

“Mustang How To”

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1971 Mach I tail lights

This time I will show you how to dress up a new set of tail lights and make them match to the ones you may have on your car. The process is not hard but is tedious and requires patience as you will see. Bob Loiselle purchased his 1971 Mach I and while it is in great shape as with any car there is always something that needs attention. You will see that the previous owner had the car painted and the painter did not take great care in preparing the car for paint therefore the tail lights got overspray on them and they looked bad making the paint job look bad.



Old tail lights

What you also cannot see in the pictures is that the black paint around the lens is coming off. To fix this Bob purchased a new set of tail lights. The only ones available are with an all chrome finish. There are no lenses with black and chrome.



New lens left and right are the same

Now the fun begins. What you need to do is get some masking tape and start to tape off the bezel where it needs to remain chrome finished and everything else is going to be black. This is where you need patience. As you can see there is not a lot of room to work in and there are lots of corners to cover. Take your time and tape off everything including the lens. This process took me about 2 hours as while you are taping you need to redo some areas to get the tape lines straight.



Tail light lens taped and ready to paint

Be surer to cover anything that you do not want painted because if you don't you may not be able to get the paint off those areas and the job will not look good in the end defeating the purpose of getting that new tail light look.



Once you have prepped the tail lights you need to apply an adhesion promoter which will help the paint stick the part as it is very hard to scuff the bezel. Once the adhesion promoter has dried the proper amount of time you can then spray them with a semi gloss black.



This is what they look like after being painted. After the paint had dried you can now remove all the tape to check out your hard work. Next time I will show you how to swap them out and get that great like factory new look.