

[Forum](#) » [Volkswagen](#) » [Golf IV & Jetta IV](#) » 1.8t Throttle Body Cleaning DIY/FAQ   [Help](#) [Search](#) [Register](#)  
☐ Remember Me?[Today's Posts](#) [Forum Actions](#) [Quick Links](#) [Advanced Search](#)

This forum  
sponsored by:



If this is your first visit, be sure to check out the **FAQ** by clicking the link above. You may have to **register** before you can post: click the register link above to proceed. To start viewing messages, select the forum that you want to visit from the selection below.

[+ Reply to Thread](#)

Results 1 to 25 of 25

**Thread:** 1.8t Throttle Body Cleaning DIY/FAQ[Thread Tools](#) [Search Thread](#) [Display](#)**x\_GTI\_x**

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
Location: MA  
Posts: 4,238  
Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

☐ 1.8t Throttle Body Cleaning DIY/FAQ

06-20-2011 04:15 PM

[Reply](#)

#1

I recently searched the DIY/FAQ for a throttle body cleaning DIY and only found one for the VR6. So I decided I'd take this opportunity to write one up specific to the 1.8t engine. Keep in mind, there are other DIY's online that are thorough and well put together, but I decided to go ahead and make one for VWvortex users, so enjoy.

First off, I am not a mechanic/technician, so excuse me if I make any mistakes with part names, etc. This is a pretty easy DIY, but please be sure you are comfortable with this procedure and it is within your skill level before continuing.

This DIY was performed on a 2003 GTI AWP engine, but you should be able to adapt the procedure to other years/engine codes of the same model.

**I am by no means responsible for damage to your vehicle or injury to yourself or others by following this DIY. you know your skill level, work accordingly!**

So, lets get started!

**first off you will need a few pretty basic hand-tools:**

Flat blade screw driver

5mm Allen wrench

Needle-nose pliers (for removal of one time clamps)

T20 torx (optional)

**You will also need:**

VAG-COM (for re-aligning TB after cleaning)

Throttle Body/ Intake cleaner

quality Electronics cleaner

1.) Start off by locating your throttle body, front of the engine bay on passenger side, near washer fluid reservoir.



2.) Remove small vacuum hose on top of the TB from the 2 nipples. There are small, one-time clamps on there. (I decided to clip them with a pair of pliers and buy new ones, but you can easily slide them off and reuse them if you choose.)





3.) Remove the electronic sensor below the throttle body hose, just use a flat-head screwdriver and give it a small twist to get the clip to release and disconnect. (note: be gentle with these sensors as the wires connecting them are pretty small/fragile)





4.) Loosen the hose clamp holding the Throttle body hose to the actual throttle body, and gently wiggle the hose off the end of the TB. If its giving you a hard time, slowly turn it back and forth a bit, GENTLY, while pulling, it should come right off.





5.) At this point you can see inside the TB, and are getting closer to actually cleaning it. There will be 4 Allen bolts holding the TB to your intake manifold, they are 5mm. undo these 4 bolts and carefully release the TB from the intake.





BE CAREFUL as there is a gasket between the TB and intake manifold that you dont want to damage/drop/bend. Mine was stuck to the TB itself, you can reuse this gasket or get a new one, your choice. (I chose to re-use mine as it was in decent condition) Just be sure to keep it clean and flat if you plan on re-using it.





6.) Youve finally got the TB out at this point and it is time to start cleaning it. Take your cleaner of choice ( I used Gunk throttle body & intake cleaner with great results) and start spraying down the inside of the TB. The carbon build-up should be loosened up at this point and you can use a clean rag/microfiber to get most of the stuff out.



