

Improving Mk3 Keyless Remote Range

<http://forums.vwvortex.com/zerothread?id=2019158>

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Well, I was wanting to hear how everyone else's was doing so I could tell if this was an improvement before I talk about it. That way I could just keep quiet if it didn't work. 🤖 I bought a Mk3 module and remote last year used from a texer and finally got around to installing it the other week while the car was apart. I had read this thread about improving the range: <http://forums.vwvortex.com/zerothread?id=1369570> Everybody talks about how sorry the range is and they have to hold the remote to their chin. So I decided to do this mod from the beginning.

We had some very fine gauge insulated wire at work, maybe 30 gauge. (The thread keeps mentioning shielded wire, I'm sure they really mean to say insulated) The antenna inside the box is a coil covered in heatshrink tubing. I was unable to tell which end of it was the "base" end connected to the circuit, so I didn't know which end I wanted to try to solder to. So instead of soldering, I just looped the wire through the coil 2 or 3 times and left the end loose. I'm hoping that there will be inductive coupling of signal from the wire into the antenna. Of course I had to drill a hole in the plastic case to feed the wire out.

I ran the wire along the main dash wire harnesses to get behind the radio. I attempted to connect the wire to the antenna cable's center conductor. This was very difficult since the antenna plug is crimped on around the ground shield and there is maybe 1mm of visible center wire *inside* the plastic insulator. I picked away at the insulator with an x-acto knife and tried to loop the wire end under the antenna wire without touching any of the shield wires, then I wrapped it all with black tape for about 4" along the cable.

Anyway the system seems to work well and I get roughly 40' of range if there's no obstructions. If this is much better than you guys are getting then I suggest you try this. You don't have to try to hook it to the antenna, you can just run the wire around under the dash and tape it to the top. Or you can feed it up the a-pillar. If you guys are already getting this type of range, then never mind! 🤖

