



Repairing & Recoating 68-70 Shelby Taillight Housing

**Approx Time Needed
For Completion:**
About 1 hour for each task

**Supplies/Equipment
Needed for Recoating:**

- Various sheets of sandpaper - 150-200 grit
- One can of Aerove Chrome Galvanize spray paint
- Masking tape and paper

**Supplies/Equipment
Needed for Replacing
Thread Inserts:**

- Brass Wood Inserts
Matching the Number of
Ones Missing
- Flat Blade Screwdriver
- Pliers

Was recently faced with the task of re-finishing a fiberglass taillight panel from a 69 Shelby. These are basically the same as 68 California Specials as well as 68 Shelby's.

First task was to refinish the back reflective surface of the taillight housings. These surfaces had become chalky and rough since new so my task was pretty straight forward.



While reassembling the taillight panel I discovered that a number of thread inserts that originally were molded into the taillight panel (to screw the taillight frame screws into) were missing. Unfortunately I did not disassemble the car or I might have found this earlier.

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Recoating Reflective Surface

Not allot of explanation n3eed here. Surface was sanded lightly to remove imperfections and make it as smooth as possible to increase the amount of light it would reflect later.

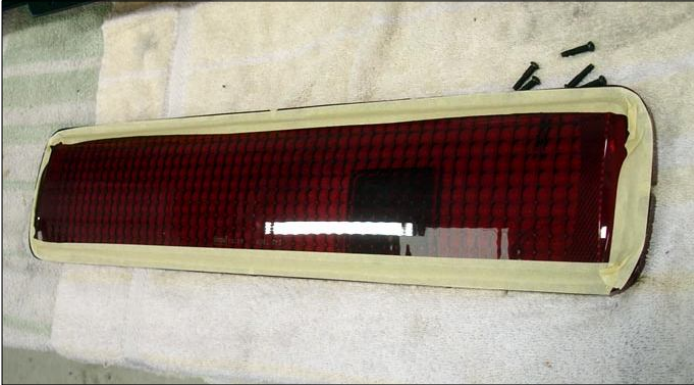
Once the taillight panel was masked off apply a couple of nice smooth coats of Aervoe Chrome Galvanized spray paint. The pictures give a general idea of how well the paint reflects for a rattle can.

Another option would be to over coat this paint with Krylon reflective spray paint in the can. Used that when restoring the back up lights (another post/Article)



Adding Detail to Taillight Lens

Step #1



Lens were polished and cleaned then the fronts and rears were masked off to protect them from the paint coat we were going to apply.

Step #2

Exposed surface was painted with two light but full coats of semi-gloss black. In this case we used a spray can for this purpose.



Step #2



Here is a look at the finished product.

Replacing Inserts



Original threaded insert on right, missing one on the right.



Found these at the local lumber store. Sold for the purpose of installing a thread insert during cabinet building.. Pretty inexpensive and perfect for our task.

They were too long initially for our purposes so we ground off the blunt till the total length was approximately a little more than half the original length. The picture shows the finished length to help guide you.



Screw the insert into the panel (it will cut threads during the process, until the bottom of the screwdriver slot is slightly below the surface. Then we used a needle nosed plier to carefully snap off the tabs that stuck up above the surface. Finished results in the picture to the right.



Conclusion

Taillight panel is refinished and installed.

