OEM Tail Light Modification

By DOCTRUPTWN

Ok let me get this DIY started off correctly. I used a set of extra tail lights that I had gotten prior to starting so that I wouldn't be down for a long period of time and in case I screwed something up.

I started off with these parts:

1 Set of tail lights
1 Set of Smoked Lens Covers available from kspec.com or Customsorento.com
1 Can of graphite spray paint
1 can of Gloss Black spray paint
1 Can of clear coat
1 Dremel tool
6 Cut off wheels for the Dremel tool
Painters tape
A Course file
Steele wool
2 24 bulb LED 1157 Taillights (Red color)

I started by marking along the top of the clear lens that covered the Turn and Reverse indicator lights. I wanted to keep this lens in place to help with light diffusion. I also retained the lower reflector and maker light. This also retained the DOT stamp.

After I was satisfied with the marking, I used the Dremel tool and cutoff wheels to cut the lens along the line that I had marked. I also cut around the outside of the lens leaving about a 1/4 “ all the way around. This allowed for an area to stick the new lens to.

After carefully cutting through the lens, I was able to pop it out of the housing. I removed all of the shavings and lightly sanded the chrome area that I wanted to paint with some 0000 steel wool.

I taped off the area that I did not want to paint.

I painted the area, with Graphite paint that I had used for my headlight project. I also paint 2 coats of clear coat to finish the job nicely.

After painting I removed the tape. The moment of truth as to how well I had taped off.

Once the paint had been allowed the proper drying time, I placed the new lens. I started on the inside corner and worked my way around. The lens came with 3M

double stick tape. I used this to attach the lens and then followed up with clear silicon to seal to light from the weather.

Once this was done I noticed about 1-2 mm of red lens that was exposed of the out side of the lens, on the outboard side of the lens. I used a file to bevel this edge.

Once I completed this, I taped off the lens and panted the exposed red edges with the black spray paint to give it a clean look.

The finished product appears as above. As I did this with a second set of Tail Lights I did not order my LED bulbs until I was done, so I don't have an installed photo for you.

Things I learned doing this: 1. my smoke detector in my garage works. 2. You need safety glasses when working with HOT flying plastic. 3. A Dremel tool makes HOT flying plastic. 4. HOT flying plastic really smells bad.