

SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRAINT SYSTEM (AIR BAG)

Introduced in 1990, a driver's side air bag became standard on Taurus and Sables. In 1992 an optional passenger side air bag was first offered on these vehicles, then in 1994, driver and passenger side air bags became standard equipment on the Taurus and Sable. The supplemental restraint system was designed to provide increased protection in the event of an accident for those in the front seat of the car, when used along with the safety belt system. The system **MUST** be disarmed before any work is performed on or around the supplemental air bag system.

SERVICE PRECAUTIONS

- When performing service around the Supplemental Restraint System components or wiring, the system **MUST** be disabled. Failure to do so could result in possible air bag deployment, personal injury or unneeded system repairs.
- When carrying a live inflator module, make sure that the bag and trim cover are pointed away from you. Never carry the inflator module by the wires or connector on the underside of the module. In case of accidental deployment, the bag will then deploy with minimal chance of injury.
- When placing a live inflator on a bench or other surface, always face the bag and trim cover up, away from the surface.

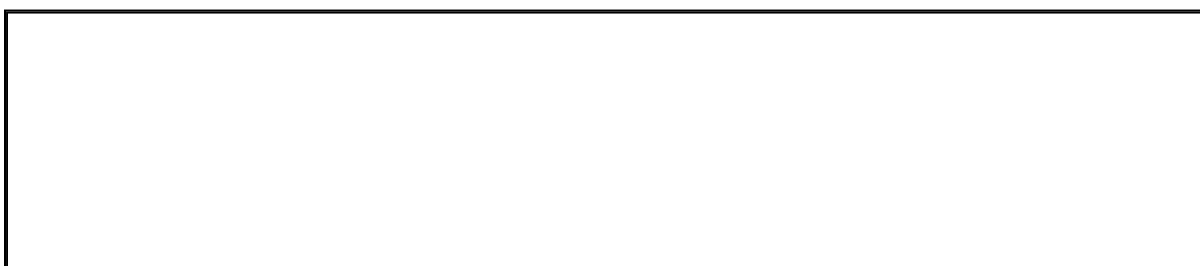
DISARMING THE SYSTEM

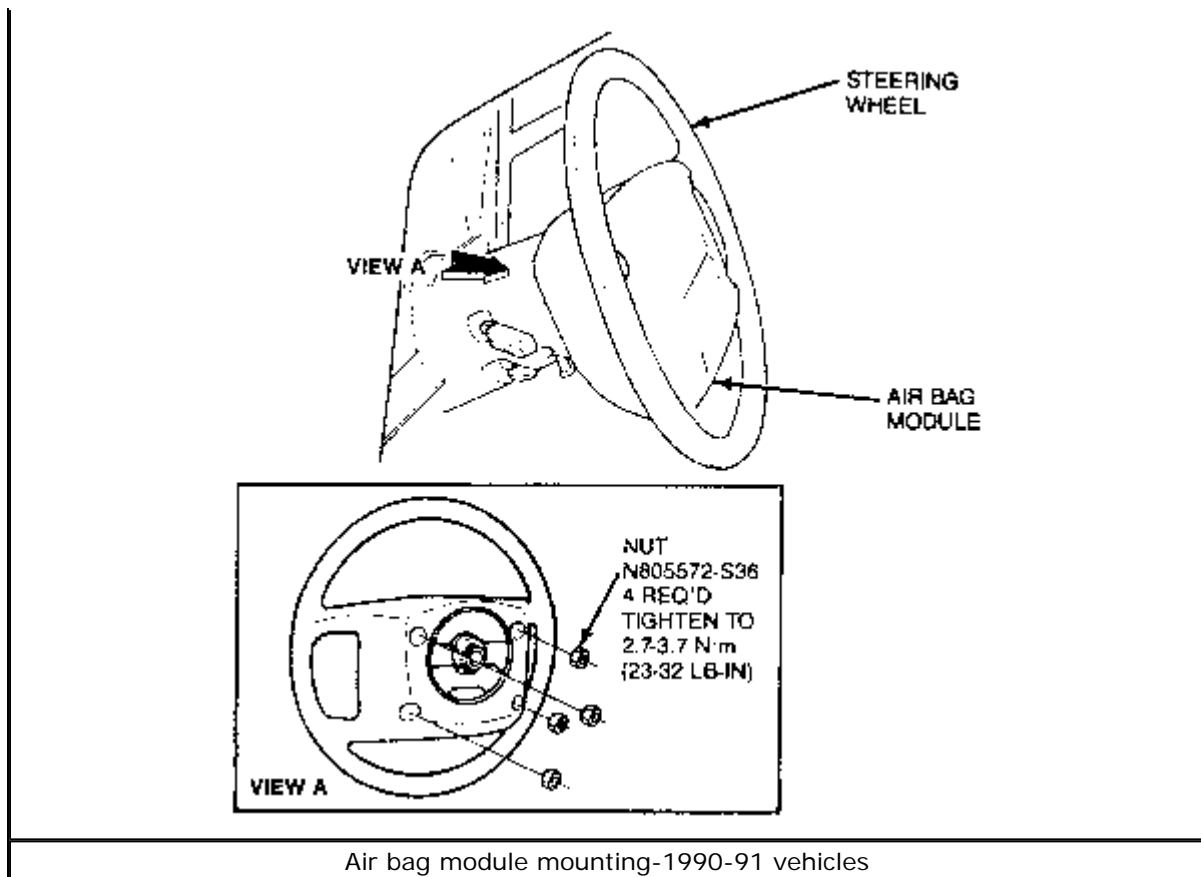
1990-91 Vehicles

1. Disconnect the negative battery cable.
2. Open the glove compartment, then lower the door past its stops. Disconnect the backup power supply located to the right of the glove compartment opening.

The backup power supply allows to air bag deployment if the battery or battery cables are damaged in an accident before the crash sensors close. The power supply is a capacitor that will leak down in approximately 15 minutes after the battery is disconnected or in 1 minute if the battery positive cable is grounded. The backup power supply must be disconnected before any air bag related service is performed.

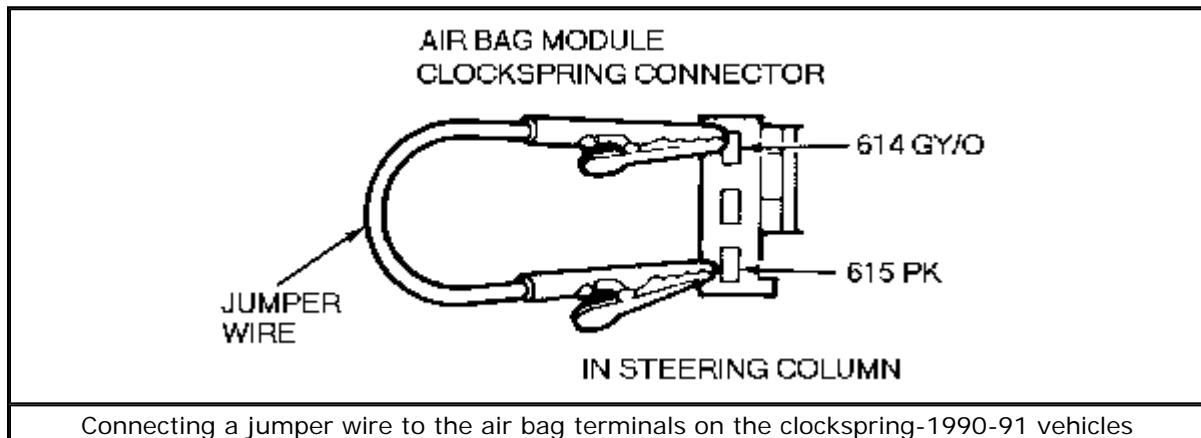
3. Remove the four nut and washer assemblies retaining the driver air module to the steering wheel.





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4. Disengage the driver air bag module and attach a jumper wire to the air bag terminals on the clockspring.

