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Greetings! This article is a continuation from the March Blue Beret on adjusting the main door.

Tightening the door hinge bolts



Before 2015 the door hinges were installed using a 1/4 20 bolt with a star nut on the back side. In 2015 we started using a steel bracket that had the nut attached to it. This would allow you to use a phillips screwdriver to tighten the bolts if they were to come loose. Before this the star nut had the tendency to turn as you tried to tighten the bolt from the outside which meant you have to remove the interior trim to gain access to the star nut. Below I will show pictures of the door hinge bolts and how to gain this access.

The first thing is to take off the trim molding covering the hinge bolts. It is self adhesive so it can be pulled off. This will give you access to tighten the two bolts. Like I stated earlier, if it just continues to turn freely and not tighten up, then you have the star nut on the back side that you must gain access to.

Remove the interior door trim on the hinge side of the door. Mark the location of the bolts in the hinge.



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Then take a one inch hole saw and drill through the interior aluminum skin to gain access to the star nuts. Take a 7/16 deep well socket to hold the star nuts while someone turns the bolt with a phillips screwdriver. Many technicians will add a second nut after tightening in hopes of the combination not loosening in the future. If you wish, you can do that as well. Then reinstall your interior door trim and replace the trim that covers the exterior portion of the bolts and you are finished.

I would love to hear from you and if you have a suggestion or topic you would like to see covered in a future article, or have a question just drop me a line at rmarch@airstream.com.

Have a great month!

