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VW GTI Forum / VW Rabbit Forum / VW R32 Forum / VW Golf Forum - Golfmkv.com > Technical Discussions > Cosmetic Mods (interior+exterior bodykits, CF kits, etc..)
⌐ DIY: Amber Singals

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Page 1 of 10 **1** 2 3 4 5 > Last » ▽

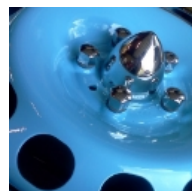Thread Tools ▽   Search this Thread ▽   Rating: ★▽

☐ 05-13-2010, 09:04 PM   #1

darcness
Formula 2 Driver
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: 2008 GTI Candy White
Join Date: Aug 2008
Location: Grand Blanc MI
Posts: 5,146

View darcness's Garage

DIY: Amber Singals
─────────────────────────────

Preface

Well since I've been doing this for many moons I figured I'd share my knowledge gained with the rest of the community. I've done a full write up on my DIY amber signals and will be adding it to here, with pics and all. Enjoy and have at it if you'd like.

Supplies Needed

1) OEM bulb holders
2) 194 bulb sockets (I get mine off ebay from a michigan seller)
3) Wire strippers
4) Good pair of cutters (preferably flush side cutters)
5) Sharp razor/utility knife
6) Solder iron
7) Solder
8) Vag-Com (or access to one)

Process

The first thing you want to do is obviously start out with your OEM bulb holder. To get to it, you remove the 2 nuts that hold the outer tail sections on and remove the tail and harness. Once the tail is out there are 3 tabs that hold on the OEM bulb holder. Be careful because they are slightly fragile. I usually start with one of the side by side ones, and then do the outer one, then the second side by side. Comes out easy that way.

Here's what you got after the bulb holder is removed...

As you can see it's already set up for a bulb, there's just no bulb holder there nor any wiring per say. The metal tabs certainly go to the center bulb area though, so that makes life easier for us modders.

First step is to remove the bits on the middle section that get in the way. This is where you need a good sharp set of cutters. I like to use side cutters because there's less residual crap to trim away when you're done cutting.

The first cut will consist of removing the side portion of the plastic that's in the way. Cut near the "walls" and it will pop right off. If you look at the first picture, you'll see the bit I'm talking about compared to it being removed in the pic below.

