

ECU Removal



To change the chip, you'll need to take the Esprit's computer (ECU) out of the car. The ECU is located in the engine compartment, on the left-hand side, behind the airfilter (4-cylinder Esprits). It's easier to sit in the rear of the Esprit, to reach the six screws that hold the cover in place. Remove these screws and carefully pull out the cover.



You'll see the ECU as soon as the covers removed. It's the black box with four large red connectors attached to it. You now need to remove the wires from the ECU. Push down top and bottom of each connector and pull them off. Mine were a little stiff and needed pushing down quite hard. (If you don't want to disconnect the ECU, you can turn it over and remove the chip while it's still attached). Remember to note which connector is attached in which order. This will help when replacing the ECU.



The ECU is held into the Esprit by two 8mm nuts. Space is at a minimum, so you'll find it difficult to get a socket in. I used a spanner and could only get a quarter turn on it. So it took a while to undo! Be careful not to lose the nut once it's off. As I don't think these are readily available. The thread is on a small backing plate, which slides into the ECU.

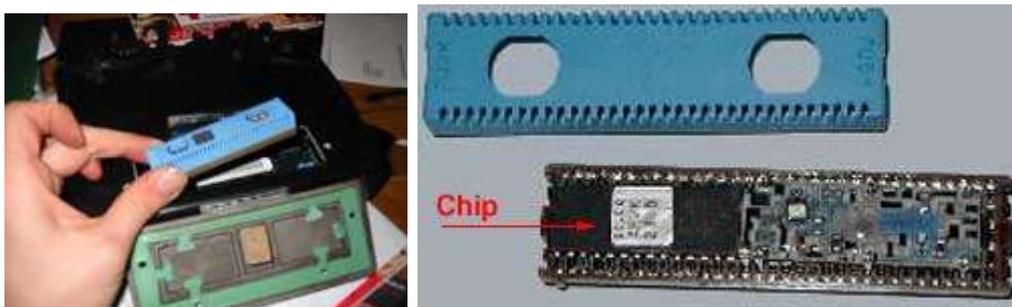


The ECU is easily removable once these nuts are removed. You can now take your ECU from the Esprit and somewhere safer than your garage to remove the chip.

Chip Installation



Turn the ECU upside down and you'll see a cover attached by 4 small nuts. These seem to be an imperial size, as none of my spanners would fit. It's between a 6mm and 7mm. These can be easily undone with some pliers, as they aren't too tight. You'll also see a sticker over this cover, warning that if you remove it, your warranty will be invalid. So take this into consideration before doing this. As mine is out of its warranty, I didn't have to worry. Once the cover is off. Look inside and you'll see a blue cover. It's held in place by two clips. These need releasing, by pulling away from the Chip holder and down. Once the clips have been released, you can pull out the holder.



To see the chip, remove the blue cover. You may need a small screwdriver to release the clips on each side. You'll see two chips, one with circuits on it and one plain black with a sticker on it. This is the chip we are replacing. Before you do anything else, note which side the notch on the chip is, as you'll need to put your new chip in the same way.



Your new chip is supplied with a chip holder. This is what will replace the chip, this will then allow you to change the chips. Now if you're happy to do the soldering yourself, take a pair of scissors and carefully cut the 28 connectors holding the chip in. You can then solder the holder into the space where the chips just been removed from.



Once the holder has been soldered in place, all you now need to do is attach the chip to the holder and replace the blue cover. The cover may not fit as the holder had been soldered a little to high on the board. This isn't a problem as you can leave it off. You can now reattach the ECU to the Esprit. Once everything is replaced, you can now start your Esprit and test your chip.