

R-56 JustaCooper 'Joey Mod' How-To

This is hopefully a useful How-To guide for those who would like to tackle the much talked about Joey Mod. I in particular did this modification on a 2008 MINI Cooper (non S) and found it to be very easy. If you are looking for a relative simple, straight forward, and pretty cheap modification for an R56, then your in the right place. Any comments, questions, or concerns can be sent to me at anderezd@gmail.com.

“Ingredients”

- 1 - 10mm Socket
- 1 - Torx Set (unfortunately the one you need I don't have the size)
- 1 - Widest flat head screw driver you can find
- 1 - Can of Primer
- 1 - Can of Black or [body color paint](#)
- Synthetic Steel Wool
- Several sheets of Newspaper
- Painter's masking tape (the blue stuff)
- 1 Oven or heat gun and **gloves or Oven Mitts!**

Step 1: Remove the Headlights

Pop the hood and remove the four 10mm bolts that secure the light to the car. I used a towel so as to not scratch the paint on the car when removing it, just as a precaution.

After the bolts are off, unplug the wire harness on the back...it just pops out. Set this light aside and move to the other side.



Remove these bolts
to remove the
headlight housing

This is the resulting look:



The car without their eyes...my neighbors were shocked!



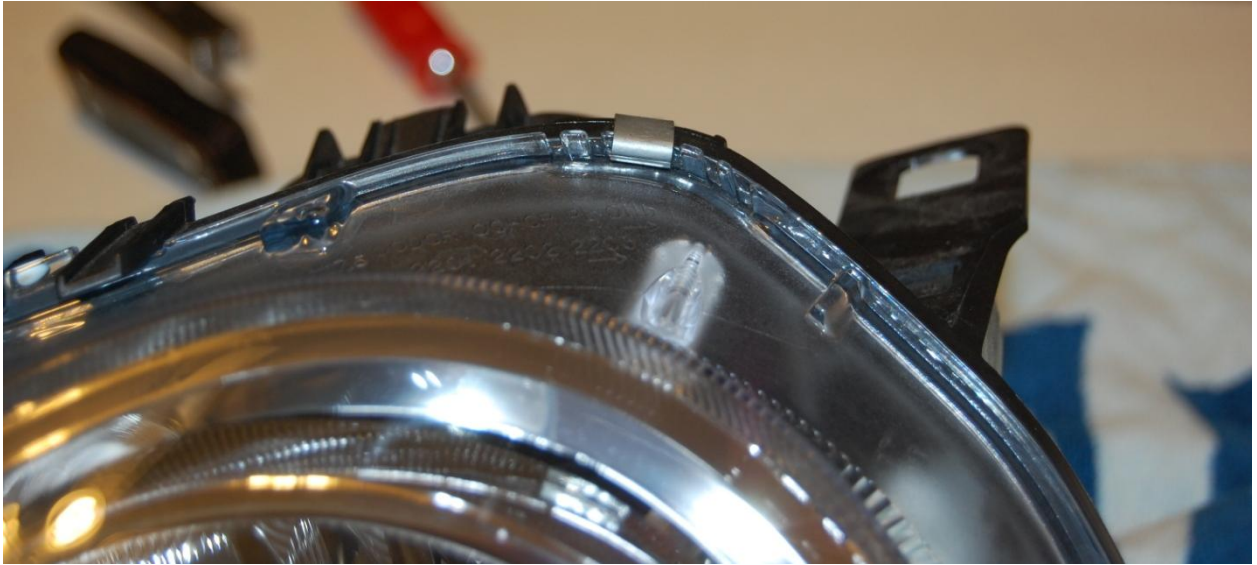
Step 2: Disassembly of Headlight Housing

Once the headlights are out it is time to disassemble the housing unit to gain access to the interior. This is the most difficulty part of the modification, but with a little patience it will be done before you know it.

If you have a heat gun, this is the time to break it out, otherwise remove all but the bottom rack in your oven and preheat to 250 degrees F.

Remove the metal tab at the top of the housing using your flat head screwdriver. Be sure to get under it good and pry it and it pops up with a little presser.

The Metal Tab



Lift the front of the tab (closest to the front of the light) towards the back of the unit. Caution it might fly off!

