DIY Removal and Installation Guide
for Model Year 2003+ Saab 9-3
First Bow Cylinder (aka Top Lock Cylinder)

Access to manual front latch above dome light

Use as a guideline only – apply common sense, be careful, and wear protective gear!
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Manual unlocking

Lock → Unlock

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Top down, tonneau cover open:

Unscrew and remove 9 plastic tabs

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Gently unscrew without pushing down
Rivet-style tabs: center piece is threaded and gets removed first

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The foam-backed panel lifts straight up from dowel tabs.
First Bow Cylinder (Front Lock Cylinder) as mounted in lock,

shown with trim panels removed - easily accessed!
First Bow Cylinder (Front Lock Cylinder) as mounted in lock, shown with trim panels removed - easily accessed and removed!

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Unbolting the Front Lock:

Remove three T30 Torx screws

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How levers and washers are mounted

It’s simple – only a few pieces...

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1) Lift up rear of lock

2) Swing out rear of cylinder...

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Removing front clip:
1) Insert flat screwdriver
2) Turn screwdriver counter-clockwise
3) Pull the clip...

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Detailed view of the front clip (here shown open already and slide out of latching position...)

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Ideally, tie a clean rag to the hydraulic lines now...

... and push in the cylinder shaft all the way (more than shown here)!

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Push a small, flat screwdriver down the side. (tap on it if necessary)

This is the best way to remove hydraulic line clips!
The hydraulic lines pull out easily...

... once the retaining clips are pushed far enough aside!
Optional

Temporarily use two plastic rivet-tabs borrowed from cover panel

For temporary, manual locking of the top... (if needed)

Original T-30 screw

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Unlock Manual locking 8-mm Allen Lock

(while the cylinder is being upgraded)

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Re-assembly of latch with cylinder installed:

With the top closed, install two T-30 Torx screws (catch the hex nuts in this position...)

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Aligning the loose hex nuts:

With the top closed, align loose hex nut with a small tool, or pound under the top until the nut bounces into the centered position, so you can thread in the T-30 screw.