



VW GTI MKVI Forum / VW Golf R Forum / VW Golf MKVI Forum / VW GTI Forum - Golfmk6.com > Technical Topics > Cosmetic Mods  
(interior & exterior modifications)

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**DIY: Auto Dimming Mirror Install with Homelink**

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12-24-2010, 10:23 AM

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000  
Champion



Drives: 2011 CSG  
MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location:  
Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605

**DIY: Auto Dimming Mirror Install with Homelink**

DIY for 2011 GTI and the Gentex Auto-Dimming Mirror with Homelink Install – (took me 1 hour due to a little exploring in headliner. Really a

I installed the Mito/Gentex GENK41 mirror which I purchased from [www.brandnewauto.com](http://www.brandnewauto.com)

Here's the link to the mirror I bought: <http://www.brandnewauto.com/AUTO-DIM...-p8051612.html>

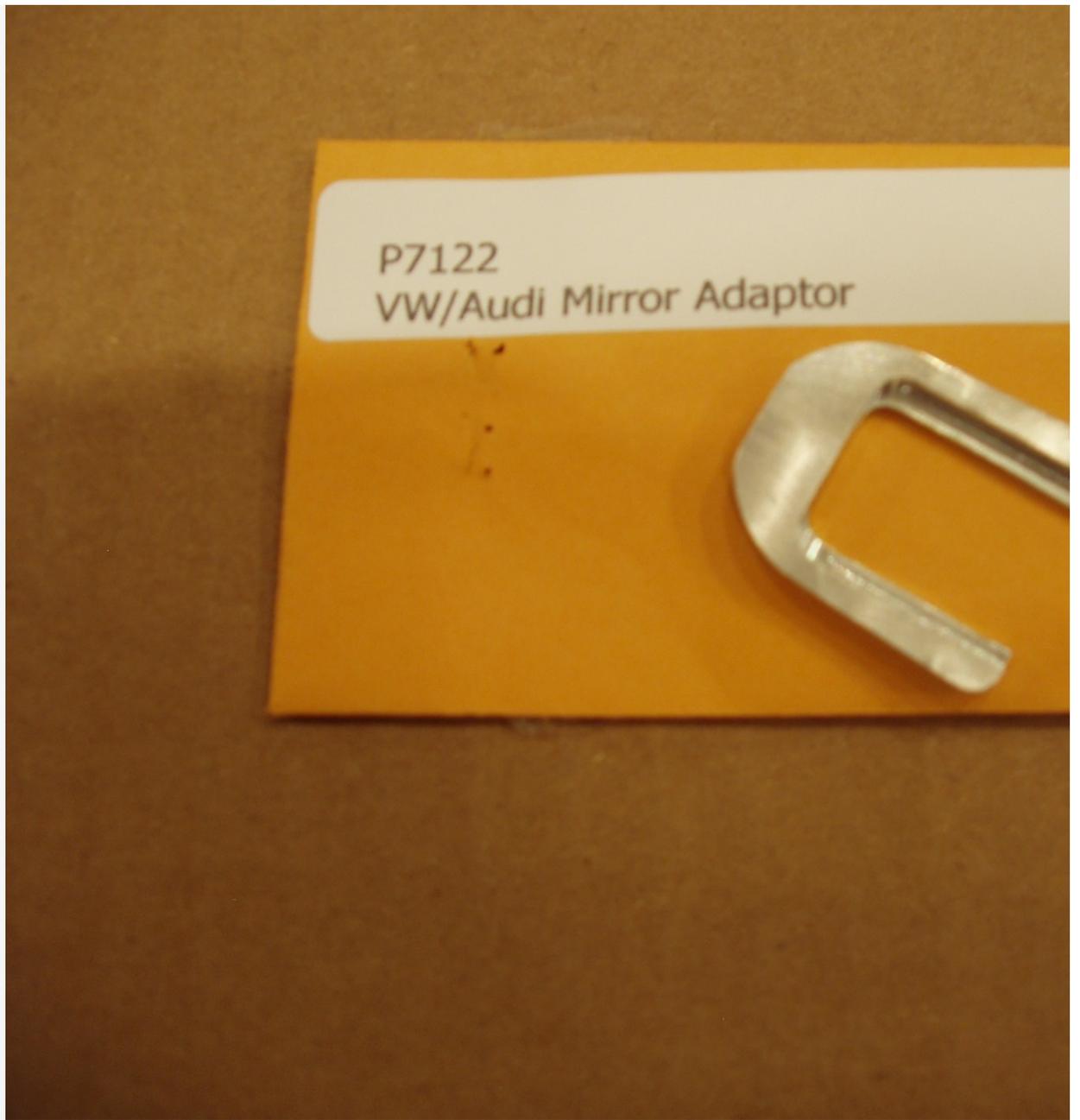
**Use the coupon code 5OFF to get 5% off your order.** My cost for the mirror and VW adapter kit shipped to me was \$170.04 including sh

For this install it is important to ensure that you receive the "simple" install kit. This kit includes one wire with two hot plugs and a ground. TH  
You also need the "long" wire cover, not the short one. My kit came with the long wire cover at no extra charge.

Kit contents:



And purchased the available VW adapter kit, Pt. # 50-P7122 from them too: <http://www.brandnewauto.com/Shop/Con...page/VWadapter>



It comes with an allen screw and small brass insert:



I did not disconnect the battery during any of this process. I just made sure the doors were closed during the install (as if that might do any g

Obligatory disclaimer: I am not responsible for damage to your GTI if you choose to follow this install. It worked for me. Attempt at your own

First things first, here's the mirror you will be removing. Say goodbye:



Tilt it downward and pop it off the stem holding it to the windshield. Its OK to use a bit of force. It's not held on that strongly.

