



VW Gas Tank Replacement

Most Air Cooled VWs have seen their share adventures, some that have left the fuel tank dented, damaged or leaky. Replacing a Volkswagen Fuel Tank is a task that can be done by an average mechanic as a weekend project. Mid America Motorworks takes you through the steps for replacing a 1972 Super Beetle Fuel Tank.

Getting Started

Any task is made easier with the right tools. Here's what you'll need for this project:

- Regular Screwdriver
- Ratchet with Extension & 10-14mm Socket
- Hammer & Wooden Chalk
- Friend to assist with removing the tank.
- New Fuel Line, Filler Neck Hose, Fuel Sending UnitSeal, Breather Hoses
- New Clamps



Fuel Tank Removal

Begin the project by disconnecting the battery of your VW Beetle. Then, siphon out the fuel, leaving the tank less than a quarter full.

Using a screwdriver, remove the retaining clips from 4 points on the fuel tank. Next you'll want to loosen the clamps that connect the fuel tank to the filler neck hose. Disconnect the vacuum hose from the fuel tank.

Now you're ready to remove the fuel tank. With assistance, lift the tank out and into the trunk area.



Remove the breather hoses and filler neck hose from the fuel tank.

Using the hammer and wooden chalk to create leverage, loosen the cap on the fuel sending unit. Once it is loosened, you'll want to remove the fuel sending unit by rotating the cap to one side and then lifting the unit up and out of the tank.

Remove the fuel line hose located at the bottom of the tank and you're ready to remove the tank completely from your Super Beetle.



3. Loosen clamps that connect the fuel tank to the filler neck.



4. Disconnect the Vacuum Hose



5. Lift fuel tank out and into trunk area (get a buddy to help you)



6. Remove breather hoses and filler neck hose (not pictured) from tank



7. Loosen cap on fuel sending unit



8. Remove fuel sending unit



9. Remove fuel line hose



Fuel Tank Installation

Place the new fuel tank into the trunk of your Volkswagen. Connect the new filler neck hose and clamps to the tank, then connect the vacuum hose.

Add a new seal to the fuel sending unit before re-installing the fuel sending unit. When placing the sending unit into the tank, be sure to feed the sending unit in straight down from the opening for the correct angle. Using the hammer and chalk, secure the sending unit cap back in place. The fuel sending unit cap brackets should run up and down with the tank.

Once the sending unit is in place, install the new fuel line



10. Connect new filler neck hose and clamps to new tank



11. Connect new vacuum hose



12. Add a new seal to the fuel sending unit (When placing the sending unit into the tank, be sure to feed the sending unit in straight down from the opening for the correct angle.)



13. Secure the sending unit in place



14. Sending unit cap brackets should run up & down

and breather hoses. Then attach them to the new fuel tank. Next, hook the new fuel line to the tank. Slide the clamps onto the filler neck hose now. You won't be able to reach them when the tank is installed.

Lift and position the fuel tank in place. Tighten the clamps on the filler hose. If they are not tight after installation, fuel will leak through onto your trunk compartment.

Reattach the vacuum hose and sending unit wires. The colored wirehead goes on the passenger side bracket. Add retaining clamps and tighten them in place.

Once the fuel tank is installed, reconnect the battery and refill the tank with gas. Confirm that all hoses and clamps are securely in place. Start the Super Beetle and check that the fuel gauge is working properly. Be sure to let the fuel run through the VW for a while before driving.



15. Install a new fuel line hose



16. Install new breather hoses and attach to new fuel tank



17. Hook new fuel line to gas tank



18. Slide new clamps onto filler neck hose. You won't be able to get them on when the tank is installed



19. Lift & position tank in place



20. Tighten clamps on filler hose. If they are not tight after installation, fuel will leak through and onto your trunk compartment



21. Reattach vacuum hose



22. Reattach sending unit wires (colored wire head goes on the passenger side bracket)



23. Add retaining clamps and tighten



24. After new tank installation

