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DIY illuminated door handles for \$3

Flash



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04-18-2012, 12:12 AM

bigbadvoodoooguru

GO LAKERS



Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed
 Rabbit
 Join Date: Jul 2009
 Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA
 Posts: 1,103

DIY illuminated door handles for \$3

You are responsible for doing stuff to your own car... blah blah.
 This is NOT an OEM installation but it should (read: will) work on your car.

I happen to not like the way the oem illuminated **door** handles work, both in how they look and how they function (they turn on only and they stay on constantly even while driving. I think that is distracting, so I wired mine differently.

Some initial notes: I have puddle lights as well as **door** warning lights on my doors, which I made using a relay'ed circuit with my foc it is non-oem and non-oem wiring. They are all tied to my dome light and fade on and off with the dome light. The relay is switched b therefore shuts off the puddle lights, **door** warning lights, and now my illuminated **door** handles whenever the key is in the ignition. just dim with the dome light (and turn on whenever the dome light is operated). I will give various tested examples of how you can w you please.

Materials:

- Two LEDs (I used red) and bought them prewired with a resistor in it for around 70 cents plus a buck for shipping, so around \$3.

- Hot glue gun with glue
- Sharpie (black)
- Drill and drill bit (match the diameter of the LED)
- CAT5 cable or any other wire
- soldering iron
- heat shrink or electrical tape
- Wire stripper

- assorted torx screwdrivers to remove **door** panel

- 1) So remove the **door** panel. There are other DIYs for this, but it is relatively easy and takes about 2 minutes.
- 2) Remove the **door handle** (there are two silver screws, then you pop all the little tabs and pop it out. Make sure you unplug the un
- 3) Now you have the **door handle** separated, use the drill bit and drill a hole about here:



The hole should be sized so the LED fits in it relatively snug. When you drill ANGLE THE DRILL so the led goes in AT AN ANGLE and is opposite upper corner of the **handle** opening. In the above picture I am talking about the corner on the RIGHT of the picture that is c the drill so it is also pointing TOWARD the BACK of the **handle** you will get more light IN the **handle** and less light leakage outside it.

4) Grab the LED, bend it slightly so it matches the direction you want it to point (toward that corner, inward)