After that part is gone, the second cut consists of cutting away the small "fins" on the sides. Again, cut close to the wall and they should pop off pretty easily. There's a total of 4 of these fins, 2 on each side. Here's how it looks when that's done.
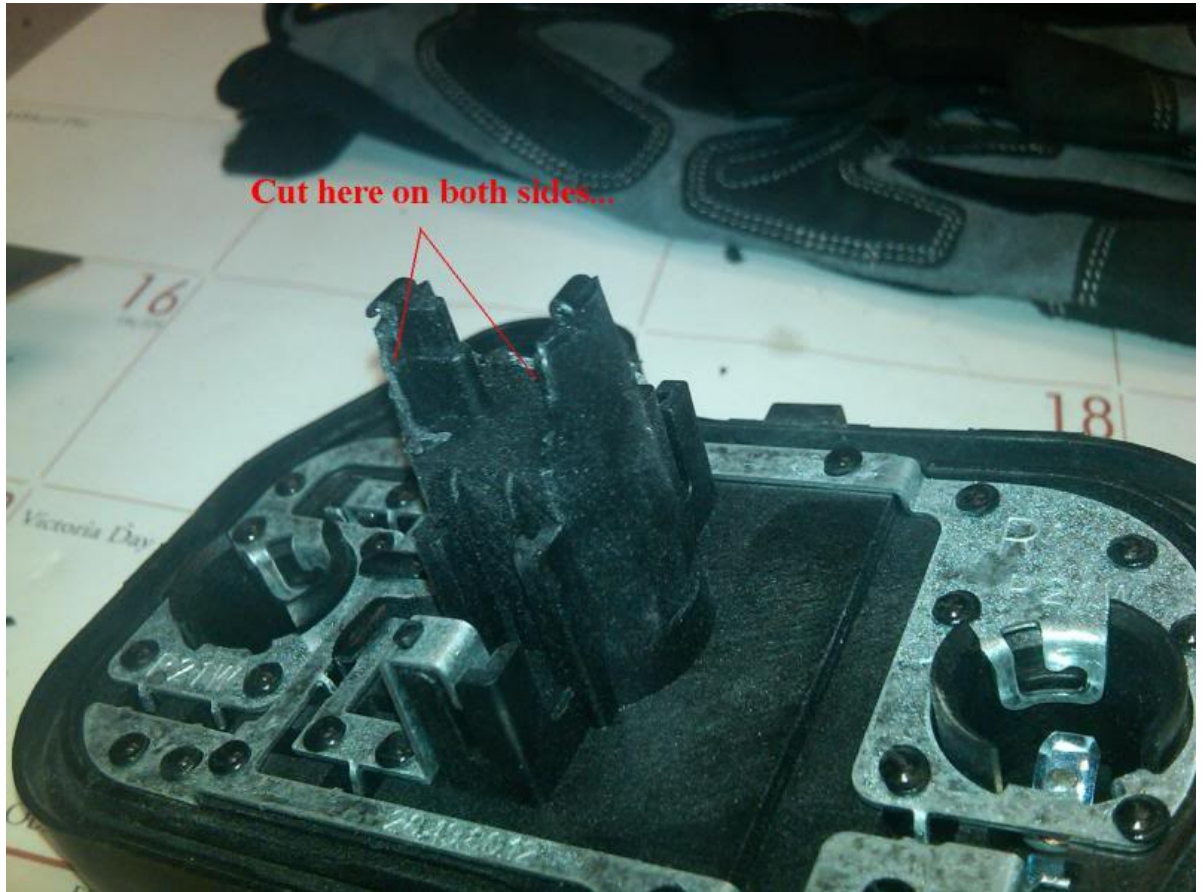
Last cut is to remove the remaining bits inside of the bulb holder area that are on the side walls. There are bits on both sides so make sure to cut them both. These are a bit tricky as they are thick plastic, but again, close to the wall and small bits at time should get them out nicely. Here's the result.

Now take your razor or utility knife and carefully remove any remaining plastic that is left behind. Basically you just want the two "walls" left behind without anything protruding and causing the bulb holder not to fit.

The bulb holders I use I get off Ebay from a seller here in Michigan. They will fit any type of standard wedge bulb. I use Sylvania 921NA LL bulbs. Lots of light output and long life is good. Here's the bulb holders I use and how I receive them.

If you notice, there is a small nubbin on the bottom of the bulb holder. Use your razor knife or cutters to get rid of that. Just be careful not to cut the wires.

After the bulb holder is ready, test fit it into the center portion of the bulb holder. Not any fitment issues and trim the area if needed. You want the bulb holder to sit almost flush with the bottom of the holder assembly.

