2008-2013 Cadillac CTS 3.6L - Replace Spark Plugs

2008-2013 Cadillac CTS | Moderate | 2-3 hours | $5 DIY

TOOLS

10mm Socket 13mm Socket 18mm Socket Flathead Screwdriver Torque Wrench 5/8 Inch Spark Plug Socket Ratchet Extension Bar Dielectric Grease Gloves

PARTS

ACDelco 41-988 Professional Iridium Spark Plug 41-988 $6.37
ACDelco 41-990 Professional Iridium Spark Plug 41-990 $4.96
Bosch 9617 Double Iridium Spark Plug 9617 $7.21
New intake manifold gasket

STEPS

1. **Cool the engine - The 2008-2013 Cadillac CTS 3.6L (LY7/LLT V6) uses ACDelco 41-990 plugs.** Gap: 0.043". Torque: not verified - ~13 ft-lbs is cited, but check the service manual (do not guess). You'll need: 6x ACDelco 41-990, spark plug socket, extensions...
2. **Access coils (manifold off for cyl 1/3) - Remove the engine cover. BUT cylinders 1 and 3** (front bank, inner positions) are UNDER the intake manifold - you MUST remove the intake manifold to reach them. Disconnect the intake tubing, unbolt the manifold, label sensors/vacuum lines...
3. **Remove one coil at a time - Remove ONE coil at a time. Start with the accessible ones.** Unplug, unbolt, pull. For cylinders 1 and 3 (after manifold removal): remove those coils one by one. Keep track. The LY7/LLT's coils are reliable - inspect the boots. The LLT's d...
4. **Remove the old spark plug - Remove the old ACDelco 41-990 with your socket. The LLT's DI** (2012-2013) may show more soot than the LY7's port injection - normal. Don't drop debris into the cylinders or intake ports.
5. **Gap and hand-thread the new plug - The new ACDelco 41-990 comes gapped at 0.043" - verify** (double platinum can be carefully adjusted). NEVER wrench-start - aluminum heads. The 41-990 is the correct plug for both LY7 and LLT - don't use the LGX's 41-130 or the LFX's 41...
6. **Torque to specification (verify!) - Torque to spec - not verified, but ~13 ft-lbs is** cited. Check your Cadillac service manual - do NOT guess. The aluminum heads need correct torque. Use a torque wrench. The 0.043" gap and proper torque are critical.
7. **Reinstall coils and manifold - Repeat for all 6, one at a time. Torque the manifold bolts** to spec. Remove the rags from the intake ports before installing! Double-check - a vacuum leak causes rough idle, and the LLT's DI is sensitive. Refit each coil, bolt it, and rec...
8. **Reassemble and test - Reinstall the engine cover. Start the engine - the 3.6L should idle** smoothly. Check for misfire codes and vacuum leaks. Test drive: the LY7/LLT should pull strongly. The ACDelco 41-990 at 0.043" is correct for both the port-injected LY7...

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