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Repair, Removal Of Accent Stripes

Procedures for repair, removal and installation of reflective vinyl tape accent stripes on Ford Mustangs follows:

NOTE: During repair and replacement of the tape, make certain that the tape, vehicle and ambient temperatures are at least 60 degrees F.

REPAIR:

Tape stripes exhibiting air bubbles and blisters can usually be repaired as follows:

1. Pierce the bubble or blister with a pin or sharp pointed knife.

2. "Work" the affected area with a plastic squeegee to force out the entrapped air.

(NOTE: In some instances, it may be necessary to slightly heat the stripe during step No. 2 using a heat gun.)

Stripes which are loose at the ends may be repaired as follows:

1. Thoroughly clean the sheet metal using a cloth saturated with enamel thinner.

2. Lightly wipe the adhesive surface of the tape stripe with isopropyl alcohol (commonly known as rubbing alcohol) to reactivate the adhesive.

3. Press the stripe to the sheet metal and squeegee thoroughly to eliminate air pockets and achieve maximum adhesion.

REMOVAL:

If removal of a stripe is required, the following procedure should be employed:

1. Carefully insert the edge of a knife under one end of the stripe and work the complete width of the stripe sufficiently loose so that it can be grasped with the fingers.

2. Pull the stripe slowly and carefully from the panel. Do not over-bend the stripe in the process as it will break.

3. In some instances the stripe will come off cleanly. However, aged stripes will leave some adhesive residue on the painted sur-

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face which can be removed by wiping with enamel thinner.

If the stripe is brittle and cannot be removed successfully in the above manner, proceed as follows:

1. Apply heat to the stripe with a heat gun held 4-6 inches from the panel.

2. When the tape begins to soften, move the gun along with stripe while scraping the tape from the panel using a wooden solder paddle reworked as shown on Fig. 16.

3. Move the gun and scrape the softened tape in some simultaneous motion. An adhesive residue will remain on the panel which actually aids in protected the painted surface from being marred.

4. When the panel has cooled to room temperature, saturate the residue with enamel thinner. Wipe the residue off with the panel using a clean cloth dampened with enamel thinner.

5. Clean and buff the area where the stripe was removed with AR60-3789-A rubbing compound, and wipe surface with (DL60-3721-A) Silicone and wax remover.

INSTALLATION:

When installing stripes on only one panel, the following procedure should be employed.

1. Procure the stripes as required. Replacement tape stripes are available, die cut to the proper shape and size, and in colors to match the original stripe. They have release paper on the pressure-sensitive side and a carrier paper over the face side.

NOTE: Before applying the replacement stripe(s), the ambient temperature and the

Temperature is critical when installing replacement stripes. Surface temperature of the vehicle must be at least 60 degrees to assure proper adhesion.

surface temperature must be at least 60 degrees F.

2. Make certain that the surface to which the stripe will be applied is cleaned as described in the stripe removal procedure, Step. No. 5.

3. Position the stripe on the panel in alignment with the existing stripes on the adjacent panels and allow $\frac{1}{4}$ " for wrap-around at fender, door and quarter panel edges. Hold it in place with several small pieces of masking tape.

4. Remove the forward pieces of masking tape, roll the stripes back halfway, and peel it off the release paper. Then, cut the release paper off at the halfway point.

5. Allow the stripe and the carrier paper to unroll back to its original aligned position and press it down evenly and with light finger pressure. It may be lifted and repositioned as necessary to get a good alignment with the adjacent stripes.

6. Firmly squeegee the stripe onto the panel surface using a plastic squeegee to avoid scratching the surface. Work from the center toward the end.

7. Repeat Steps No. 4, 5 and 6 with the other half of the stripe.

8. Lightly wipe the adhesive-sided ends of the stripes with alcohol and wrap them around the fender door, or quarter panel flange as required. Squeegee the wrap-around areas.