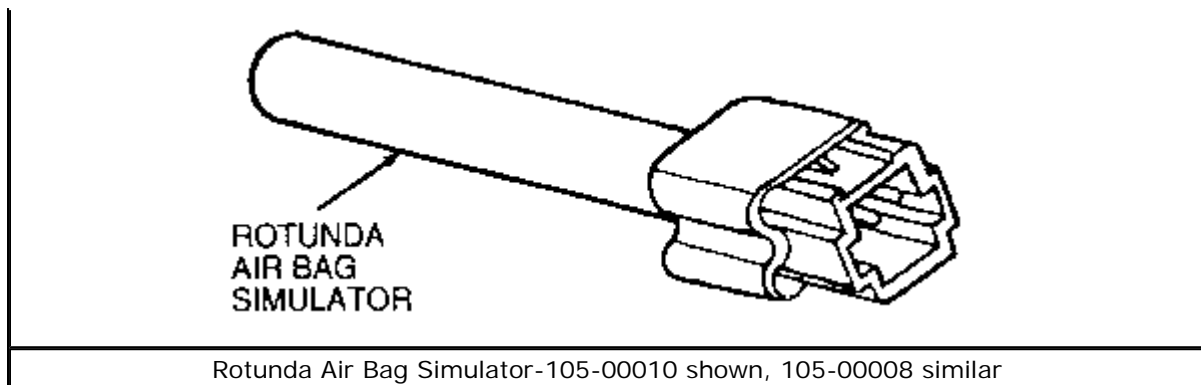


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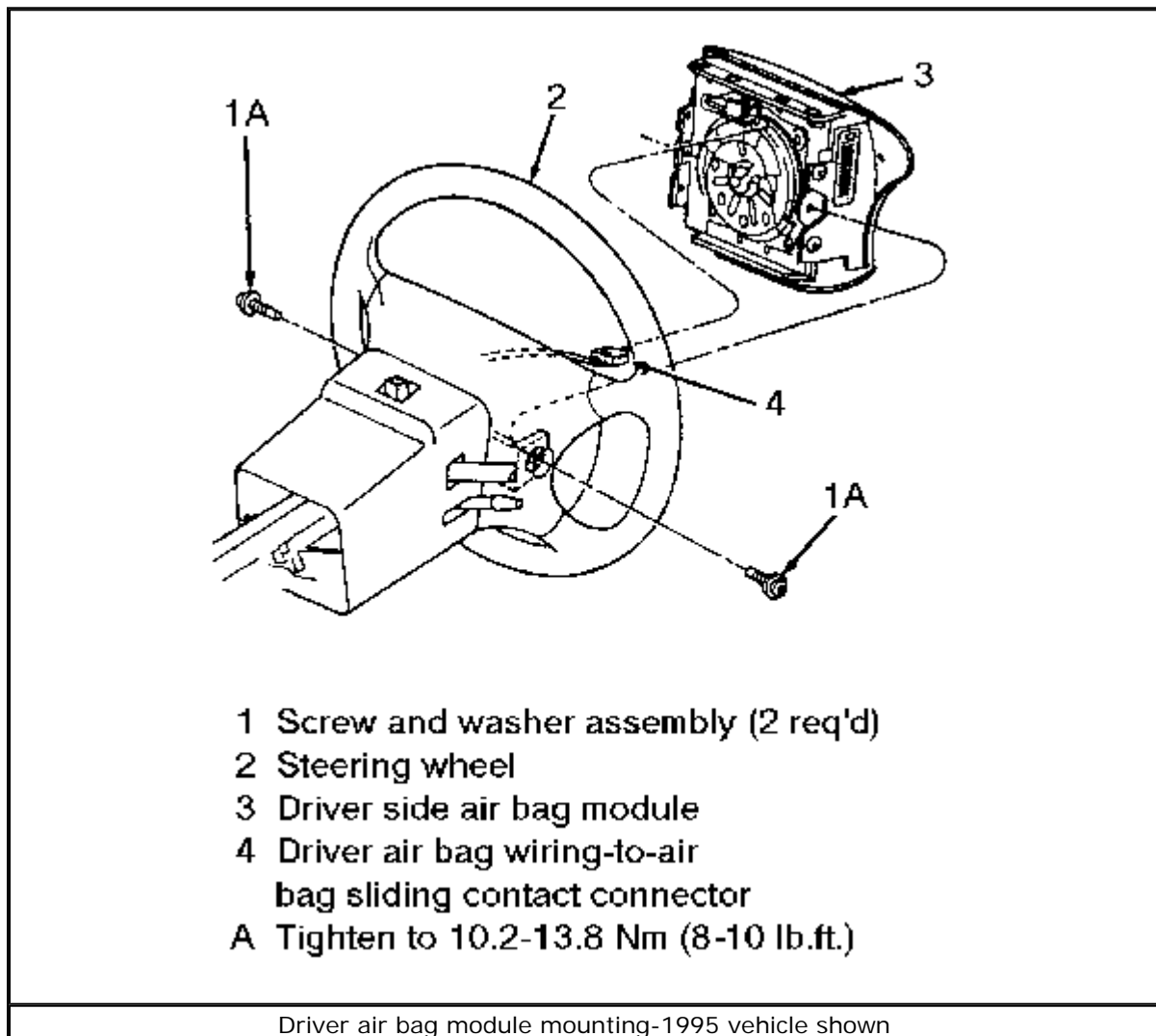
5. Connect the backup power supply and the negative battery cable.

