

# G8 Designs



HOLDEN



## Stainless Door Sill Kit

For The

Pontiac G8, Holden Commodore, Vauxhall VXR8, Chevy Lumina, Chevy SS, and various other Holden models:

## Installation Instructions



# Introduction



PONTIAC

One area we felt needed improvement on the Pontiac G8 and Holden variants is in the area of the stock stainless door sills. They look okay, but are rather bland and unexciting. So, G8 Designs decided to offer a new concept for your door sills with our hot new stainless sills with EL backlighting! With these instructions, our door sills will be quite easy to install, usually in about 30-45 minutes per side, and will create a dramatic impression every time you and your guests step into your car! Just another unique and innovative product created by G8 Designs!



# Warranty

Your G8 Designs door sills come with a full one year warranty against defects and workmanship. The EL illumination used in our product is known to be highly reliable, but we will repair or replace the illumination strips or 12 volt inverters if they should fail within one year of purchase.

Warranty issues should be directed to:  
G8 Designs in Tallahassee, Florida, via email address: [G8DESIGNSFL@gmail.com](mailto:G8DESIGNSFL@gmail.com), or contact us through our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/g8designs](http://www.facebook.com/g8designs)



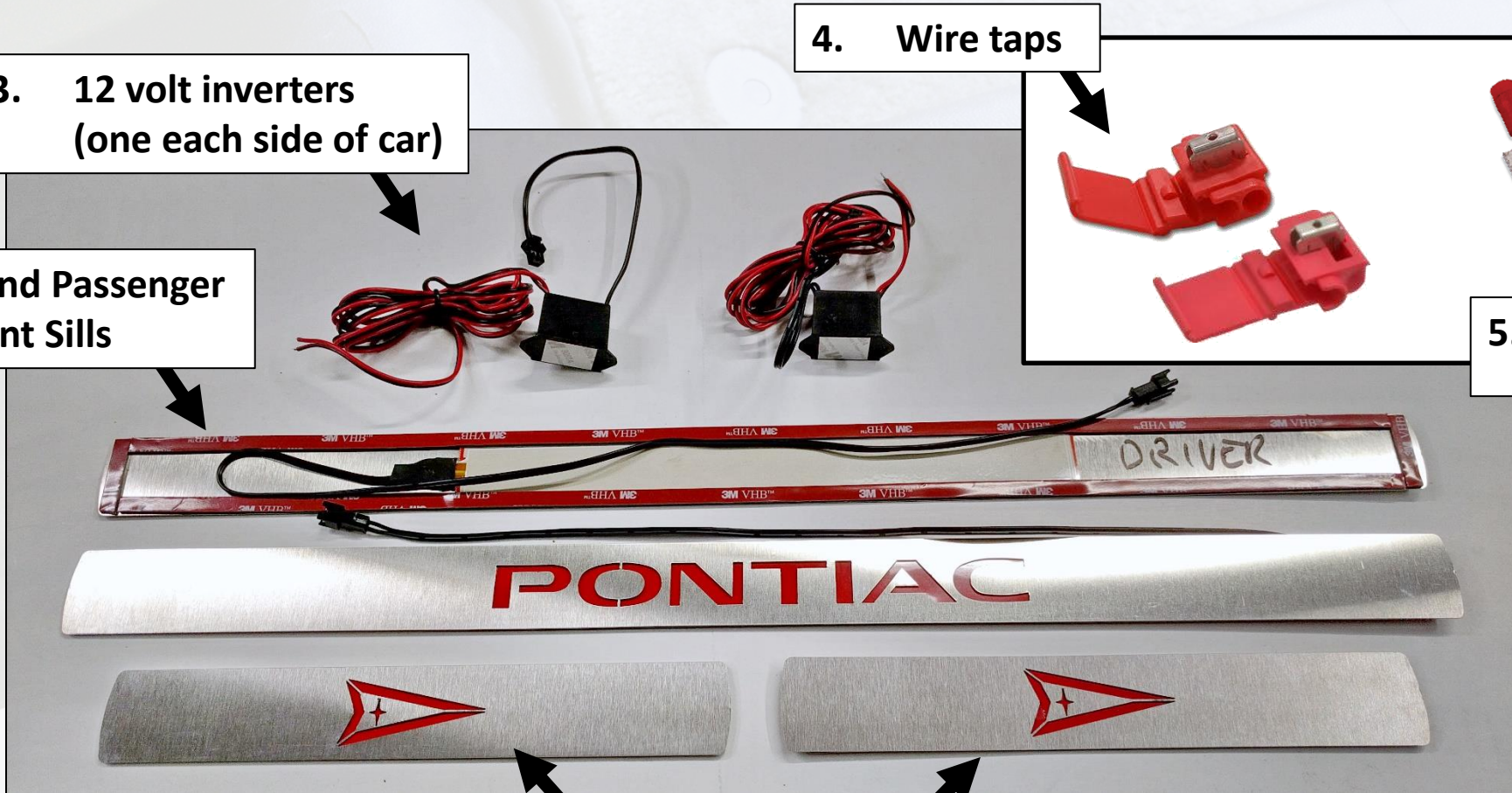
# What's Included:

