Steps to Remove a Side Shift Tranny

By Peter Schauss

I have a BJ7, so there may be some minor differences, but this is what I did. Note that it has been a while since I did this so I may have left out some details.

0. Disconnect the battery.

1. The gearbox comes out through the interior of the car so you will want to remove as much of that as possible. In particular, you will need to remove the seats, carpet, and parcel shelf.

2. Unhook the hand brake cable from the bell crank on the rear axle.

3. Remove the shift knob and the shift boot.

4. Remove the gearbox cover.

5. Disconnect the drive shaft marking the alignment of the flanges.

6. Disconnect the rear mounts from the gearbox.

7. Remove the starter.

8. Disconnect the clutch slave cylinder.

9. Support the rear of the engine and the gearbox with separate jacks.

10. Remove the bolts which hold the bell housing to the rear plate. Note the positions of the two "dowel bolts". These are important for aligning the gearbox with the engine.

11. Raise the rear of the engine and the gearbox enough so that you can slide the rear of the gearbox into the drive shaft tunnel.

12. Once you have pulled the gearbox far enough back so that the first motion shaft is clear, angle it toward the passenger's foot well and pull it forward. Once the rear of the gearbox is clear, you will be able to turn it sideways and remove it from the car.