1992-95 Vehicles

For this procedure, you will need Rotunda Air Bag Simulator 105-00008 or equivalent for 1992 vehicles; 105-00010 or equivalent for 1993-95 vehicles.

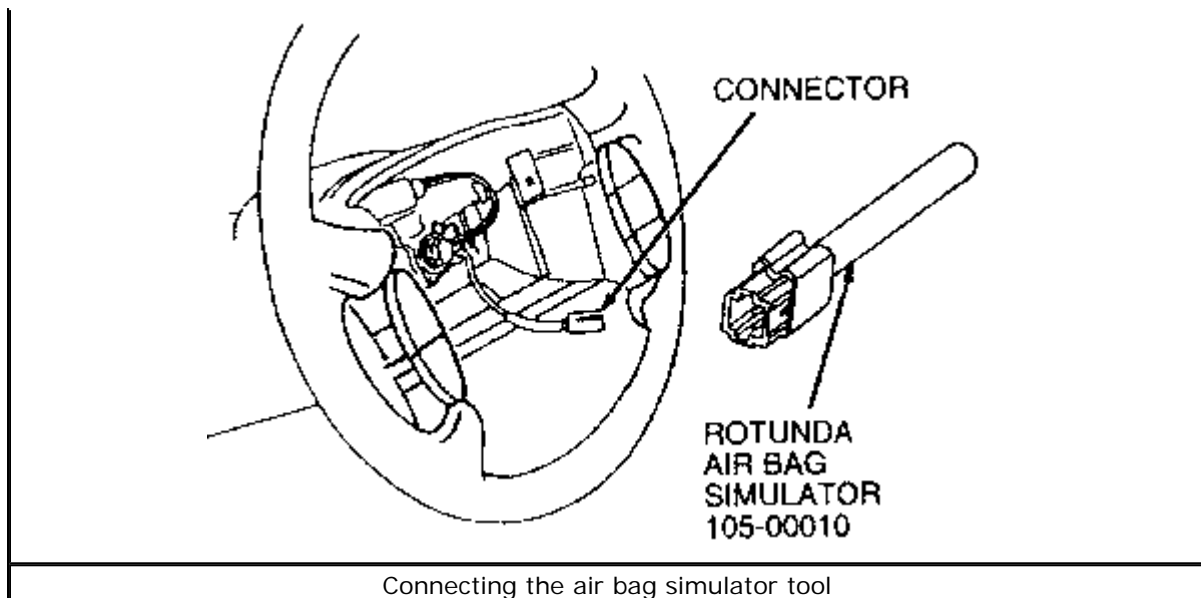


1. Disconnect the negative, then the positive battery cables.
2. Wait one minute for the backup power supply in the diagnostic monitor to deplete its stored energy.
3. Remove the fasteners attaching the air bag module to the steering wheel.