1. Driver and Passenger Side Front Sills

3. 12 volt inverters (one each side of car)

4. Wire taps

5. Crimp lugs (for ground wire)

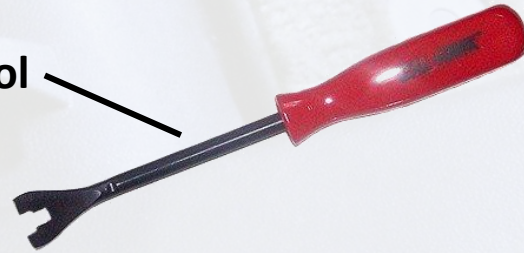


2. Driver and Passenger Side Rear Sills

# Tools You Will Need

To install your G8 Designs™ Stainless Door Sills, the following tools and supplies are suggested:

1. Automotive trim removal tool



2. Flat, stiff pry tool, such as painter's scraper

An old butter knife can work as a substitute



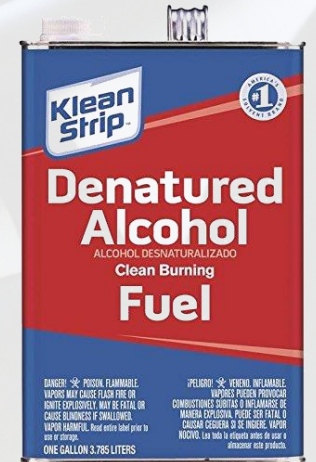
3. Wire stripper / crimping tool



4. Drill with multi-bit for drilling 3/4" hole in plastic base (or a Dremel tool and bits)



5. Denatured alcohol or rubbing alcohol to clean and prep surfaces (available at many home and shopping stores)



6. Paper Towels to clean and prep surfaces



If you have any questions during the install of this product, contact G8 Designs for assistance!  
Email us at [G8DESIGNSFL@gmail.com](mailto:G8DESIGNSFL@gmail.com) OR message us through our Facebook page for live chat.

## WHITE EL Strips

Illumination OFF

My WHITE EL strips are PINK? Yes, this is normal for white EL strips. They are PINK when non-illuminated. But, since your EL strips will be ON anytime you open your doors, they'll always be WHITE when you see them – unless they're in very bright sunlight. There are no EL strips bright enough to outshine full sunlight. But they truly "shine" in shade or nighttime!

Illumination ON

## Handling and Care of Your G8 Designs Sills



Our sills are made of a very durable stainless steel sheet material with a hand-brushed finish, and automotive grade double-sided adhesives are used on the back side to adhere them to your plastic door sill base. The EL element has wiring that connects to our 12 volt inverters to power the lighting when doors are opened.

