Jeep Ignition Switch & Lock Cylinder Replacement Instructions

This design was used on many Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep vehicles from the mid 1980's through 1995. The vehicle used in this example is a 1990 Chrysler LeBaron.

The lock cylinders often break, stopping the key from turning enough to start the car. If this is the case, if the vehicle was stolen, or the switch is damaged (as in the pictures) these instructions will show you how to repair / replace these parts. We sell these parts on our website.
DISASSEMBLY

1) Raise the column to the uppermost tilt position

2) Remove the lower steering column cover. This design uses 2 screws to hold the covers together and a 3rd holding the lower cover to the column.

3) All of these screws should be 20 torx. The covers snap together closer to the dash and can be pulled apart after all the screws are removed.
The following photos will show how to remove the lock cylinder from the switch. Although the photos illustrate the switch on the car, this is easily done off the car as well.

These pieces can be purchased separately.

Turn the key to the "On" position. With a straight probe or screwdriver, push the release pin "in" on the lock cylinder through the access hole in the switch.
Close-up view of release hole on the switch. This view also illustrates the proper placement of the locking bracket often included in replacement locks. The new black torx screw with a shoulder goes in this hole and secures the new lock. (Do not overtighten)

Once depressed, the lock cylinder will slide out of the switch.

If the lock cylinder is broken (as illustrated) make sure you locate and remove the broken piece from inside the switch to avoid an electrical short.
If you cannot accomplish this repair on the car, continue with these instructions to remove the switch assembly with the lock from the column.

Remove the ignition switch assembly with (or without) the lock cylinder. These 3 bolts are also 20 torx, but are tamperproof, requiring a different socket.

Lower the switch assembly to remove the wire connectors.

When installing the new switch, make sure the inside mechanism locks and releases the shift interlock bracket properly by rotating the key to all positions while applying pressure to seat the switch.