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4. Disengage the driver air bag electrical connector, then attach Air Bag Simulator Tool 105-00008/105-00010 or equivalent to the vehicle harness connector.



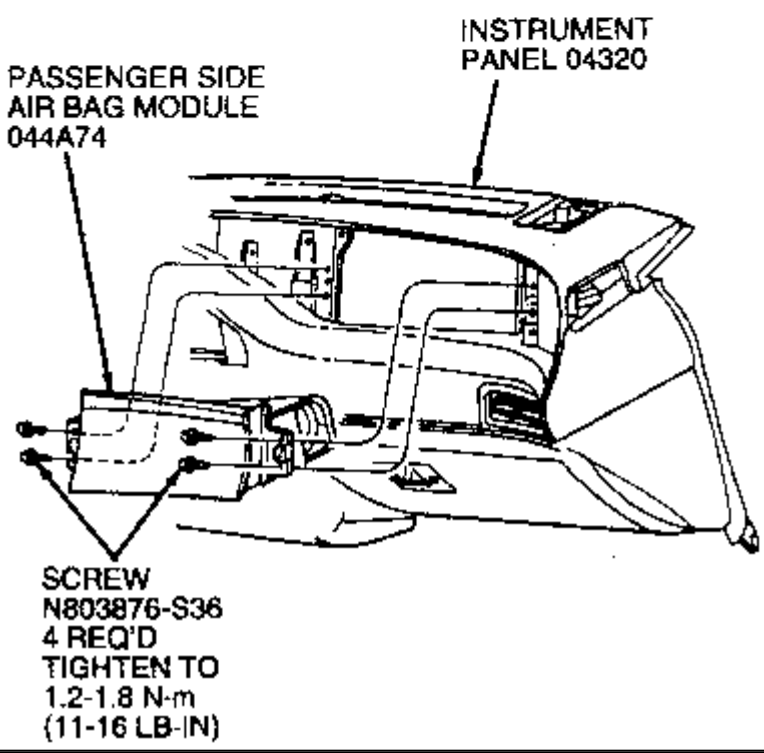
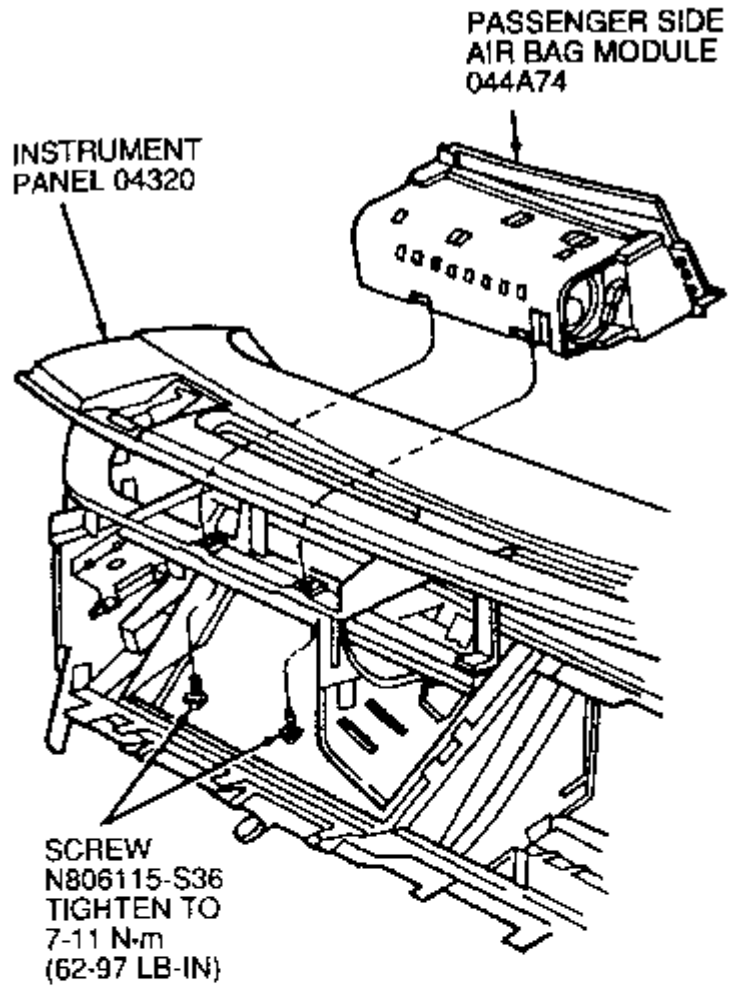
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If your vehicle is equipped with an optional passenger side air bag, both the driver and the passenger air bag modules must be disconnected.

