

Fuse Box Service

Skill: Easy

Time: 20 Minutes

There are eighteen fuse positions in the DeLorean fuse box. They are numbered top to bottom in rows left to right as the box is viewed from the passenger's side, looking toward the rear of the car [fig 1]. The fuses themselves are hard plastic with aluminum blades, an almost universal style in the 80s [fig 2]. The biggest problem with these fuses is the aluminum. The surface normally oxidizes and this oxide protects the piece from further erosion. As it does this it increases the resistance of the connection of the blade with the receptacle. Higher resistance means more heat to dissipate and unfortunately, this is often at the expense of the fuse block itself. We have all seen fuse blocks with burned areas around positions #7. Other fuses prone to heating up are the other fuel pump fuse at position #1, and Fuse #10, the A/C control fuse. To avoid this syndrome, the blades need to be kept clean. One way is to remove each fuse, file or sand both blades to bare metal and re-install the fuse. Another way is to remove each fuse, match it to a new one of the same color, install the new one in the empty position, and deposit the old one in a trash bin. Either method is effective if repeated about every six months.

Another threat to the fuse box, indeed the whole relay compartment, is battery emission. Lead-acid batteries will 'ex-gas' when overcharged. This emission is dilute sulfuric acid vapor. Most of the time, this only leaves a dusting of sulfate powder on everything in the compartment. If the condition worsens the battery will erupt and pour acid on the floor carpet. To avoid this, always use a trickle charger or one that will automatically monitor the level of charge. Dialing the charger to 'Max' and leaving for church is sure to make trouble. Secondly, change out your Ducellier

alternator, whose regulator is notoriously unreliable, if you are one of the half-dozen DeLorean owners who still has this discredited item.

If you find you must replace the whole fuse box, that article has already been written and we recommend it to you (*deloreans* V202). If simply wiring past a burnt position will suffice, you will need to solder or crimp an in-line fuse holder into the circuit. Go behind the fuse box, locate the wires that go to the injured position and clip them out. Connect the ends of the fuse holder each to one of the wires. Install a new fuse into the holder, the same value as the original. The maintenance schedule for this fuse will be the same as the others.

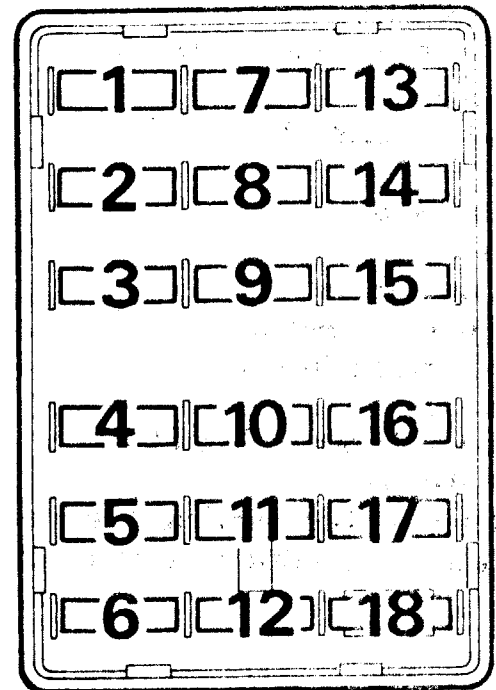


fig 1