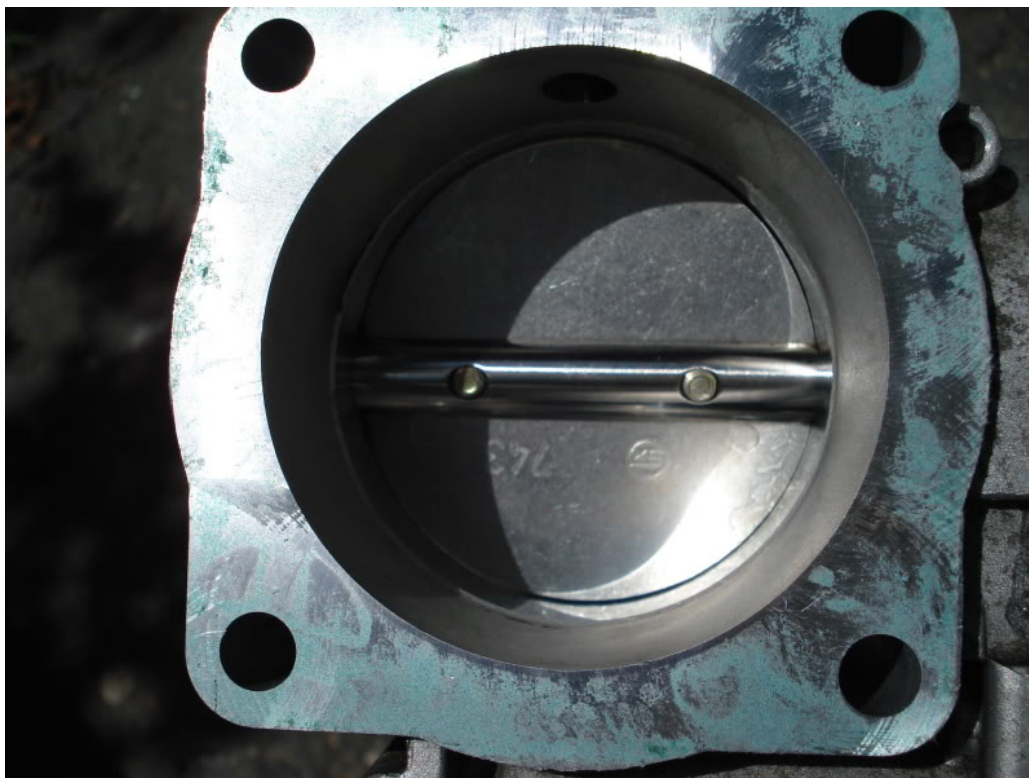
Be careful when cleaning around the butterfly valve as it is a precision piece, it only "tilts" or turns one way, so be sure not to force it to move. it will have a little resistance to get it to open, but dont go he-man on the thing. Clean around the small opening inside by opening the valve and get all that carbon out!