The back of the mirror looks like this, so you know what you're dealing with:



Here's what you are left with on the windshield:



To remove the mirror stem I used a strap wrench:



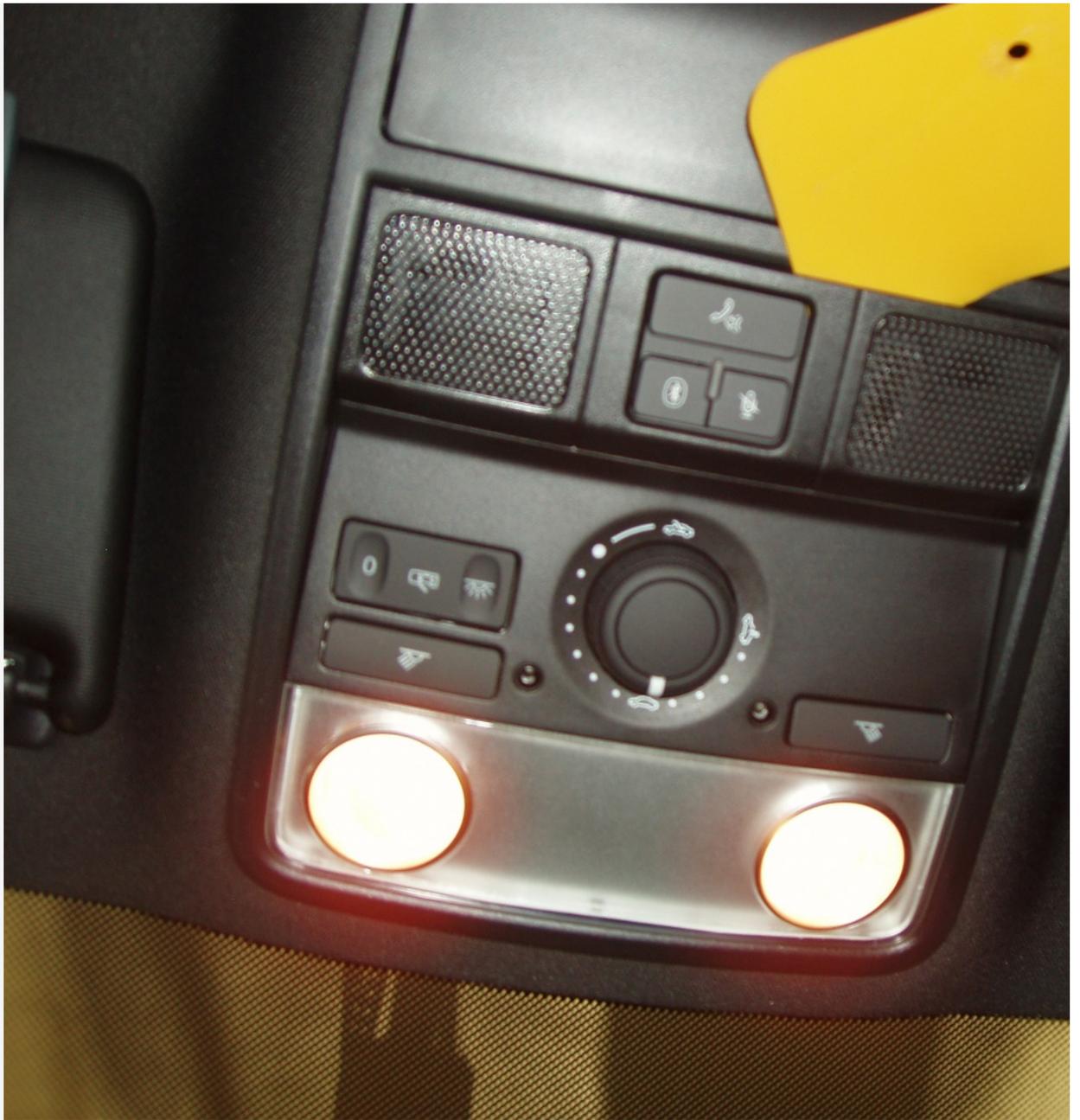
You can go either clockwise or counterclockwise to remove it. It does not matter. I went counterclockwise.  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn and it will pop right off, lea



This is what you will mount the new mirror to using the VW adaptor. I painted the horseshoe shaped piece black:



Once you have the mirror out of your way its time to go exploring for power in the headliner. Map lights seem the obvious place, so pop off the used, a plastic bondo repair tool:



It will release rather easily with very little force. Once it is loose, simply fold it towards the mirror and it will hang on a hinge of sorts. Once h off.



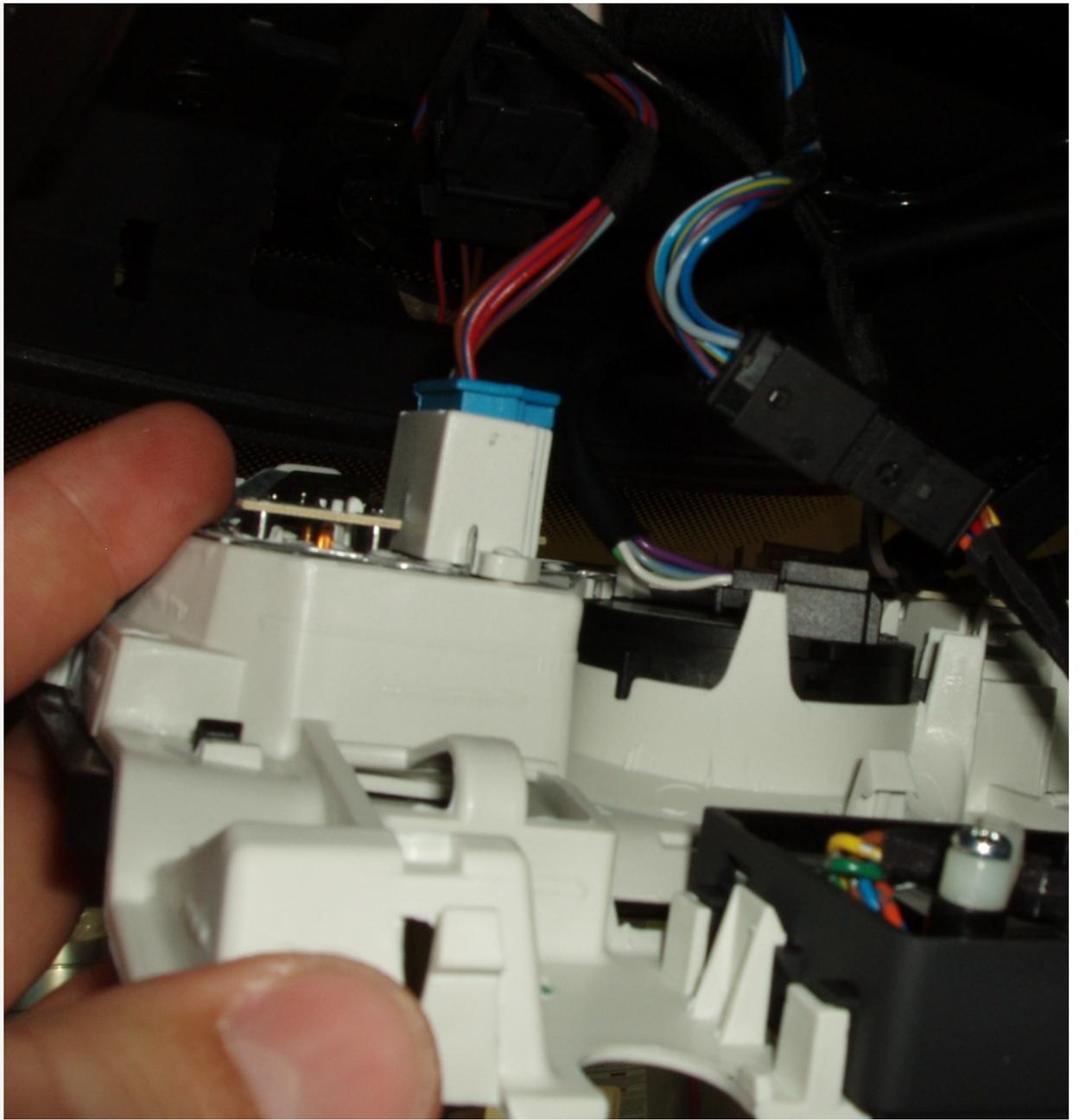
Next are two T-20 torx screws holding in the entire unit.