After you have a good fit, you'll want to trim the wires down so they aren't overhaning the metal tabs as that's were we will be soldering the wires to. The following is an illustration of what I'm speaking of.
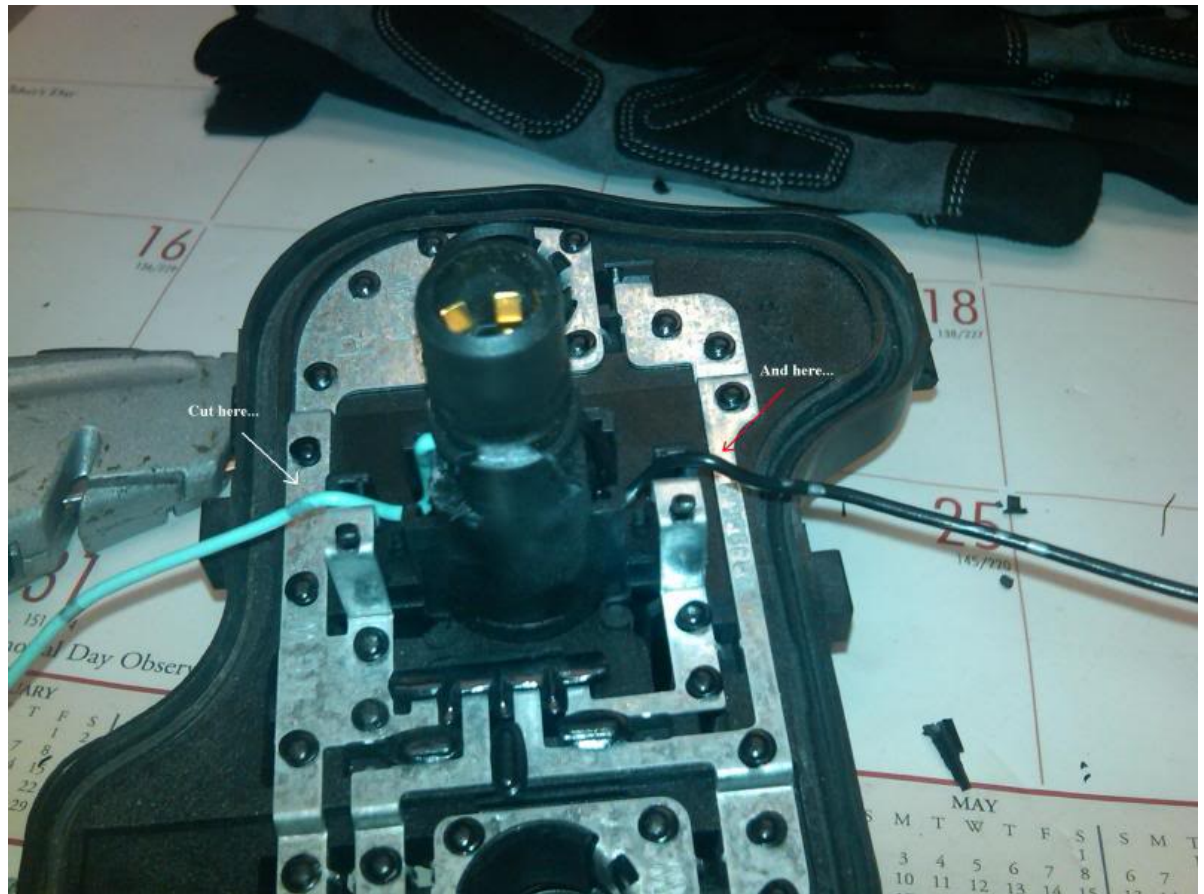
Once the wires are cut, put the bulb holder aside and keep the left over green wire, as you'll use this later. Next step is to bridge the two metal tabs together. Basically what we're doing in this step is taking the pins that would normally be bridged