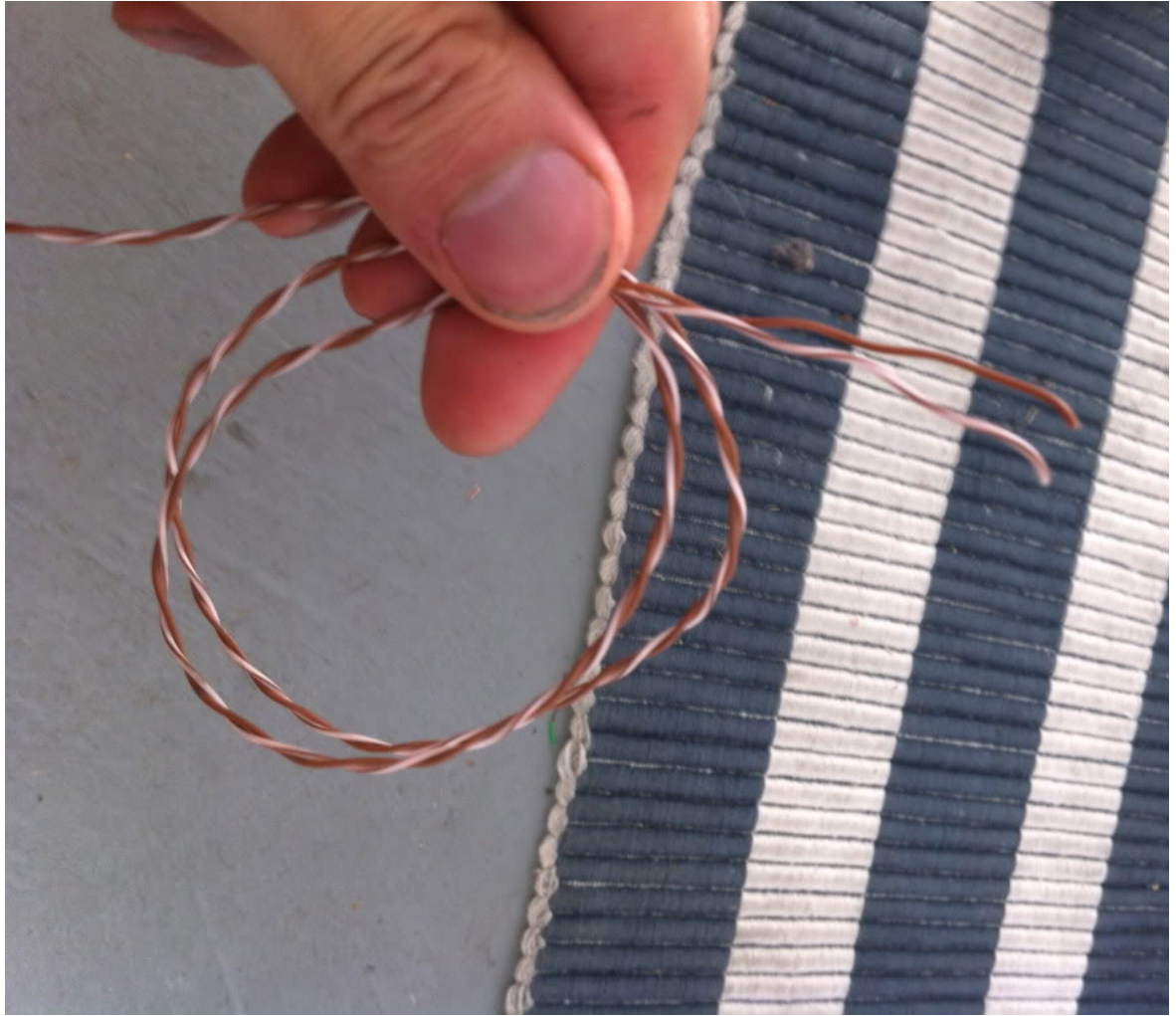


5) Put it in the hole you drilled, position it appropriately. I let mine stick out about a millimeter or so into the **handle**. Hot glue the su





6) I used CAT5 cable twisted pairs, but you can use any wire really. You just need a pair for each **door** (ground and power). Strip the which one goes to ground and power, solder them to the LED power leads.



7) Now reinstall them into the **door**, run the wire through the looms in the **door** until they reach that large plug on the harness. Migh it down so it doesn't rattle or whatever.

8) Here you have some wiring choices.

You can make them turn on with "illumination" meaning with your headlights and they will always be on with your headlights.

- Instead of running the wires to the large plug, run it to the plug that goes into the lock/unlock switch (you unplugged it earlier). Use figure out which wire is ground, and which wire gets 12v (or less depending on your dimmer setting) when the HEADLIGHTS turn on. "illumination" wire. Tap the wires into the harness however you see fit (cut/splice, T-tap, just strip the wire and push it into the plug : doesn't fall out... whatever).

You can make them turn on as Puddle Lights meaning they will turn on when you unlock the vehicle, and stay on until you put the ke

- Use PIN 10 on the plug for 12v+, use the large brown wire as ground.

<http://www.my-gti.com/2084/adding-do...golf-and-jetta>

- You DO need to vagcom this setting on. Follow the vagcom procedure on the above website.

You can make them turn on as "illuminated **door** handles" but I am not entirely sure this works without the oem day/night sensor. Fe break anything.

- Use PIN 17 on the plug for 12v+, use the large brown wire as ground

<http://www.my-gti.com/2249/adding-in...nd-jetta-front>

- You DO need to vagcom this setting on. Follow the vagcom procedure on the above website. I do not know if this wiring works with sensor, but you can try.

For all the above wiring, you can splice/solder/T-tap/or just strip the end, push it into the plug, and zip tie the wire in place. It really

9) Okay so turn the LEDs on however you wired it, you will notice some light spilling out of the **door** pocket and possibly illuminating not. Use a black sharpie and poke around at the LED and find the places that need to be "blacked out" so the light does not illuminate illuminated. Use the sharpie to black/darken those parts of the LED.

10) Put the **door** back together. Don't forget to plug the lock/unlock switch back in, the speaker, the large plug, the **door** actuator ro other plugs you have in there. Close it all up and then you get this:







These only come on when the dome light is ON and the key is NOT in the ignition. So when I stop and turn the car off, they turn on. \ approaching the vehicle, unlock the car, open the **door** and get in, they are on until I put the key in. This is also how my **door** warnir work as well. Footwell lights are just on whenever the dome light is on (does not depend on the key).

Feel free to ask any questions.



2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)
1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)
2006 AMG SLK 55



#2



QUOTE

#3

QUOTE

#4



QUOTE





#5





QUOTE

#6

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


04-18-2012, 01:41 AM#7



bigbadvoodoooguru
GO LAKERS

Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit
Join Date: Jul 2009
Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA
Posts: 1,103

Oh was wondering if you're the gti I see in my complex. I live in those houses built in the old tustin base. Between edinger and barranca. I guess I'd be down for another install but I'd have to charge for it to be fair. It is really not that difficult to do...