When you remove our sills from the packaging, it's very important that you handle them carefully prior to installation. The metal will bend easily, and if you are not careful, you can put a slight bend or kink in the material that may not be able to be straightened out, which will affect the appearance of your sills. Please do not lay them on a seat, or any place they might be stepped on, accidentally sat on by yourself or anyone nearby, or where household objects might be laid on top of them or fall on them. G8 Designs is not responsible for any damage from mishandling after you receive them.



Stainless steel is a hard, durable material. It will not rust or corrode, and will last the life of your vehicle and beyond. However, as hard as the material is, if you step on these sills with dirt on your shoes, the dirt particles WILL leave nicks and scratches in the hand-brushed surface. These scratches are nearly impossible to eliminate without laborious longitudinal sanding with various sanding materials of progressively finer grits. So, please ensure you do not step on these sills and inadvertently leave scratches, or the appearance will be diminished.



Rainwater can accumulate along the bottom of the door jamb area of your car. Also, condensation on humid days can form, and your G8 Designs sills can become wet or soaked. Water will not affect the steel, or the EL illumination strips, or the low voltage wiring. We leave slight gaps in the adhesive tape on the back side to allow any moisture accumulation underneath to evaporate during driving or vehicle use. You may simply wipe the sills carefully with a soft cloth to dry them, being careful not to snag or bend the sharp edges of the cut-out designs.



# *G8* Designs

Step 1: Remove Factory Sill Strips





## Removal Of Plastic Inner Door Threshold

Remove the plastic inner door threshold by pulling upward carefully. The sill engages under the plastic seat track trim, so that must also be pried away to remove the threshold.

Pull upward on  
plastic threshold



## Removal Of Plastic Inner Door Threshold

Threshold is held in place by 4 snap-clips



## Removal Of Kick Panel



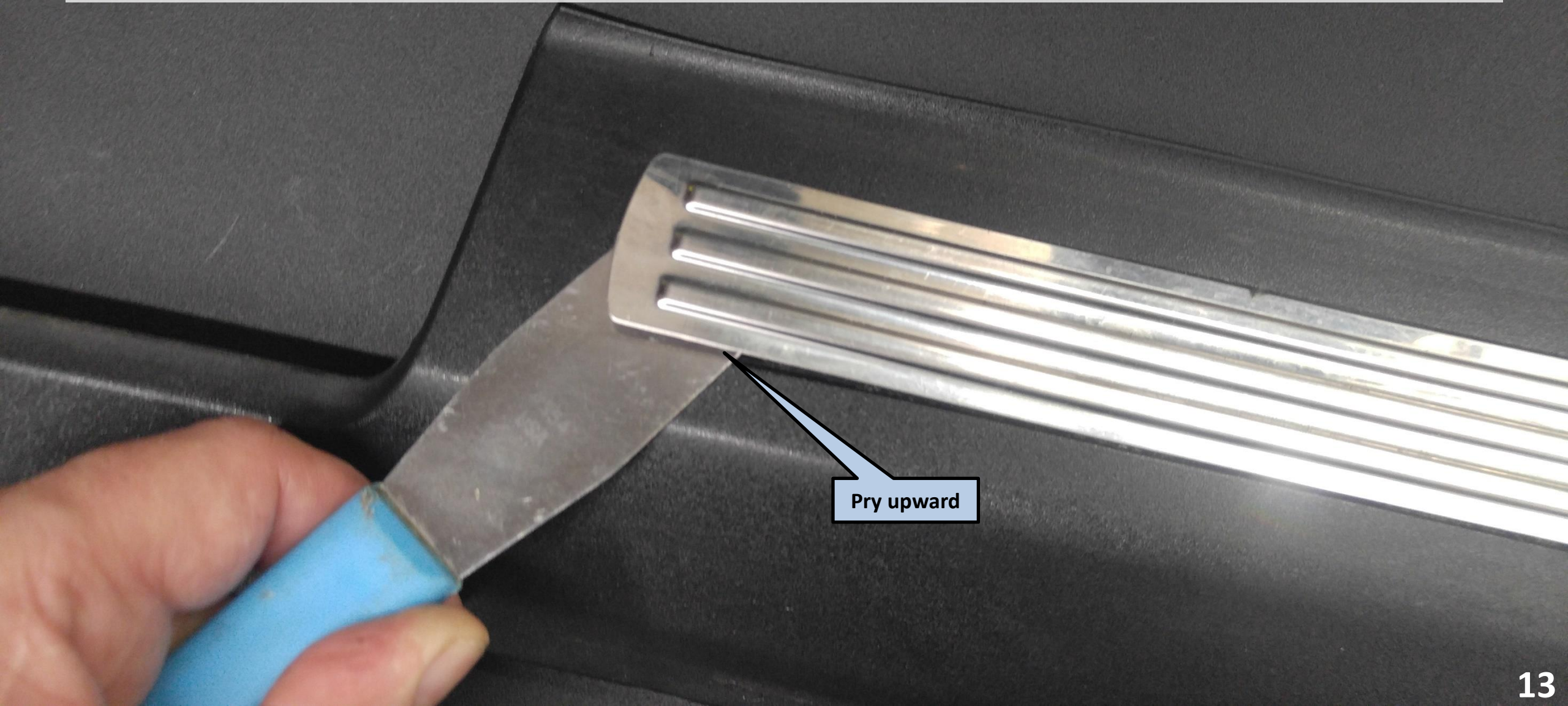
Remove phillips screws  
holding kick panel trim  
in place  
(one at top, one at bottom)