externally, and doing it internally. This will tie the blinker signal to the amber bulb. Note the orientation of the tabs and bulb holder, make sure you solder the right ones together. You're soldering the single tab coming from the middle riser to the tab next to it. Here's an illustration.
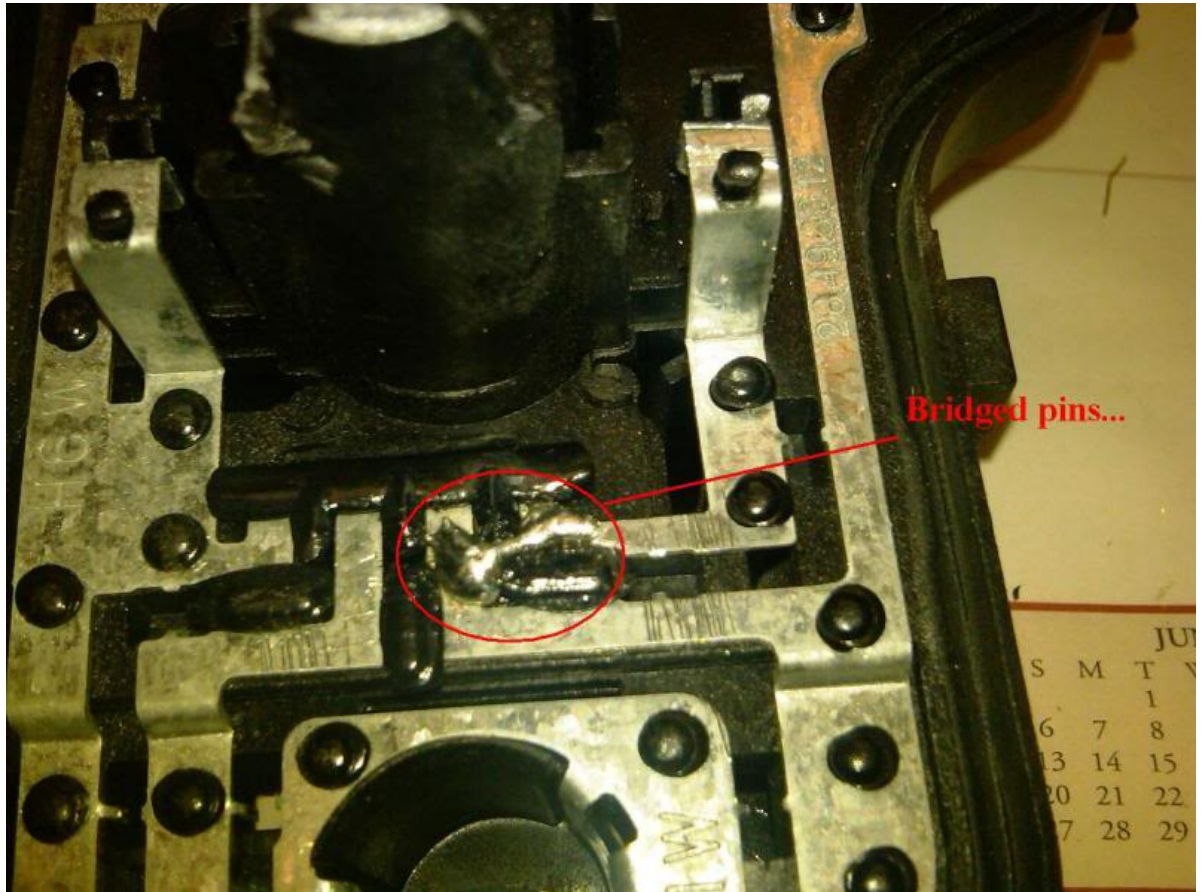
Once the pins are soldered, then we can cut the old routing to the original bulb. This bulb will now function with the other OEM bulb, making them act as one unit as opposed