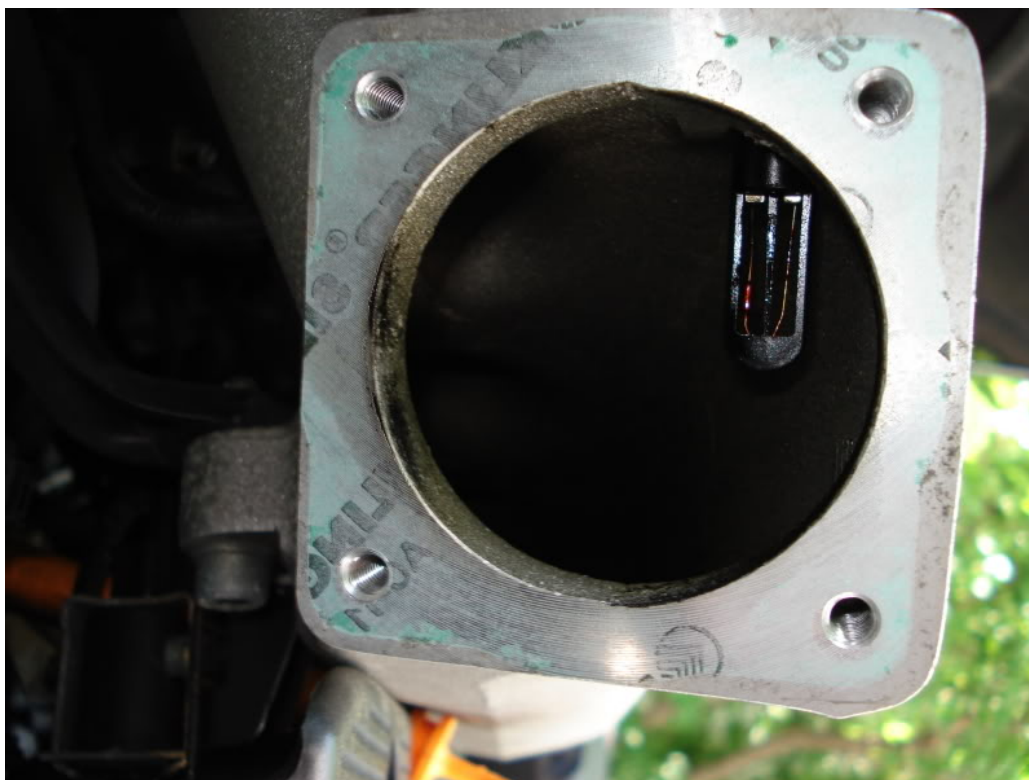


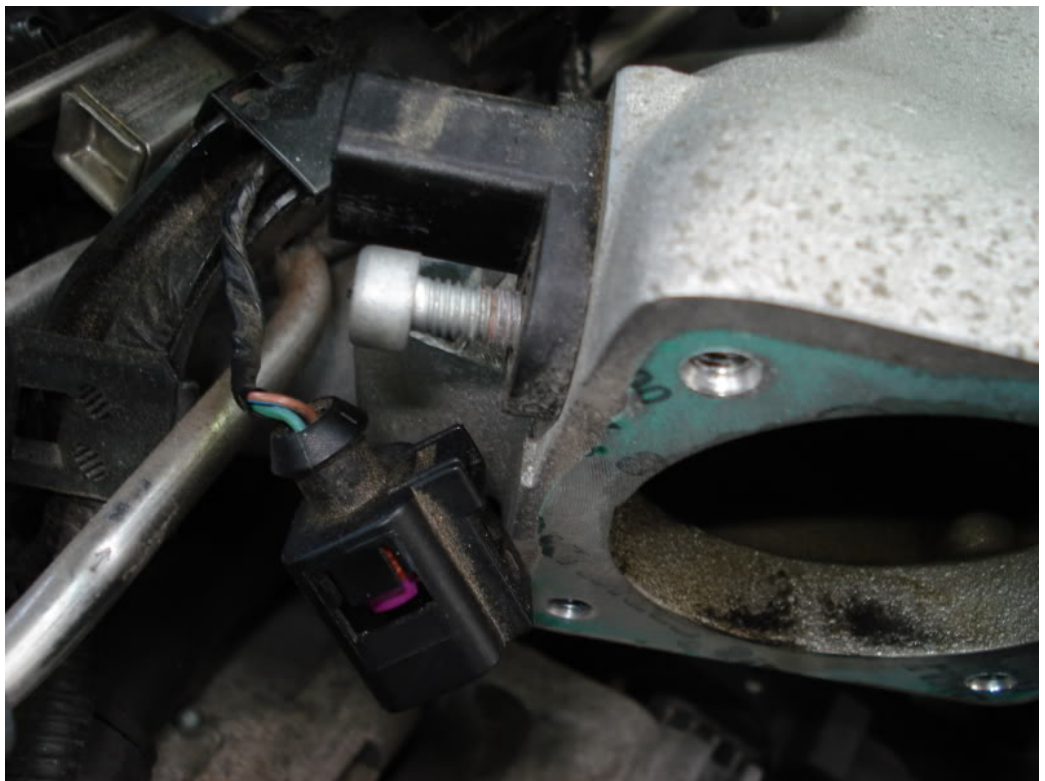
You can also remove the butterfly valve/throttle plate with a T20 torx driver and removing the 2 bolts holding it, for a more in-depth cleaning. I chose not to as it was not necessary and I was able to get practically all the build-up out, without a problem.





7.) After thoroughly cleaning the TB and making sure there is no more cleaner in there, I decided to clean the Intake Air Temperature sensor inside the intake manifold post-TB. To remove this sensor, use the flat-blade screwdriver and unplug it just as you would any other sensor. Next, there is a single 5mm allen bolt holding the sensor into the intake, remove that bolt and gently remove the sensor.





8.) Take electronics cleaner of choice, and spray the sensor down thoroughly. Be gentle with this sensor as it is exposed and wouldn't take much to mess up the small wires running through it. Make sure it is good and dry, and re-install.





9.) At this point, you are pretty much all set to go ahead and re-assemble everything in reverse order, just be sure to get all the cleaner out of the TB and sensors and that everything is nice and dry to avoid any problems.





10.) Before starting the car after re-assembly you need to run a Throttle Body alignment with a VAG-COM. Some people say you can leave the key in the "accessory" position for a minute or 2 and it will re-align itself... I dont know if there is any truth behind this, but I chose not to take a chance and did it through VAG-COM.