Sent from my touchpad




48.49.50.52.53
54.72.80.82.85
87.88.00.01.02
09.10
2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)
1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)
2006 AMG SLK 55



Coastie3708
Touring Car Newbie

Drives: White chipped MkV
Join Date: Mar 2008
Location: Tustin, Ca
Posts: 201



As of now I haven't had my car for about a month and a half now. It's at my buddies shop getting fixed. I got rear ended at a stop by a guy doing 50 and then pushed into the car in front of me. New thunderbunny kit, HID headlights and a few minor pieces and I will be as good as new. :) Should have her by the end of the week.








bigbadvoodoooguru
GO LAKERS

Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit
Join Date: Jul 2009
Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA
Posts: 1,103

Nice

Sent from my touchpad



48.49.50.52.53
54.72.80.82.85
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09.10
2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)
1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)
2006 AMG SLK 55



bigbadvoodoooguru
GO LAKERS

Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed

Just an updated note the light spread was bugging me and rather than use a Sharpie I am going to open it back up, file the led a bit, reangle it more toward the back, and see if that helps. If you can't get the Sharpie to work use something that is opaque like paint, tape, or a Sharpie. Only reason I say this is because with a Sharpie I am getting a slight glow on the a pillar which is bugging me.

sent from my touchpad



Rabbit

Join Date: Jul 2009

Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA

Posts: 1,103



48.49.50.52.53
54.72.80.82.85
87.88.00.01.02
09.10



2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)

1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)

2006 AMG SLK 55



04-19-2012, 05:48 AM

#11

Elliott

Formula 3000 Driver





Drives: BMP 07 MT MKV GTI

Join Date: Jun 2008

Location: Scottish but live in Spain.

Posts: 3,981

More pics of it in general In the car please and not so much a close up of the **handle**, but Just to see how it flows. It does look good though just not sure of I really want it or not..

I think I'd rather the bulb being at the top rather than the botto so it's not visible to the eye. Good Job either way though.

Nuespeed intake & CF engine cover.Forge short shift kit,VOvalve & Twintercooler.Miltek catbak. 3" DP.FK Silverlines.Newsouth dashpod-Boost,oil p & oil t Gauges. GIAC Remap ST2.THS full motor & transmtion mounts.Porpoise hork delete.eurojet pcv.

.My job is alloy wheel refurbishment so if anyone has any questions, ask away.

Check out my Facebook work page [WheelFixItSpain.com](#) n show your support.



04-19-2012, 08:00 AM

#12

bigbadvoodoooguru

GO LAKERS





Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit

Join Date: Jul 2009

Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA

Posts: 1,103



48.49.50.52.53
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2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)

1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)

2006 AMG SLK 55



04-19-2012, 08:05 AM

#13

bhmkv

Auto Body Appraiser





Drives: 07 CW GTI 6SPD

Join Date: Mar 2011

Location: CT

Posts: 6,670

Pretty cool.

APR H&R KONI ITG





http://www.golfmk5.com/forums/showthread.php?t=166835&highlight=door+handle

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04-19-2012, 12:28 PM

#14

anile_eight

FIA GT Champion



Drives: 2006 Jetta
Join Date: Sep 2009
Location: Guelph, ONT / Daytona Beach, FL
Posts: 1,195



sweet

C2 tune, Peloquin LSD, .717 TDI 5TH gear swap, USP test pipe, AWE exhaust (AMAZING), BSH CAI, H&R street sport coilover + 25mm RSB, neuspeed short shifter, 17x8 BBS RGR. *******FOR SALE THREAD:*******
<http://forums.vwvortex.com/showthrea...-%28OEM-LED%29>*****



04-19-2012, 06:46 PM

#15

Stylist07

Formula 5000 Driver



Drives: MKV R32 #1238 Deep Blue
Join Date: Mar 2010
Location: Dallas
Posts: 1,346



nice cheap mod mine cost me around \$150+ but i used OWM parts and VW really enjoys their prices....LOL

Good job man

Did u connect the power wire to the **door** illumination pin on the **door**, i did not see it in the OP????

MKV R32 #1238 DBP [BlueWater](#) E85 Kit [UnitedMotorsports](#) ECU/DSG Tunes_Rieger Side Skirts_Rieger Front Lip with Bent Splitter_OEM Recaro Seats_OEM MK6 Steering Wheel_OEM MK6 DSG Shifter_OEM LED Tails_Lots of "R" Logos



04-19-2012, 07:39 PM

#16

bigbadvoodoooguru

GO LAKERS



Drives: 2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit
Join Date: Jul 2009
Location: Trabuco Canyon, CA
Posts: 1,103



No for mine I had preexisting wiring in there for my puddle and **door** warning lights. You could attach it to those pins as I mentioned but I have no idea if they work without the day/night sensor.

sent from my touchpad



2009 CW 2door 5speed Rabbit (Sold)
1991 MR2 Turbo (For Sale)
2006 AMG SLK 55



08-16-2012, 04:21 PM

#17

SwedishK

A Fast Ass Minivan



Drives: 2006
Join Date: Aug 2010
Location: Texas
Posts: 24



VW should take note on this... I could see this on a future Audi



08-16-2012, 04:45 PM


#18


merkeyterkey

No MSG



Quote:

Originally Posted by **SwedishK** 
VW should take note on this... I could see this on a future Audi



Drives: GTI



Join Date: May 2010



Location: 60552

Posts: 6,310

BTW, there's a way of doing it using OEM parts (they did this on the Touareg)

<http://golfmkv.com/forums/showthread.php?t=149919>











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