to two. You don't need to cut much, just enough to break the connection. Just make sure to cut AFTER the bridge. Here's how I do mine.
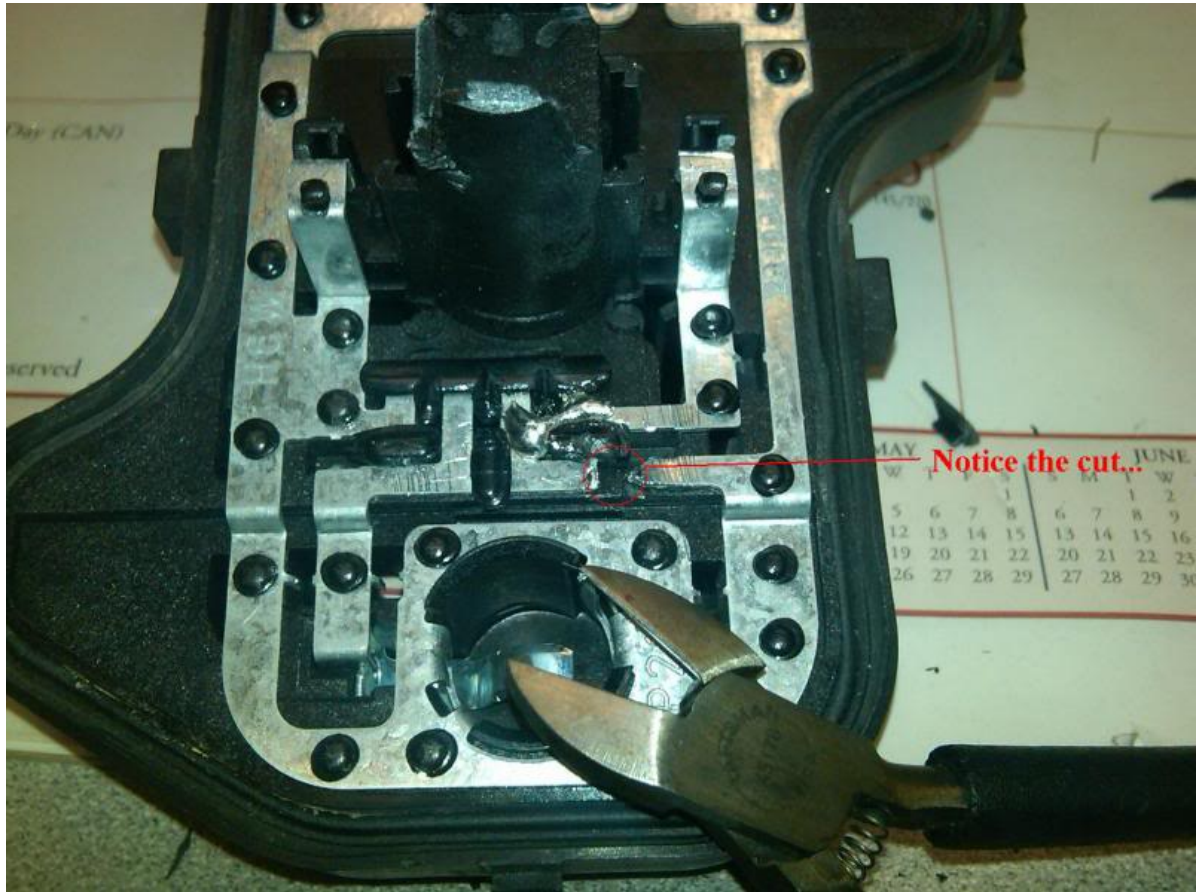
Now we can add the jumper wire for the two OEM bulbs. I use the left over green wire that was cut earlier from the new bulb socket. Solder this wire from the metal tab on the first OEM bulb, to the second OEM bulb. Make sure you solder after the cut you made above, or you'll have all 3 bulbs on one circuit. Here's how I do mine.

