

**OBC Backlight Bulb Fix****Symptoms:**

OBC does not show anything.  
Buttons on OBC do not light up.

**Items needed**

3 (or 4) new OBC bulbs  
Needle nose pliers (optional)  
Whatever is needed to take radio out

**Location of items**

The radio is in the middle of the dashboard.  
The OBC is in the middle of the dashboard, right of the radio.

**How to repair**

Before you can take the On Board Computer out you need to take the stereo out. If you have the factory stereo you need to take out the screws holding it in, which are at the middle of each side. I believe they are torx bolts, and they are tiny (T-8 is what I am told). If you have something else, you will need to consult the stereo manual to remove your aftermarket radio. For mine I just used a flathead screwdriver.

Once you have the stereo out, you should see something like this:



About 2-3 inches back, where the arrow is pointing, there is a lever that will pop the OBC out. Pull it towards you. Be careful, the OBC will come out really fast so be ready to catch it. There is another lever on the right hand side behind the wood trim of the OBC that you are supposed to push away from yourself, but I have always been able to remove my OBC (and others) with just this lever.

Depending on which OBC you have, there are either 3 or 4 bulbs. If you have an older E32 (like I used to), your OBC has 4 bulbs with a green base. If you have a newer OBC it has 3 black bulbs. An easy way to tell what bulb type you need is by how many rows of buttons it has. If it has 4 across then it is the old type, if it has 5 across then it is the new type. The OBC in the photo ABOVE is the old type. The OBC in the photo BELOW is the new type. You need to know what type of OBC you have because the black based bulbs won't work in the old OBC's, but the green based bulbs from the old OBC's will work in the new OBC's. ~~If this is confusing then just buy 4 of the green based ones since they work in both. They cost a little more though.~~

**UPDATE 03/04/2003:**

I have found the green bulbs in my OBC burn out a LOT faster than the black ones, and the green cannot be used as the backlight for the buttons as it melts the plastic! So make sure you get the correct bulbs! Here is a photo of each type (note how the green have almost burned out):



In this photo you can see the bulbs in the OBC. Simply use the needle nosed pliers to turn them counter-clockwise (lefty loosy righty tighty) about 1/4 a turn and they should come right out. If you have the green bulbs you can also use needle nosed pliers, you just need a stronger grip.

Now just replace the bad bulbs with new ones, putting the new ones in opposite the way the old ones came out, and plug your OBC back in. Make sure the lever is all the way forward when you plug your OBC in. Test the OBC before you put your radio back, you don't want to find out you replaced the wrong bulbs!

By [Russell](#) on 2/28/03