

# 4th GEN TECH

Power Radio Antenna Conversion *By Allan Albee*

I didn't have to own my 4th Gen Camaro very long before I started wondering how I could get a power radio antenna for the car. Every time I would put the cover on the car, having to unscrew the antenna, definitely gets old. I am not sure why Chevrolet did not make a power radio antenna an option on the Camaro when it is available on the sister car, the Firebird. I started doing some checking around to see if anyone had figured out how to put a power antenna for a firebird into a Camaro. I wanted it to be controlled by the radio the same way it is in the Firebird, but could not find anyone who had done this. After some research in wiring diagrams and comparing several Camaro and Firebirds, I figured it out. This tech article illustrates the steps to do this conversion in a 2000 convertible SS. This would be the same in any 1998-2000 Camaro with the Monsoon stereo system.

The first step is to gain access to the stationary radio antenna in rear passenger side of the car. You must remove the spare tire and jack from the car (see photo #1). Next, remove the 10mm nut that holds the antenna to the body (see photo #2). Carefully pull the antenna down, it will slip out of the rubber grommet in the top of the quarter panel. Now you are ready to install the power antenna, (see photo #3), carefully insert the tip of the antenna into the grommet in the quarter panel until the antenna just sticks through the grommet. Now insert 10 mm screw into the ring on the end of the ground wire and tighten down against the antenna mounting base (see photo #4). Now is when it gets a little interesting, you must feed the wiring harness from the antenna along the passenger side of the car up to the dash (see photo #5). At the kick panel area, you should route the harness through the tie wraps that hold the existing wiring harnesses (see photo #6). Now