Finally, you're ready to add in the bulb socket. Take the trimmed bulb socket, and put it in the OEM assembly center bit again. Solder the two wires coming from the bulb socket (green and black in this case) to the two metal tabs on the plastic risers. It should look like this when you're done.

Now pat yourself on the back for a job well done, but don't think you're out of the woods yet. Next step is to test it. Go plug your bulb holder assembly back into your tail harness and turn on the hazards. Make sure they blink correctly. Next, turn on your running lights and make sure they work as well. Don't be alarmed if the amber bulb comes on dimly when your lights are on, as we still have to Vag-Com them to make them work right. If all is well, you're good to go and just need to finish up with the coding. If something isn't right, check all your connections, wires, and solder points and make sure nothing is shorted or disconnected.

Once you've got everything working, you can go ahead with the Vag code. Here's what you need to do for that...

Go into Module 09 (Central Electronics) and take a look at your long coding.
It might look something like this:
14 01 8E 23 40 04 15 00 00 14 00 00 00 14 00 00 00 28 77 0B 5C

We care about the segment that looks like this 14 00 00 00 14
Change the second 14 to 00 so it looks like this: 14 00 00 00 00

Basically change byte 14 from 14 to 00.

By doing this coding you're telling the car's controller that you have Euro spec tails installed. What it does is turn off the running light portion of your second "pin" on your bulb holder. This means that the amber light ONLY comes on when your blinkers are on, and no other time. The brake lights still function as dual roles, both as running lights and brake lights. The way it works now, you'll have full outer circle running lights in red, full outer circle brake lights in bright red, and small inner circle ambers for blinkers.

Conclusion

I've done some 20-25 sets of these bulb holders myself and have improved upon the process throughout that time. This DIY uses my latest and most effective/clean way to do this. The good thing about doing the modding internally is that you don't have to splice any of your wiring or mess with the harness. Plus the way I did this, by adding a bulb holder, means you can always change out a burned out bulb easily. Hopefully this helps some folks who want to try a relatively simple DIY that makes a pretty neat difference.

Media! \

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| | 00:19 | ◆ | 00:00 | |

Want a set of R32 style tails on the cheap ---> **Darcness Tinted Tails!**
Want to see the progression of my MKV? **Click here!**

Last edited by darcness; 06-15-2010 at 01:12 PM.

05-13-2010, 10:49 PM   #2

Zanxrex
New, yet old

[VW logo]

Drives: 2006 VW GTI
Join Date: Jan 2010
Location: USA
Posts: 270

Very good write up. I used a similar method to yours... except I had the correct OEM euro pieces and use the H6W bulbs VW required. This should work every bit as good as OE when done correctly.

Well done!
_____
2006 GTI, LA7T, PKG 1, DSG

05-14-2010, 06:13 PM   #3

BDA MKV
FIA GT Newbie

Drives: 2008 Volkswagen GTI MkV
Join Date: May 2008
Location: El Paso, TX
Posts: 880

great writeup!

Sorry if this is a thread jack, but if I have Hellas euro leds, the internal wiring is not needed and its just a vag com that is needed, correct? To enter the same coding?...
_____
(BDA MKV)
*EuroJet *Magnaflow*ATP*APR*Mishimoto*VagCom*Amsoil*Neuspee d*KSport*EBC*Newsouth Performance*OSIR*Momo*JL Audio*AudioIntegrations*Rieger*Votex Front Lip*Audi RS4*Toyo*Hella*

View BDA MKV's Garage

05-14-2010, 06:43 PM   #4

hobbes
FIA World Rally Car Champion

Drives: 09 TSI DSG
Join Date: Apr 2010
Location: San Ramon, CA
Posts: 664

Nice write-up!

But you forgot to add how you held the bulb socket down onto the bulb holder. I'm guessing with epoxy or some other type of glue?
_____
APR Stage 1 / Carbonio Intake / S3 IC / VW Sport Exhaust / BSH Pendulum Mount / Noise Pipe Delete
Driver Gear Springs / Koni Sports / H&R 28mm FSB & 24mm RSB / Unibrace XB & UB
Euro Lip / UG Side Markers / Smoked Signals / Projector Fogs + DDM HID / Eurojet Boost Gauge / VCDS
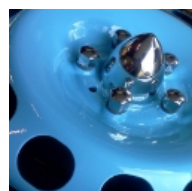
FUELLY
28.5
avg MPG

05-14-2010, 06:55 PM   #5

darcness
Formula 2 Driver

Drives: 2008 GTI Candy White
Join Date: Aug 2008
Location: Grand Blanc MI
Posts: 5,146

View darcness's Garage

Nope, originally I used silicone but soon after realized it's not needed. Just the wires being soldered in hold it in place. Plus it fits pretty snug in that socket deal once you get all the bits out of the way. I've had mine without it being secured down for about 4 months no and not one problem yet.

Want a set of R32 style tails on the cheap ---> Darcness Tinted Tails!
Want to see the progression of my MKV? Click here!