In closing, I hope this DIY was helpful to some of you and may have even been able to take care of some of the problems you may have been experiencing. Im sure there are grammatical errors ive missed and I will be "cleaning" up this DIY as time goes on. Please feel free to question/comment on anything, or if you feel like I missed something along the way, please let me know and Ill update accordingly.

Good luck! 🍀

Last edited by x\_GTI\_x; 06-21-2011 at 11:05 AM.

Originally Posted by Fritz27

No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.

Goon Squad x Bagriders x Gengstout

Reply With Quote

DER GTI

Member

Join Date: Aug 30th, 2007  
Location: Boise ID  
Posts: 879  
Vehicles: MKV .:R32 - #2663 -- 2002 Bugeye (Sold) -- 2004 GTI (Sold)

06-20-2011 04:41 PM

Reply

#2

Cool writeup 🍀

senad187

Member

Join Date: May 21st, 2010  
Location: Lebanon IN  
Posts: 2,196  
Vehicles: 05 GTI

06-20-2011 04:52 PM

Reply

#3

any dif between pre clean and after clean? or just one of those things you should do.

and i have also heard that leaving the key in the accessory position for a couple of min will align the TB.

can some one chime in and confirm...

**x\_GTI\_x**

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
Location: MA  
Posts: 4,238  
Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

06-20-2011 04:57 PM

Reply

#4

Originally Posted by **senad187**

*any dif between pre clean and after clean? or just one of those things you should do.*

*and i have also heard that leaving the key in the accessory position for a couple of min will align the TB.*

*can some one chime in and confirm...*

well, cleaning the TB isnt exactly routine maintenance, but there is no way it will hurt to get that junk out of there.

You can expect better throttle response, smoother idle, etc. after a good cleaning. if the car randomly stalls at low RPM's the TB could definitely be the culprit.

by cleaning the space around the butterfly valve, it is easier for air to flow through at idle = smoother/less erratic idle.

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

**Goon Squad** x **Bagriders** x **Gengstout****x\_GTI\_x**

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
Location: MA  
Posts: 4,238  
Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

06-20-2011 04:57 PM

Reply

#5

Originally Posted by **DER GTI**

*Cool writeup*

thanks alot!

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

**Goon Squad** x **Bagriders** x **Gengstout****v8 killer**

Member

Join Date: Jun 12th, 2011  
Location: Ohio  
Posts: 296  
Vehicles: 2003 vw gti 20th ae

06-21-2011 08:49 PM

Reply

#6

so do you have to use a vagcom?

**Billy Alexander**

Semi-n00b

Join Date: Dec 23rd, 2010  
Posts: 19

07-16-2011 11:56 PM

Reply

#7

x\_GTI\_x

Hate to ask a dumb question but do you know if the 2.0L(mine is a 2004 Jetta) has the Intake Air Temperature sensor?

Billy

**DMVDUB**

Member



Join Date: Jan 10th, 2010  
Location: NOVA  
Posts: 4,305  
Vehicles: German, American, Jap'erican

07-17-2011 02:50 AM

Reply

#8

I've noticed up to a 2% voltage (How much the plate is open / closed) change after cleaning my TB thoroughly. I also opened the outer radius a bit and angled the edges going into the TB. There is about 1/8" of material that you can port, angle & polish. Doubt it does much but it's all about velocity and every little bit helps.☺

PROTECTED BY SMITH & WESSON  
\*CORNFED



\***GonzoTuningTurbo GTT**  
 \***THE PANDIT PROJECT**([click me!](#))

Reply With Quote

### 01GTiVRSICK ▾

Banned

Join Date: May 14th, 2007  
 Posts: 8,681

07-17-2011 02:52 AM

[Reply](#)

#9

Good update/write up.

Reply With Quote

### screwball ▾

Member



Join Date: Dec 10th, 2001  
 Posts: 11,807

07-17-2011 09:59 AM

[Reply](#)

#10

TBA = Block 060 -> switch to basic settings

MK4 Junker : PAG 50trim Kit : AEB : RMR : Eurodyne  
**P.P.T. - Pag Parts Turbo**  
 B6 A4 : Slow

Reply With Quote

### x\_GTI\_x ▾

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

07-17-2011 10:57 AM

[Reply](#)

#11

Originally Posted by **screwball**

TBA = Block 060 -> switch to basic settings

Ill definitely be updating the DIY and add this bit in, I meant to originally an it totally slipped my mind.

Originally Posted by **01GTiVRSICK**

Good update/write up.