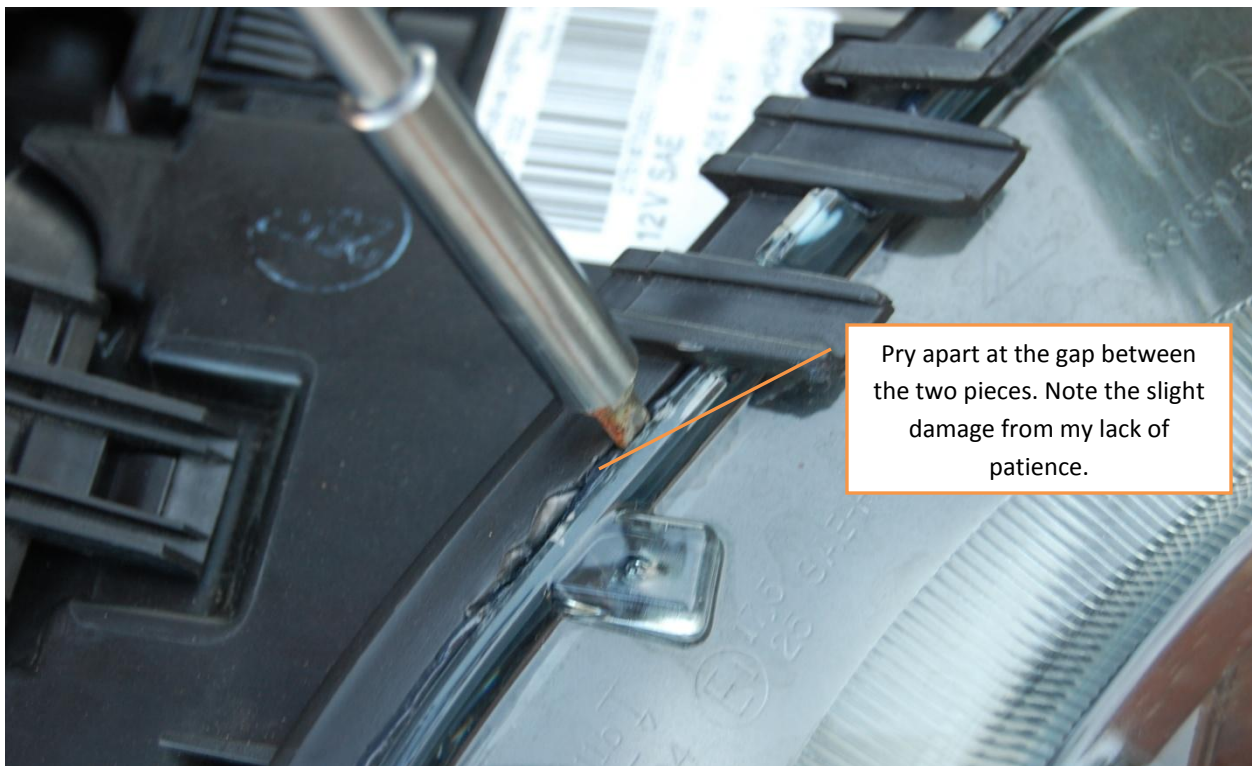


Next place the first headlight unit into the oven that has been preheated to 250 degrees F. I will admit I was a little worried popping these in the oven, but I figured others had done it so just did it. Be sure to not keep checking on them, let them heat up for the full 5 minutes. I know because the first light I kept checking on the light and it didn't get warm enough.

Inside the oven:



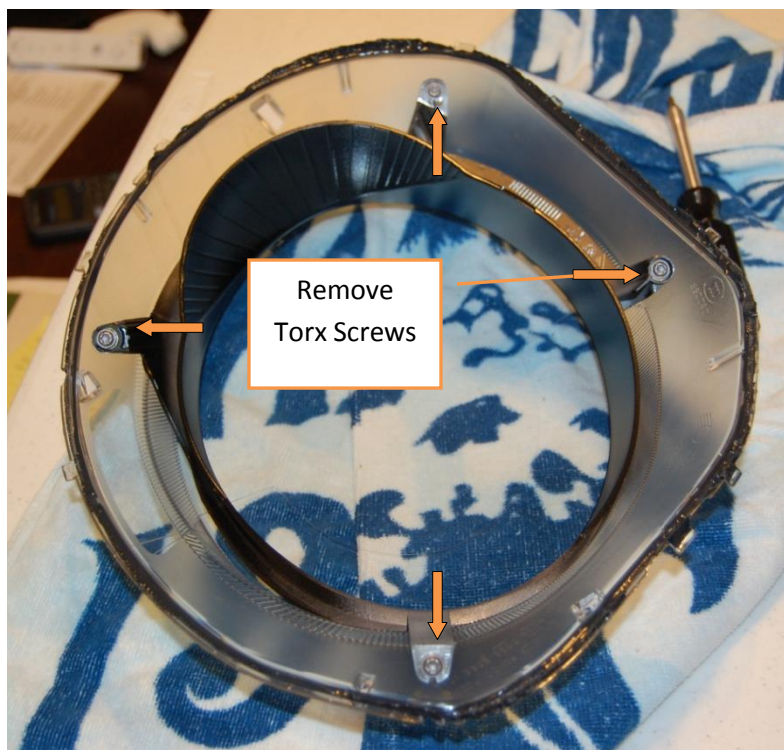
After the five minutes is up (this is where oven mitts are a good idea) move to the piece to your work area. Using your largest flat head screwdriver, start patiently and GENTLY prying the clear lens apart from the main housing. It will take some effort to get the epoxy to start to 'let go' of the main housing, but once you get a good corner keep prying. Patience is vital and it will be a little hot, but persist.