05-14-2010, 07:23 PM   #6

stringshifter6
Nom Nom Nom

Drives: 2007 CW GTI
Join Date: Jan 2007
Location: Burbank, CA
Posts: 1,614

View stringshifter6's Garage

This is a nice diy.

06-14-2010, 12:05 PM   #7

orange1218

Quote:

Autocross Newbie
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: 2006 BMP GTI
Join Date: Jan 2010
Location: Chicago-land
Posts: 71

> Originally Posted by **stringshifter6** ↗
> *This is a nice diy.*

x2. Thanks for the reply to my PM darcness.

I'll be doing this mod soon, but one ? first...Will this throw a "bulb out warning"? Or do you have to turn off the cold diagnostics option with a VagCom? I'm hoping to keep the bulb out warning...

06-14-2010, 01:32 PM   #8

themike
FIA World Rally Car Champion
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: 2009 VW GTI
Join Date: Nov 2009
Location: Long Island, New York
Posts: 657

View themike's Garage

Darcness helpin' out the community - tail light at a time 😊👍

06-14-2010, 05:54 PM   #9

2006UG
<ding dong>
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: 2006 United Gray GTI
Join Date: May 2010
Location: America's Hat
Posts: 523

Sick, looks like a sweet mod.

06-14-2010, 05:58 PM   #10

cosedsc
EE Militia
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: MK5 GTI
Join Date: Oct 2009
Location: Gobblers Knob
Posts: 1,491

wheres a pic of the lights?
_____
www.eemilitia.com

😎

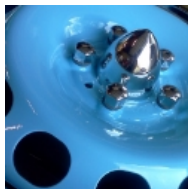06-15-2010, 06:19 AM   #11

darcness
Formula 2 Driver

Drives: 2008 GTI Candy White
Join Date: Aug 2008
Location: Grand Blanc MI
Posts: 5,146

View darcness's Garage

Quote:

> Originally Posted by **cosedsc**
> *wheres a pic of the lights?*

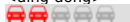Good call, I'll do one better and add my video.

Want a set of R32 style tails on the cheap ---> Darcness Tinted Tails!
Want to see the progression of my MKV? Click here!

06-15-2010, 09:02 AM   #12

2006UG
<ding dong>

Drives: 2006 United Gray GTI
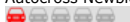Join Date: May 2010
Location: America's Hat
Posts: 523

Yeah, there's pics on the tinting thread

06-24-2010, 11:11 PM   #13

orange1218
Autocross Newbie

Drives: 2006 BMP GTI
Join Date: Jan 2010
Location: Chicago-land
Posts: 71

Just completed this mod exactly as described by darcness...so far it looks good. I found that having a Dremel made this much easier than using clippers/utility knife. It has not thrown a "bulb out" warning, which is something I was worried about. I took a quick video, but the lighting and resolution is crap...I'll take a better one soon.

(Not sure how to embed videos)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJTf8rBt9H4

Last edited by orange1218; 06-24-2010 at 11:29 PM.

07-04-2010, 12:49 PM   #14

JamDawg
Formula 5000 Champion

Drives: 2009 GTI
Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: Atlanta
Posts: 2,197

Is there a way to use the vag com to make the amber brighter?
Thanks

07-04-2010, 12:54 PM   #15

silversleeper
IG @andyp666

Drives: 06 GTI
Join Date: Jan 2007
Location: CLE, OH
Posts: 8,413

nice work/write up man.
_____
:: H20i 2013 MKV gtg ::

09-14-2010, 03:27 PM   #16

nicolasl46
FIA GT Champion

Drives: '11 UG GTI MkVI 6SPD
TSI
Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: Middle Village, NY
Posts: 1,287

View nicolasl46's Garage

I have a problem, I did the mod on both bulb holders, but only the right one works, I can't get the left one to work, any ideas?
_____

> Quote:
> _____
> Originally Posted by **DanSan** ⏵
> *its 1 of the 2 things lacking in todays society..*
> *mutual respect.*
> *the other is common sense*

