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ACTUAL PARTS, YEARS AND BODY STYLES CONTAINED

IN THIS ARTICLE MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY FROM YOUR APPLICATION. "

1955-57 LED THIRD BRAKE LAMP INSTALLATION

#28-14

One common complaint I hear when I drive my classic is that people can't see my tail or brake lamps from behind, day or night. The taillamps on the classics were fairly small and difficult to see even with the brighter incandescent GE 2057 bulb. The best solution is to upgrade the taillamps to the new LED lamps. The LED's are super bright and people will have no trouble seeing you any time of day. Now for the next step. All late model cars sold since 1986 come with a third brake lamp for added safety. Our third brake lamp assemblies are easy to install by bolting right in place of the original rear trunk emblem. The emblem is available in the 1955-56 style emblem or the 1957 gold or silver V. The LED lights in the emblem are designed to have a few lights illuminated when the running lights are on. When the brakes lamps are illuminated, the rest of the LED's will illuminate for a super bright third brake lamp. In this article we will install a #28-14 third brake light on a 1955 2-door hardtop. Either style may be installed on any 1955-57 passenger car or wagon. They may even be installed on a later model vehicle for that neat custom touch.

Parts Needed:

- 28-14 1955-57 Crest-Style Third Brake Lamp
- 28-47 1957 Third Brake Lamp Chrome V
- 28-48 1957 Third Brake Lamp Gold V

Tools Needed:

- Cutters
- Pliers
- 7/16" Socket & Ratchet
- 20' Of 18 Gauge Wire
- Scotch Locks
- Electric Drill With 3/16" Bit

Time Frame:

1 Hour



Photo #1: The 1955 rear trunk emblem has four studs and one guide pin in the center that attaches the emblem to the trunk lid. The new LED third brake lamp uses the four holes in the trunk lid to hold the emblem in place. The center hole in the trunk lid will be used to pass the wires from the third brake lamp into the trunk.

Photo #2a & 2b:

The third brake lamp has a black and a red wire. The black wire is for the running lamps, the red wire is for the brake lamps.

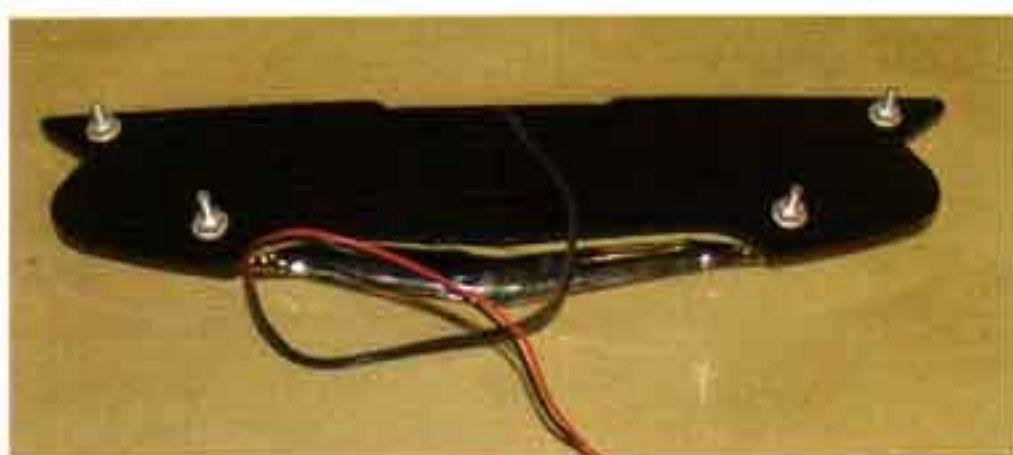


Photo #3: The 1955-56 style brake lamp is self-grounding, so make sure there is no paint under one of the retaining nuts inside the trunk when it is bolted into place.

Photo #4: Extend the black and red wires on the lamp assembly with some 18 gauge



wire. Feed the wires through the inner trunk lid and drop them out adjacent to the left hand trunk hinge. Using a scotch lock, connect the black wire on the brake lamp assembly to the black wire in the taillamp harness. Connect the red wire to the white wire on the brake light switch under the dash.



Photo #5a & 5b: Perform a quick test of your installation. When the running lamps are on, two of the LED lamps should illuminate. When the brake lamps are on, the complete emblem will illuminate for a super bright third brake lamp.



Photo #6: The 1957 trunk emblem #28-47 Chrome or #28-48 Gold has three wires. The

black wire is for the running lamps, the red wire is for the brake lamp and the green wire is the ground wire.



Photo #7: A small hole will need to be drilled in the trunk lid to allow the wires to be routed inside the trunk. A template is supplied showing where the 3/16" hole needs to be drilled.



Photo #8: For the 1957-style V, when the running lamps are on the top three LED lamps are fully illuminated while three of the lower LED lamps are on at 50 percent brightness.



Photo #9: When the brake lamps are on, all seven LED lamps will fully illuminate. This will really light up the back of your car!

With a set of LED taillamps and an LED third brake lamp, no one will have a problem seeing you day or night. And it looks cool too! Good Luck!