2008-2014 Subaru WRX - Spark Plug Replacement

2008-2014 Subaru WRX | Moderate | 60-120 minutes | $87 DIY

TOOLS

5/8-inch spark plug socket Ratchet with extensions Universal swivel joint 10mm and 12mm sockets Wire-type spark plug gap gauge Compressed air or blow gun Battery terminal wrench Gloves and safety glasses

PARTS

NGK ILFR6B laser iridium spark plugs, quantity 4 (or equivalent EJ255 application) $87.00

STEPS

1. **Let the engine cool and disconnect the battery - Make sure the engine is completely cold before** touching the spark plugs, since the EJ255 has aluminum cylinder heads that strip easily when hot. Disconnect the negative battery terminal with a wrench...
2. **Remove the passenger-side air intake - Loosen the clamps on the intake duct and lift out the** airbox assembly on the passenger side of the engine bay. This exposes the two passenger-side coil packs sitting on the valve cover.
3. **Remove the battery and washer fluid reservoir on the driver side - Unbolt the battery hold-down,** disconnect the terminals, and lift the battery out of the tray. Unbolt the windshield washer fluid reservoir and move it aside without disconnecting its hoses if possibl...
4. **Disconnect the coil packs and remove their bolts - Press the release tab on each coil pack** electrical connector and pull it free, working one cylinder at a time to avoid mixing them up. Remove the small bolt holding each coil pack with a 12mm socket,...
5. **Blow debris out of the spark plug wells - Use compressed air or a blow gun to blast grit and** debris out of each open spark plug well before removing the plugs. This prevents dirt from falling into the cylinder once the plug is out.
6. **Remove the old spark plugs - Fit a 5/8-inch spark plug socket with an extension and a universal** swivel joint to reach past the tight frame rail clearance on the 2008-2014 WRX. Turn each plug counterclockwise and lift it out of t...
7. **Verify the gap on the new iridium plugs - Check the electrode gap on each new NGK iridium plug** with a wire-type gap gauge, confirming it measures 0.7 to 0.8mm as specified for the EJ255. These plugs come pre-gapped, so adjust only if one is...
8. **Thread the new plugs in by hand - Start each new plug into its hole by hand, turning it several** full turns to confirm the threads engage smoothly in the aluminum head.
9. **Reinstall the coil packs and connectors - Push each coil pack firmly down onto its spark plug** until it seats fully in the tube, then reinstall its retaining bolt. Reconnect each electrical connector until you hear and feel it click into plac...
10. **Reassemble the engine bay and test - Reinstall the washer fluid reservoir, the battery and its** hold-down, and the passenger-side air intake with all clamps tightened. Reconnect the negative battery terminal. Start the engine and confirm...

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