Pull rubber door seal up – wire for EL strips runs underneath it



## Removal Of Factory Sill Strips

With your flat pry tool, carefully slip the edge under the stock stainless strips and pry them up. They are adhered to the plastic base with double-sided foam tape. You can attempt to preserve them by not bending them if you like, but we suspect you won't need them anymore after you install our kit!





# *G8* Designs

## Step 2: Preparing Door Sill Plastic Base



## Removing Door Sill Plastic Base

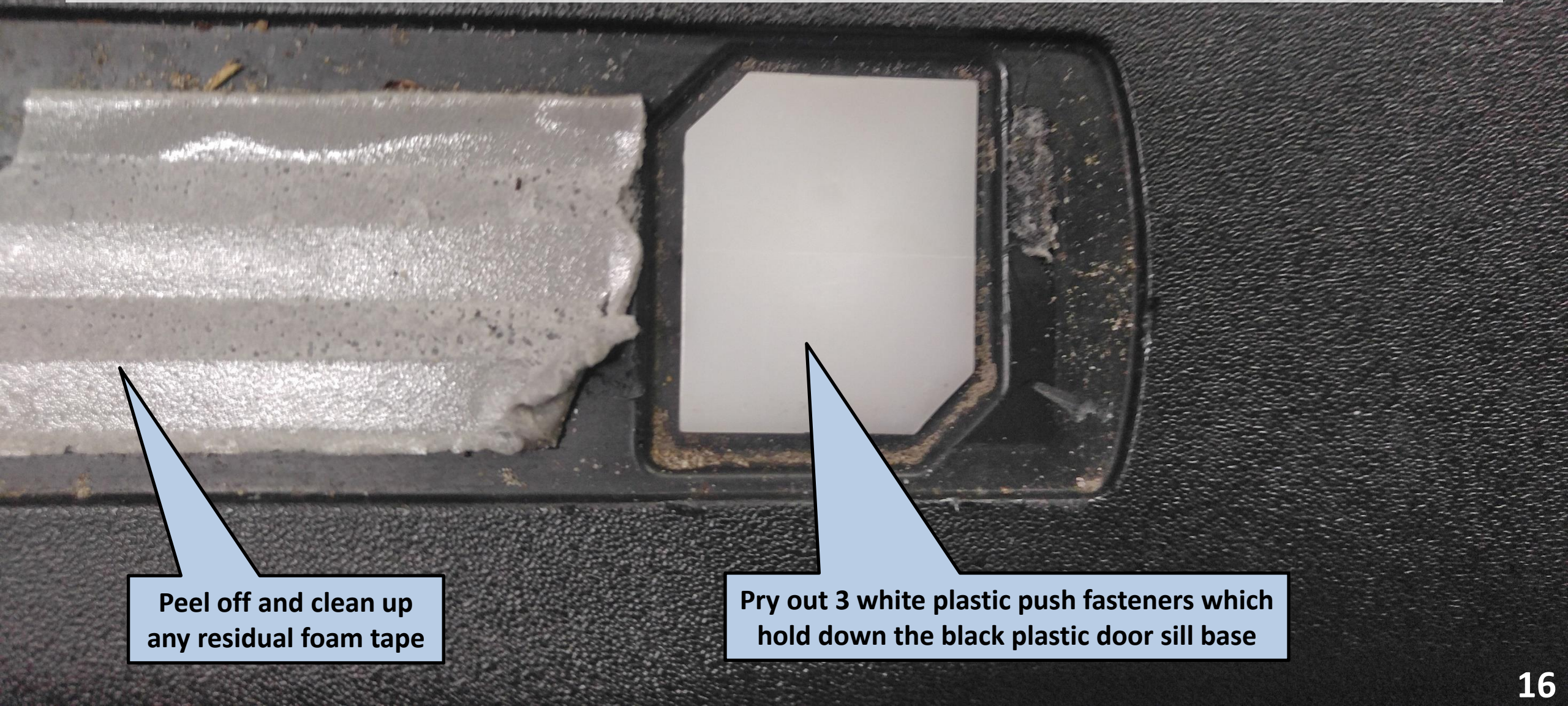
With auto trim removal tool, attempt to carefully pry up the three white push fasteners that snap into the door sill holes. Sometimes these fasteners will break or crack during removal, but they're not absolutely necessary to reinstall the door sill plastic bases. If you break one or two of them – no biggie.

Partially broken  
push fastener

Pry out 3 white plastic push fasteners which  
hold down the black plastic door sill base

## Preparing Door Sill Plastic Base

With auto trim removal tool, attempt to carefully pry up the three white push fasteners that snap into the door sill holes. Sometimes these fasteners will break or crack during removal, but they're not absolutely necessary to reinstall the door sill bases.



Peel off and clean up  
any residual foam tape

Pry out 3 white plastic push fasteners which  
hold down the black plastic door sill base



## Removal Of Door Sill Plastic Base

There are plastic push fasteners holding the end of the plastic door sill base on each end. Using your trim removal tool, pry these plastic fasteners loose carefully without scratching your paint.

This end is difficult, because the open door obstructs the end of the plastic sill plate, so it may be a bit of work to get it out.