9. Remove the carrier paper from the stripe and inspect the tape surface for uniform adhesion. Carefully re-squeegee as required.

When replacing stripes on all panels, the above installation procedure and the stripe locations shown on Fig. 16 should be used. In addition, the following installation sequences should be followed:

1. **Side Panel Stripes:** Door stripes should be installed first and located 10" above and parallel to the bottom edge of the door. Align the adjacent panel stripes to the door stripes.

2. **Quarter Rear Stripes:** Align the stripes around the side marker lamp at the rear and to the quarter front stripes at the front.

3. **Rear Panel Stripes:** The luggage compartment door stripes should be located $\frac{1}{2}$ " below the top of the luggage compartment door. Align the adjacent quarter panel extension stripes to the luggage compartment door stripes.

(Information for "The Troubleshooter" is reproduced from Technical Service Bulletins issued by The Ford Motor Company for dealership service departments and their technicians. It is reprinted here for the benefit of Mustang restorers.)

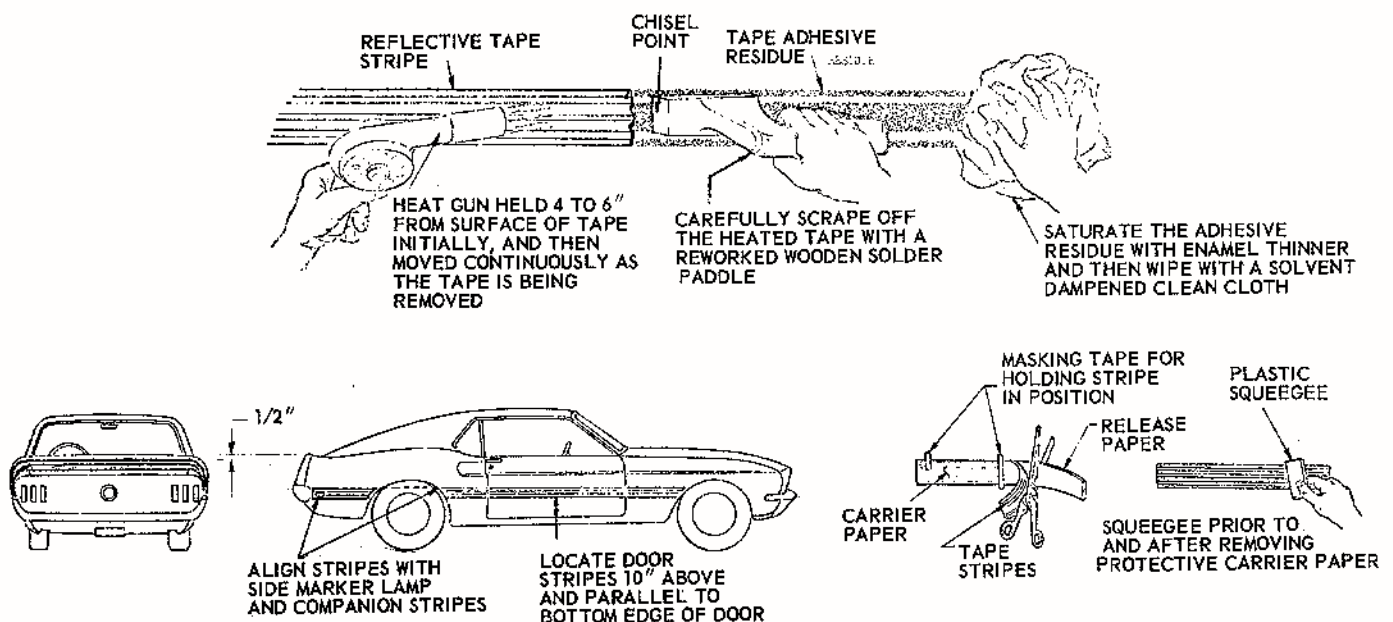


Figure 16 - (Article 1912)