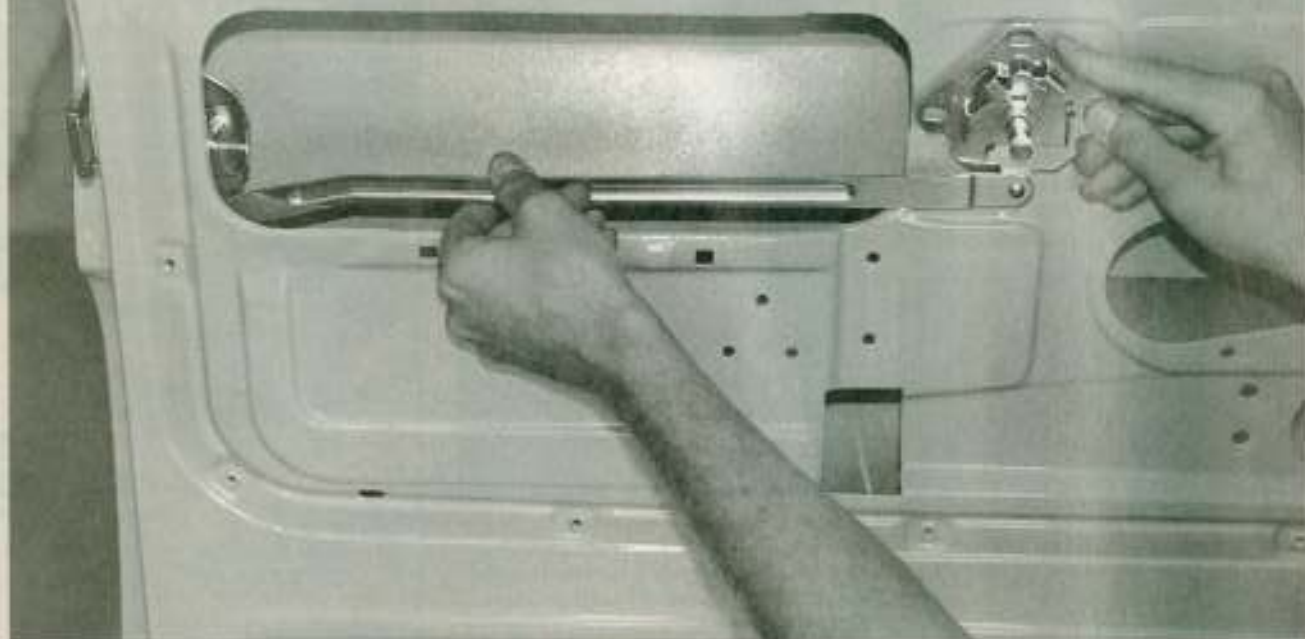


Safe & Secure



DOOR LOCK INSTALLATION

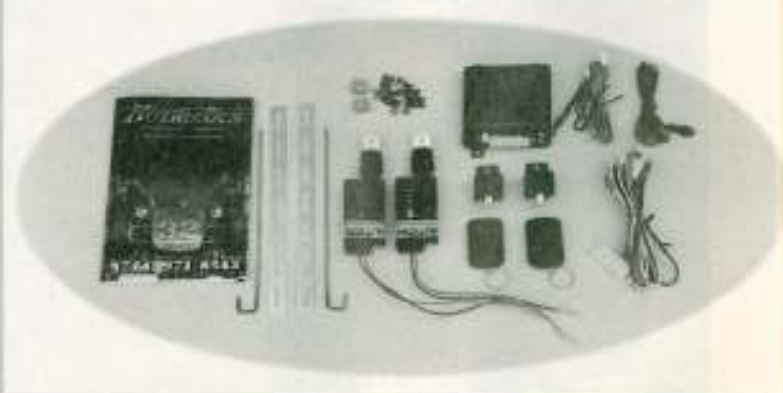
TEXT & PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM RANES

The learning process continues as we rebuild our Chevy C10 pickup. Here are a few more tips we picked up during the installation of a power door lock kit. Converting the door latch assemblies to power locks on '60-'66 Chevy C10s is not an easy task due in part by the original factory design of the latches. In the original design, the opening mechanism on the latch that allows the door to be opened from the inside is dependent on the locking mechanism. In order to make the locking mechanism independent of the opening mechanism, some alterations and modifications need to be made to the latch assembly. Any true and skilled hobbyist can perform this operation and produce a power locking latch assembly with good results.

In the world of power door locks, there's some confusion between the operation of an actuator and a solenoid. A solenoid is a device that only pulls at a prescribed pounds rating when activated. An actuator is a device that pushes or pulls depending on the polarity of the current flowing into the actuator when activated. A control box determines the polarity of the current in a typical keyless entry system.

In our case, we wanted our door latches to always remain locked from the outside requiring a keyless remote. A solenoid is optimal for this type of configuration, but due to the tight clearance within the door a solenoid wasn't feasible. Instead, we opted for a thin actuator, which we will install and configure to perform as a solenoid.

1 The original door latch assemblies should be in good operating condition before any work is done to them. Here is the stock latch assembly.



2 In a power door lock system, a keyless remote either locks or unlocks the door latch when activated. This type of system requires a push/pull type actuator that locks and unlocks the door latch. Hotronics has a universal power door lock kit that comes complete with a set of actuators, a remote control box, two keyless remotes, two polarity-reversing switches, all necessary wiring, and a harness.