NC key fob battery/programming

■ Words: **Bob de Bont**   *(reprinted from mxtra, March 2018)*

Has the remote for your NC stopped working? Follow these steps to repair it.

Most problems fall into one of two categories: the battery is flat or the remote loses registration.

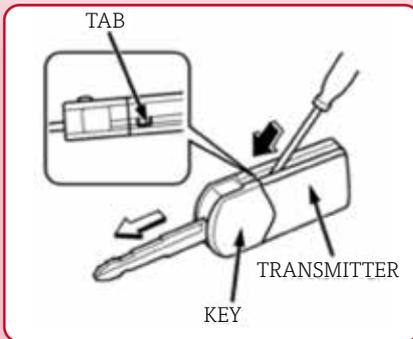To identify which is the problem, press any button on the remote and confirm the red light flashes.

» no red light indicates a flat battery

» if the red light flashes, the remote has lost connection with the car and requires reprogramming.

Another common problem is where the remote unlocks the doors but not the boot.
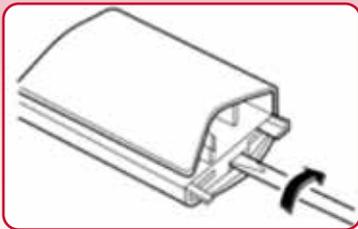
How to replace the battery in an NC remote

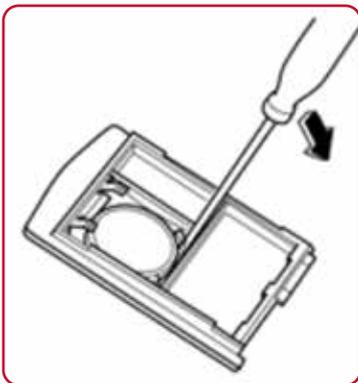The replacement battery you need is a **CR1620**.

1. Insert a small screwdriver into the slot and push the tab to remove the key from the transmitter

2. Insert a small screwdriver into the slot and gently twist to pry open the transmitter and access the battery

3. Remove the battery

4. Insert the new battery and reassemble the fob in the reverse order

5. Confirm the red light flashes when a button is pressed

How to program an NC remote

Note: this procedure won't work if you have disabled the *"key in ignition - door open"* warning chime.
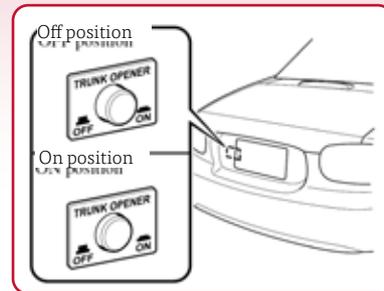
If this chime is disabled, you must re-enabled it before commencing the reprogramming process.

Carry out the following steps:

1. Remove key from ignition

2. Close all doors

3. Open driver's door

4. Perform following steps **within 24 seconds**

   A. Turn ignition switch ON and back to LOCK position three times

   B. Close and open the driver's door three times (or press the courtesy light switch three times)

   C. Door locks should lock and unlock automatically. If they don't, wait 40 seconds and repeat procedure starting at Step 1

5. On each keyless remote to be programmed, press the UNLOCK button **twice**. The door locks should lock and unlock after each remote is programmed. If the door locks do not lock and unlock, proceed as follows:

   » Close and open the driver's door once. The door should lock and unlock twice

   » If the door locks do not lock and unlock, start the procedure over with Step 3

6. Exit the vehicle and test remote(s)

Remote unlocks the doors but not the boot

The most common reason for the boot release button not to work is because the "boot release lockout button" is engaged.

If the remote boot release button doesn't work, try the boot release button located beside the bonnet release lever in the cab, or try another remote.

If neither button releases the boot, check the boot release lockout button. If one or other release button does work then something is amiss with the boot release system.

If this is the case, we recommend you contact your Mazda workshop. ■

NC key fob repair …

■ Words & photos: **Bob de Bont**

(This repair will also work with any similar Mazda key fobs)

So, the old NC key fob has been kicking around for a while and has presented me with a new issue.

While removing the key from the ignition, the remote button part separated from the key due to the wimpy plastic locking piece breaking off.

Good key	Broken key

Research on the web returned:

» an *eBay* replacement key and case for about $6 … *cheap!*

» OEM replacements were in the region of $80! *and*

» a video on how to disassemble and transfer the bits across from the old OEM key fob!

The *eBay* replacement is not OEM therefore the actual key is not interchangeable and the new key blank will need to be cut by a locksmith.

To add to the fun, the transponder chip needs to be removed from the old key and embedded into the new key, requiring this part to be disassembled … *fairly simple but the reassembly appears very fiddly.*

This had me thinking there must be an easier way to fix the fob …

… and there is!

Tools and equipment required:

» Very small self-tapping screw
» Very small drill bit –
    1/16″ or metric equivalent

» Electric drill
» Small screwdriver to suit screw
» Flat file - if needed

Carry out the following steps:

1. **Locate a small self-tapping screw** with a head small enough to fit in the key channel of the fob. You could use one slightly bigger and make the head fit by mounting the screw in the chuck of the drill, and using a file while spinning the chuck to file down the diameter of the head until it fits.

2. **Push and hold the two parts together** and carefully drill a hole through the square hole in the key channel, deep enough for the screw.

3. **Insert the small screw and tighten,** remembering the screw is only locking the two parts together so it doesn't need to be very tight!

Finished! ■