5. If equipped with a passenger air bag, proceed as follows:
 1. Remove the right-hand and left-hand finish panels.
 2. Remove the instrument panel finish panel retaining spear clips.
 3. Open the glove compartment, press the side, then lower the glove compartment to the floor.
 4. Working through the glove compartment opening, remove the two lower air bag module retaining bolts.
 5. Remove the four remaining air bag module retaining screws from the side of the air bag cover.
 6. Disengage the electrical connector from the left side of the air bag, then remove the air bag module.
 7. Attach Air Bag Simulator Tool 105-00008/105-00010 or equivalent to the vehicle harness connector.

CAUTION

When carrying a live air bag, make sure the bag and trim cover are pointed away from the body. In the unlikely event of an accidental deployment, the bag will then deploy with the minimal chance of injury. In addition, when placing a live air bag on a bench or other surface, always face the bag and trim cover up, away from the surface. This will reduce the motion of the unit if it is accidentally deployed.



Passenger air bag mounting-1995 vehicle shown

[Click to enlarge](#)

6. Connect the positive battery cable, then the negative battery cable.

ENABLING THE SYSTEM

1990-91 Vehicles

1. Disconnect the negative battery cable.
2. Open the glove compartment, then lower the door past its stops. Disconnect the backup power supply located to the right of the glove compartment opening.
3. If connected, remove the jumper wire from the air bag terminals on the clockspring assembly.
4. Engage the driver air bag module electrical connector.
5. Position the driver air bag module on the steering wheel, then secure with the four nut and washer assemblies. Tighten the retainers to 35-53 inch lbs. (4-6 Nm).
6. Connect the negative battery cable and the backup power supply.
7. Verify the air bag indicator.

1992-95 Vehicles

1. Disconnect the negative then the positive battery cables.
2. Wait one minute for the backup power supply in the air bag diagnostic monitor to deplete its stored energy.
3. If connected, remove the Rotunda Air Bag Simulator 105-00008 or 105-00010 from the air bag sliding contact connector.
4. Position the driver side air bag module on the steering wheel, then secure with the fasteners. Tighten to 8-10 ft. lbs. (10.2-13.8 Nm).
5. If equipped with a passenger side air bag, remove the air bag simulator from the harness then proceed as follows:
 1. Engage the electrical connector to the passenger side air bag module, then position the passenger side air bag module in the instrument panel.
 2. Install the four upper retaining screws, then tighten the screws to 11-16 inch lbs. (1.2-1.8 Nm).
 3. Install the lower passenger air bag retaining screws, then tighten the screws to 62-97 inch lbs. (7-11 Nm).
 4. Return the glove compartment to the correct position.
 5. Install the instrument panel finish panel locator pin into the air bag bushing locator, align the spear clips, then press the finish panel into place.
6. Connect the positive, then the negative battery cables.
7. Turn the ignition switch from OFF to RUN, then visually check the air bag warning indicator light. The warning indicator should light continuously for about six seconds, then shut off. If an air bag system fault is detected, the air bag warning indicator will either fail to light, remain lighted continuously or flash. If this problem exists, take your vehicle to an authorized repair shop for service.

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