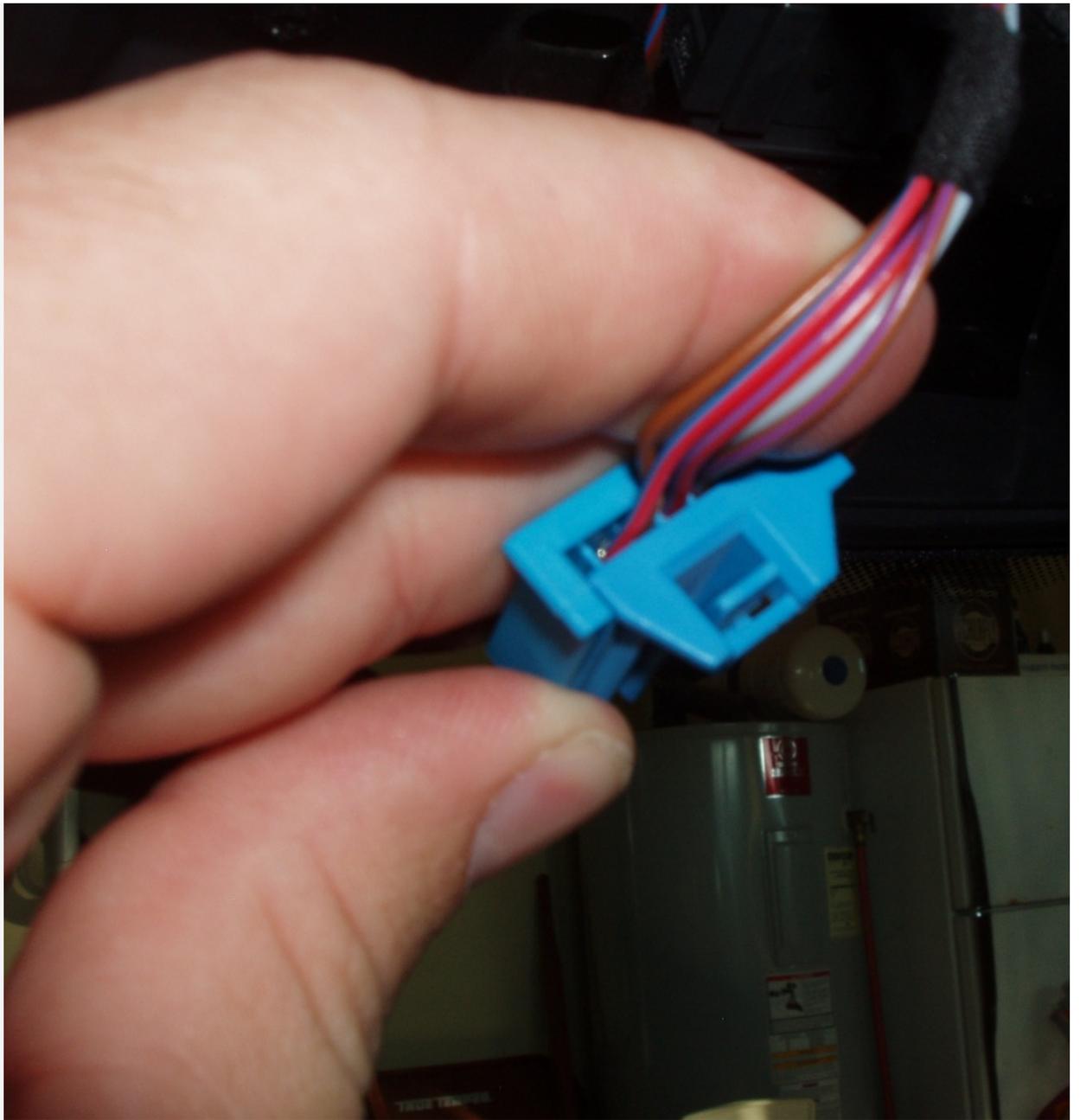
Remove these fully and then apply a small amount of pressure to release the two front clips on the unit:



Once these release you will be able to swing the unit down, out and off:

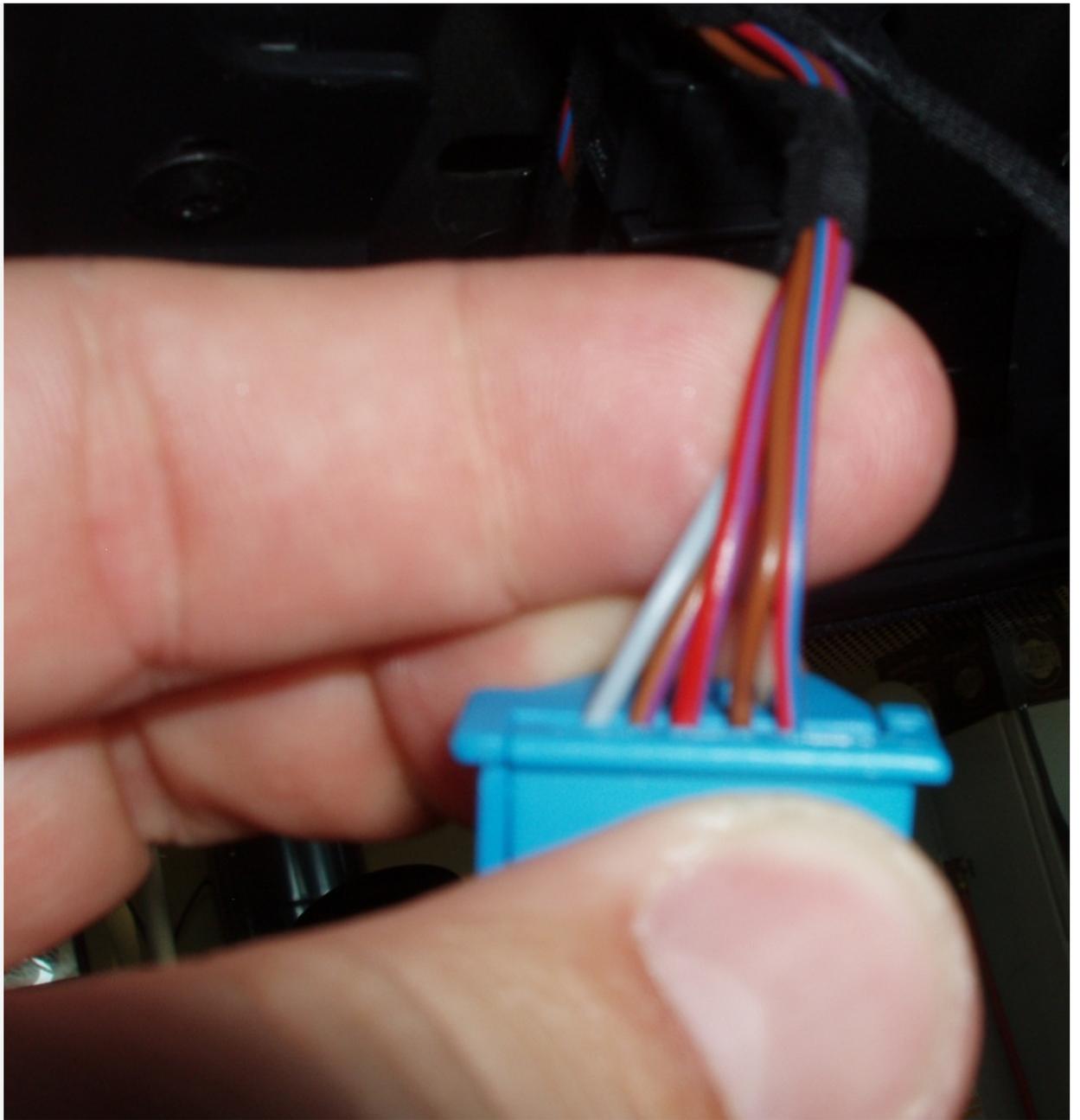


You will see a lot of wires connected by quick connects. The blue bundle is the one you want. The quick connect releases by a small tab in the

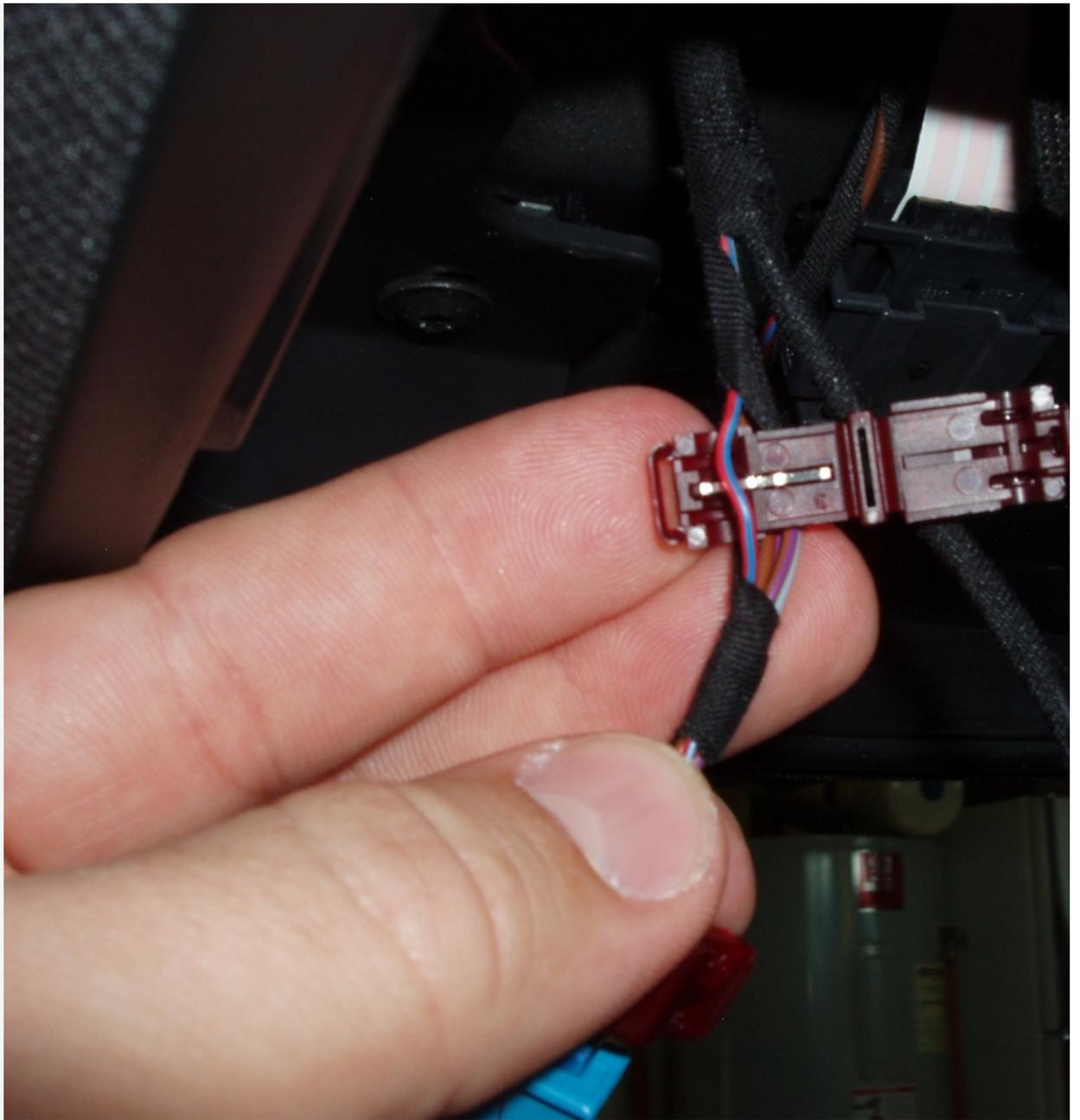


The instructions require both hot and switched power wire. However, the map lights in the GTI gain power once a door is opened and retain their power when the door is shut off. The Homelink unit does not lose its memory, so there is no need for constant power to the Homelink unit. I chose to power both wires.