Thanks man, itd be nice to have new diy's on the forum without dead pics and stuff, figured every little bit helps.

Originally Posted by **DMVDUB**

*I've noticed up to a 2% voltage (How much the plate is open / closed) change after cleaning my TB thoroughly. I also opened the outer radius a bit and angled the edges going into the TB. There is about 1/8" of material that you can port, angle & polish. Doubt it does much but it's all about velocity and every little bit helps.*

good stuff, how long had it been since your last cleaning? I was expecting much worse carbon build-up than what was actually in there.

Originally Posted by **Billy Alexander**

x\_GTI\_x

*Hate to ask a dumb question but do you know if the 2.0L(mine is a 2004 Jetta) has the Intake Air Temperature sensor?*

Billy

I honestly am not sure, Id imagine so. easiest way to find out is google search or just run out to your car and check for the sensor on the backside of your intake manifold right after the throttle body.

Originally Posted by **v8 killer**

*so do you have to use a vagcom?*

At this point I think its been proven that for a correct TB alignment/adaptation, you need a vagcom.

Turning the key and listening for a sound for 2-3 minutes is not a real TB adaption.

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

**Goon Squad x Bagriders x Gengstout**

Reply With Quote

### x\_GTI\_x ▾

02-24-2012 08:51 AM

[Reply](#)

#12

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

Can any Mods add this to the DIY/ FAQ section or is that section of the forum dead to everyone? 😞

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

Goon Squad x Bagriders x Gengstout

Reply With Quote

Mk42003

Member



Join Date: Jan 6th, 2008  
 Location: Chicago IL  
 Posts: 4,218  
 Vehicles: 03 GTI 1.8T

02-24-2012 10:21 AM

Reply

#13

Originally Posted by **senad187**

*any dif between pre clean and after clean? or just one of those things you should do.*  
*and i have also heard that leaving the key in the accessory position for a couple of min will align the TB.*  
*can some one chime in and confirm...*

yes i did this before and it worked on my car countless times i even checked it with vag com to see if its aligned and it was

Reply With Quote

x\_GTI\_x

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

02-24-2012 10:25 AM

Reply

#14

Originally Posted by **Mk42003**

*yes i did this before and it worked on my car countless times i even checked it with vag com to see if its aligned and it was*

Not trying to call anyone out, but I have confirmed with a VW tech that this is not an actual TB adaption.

It may line up, but it isnt the correct procedure. just my \$.02 😊

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

Goon Squad x Bagriders x Gengstout

Reply With Quote

Mk42003

Member



Join Date: Jan 6th, 2008  
 Location: Chicago IL  
 Posts: 4,218  
 Vehicles: 03 GTI 1.8T

02-24-2012 10:30 AM

Reply

#15

Originally Posted by **x\_GTI\_x**

*Not trying to call anyone out, but I have confirmed with a VW tech that this is not an actual TB adaption.*  
*It may line up, but it isnt the correct procedure. just my \$.02 😊*

yes its no the correct procedure but it does line up 🙌

Reply With Quote

x\_GTI\_x

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

02-24-2012 10:47 AM

Reply

#16

Originally Posted by **Mk42003**

*yes its no the correct procedure but it does line up 🙌*

good to know, i was too nervous to try it lol. 🙌

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

[Goon Squad](#) x [Bagriders](#) x [Gengstout](#)

Reply With Quote

**DHB**

Member



Join Date: Aug 12th, 2010  
Location: Toronto  
Posts: 322  
Vehicles: 2001 wolfsburg 1.8T  
jetta 2002 Jetta 2.SLOW (R.I.P.)

08-21-2012 05:30 PM **Reply** #17

how long did it take to remove and replace the throttle

Reply With Quote

**x\_GTI\_x**

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
Location: MA  
Posts: 4,238  
Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990  
Cabriolet.

08-22-2012 08:42 AM **Reply** #18

Originally Posted by **DHB**

*how long did it take to remove and replace the throttle*

honestly you could probably have the whole thing buttoned up in under an hour.

definitely not too difficult, everythings really easy to get to for the most part. 🙌📺

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

[Goon Squad](#) x [Bagriders](#) x [Gengstout](#)

Reply With Quote

**DHB**

Member



Join Date: Aug 12th, 2010  
Location: Toronto  
Posts: 322  
Vehicles: 2001 wolfsburg 1.8T  
jetta 2002 Jetta 2.SLOW (R.I.P.)

