

TECH: S197 DRESS UP



Text by Mary Jean Wesche
Photos by Ken & Mary Jean Wesche

MCA members Devin and Sherry Strickland purchased a 2008 Mustang GT as Sherry's daily driver. After a few months of seeing other Mustangs around town and perusing Mustang magazines, Sherry decided that she'd like to "dress-up" her Mustang—a little at a time.

We contacted George Huisman of Classic Design Concepts. He graciously supplied a Rear Deck Lid Trim Panel, Sequential Tail Lamps, a Front Splitter, and Rear Quarter Window covers.

We started with the sequential taillights and the deck lid panel, both enhancements that I could handle myself with Devin's assistance. Follow along as we dress the rear deck lid and change the taillights in Sherry's ride. **MT**

TAILLIGHTS



▲ The directions are easy to follow, however, they should be read thoroughly before you begin.



▲ Remove the four center pin locking retainers that secure the trim panel at the trunk latch.



▲ Lift the head of the center portion carefully to not break the retainer as you remove it from the panel.



▲ Remove the 11mm nuts securing the taillighting to the Mustang. There are three per taillight.



▲ Remove the trim panel from the Mustang. If equipped with a Shaker1000, it is not necessary to remove the subwoofers to remove this panel.



▲ Push down on the locking tab to unplug the wiring harness, there is only one connection per side. Push the grommet with the wiring harness from the inside to the outside of the trunk, and remove the housing from the Mustang.

COMPONENTS:



TAILLIGHTS

- Two sequential harnesses
- 11mm wrench
- T-30 Torx bit with driver
- Small flat screwdriver
- Instructions



DECK LID TRIM PANEL

- Instruction Guide
- Pre-taped trim panel
- GT emblem
- Masking tape
- Plastic or wood wedge
- Heat gun or hair dryer
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Clean Cloth



▲ Remove the taillight housing from the Mustang.



▲ Place the housing face down on a bench or table. Be sure to cover the surface with a soft, clean cloth so the lens will not become scratched.



▲ The assemblies are interchangeable. Harness socket are labeled, 1, 2, and 3.



▲ Remove the sockets from the taillight housing by twisting each to detach them from the housing.



▲ Remove bulbs from the factory harness for reuse with the sequential harness. If you touch the bulbs with bare hands, wipe each bulb with isopropyl alcohol to remove oil your hands and fingers to prevent bulb burnout.



▲ We chose to use a clean cloth to handle the bulbs when we removed them from the original harness and installed them into the new harness.



▲ As mentioned, the harness is clearly marked. Number 1 is the inner light, 2 is the middle, and 3 is the outer.



▲ Reinstall the taillight housings into their proper location. Use only one retaining nut for now.

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▲ Plug in the Sequential taillight harness into the harness inside the Mustang's trunk. Test the turn signals to ensure they are working properly.



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▲ When testing the sequential taillights, be sure to plug in both sides into the harness. The Mustang's computer will cause a fault if only one side is plugged in, which will cause the Sequential to misfire. (If this happens to you, simply disconnect the negative cable from the battery. This will reset the fault.)



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▲ Attach the taillight housing to the Mustang with the remaining retaining nuts. Be sure the rubber grommet is seated properly to avoid water seepage into the trunk.



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▲ Reattach all the trim pieces.

DECK LID TRIM PANEL

We departed slightly from the directions to remove the rear emblem. Instead of a wood wedge, we chose to use a Nylon Pan Scraper from Pampered Chef! It worked perfectly.



▲ Warm the emblem with a heat gun or hair dryer. Obviously, we chose to use a hair dryer.



▲ The emblem is not intended to be re-used, however, be gentle as you pry the emblem from the factory decklid.



▲ Clean the decklid, then wipe it with isopropyl alcohol to remove any wax. This is a MUST DO step. If wax is left on the Mustang, the tape contact will not adhere properly.



▲ Create pull tabs by peeling about two inches of the red tape from each of the four individual pieces of tape on the backside of the trim panel. Center the trim panel on the deck lid, side to side.



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▲ The trim panel should be about 1/16-inch from the edge on both side and along the bottom. Once in its proper location, press the panel to the deck lid while pulling the red backing from behind the panel. Press firmly to seal the tape to the Mustang surface.



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▲ After cleaning the area where the GT emblem attaches with isopropyl alcohol, allow it to dry, remove the locator pins, peel the paper backing and align the emblem.



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▲ Stick the emblem to the trim panel and apply pressure to the emblem to set the adhesive tape. I chose to use a clean cloth to protect the emblem while pressing it in place.

All finished with its first set of dress-up components. Stay tuned as we further enhance the appearance of Sherry's Mustang!

SOURCES:

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