The wire you want is the first/last wire in the blue quick connect. It is red with a blue stripe:



Gentex includes two forms of clip-on wire connectors for wiring the mirror. Red and blue. Use the red ones and not the blue connectors for the switched map light wire. It will look like this:



The wiring harness is made up of all black wires, but one of them has a white stripe. I didn't want to see the white stripe once the unit was in great and you cant tell it was just colored in:



You could shrink wrap them too, but this was free, available and easy.

Once the clip-on wire connectors are installed it is time to feed the wires. I attempted to use a coat hanger, but that didn't work. Instead I simply shoved the wires one at a time into the head liner. I used a hemostat to grasp them and pull them to me.

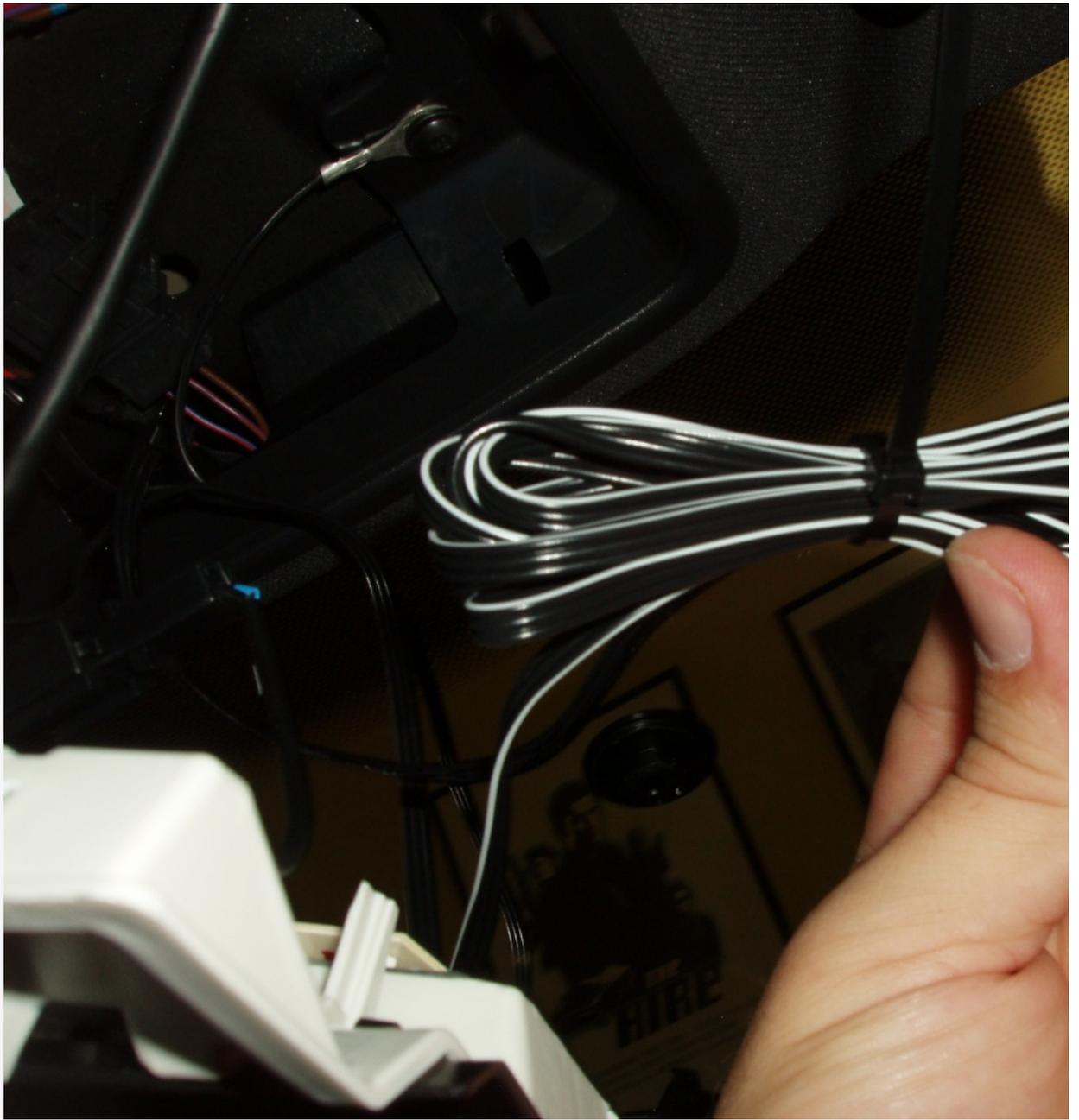
Time to find a spot for the ground. You can either tap a new screw into the metal, or do what I did and use one of the two torx screws that hold the headliner in place:



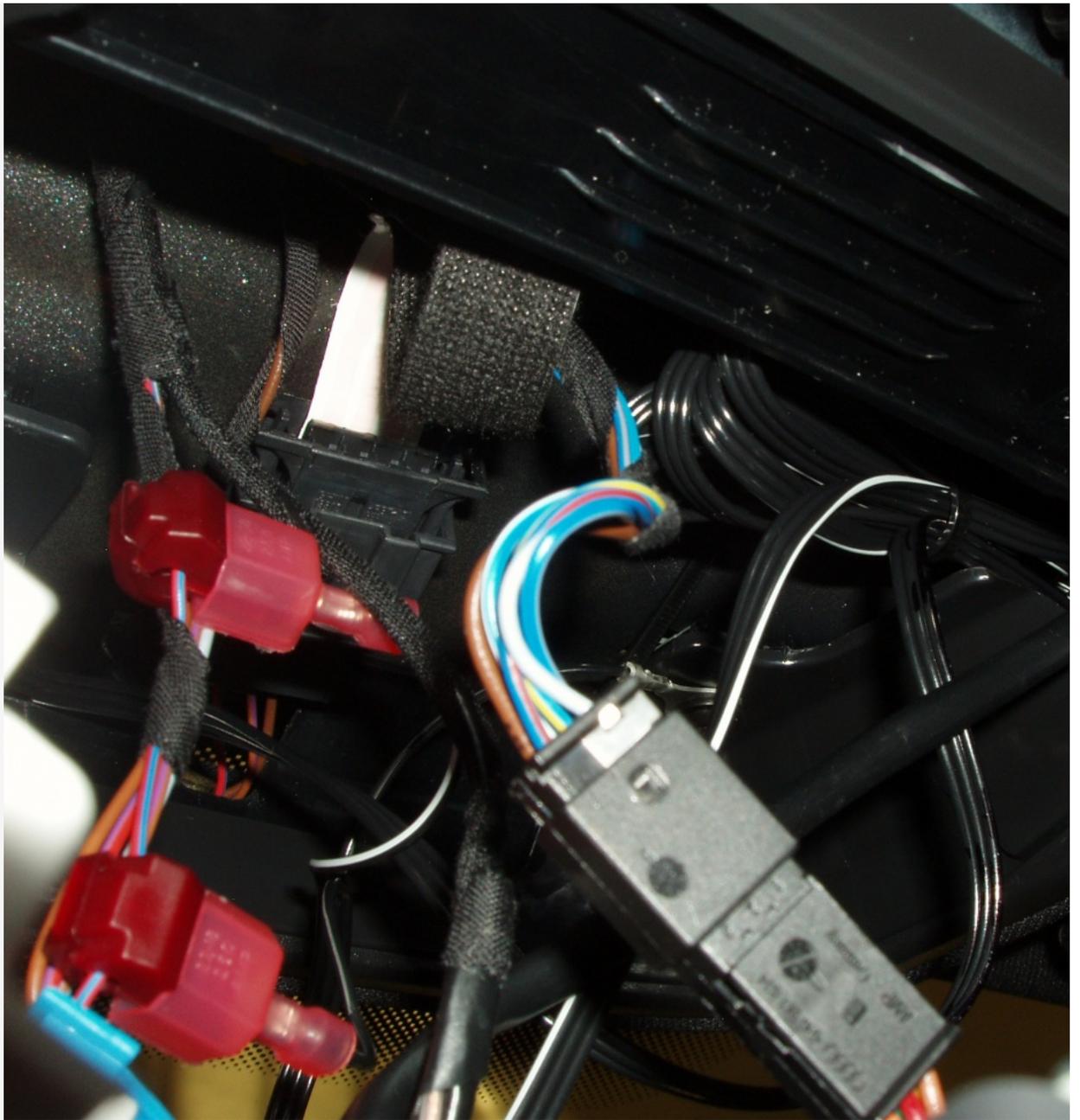
I used a dremmel to grind down the paint on the screw first to ensure a good connection. Once you have the ground in place, connect the two since they are both (in this instance) connected to the blue/red switched power wire.

Test to ensure the mirror is receiving power. The green light will glow (I was thinking of a way to change the green to red, but oddly enough, pressed/activated, so I left it green).

If OK, go ahead and zip tie the wires together with one of the included zip ties:



And shove the bundle into one of the spaces in the headliner:

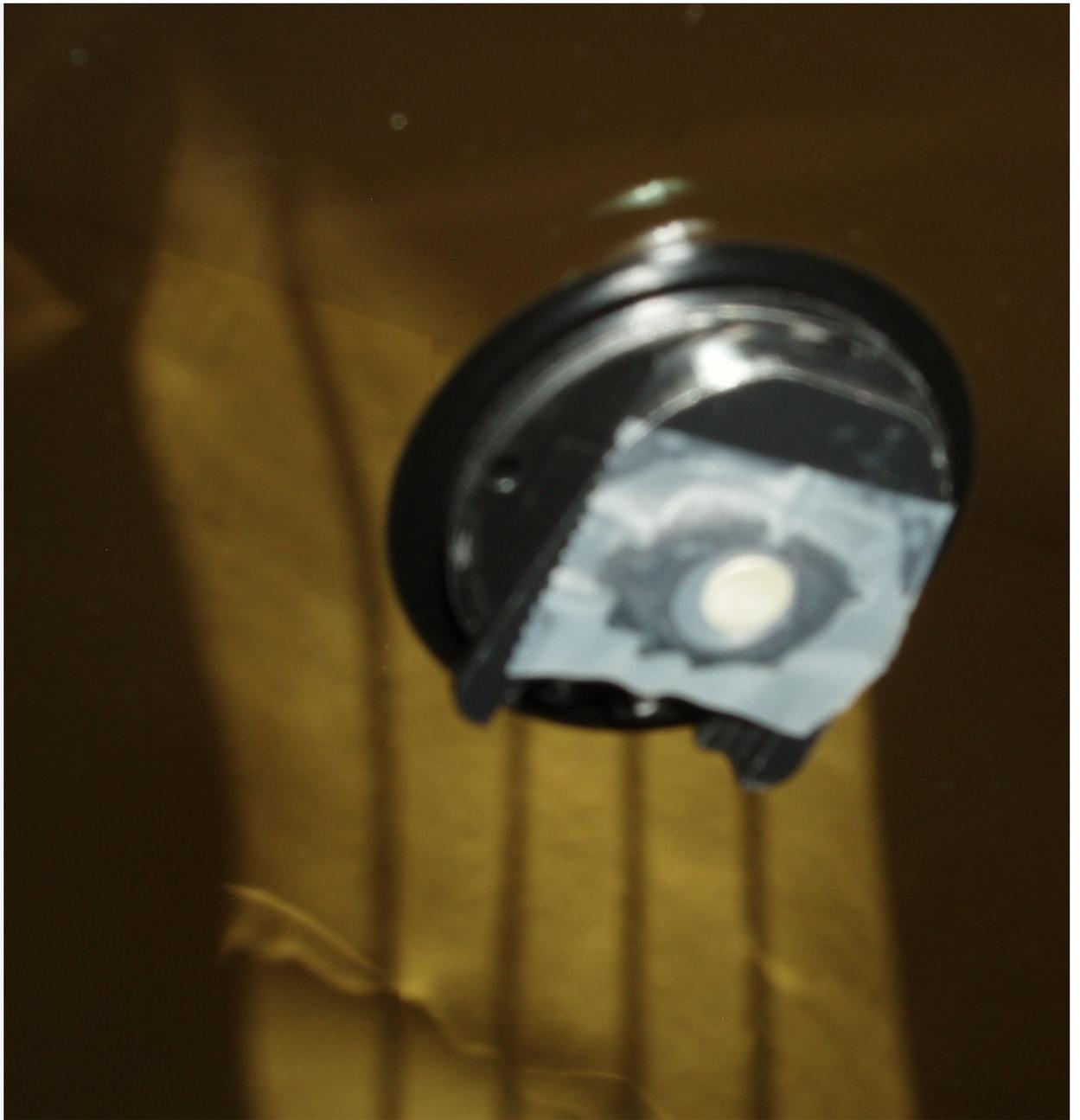


Now put the map light console back together in reverse.

Hang the painted horseshoe adaptor on the existing mirror base:



Next, tape the brass insert into the hole in the existing mirror base:



Replace the torx screw (it has a pointed end) that comes already installed on the Gentex mirror:  
with the allen screw (it has a flat end) provided in the VW adapter kit. Slide the mirror over the button adapter and tighten the allen screw, h



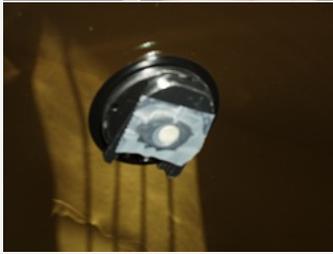
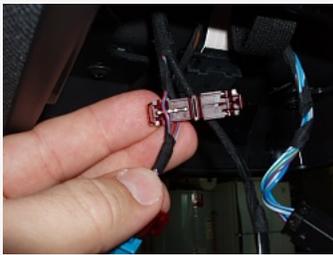
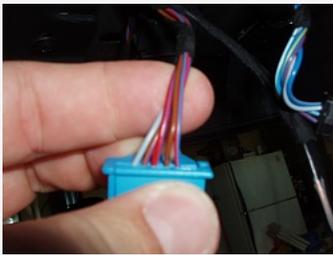
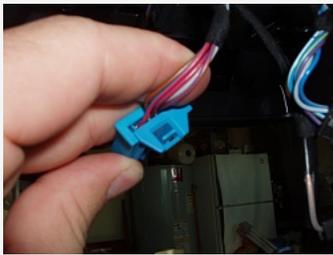
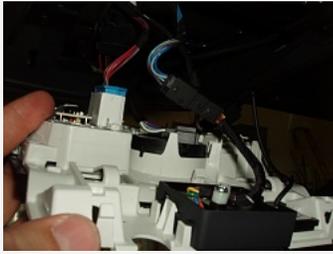


Your Done!

PM me if you need more pics or have questions!

[Attached Thumbnails](#)







2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>

Last edited by jbcritch; 12-24-2010 at 01:16 PM.



12-24-2010, 01:22 PM

#2

**danielj**

Moderator



Drives: 2013 BMW x135  
Join Date: May 2010  
Location: Seattle WA  
Posts: 8,093



Excellent work. Thanks for taking time to do the write-up and share with the forum.

What I used to drive: 2010 4dr GTI Shadow Blue/ DSG / HID's/ Autobahn/ Dynaudio

APR Stage I/ Carbonio Stage I&II Intake/ H&R Super Sports & RSB/ 18" Avant Gardes/ OEM LED Tails/ Some cosmetic stuff/ Now I'm done modding - because I traded it in.... 😊



12-24-2010, 03:22 PM

#3

**xGaspj**

FIA GT Champion



Drives: 2012 SB GTI /1986  
VR6T Jetta Coupe  
Join Date: Dec 2010  
Location: HOPEWELL, VA  
Posts: 1,110



beautiful tutorial man, thank you! i think i will be attempting this soon, since my euroswitch has the auto function AND it's just hella nice looking! if i remember correctly, did you mention at one point the mirror lights up green? i guess a quick LED swap would remedy that to fit our interior, yeah?



12-24-2010, 04:19 PM

#4

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605



It lights up both green and red. Green to indicate power, red to indicate that homelink is sending a signal. An LED swap us what I originally thought to do, but due to the dual color function I decided to leave it alone.

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>



Arash007ir

Rally Car Champion  
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗



Drives: 2011 GTI Autobahn  
Join Date: Dec 2010  
Location: Chicago  
Posts: 385



I was looking into doing this even before I got my car. 🍃

👍👍👍

It's nice to see that there is a DIY.

Great job. 🍻



xGaspY

FIA GT Champion  
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗



Drives: 2012 SB GTI /1986  
VR6T Jetta Coupe  
Join Date: Dec 2010  
Location: HOPEWELL, VA  
Posts: 1,110  
👤👤



Quote:

Originally Posted by **jbcritch** [↗](#)  
*It lights up both green and red. Green to indicate power, red to indicate that homelink is sending a signal. An LED swap us what I originally thought to do, but due to the dual color function I decided to leave it alone.*

oh ok. that's cool. good to know man, thanks!



hondadude

FIA World Rally Car Newbie  
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗

Drives: 2010 MK VI Gti  
Join Date: Aug 2010  
Location: Somewhere South of  
Disorder  
Posts: 409



Nice, on my mod list. Thanks for the great DIY write up!



plac  
Guest

Drives:  
Posts: n/a



so the only point of this is auto-dimming and garage door opener? can it do anything else?



xGaspY

FIA GT Champion  
🚗🚗🚗🚗🚗



Drives: 2012 SB GTI /1986  
VR6T Jetta Coupe  
Join Date: Dec 2010  
Location: HOPEWELL, VA  
Posts: 1,110  
👤👤

^ doesn't it also have the sensor on the back so it will automatically turn your lights on in low-light situations, if you have the auto light switch?

12-24-2010, 08:39 PM

#10

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion  
🏆🏆🏆🏆



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605

Quote:

Originally Posted by **plac**  
*so the only point of this is auto-dimming and garage door opener? can it do anything else?*

yes....it slices, it dices, it juiliannes potatoes....🐿️

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>

12-24-2010, 08:41 PM

#11

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion  
🏆🏆🏆🏆



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605

Quote:

Originally Posted by **xGaspy**  
*^ doesn't it also have the sensor on the back so it will automatically turn your lights on in low-light situations, if you have the auto light switch?*

Nope. That requires a new windshield or removal of the button by heating it up and ripping it off the glass. Many folks have cracked the windshield doing that.