Pry loose plastic push fasteners here

## Removal Of Door Sill Plastic Base

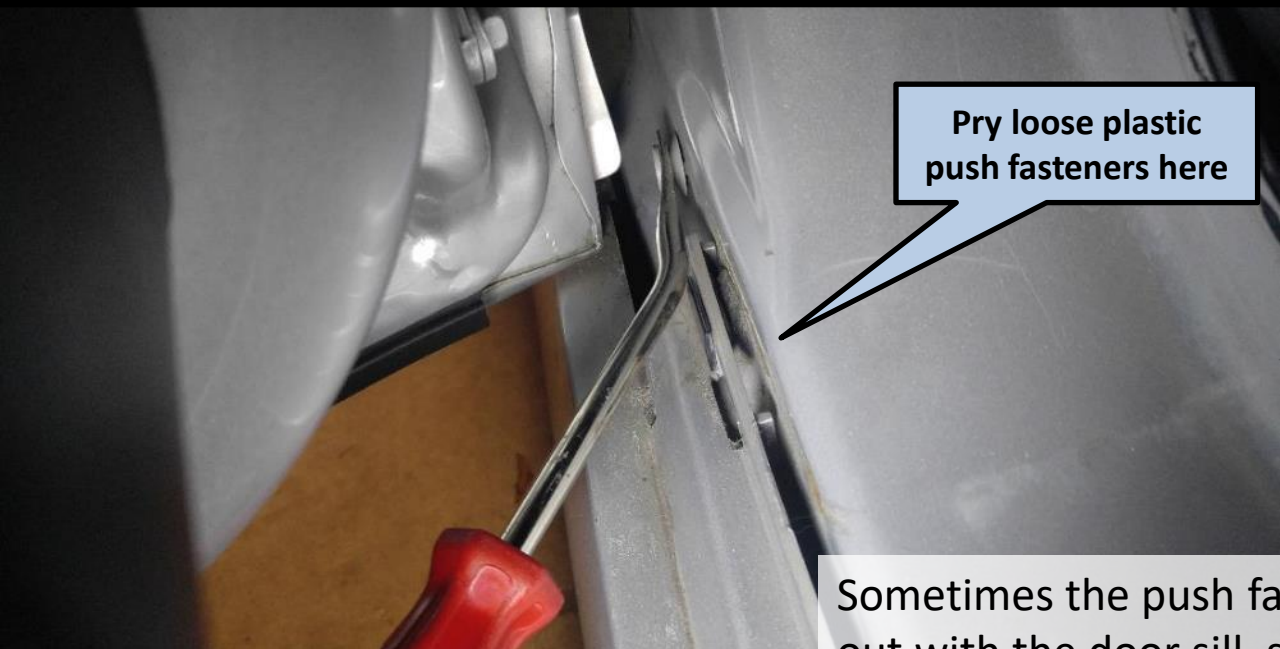


There are plastic push fasteners holding the end of the plastic door sill base on each end. Using your trim removal tool, pry these plastic fasteners loose carefully without scratching your paint.