After patience and persistence, this is the result. Repeat for the second light.



Next remove the 4 Torx screws holding the chrome surround that is attached to the clear headlight lenses. Unfortunately my Torx set was not marked and I am not sure as to the size.



Step 3: Masking off the Reflector

Now that the headlights are disassembled, the masking process will begin. This will take even more persistence as the reflector has a unique curve in which to match can be frustrating. You only need to mask off the reflector piece and the turn signal lens, the rest can be painted if you desire.

Be cautious on how often you touch the reflector, as the chrome on the reflector is pretty thin.

I used 320 grit synthetic steel wool that I picked up at Home Depot for about \$2 and roughed up all chrome on the main housing and the chrome surrounds.

Various opinions are out there on whether or not this is needed. I decided it was best and didn't and any difficulty or much time to the project.

This is the main housing completely masked, buffed, and ready for prime and paint. Note the pale white color of the dechromed lips around the reflector. These were the easiest to dechrome, the rest was mostly buffed rough to allow the primer to stick better. The chrome surround is in the background.



Step 4: Painting

I picked up some Krylon Primer and Satin Black fusion spray paint at Wallyworld for this job. Some people (with xenons) will use heat resistant paint, but I chose not to as the halogens do produce a good amount of heat, but not enough (in my opinion only of course) to warrant the need for high heat paint.

I wrapped the main body of the headlights in newspaper just to keep unwanted primer and paint off of the main body. Mostly for aesthetics, no need to really do it if you do not want to.



I used three light coats of primer, buffing slightly after each drying cycle. I baked the primer coated pieces at 170 degrees F for about 5 minutes to really set the primer. I then proceeded to do three coats of the satin black on all the pieces as well. I did a light buff between the second and third and also baked the pieces again using the above specs.

This is pre bake:



Bake:



Let the parts cool completely, (no need to rush now, we're almost done) and remove the paper surrounds and the masked areas.

Caution

Again take precaution when removing the tape to minimize the amount of touching that you do on the reflector. They are **HARD** to get clean and scratch easy! I took the measure of using a razor blade to cut along the tape line to make sure a clean break with the painted surface and the tape is achieved.

After the parts are cooled and demasked, its time for final reassembly and the excitement builds!

Demasked



Step 5: Reassembly and installation

Now that all parts are painted, baked, cooled, and demasked, reassembly can begin.

Now is the time to preheat the oven for the last time to 250 degrees F. While this is happening, reattach the headlight surround back onto the clear lens cover.



Next reattach the lens cover back onto the main headlight housing. You will not be able to get it fully back together, just align everything back up and get the two tacky sides to stick to each other.

Place back in oven and bake for 5 minutes at 250 degrees F.

Remove from oven and apply good pressure and force around the seal making sure all of the tabs lock down, this will ensure that the seal is secure. It is essentially the opposite of the dissably protocol.

Reattach metal tab on each head light, check the seals and let the headlights cool completely.

Almost done!



After the parts are cooled off, reinsert the units back into the car. Be sure to plug back in the wire harness to the back of the light.

Note

The 10mm bolts that you removed to get to the headlights are size oriented. There is one bolt for each side that is shorter than the rest, make sure you use this short bolt on the hole closest to the windshield.

By loosening the bolts you can adjust the position of the lights within the headlight ring. It's good to have another person to make sure the gaps around the headlights and the bonnet's headlight rings match on each side.

When it's dark, go back out and make sure all works and your vision in the car is still good. I did not need to adjust mine any, results may vary.

Finished results



I hope this helps any of you that would like to attempt this on a car with just halogen headlights. It is more of having finesse and patience to make sure you get it done right. Other than that, happy modding!

Questions/Comments?

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Thanks!