08-22-2012 02:46 PM **Reply** #19

yup took me jut over 30 min on my break at work last night

Reply With Quote

**ODEL**

Member



Join Date: Oct 26th, 2009  
Location: MA  
Posts: 637  
Vehicles: 03 Jetta Wagon; 94  
Saturn SW2 (RIP)

08-22-2012 05:07 PM **Reply** #20

OP pm me.  
Great write-up!

**My Band**

Reply With Quote

**Gn\_q94**

Junior Member

Join Date: Jan 17th, 2012  
Location: Ft. lauderdale, Fl  
Posts: 51  
Vehicles: 2002 GTI

08-22-2012 10:06 PM **Reply** #21

a bit off topic but i had to replace my alternator and while doing this i removed the throttle body, does this mean i should have done an alignment to the TB with vagcom? i didnt clean it or anything so im guessing nothing should have changed..

Reply With Quote



**x\_GTI\_x** 

Member





Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

08-23-2012 08:35 AM



[Reply](#)


#22

 Originally Posted by **Gn\_q94** 

*a bit off topic but i had to replace my alternator and while doing this i removed the throttle body, does this mean i should have done an alignment to the TB with vagcom? i didnt clean it or anything so im guessing nothing should have changed..*

Id imagine if nothing was moved with the butterfly valve, nothing should be out of spec, you should be all set.

clean and align it anyway!  

 Originally Posted by **Fritz27** 

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

[Goon Squad](#) x [Bagriders](#) x [Gengstout](#)

 [Reply With Quote](#)**groggory** 

Moderator



Join Date: Apr 21st, 2003  
 Location: Long Beach, CA  
 Posts: 10,198  
 Vehicles: 2002 VW GTI 1.8 BT



10-10-2012 06:05 PM

[Reply](#)

#23

FAQ'd in 1.8t technical forum.

My Build

My FAQ / DIY Thread -- Look here for 90% of the questions you have

Welcome to the world of racing! Budgets are ALWAYS exceeded, deadlines are never meet, end-goals never reached, and wives always unhappy... it's all worth it though!

 [Reply With Quote](#)**Doctor Meat Does****Housecalls** 

Member



Join Date: Aug 27th, 2010  
 Location: Boston  
 Posts: 9,077  
 Vehicles: Silver MK4 On Orange Rims



10-10-2012 07:36 PM


[Reply](#)

#24

Time to clean mine!

[IlleststanceGangBang2011](#) | [TheThirdReich](#) | [DoctorMeatDoesHousecalls](#) | [ATEP](#) | [WTH:VolkswagenGF2011Survivor](#) | [YourPriusIsNotGreen](#)  
[Build Thread](#)

 Originally Posted by **MurryEB** 

*Doctor Meat is doing a housecall right now *

 [Reply With Quote](#)**x\_GTI\_x** 

Member



Join Date: Apr 23rd, 2008  
 Location: MA  
 Posts: 4,238  
 Vehicles: BMP 20th - 1990 Cabriolet.

10-11-2012 09:01 AM

[Reply](#)

#25

 Originally Posted by **groggory** 

*FAQ'd in 1.8t technical forum.*

thanks groggory! 

 Originally Posted by **Doctor Meat Does Housecalls** 

*Time to clean mine!*

do it!

Originally Posted by **Fritz27**

*No. Smell has a very strong connection in the brain with feelings... or if you're walking past A&F you might think of that chick you fingerblasted when you were 15.*

Goon Squad x Bagriders x Gengstout

Reply With Quote

+ Reply to Thread

Quick Navigation **Golf IV & Jetta IV** Top

« Previous Thread | Next Thread »

Forum Volkswagen Golf IV & Jetta IV 1.8t Throttle Body Cleaning DIY/FAQ

#### Posting Permissions

You may not post new threads  
You may not post replies  
You may not post attachments  
You may not edit your posts

**BB code** is On  
**Smilies** are On  
**[IMG]** code is On  
HTML code is On

**Forum Rules**

For advertising information click [HERE](#)



[Contact Us](#) [Archive](#) [Privacy Statement](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Top](#)

All times are GMT -4. The time now is 09:06 PM.

Powered by vBulletin® Version 4.0.3  
Copyright © 2013 vBulletin Solutions, Inc. All rights reserved.

Digital Point modules: Sphinx-based search