the seat. This was no easy task. I ended up just ripping it off pretty much but the best way to do it is get under each tab that are circled in picture 4 and put a pair of pliers around the tab then pry up on the pliers with a large flat headed screw driver (you could probably just pry them up without the pliers but I never tried it.) They will pop out. I pulled mine out after I pulled the cover off but that isn't the way it should be done. You can see in picture 8 how the tabs go into the back of the seat cover. Picture 9 has a close up of one of the tabs.



Once you get the cover off you will need to bend the metal rings (picture 4) that hold the seat cover to the seat. Keep them in the seat if you can because you will need to bend them back to put it back together. Then fold the seat cover back.



Remove the screw that the arrow points to in picture 6. Remove the little cap in picture 7. Remove the screw that is under that cap. Pull that whole plastic cover from the seat.



Now you are ready to disconnect the cable (picture 15). You can just pull off the cable end (the arrow is pointing to it). The upper part (where the other arrow points) is easier to pop out by prying with a screwdriver. Now pry the cable out of its area that is circled in picture 9. Be careful not to kink or break the cable then you will have to buy a new one.



Now you should be able to pull the whole lever/cable assembly out from the seat. Once you get it out it gets kind of tricky to take it all apart. If you buy this assembly from the dealer you can just throw the new one in and put it all back together now. My dealer quoted it at \$36 and they had it in stock. However, if you are cheap like me and don't want to pay anything you can keep going.

In picture 14 you can pull the spring with a pair of pliers and let it snap back through the circled hole into the lever assembly. Then you can pull the pin out that holds the lever to the bottom part. You can see the pin and spring pretty well in picture 13.



Once you get the handle separated from the lower part you will need to pry the cap part off the handle. You just have to pop it off, it snaps in two places. You can see in picture 13 how they go together. The handle is where mine failed. You can see it broke through the plastic on one side but the other side, where the cable didn't go through, is still good. Never mind the gray stuff all over mine, I tried to JB Weld it but it didn't work.

Now you can see in picture 11 that the cable can come through the lower part in two places. You'll want to pull the cable out from the left side and put it in the right like in picture 11 (be careful not to break anything in this step).



Now it is time to start putting it all back together. Put the handle back together with the lower part by putting the spring and pin back in place. You will have to pull the spring back through and clip it back like is in picture 14. It isn't easy. I used a pick to bring the end of the spring to the hole, then I used a small needle nose pliers to pull it out and snap it back into place.



Then you will need to hook the cable back into the handle on the side that isn't broken. Now you can put the cap back on. It will just snap onto the handle part.

Now you can put the whole assembly back into the seat. Put the two screws in picture 10 that attach the assembly to the seat back in. snap the cable into place and test it all out.

A problem with mine is that the part circled in picture 15 didn't slide back down when the seat was upright. I solved this problem by using multi-purpose grease and putting it everywhere that the part moved. To get some grease into the tight places I put it on a butter knife and squeezed it in (you can see what I mean in pic 15). Cycle it through a few times and it should smooth out. Then put everything back together the reverse way of it being taken apart.

