2001-2003 Acura CL - Spark Plug Replacement

2001-2003 Acura CL | Advanced | 1.5 to 2 hours for the V6 (the rear bank takes the time); about 45 minutes for

TOOLS

5/8-inch spark plug socket with rubber insert 3/8-inch ratchet with 6-inch extension and swivel Sockets for coil retaining bolts and manifold cover fasteners Wrench for battery terminal Wire-type or feeler spark plug gap gauge Compressed air or shop vacuum Masking tape and marker (especially for the four-cylinder's wires) Magnetic pickup tool Gloves and safety glasses

PARTS

Correct spark plug set for the gasoline/ICE engine in 2001-2003 Acura CL; verify engine, heat range, gap, and VIN fitment $115.00

Coil-boot seals or ignition coils only if inspection finds damage $35.00

STEPS

1. **Identify your CL's engine - 2.3L four or 3.2L V6 - Park on level ground, set the parking** brake, and let the engine cool completely. Check your trim badge or the emissions sticker under the hood before buying parts, because the four-cylinder and the V6 jobs are different. Disconnect the neg...
2. **Remove the intake-manifold cover for V6 clearance - The three front coils then sit fully** exposed along the front of the engine. On the 2.3L four-cylinder there is no cover to remove; the plug wires run across the front of the engine in the open.
3. **Remove the V6 coil packs or the four-cylinder plug wires - V6: work one bank at a time.** Squeeze the release tab on each coil's electrical connector and unplug it, remove the coil's single retaining bolt, and lift the coil straight out of the plug well. Keep the six coils in order on a clean rag. O...
4. **Blow out the wells and extract the old plugs - Blast compressed air into each open plug** well before loosening anything - debris falling into an open cylinder means a much bigger job. Use a 5/8-inch spark plug socket with a rubber insert on a 3/8-inch ratchet. The front bank on the V6...
5. **Check the gap against the manual and hand-thread the new plugs - Read the electrode gap** specification in your owner's manual or on the emissions sticker under the hood - never use a generic gap value. Check each new plug with a wire-type or feeler gauge and adjust gently, tapping the ground strap to c...
6. **Seat the plugs and reinstall coils or wires - Skip anti-seize unless the plug** manufacturer specifically instructs it, since many modern plugs ship with a pre-coated thread. V6: lower each coil back onto its plug, reinstall the retaining bolt, and push the connector on until the tab cl...
7. **Refit the manifold cover, reconnect the battery, and verify - Reinstall the plastic** intake-manifold cover on V6 models, making sure every clip and bolt is secured. Reconnect the negative battery cable. Start the engine and let it idle - it should be smooth with no check-engine light.

TORQUE