## Tools needed:

10mm socket  
7mm socket

## Time Frame:

2 hours

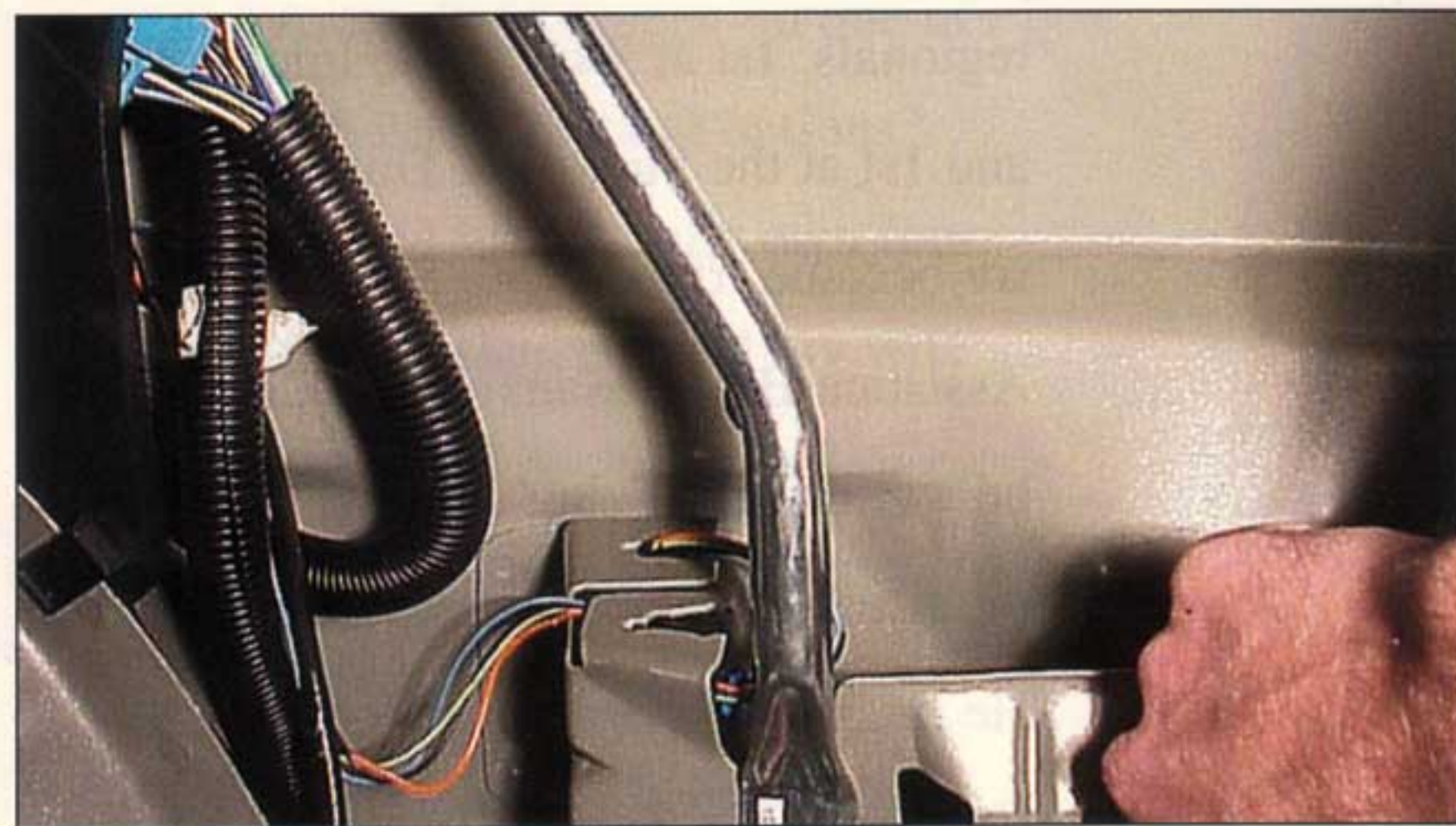


Photo #2



Photo #3



Photo #1

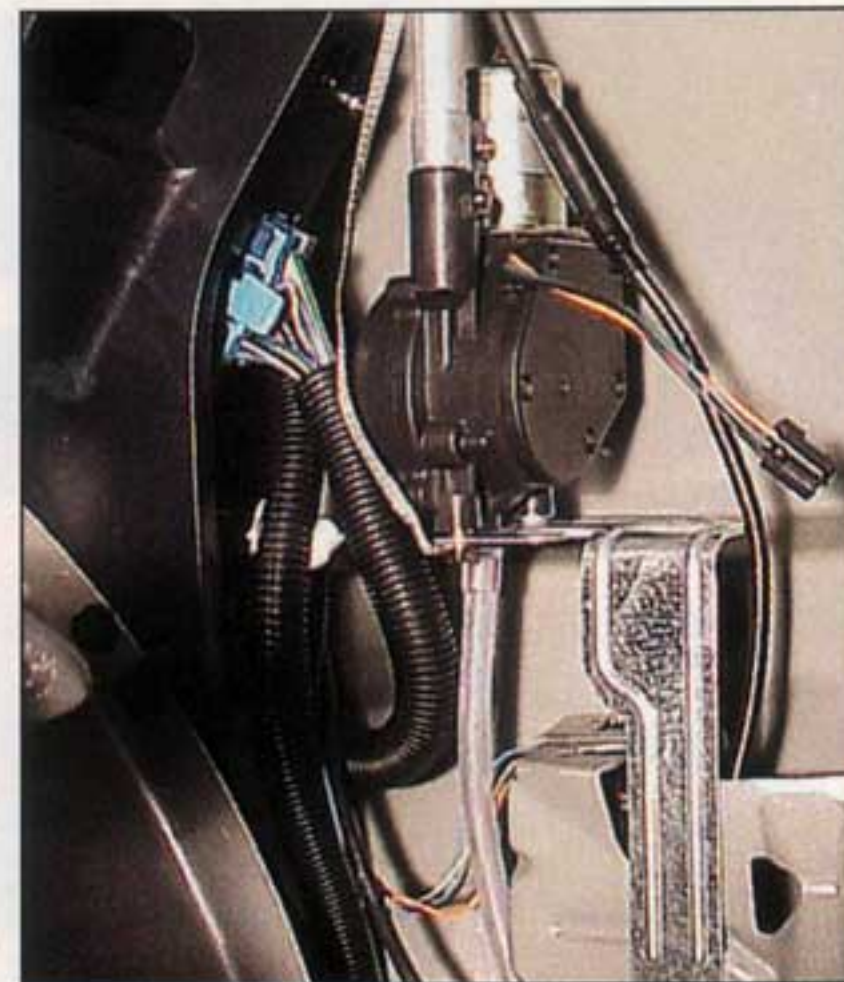


Photo #4



Photo #5



route the harness just below the glovebox to behind the center console (see photo #7).

