



## Making a Better Reproduction Back-up Light

### Approx Time Needed For Completion:

Approx 3 hrs

### Supplies/Equipment Needed:

- Gloss white spray paint
- Rustoleum Reflective spray paint (optional)
- Flat screw driver, small tack hammer, needle nose pliers, deep socket set
- Various cleaners
- 000 steel wool

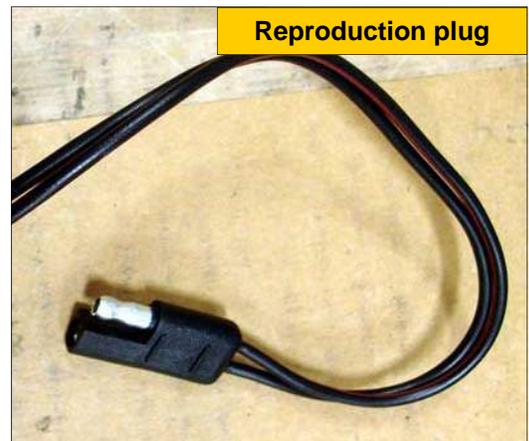
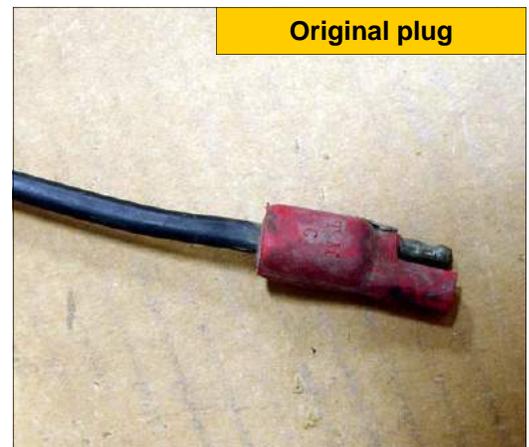
Restoring older cars is always about choices. How you make those choices often comes down to cost, availability and what your goal is with your particular project.

Recently we were faced with another choice. We had purchased a nice, pretty set of back up lamps for the 69 Shelby we were doing, but this could apply to any year or to forward turn indicators. Sure the reproductions were nice and shiny but they were not completely like the originals. The most noticeable, and features that could be seen once they were installed, was wire leads, plug and the outer wire jacket.



The differences included

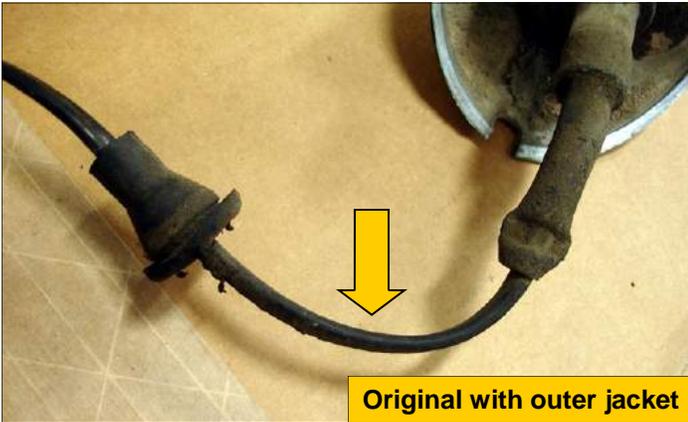
- Looking at the plugs, the originals used a red plug while the reproductions a black one



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- The reproduction lacked the outer jacket over the wires from the rubber grommet to the larger jacket immediately behind the lamp body.

- The original outer jacket also had the factory markings something we're always trying to keep with our restorations.



So the choice, send them back and rechrome the originals, just install the reproductions and live with it and the possible point lose if discovered or maybe there was another option. That option is illustrated in this How-to.

As always we don't want to suggest this is the only or even the best way, just what worked for us. Hope you find it useful.



## Step # 1

First step is to disconnect the socket (with wire connector) from the main lamp body on the original. With the lens and bulb removed I simply, but carefully, pried the lip that retains the socket to the body, inward.

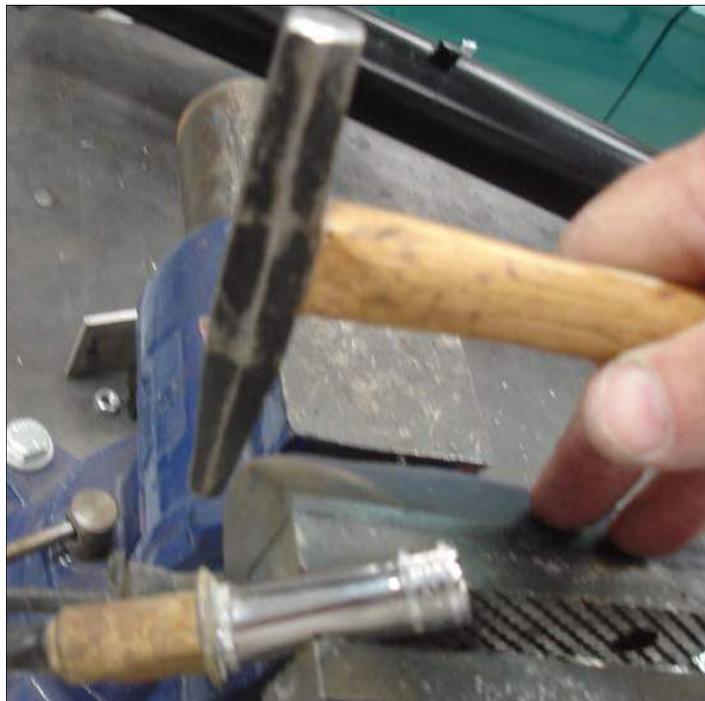
Be careful not to pry too far, just a little but at a time, over and over again, to keep the damage to a minimum.

Now repeat the steps for the remaining three lamp bodies.

## Step #2

The next task was to fix the edge of the sockets from the original assemblies so that it could be installed in the other housings. Remember that the edges do not have to be perfectly round, since you will be bending these lips back over once again when you reinstall them.

I accomplished this by inserting a deep socket that just fit into the socket and then used pliers and/or a small tack hammer to smooth out the edge slightly.



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## Step #3

Next, sorry no real pictures of this, we cleaned and prepped both of the wire leads and sockets.

Sockets were cleaned with steel wool and we ran a small piece of fine sand paper across the contacts. Outer surface of the socket was polished a bit to return it to its original look..

The wire (making sure not to destroy the markings) were cleaned with some degreaser and then some lanolin hand cleaner.— CAREFULLY. The plug took the most time and a little rubber dressing was rubbed over the wires, grommet and plug once done. Finished product was flexible and pretty close to new.

## Step #4

Interior surface of the lamp body can get scratched up a bit during the process so we applied a light coat of gloss white to the surface after we roughed it up with some fine sand paper and steel wool to assure that the paint coats would bond with the paint the reproducer applied on those surfaces.

Over this we choose to apply a thin, but full and smooth coat of Rustoleum Reflective spray paint to see if this would increase the output of the bulb. Just trying out something new I found at the hardware store.



## Conclusion

Finally done and we have a pair of bright shiny back-up lamps with all the details of the originals. Hope your results are the same.

NOTE: This same process has been used successfully on front turn lights also.