I would love to have the auto headlights. The added benefit is if you have auto headlights you also get auto rain sensing windshield wipers (it is the same sensor and no other equipment is necessary - just VAG). I opted not to go that route due to price and replacement of a perfectly good and water tight windshield.

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>

12-25-2010, 01:04 AM

#12

**jtblur**

Formula 5000 Driver  
🏆🏆🏆🏆

Drives: MkVI GTI 2dr DSG CSG  
Join Date: Jan 2010  
Location: Boston  
Posts: 1,469

Great detailed writeup, and good timing- I was price shopping dimming mirrors to purchase this weekend! (skipping homelink, have an RFID card)

I'm tempted to try and add auto lights/wiper... I figure I can just mount the sensor next to the black dot, no reason it needs to be integrated into the mirror housing. I'll just offset it to the passenger side so it's not visible. Time to do some research...

EDIT: Looks like it's doable, although the sensor is pretty huge so it'd be hard to hide well (looks like 1" x .75"). It's also \$130... ouch!



2010 MKVI **GTI**

CSG :: DSG :: HID :: Dynaudio :: Sunroof  
18" VW Vision V (summer) :: 17" Detroit's (winter) :: P3cars Digital Boost Gauge :: S2T DSG Paddle Shifters :: Euroswitch :: Auto Dimming Rearview Mirror w/ Homelink (install soon)

*Last edited by jtblur; 12-25-2010 at 01:23 AM.*

12-25-2010, 12:29 PM

#13

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion  
🏆🏆🏆🏆



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605

Quote:

Originally Posted by **jtblur**  
*Great detailed writeup, and good timing- I was price shopping dimming mirrors to purchase this weekend! (skipping homelink, have an RFID card)*

*I'm tempted to try and add auto lights/wiper... I figure I can just mount the sensor next to the black dot, no reason it needs to be integrated into the mirror housing. I'll just offset it to the passenger side so it's not visible. Time to do some research...*

*EDIT: Looks like it's doable, although the sensor is pretty huge so it'd be hard to hide well (looks like 1" x .75").*

Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Chattanooga, TN  
Posts: 2,605

*It's also \$130... ouch!*

Thanks!

I was thinking about just auto lights and mounting the sensor at the bottom left of the windshield.

Please do a DIY if you get the headlight/rain sensor to work! 🤖

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>



12-25-2010, 12:32 PM

#14

**danielj**  
Moderator



Drives: 2013 BMW x135  
Join Date: May 2010  
Location: Seattle WA  
Posts: 8,093

I would like a rain sensor. I like that our wipers are at least speed sensitive but rain sensitive would be better, especially in Seattle.

Having homelink will allow me to get rid of 2 remotes that I have cluttering my cabin so I'm looking forward to this addition.

What I used to drive: 2010 4dr GTI Shadow Blue/ DSG / HID's / Autobahn/ Dynaudio

APR Stage I/ Carbonio Stage I&II Intake/ H&R Super Sports & RSB/ 18" Avant Gardes/ OEM LED Tails/ Some cosmetic stuff/ Now I'm done modding - because I traded it in.... 🙄



12-27-2010, 05:36 PM

#15

**EJBGTIVI**

Formula 3000 Champion



Drives: 2010 GTI  
Join Date: Oct 2010  
Location: Ballsack Heights, IL  
Posts: 4,330

Great write up- thanks for sharing. Looking forward to doing this in the spring. I miss my auto dim mirror.



12-28-2010, 05:14 AM

#16

**snobrdrdan**

Formula 2 Driver



Drives: a VW  
Join Date: May 2010  
Location: Southeast Michigan  
Posts: 5,530

Awesome writeup!

I wish this car came stock with a dimming mirror. 🙄

Quick question though....does it have on/off?  
Or is it always on?

**2014 Passat VR6**  
**2015 Passat Sport**

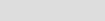


12-28-2010, 09:48 AM

#17

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion



Quote:

Originally Posted by **snobrdrdan** [▶](#)  
*Awesome writeup!*



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
 Join Date: Oct 2010  
 Location: Chattanooga, TN  
 Posts: 2,605

I wish this car came stock with a dimming mirror. 🙄

Quick question though....does it have on/off?  
 Or is it always on?

Thanks!

It does have an on/off switch. 🙌

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>



12-28-2010, 05:06 PM

#18

**snobdrdan**

Formula 2 Driver



Drives: a VW  
 Join Date: May 2010  
 Location: Southeast Michigan  
 Posts: 5,530

Quote:

Originally Posted by **jbcritch**

Thanks!

It does have an on/off switch. 🙌

Nice

Did you ever think about grabbing an OEM one from a different or wrecked VW car? (just wondering)

**2014 Passat VR6**  
**2015 Passat Sport**



12-28-2010, 09:18 PM

#19

**jbcritch**

Formula 5000 Champion



Drives: 2011 CSG MK6 GTI  
 Join Date: Oct 2010  
 Location: Chattanooga, TN  
 Posts: 2,605

Quote:

Originally Posted by **snobdrdan**

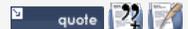
Nice

Did you ever think about grabbing an OEM one from a different or wrecked VW car? (just wondering)

No because the OEM does not have Homelink, it is just auto dimming.

2011 MKVI GTI CSG Autobahn

**MY MOD THREAD:** <http://www.golfmk6.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12631>



12-28-2010, 11:52 PM

#20

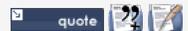
**TREginginCO**

Rally Car Newbie



Drives: 2010 JSW TDI w/DSG  
 & 2006 Touareg  
 Join Date: Jan 2010  
 Location: Parker, CO  
 Posts: 269

That is a great write-up... because I can probably use that power lead on the map lights to power my V-1 and I can run a shorter line rather than get anywhere near my A-pillar.



reply

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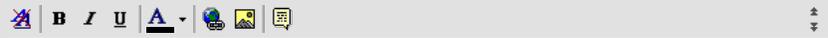
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Cosmetic Mods (interior & exterior modifications)

Go

All times are GMT -4. The time now is 06:28 PM.

-- New 3.7

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