2009-2016 Audi A4 - Spark Plug Replacement

2009-2016 Audi A4 | Advanced | 45 minutes-1 hour (2.0T), about 1 hour (3.2L V6) | $115 DIY

TOOLS

14mm thin-wall spark plug socket (2.0T)
Spark plug socket matched to your plugs (3.2L V6 - check at the counter) VW/Audi ignition coil puller (recommended)
3/8-inch ratchet 6-inch extension
Feeler gauge Compressed air or shop vacuum Dielectric grease (optional)

PARTS

Correct spark plug set for 2009-2016 Audi A4; 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 B8 engine - 2.0T or the early 3.2L V6 - The B8 A4 (2009-2016) came with** three engines: the 2.0T in two flavors (CAEB for 2009-2012, CPMB flex-fuel for 2013-2016) and the 3.2L V6 (CALB, 2009-2012 only). Let the engine cool completely and pop the hood.
2. **Disconnect the battery - Loosen the negative battery cable clamp with a 10mm wrench, lift** the cable off the post, and tuck it aside so it cannot spring back onto the terminal. You will lose radio presets and the clock, and the transmission may shift differently du...
3. **Lift the B8's cover and release the coil connectors - The plastic engine cover lifts** straight off its grommets - pull up evenly, no screws. Each coil has an individual connector with a release tab - press each tab and slide the connector straight off. Heat-aged tabs snap if you pry them w...
4. **Pull the tight B8 coils straight up - Audi coils are a snug press-fit. Don't lever them** sideways; twist slightly while pulling if one resists. Line the coils up in firing order on a clean towel.
5. **Extract the plugs - thin-wall 14mm on the 2.0T - On the 2.0T the wells are narrow: you** need a 14mm thin-wall spark plug socket on a 6-inch extension, since a standard socket won't pass through. Seat the socket, turn counterclockwise, and lift each plug out. Inspect the old plugs as they...
6. **Gap-check every plug against the manual - Check the gap on every new plug with a feeler** gauge against the owner's manual or the under-hood emissions sticker - never trust the box blindly. These run fine-wire plugs, so adjust only the ground strap and keep tools off the center el...
7. **Hand-start, seat the washer, and reseat the coils - Lower each plug on the socket and** turn it in BY HAND until the washer seats - fingertip pressure, feeling for smooth engagement. If it binds, back out and restart; the B8's aluminum heads cross-thread badly.
8. **Reassemble and start up - Press the engine cover back onto its grommets and start the** engine - it should settle into a smooth idle quickly. If it stumbles or the check-engine light flashes, a coil connector isn't fully seated; recheck them before driving.

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