The next step is to gain access to the wiring on the back side of the radio. Use a fine object such as a thin flat blade screwdriver to carefully pull the radio/AC cover panel off (see photo #8). There are two 7mm screws that hold the radio in place, remove these and carefully pull the radio out of location (see photo #9). I say to be careful because I have seen several cars that the wiring harness is routed directly behind a flange on the back of the radio tray. Lift the wiring harness up about 1" and it will clear this flange. Now we can gain access to the wiring harness connector on the back of the radio by disconnecting the plug from the radio. Insert the green wire from the power antenna harness into the wiring harness in the back of the radio. The third slot from the driver's side of the connector is empty, this is a switched 12-volt source that comes out of the radio (see photo #10). Now connect the orange wire from the power antenna harness to a constant 12-volt power source. you can either splice it into the orange wire

coming out of the radio harness or go straight into the fuse box. Now you are ready to plug the harness back into the radio and test the antenna. Carefully insert the radio back into its slot making sure not to pinch the wiring harness. After replacing the radio/AC cover, you are all ready to go cruising with your power radio antenna!


Good luck! 



Photo #8



Photo #6



Photo #9



Photo #7

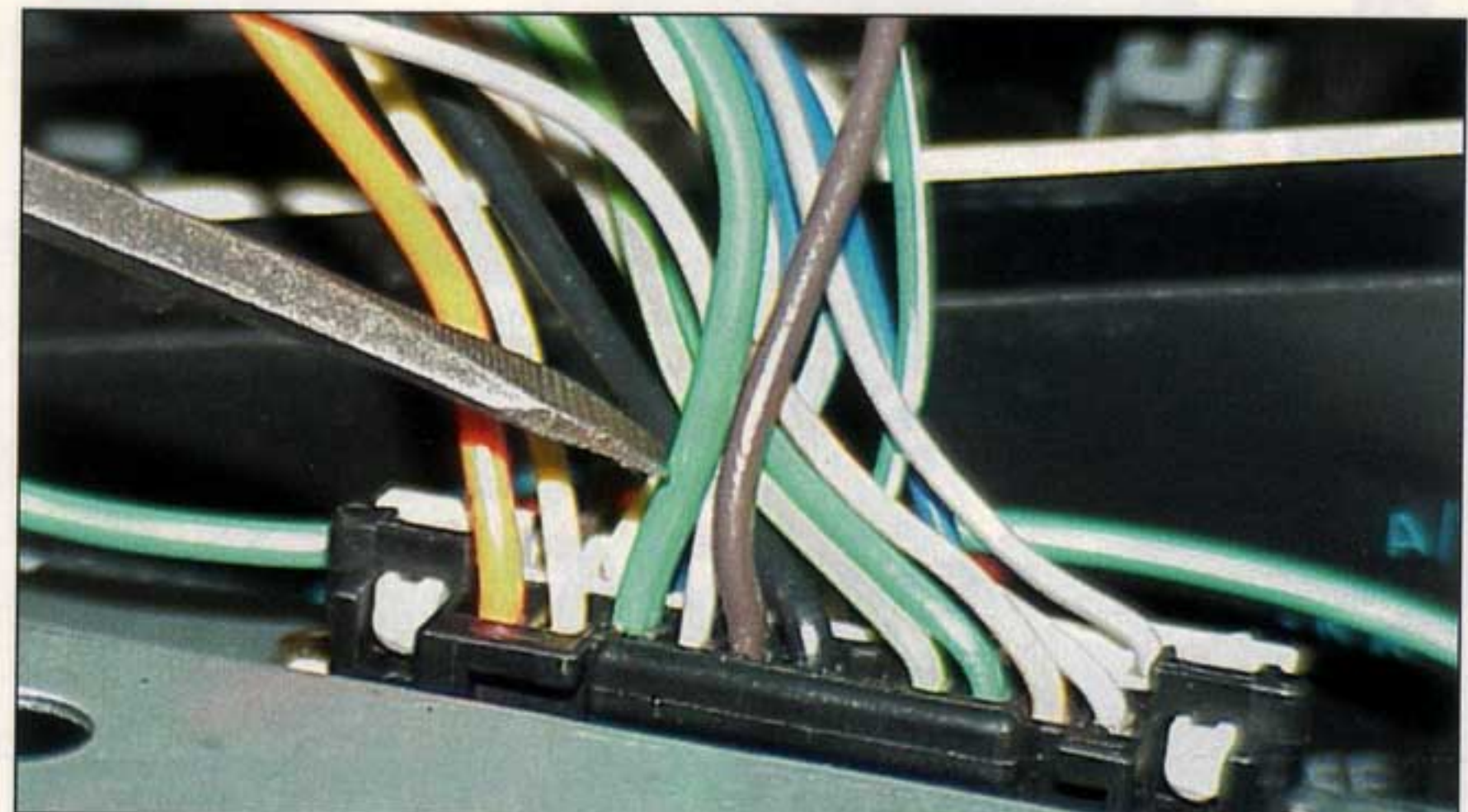


Photo #10