1991-1996 Ford Escort - 12V Battery Replacement

1991-1996 Ford Escort | Easy | 30-90 minutes | $180 DIY

TOOLS

10 mm wrench or socket, ratchet, and short extension Battery terminal brush and electrical-safe cleaner Memory saver only if the vehicle procedure permits it Gloves, eye protection, and a small flashlight

PARTS

Replacement 12-volt battery for 1991-1996 Ford Escort; verify group size, CCA, terminal layout, and VIN fitment $180.00 Anti-corrosion terminal protectant or felt washers (optional) $8.00

STEPS

1. **Confirm battery fitment and symptoms - The 1.9L Escort takes a Group 35 battery (500/550** CCA) - match the battery's label, since some fitment guides list Group 58. Test the old battery under load first; check for a charging-system warning light, slow cranking, or corroded ter...
2. **Make the vehicle safe - Set the parking brake, switch the ignition off, and take the keys** so the modules go to sleep. Wear safety glasses and gloves - batteries contain acid and produce explosive gas. Radio presets and clock will be lost.
3. **Access the battery - Open the hood; the battery sits in the engine bay. The main battery** cable runs to the starter solenoid, so follow it visually to confirm routing before disconnecting.
4. **Disconnect the old battery - Disconnect the NEGATIVE cable first, then the positive -** never let a tool bridge a terminal to the body. Photograph the cable routing before removing anything.
5. **Remove the old battery - Remove the hold-down clamp and lift the battery straight out -** it weighs 40-60 lbs, so lift with your legs. Inspect the tray for rust or acid damage; clean corrosion with a baking-soda solution and a wire brush.
6. **Install the replacement battery - Verify the new battery matches: same group size,** terminal layout and polarity, equal or higher CCA. Secure the hold-down snugly, then connect POSITIVE first and NEGATIVE last; tighten clamps firmly but do not over-tighten. Coat the termina...
7. **Reset and verify operation - Reset the clock and radio presets. Start the engine -** charging warning off, idle stable, voltage roughly 13.5 to 14.8 volts. If the battery feels hot, is leaking, or the charging fault remains, have the charging system tested.

TORQUE

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