09-14-2010, 04:20 PM   #17

macq
*

Drives: vw
Join Date: Oct 2008
Location: IL
Posts: 1,999

i think i smell a big ass sticky bomb..
_____
*fuck your scene points

09-14-2010, 06:21 PM   #18

adamgti
Trust me, I'm an engineer

this is really really cool, thanks darcness

ninja edit: oh wow this was posted awhile ago, wish i had seen it sooner
_____
Buy my stuff! http://www.golfmkv.com/forums/showthread.php?p=3629650

Drives: 2007 CW GTI 4dr
Join Date: Aug 2007
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Posts: 1,988

View adamgti's Garage

09-14-2010, 06:44 PM   #**19**

nicolasl46
FIA GT Champion

Drives: '11 UG GTI MkVI 6SPD TSI
Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: Middle Village, NY
Posts: 1,287

View nicolasl46's Garage

please guys i need help, my left tail light doesnt work :(

_____

> Quote:
> Originally Posted by **DanSan** ↗
> _its 1 of the 2 things lacking in todays society.._
> _mutual respect._
> _the other is common sense_

09-14-2010, 06:52 PM   #**20**

adamgti
Trust me, I'm an engineer

Drives: 2007 CW GTI 4dr
Join Date: Aug 2007
Location: Los Angeles, CA
Posts: 1,988

View adamgti's Garage

i think you're going to have to be much more specific to get any help. have you double/triple/quadruple checked all the connections? check for shorts/broken connections etc. are you sure the bulb is good? is your vagcom coding correct?

_____

Buy my stuff! http://www.golfmkv.com/forums/showthread.php?p=3629650

09-14-2010, 07:32 PM   #**21**

nicolasl46
FIA GT Champion

Drives: '11 UG GTI MkVI 6SPD TSI
Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: Middle Village, NY
Posts: 1,287

View nicolasl46's Garage

I haven't use vag-com yet. I've checked the connections like five time, but it doesn't make sense. The right side works fine (aside from the need of vag-com) but the left side doesn't go on. But if I swap the bulb holders, the one that wasn't working on the left side works on the right side, but the one that was working on the right side no longer works if connected to the left side. I followed all the instruction to a T aside from the vag-com. The pictures on this DIY are from the right bulb holder, so I tried to mirror all the wiring, and the cutting onto the left bulb holder. I have no clue of whats going on. The bulbs are fine, and I even bought two sets of 194 bulbs (clear and red because autozone didn't have amber) and a set of amber 168 bulbs. I hope I was specific enough as to my issue. Please, I really want to get this working, I even ordered another left bulb holder from the dealer in case I ruined something on mine. I tried to be as specific as I can. I appreciate any help regarding my issue. If anybody has a picture of the left side bulb holder and can post it here will be a lot of help.

_____

> Quote:
> Originally Posted by **DanSan** ↗
> _its 1 of the 2 things lacking in todays society.._
> _mutual respect._
> _the other is common sense_

09-14-2010, 07:35 PM   #**22**

nicolasl46
FIA GT Champion

Drives: '11 UG GTI MkVI 6SPD TSI
Join Date: Mar 2009
Location: Middle Village, NY
Posts: 1,287

View nicolasl46's Garage

Another thing that cought my attention was the wiring harness. They both have 4 pins and three wires going to heach one. The one on the right side has pins 1, 2, and 3 wired, and the one on the left side has pins 2, 3, and 4 wired, is that normal?

> Quote:
>
> Originally Posted by **DanSan** ▸
> *its 1 of the 2 things lacking in todays society..*
> *mutual respect.*
> *the other is common sense*

Page 1 of 10 **1** 2 3 4 5 > Last »
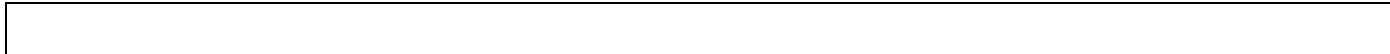
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