

These are the simple steps to replace a broken latch plunger in a 2003 Discovery 39S. The steps are applicable to all Discos with pull rod type latches.

Step 1: Remove the backing plate from the latch mechanism in the middle of the door.



Then remove the latch rods from the paddle lever.



Step 2: Remove the square drive screws from the latch mechanism(some latches are riveted, and some may have a hidden nut in the door, and [improvedrvparts.com](http://improvedrvparts.com) has a great instruction set for those who may need it.)



Step 3: Slowly work the unit free from its hole. Some are rather stubborn and may need “convincing”. I had several that needed to be flattened back into shape after wriggling free. Be careful not to let the pull rod get caught as you pull it through.



SUCCESS: Note the missing plunger in this one!



Step 4: Using a 5/32" bit (and I do recommend a drill press if available) drill out each of the four rivets. The rivets are usually brass or aluminum. Be careful not to let the spring get away from you when you pop off the last rivet.

This is what the inside looks like, the spring is under the pull actuator and behind the plunger



STEP 5: Install the aluminum plunger. Be sure it is installed in the correct direction. Again, the spring is under that black actuator, and behind the plunger.

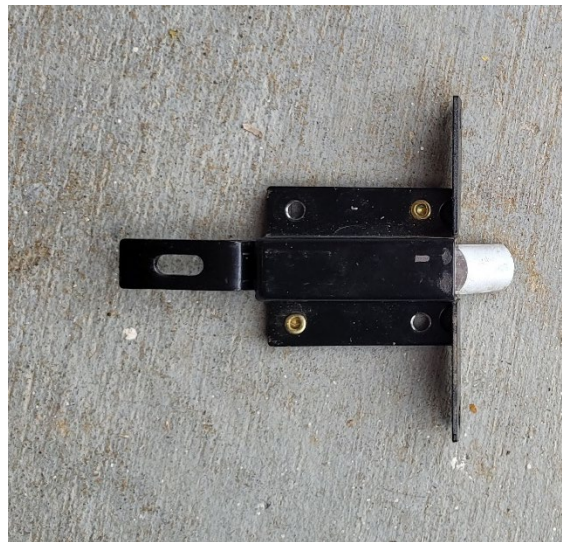




Step 6: Put the latch assembly together and put on top of a rivet (use a hard surface such as a metal table or in my case I used the shop floor.) Then while holding the assembly together tightly, place the rivet tool over the rivet and hit it with a hammer. Repeat with all four rivets and inspect the assembly to ensure that it is snug and no rivets are loose.



Here is the assembly with 2 rivets installed.





Step 8: Slide the latch mechanism back in place. If it need extra effort to seat the latch, make sure that it is assembled tightly. I had a few that had to be tapped into place with a mallet and block.

Step 9: Reconnect the pull rods to the paddle and install the backer plate with the 4 screws removed in step 1. Then secure the latches with the square drive screws from step 2.

Step 10: Close the door while holding the handle open to ensure that it seats properly when released. Then open and close the door normally to confirm proper operation and you are DONE!

Note the difference between the nylon and the aluminum plungers, along with the hairline crack evident in the side of the black nylon. We replaced all of our plungers with the aluminum ones and what a difference!



Special thanks to Bruce Plumb (and his site: <https://improvedrvparts.com>) for the design and fabrication.