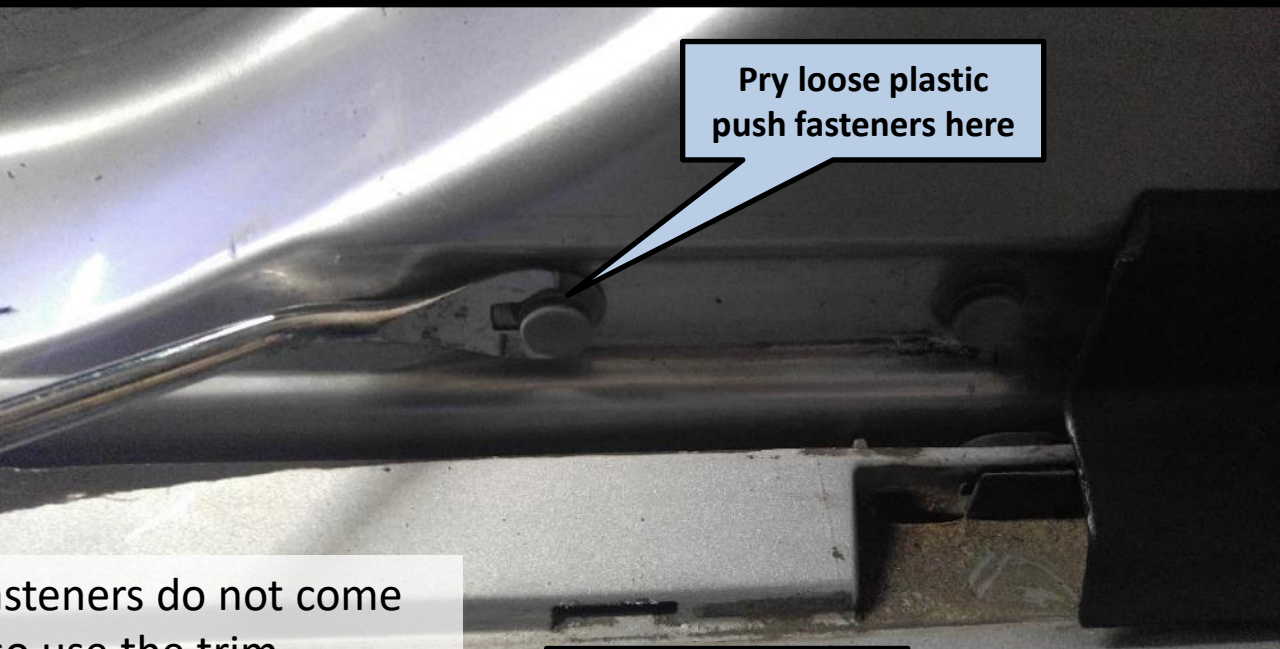
Pry loose plastic  
push fasteners here



# Removal Of Door Sill Plastic Base

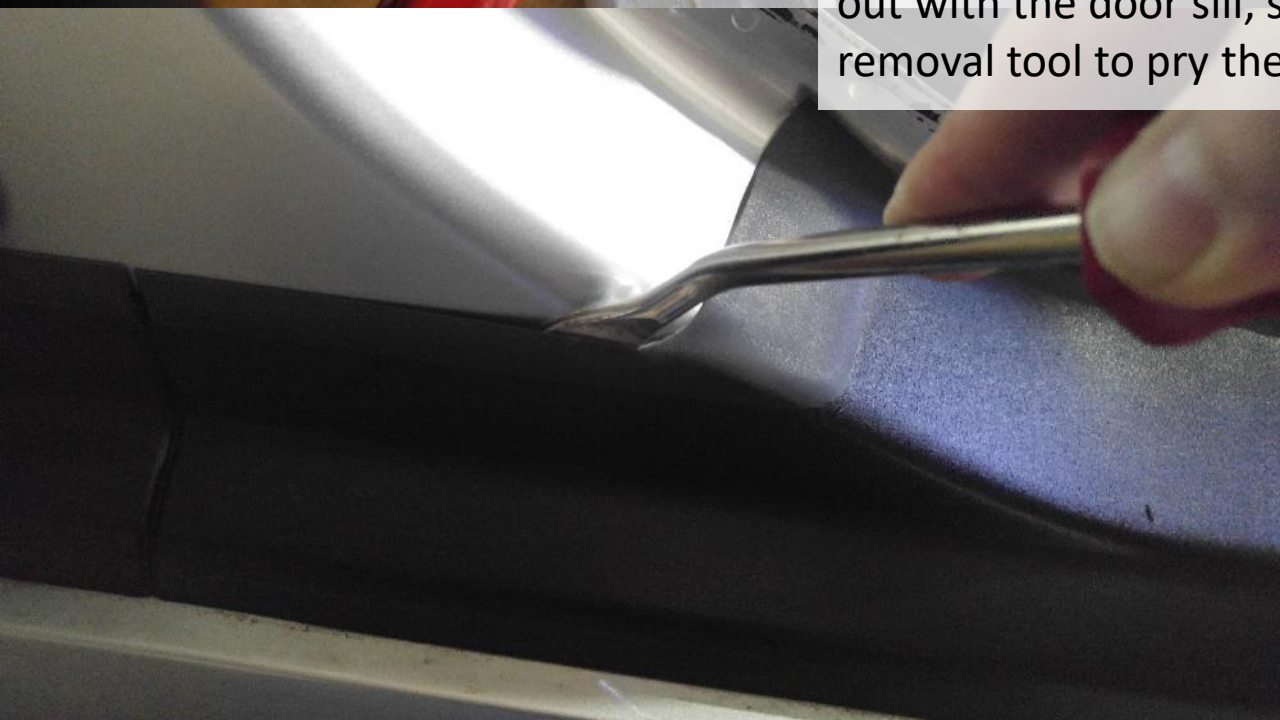


Pry loose plastic push fasteners here



Pry loose plastic push fasteners here

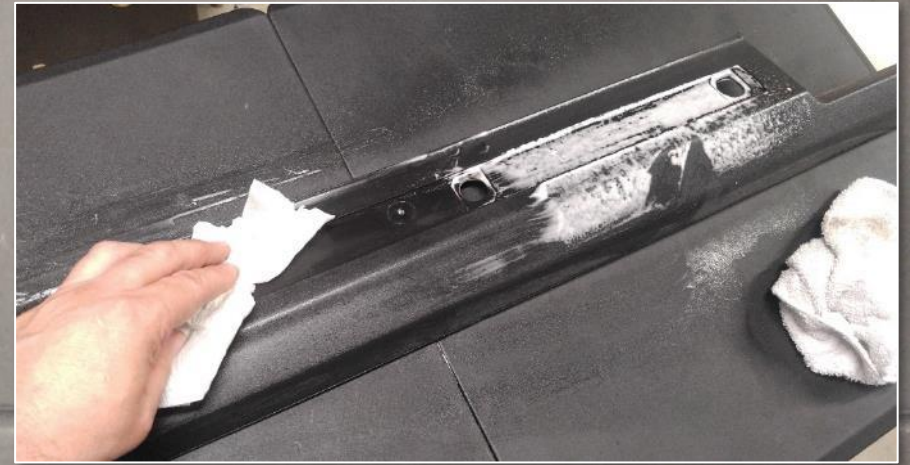
Sometimes the push fasteners do not come out with the door sill, so use the trim removal tool to pry them out for re-use later.



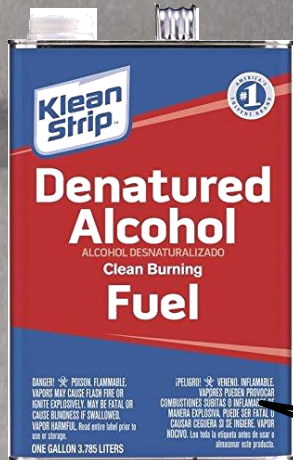
Pry loose plastic push fasteners here

# Cleaning Door Sill Plastic Base

After removal of door sill plastic base, clean dirt and remaining adhesive from sill and prepare surface for install of new stainless door sills.



Use alcohol to wipe and clean surfaces inside groove to prepare for installing new door sills



(this stuff works great for lots of things!)

## Door Sill After Removal



**Position white plastic push fasteners in holes BEFORE installing new door sills**

Note: If any of the white plastic push fasteners were broken or damaged, you do not need to use them all – you can reinstall the plastic base with only one or two fasteners – once installed, it won't go anywhere. The gray push fasteners on the ends will hold it in place securely by themselves.

## Preparing Door Sill for Reinstallation

**NOTE: Stainless steel is a hard, durable metal, but the hand-brushed finish of these sills can be scratched if you lay them face down on a dirty surface - be sure when working with these, you only lay them on a clean soft surface, such as a towel or other suitable material.**



**Also, these can be bent easily if mis-handled, so please use care when handling them before installation. If you get a bend or kink in them, it may be next to impossible to perfectly flatten them back out!**

## Preparing Door Sill for Reinstallation

Note that the sills are labeled “driver side” and “passenger side”. This is so that the wiring is oriented closest to the kick panel area where the EL inverter module will be mounted and connected.

Driver Side Sill

Door Sill lined up with groove in plastic base



EL strip wiring junction



A  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter hole must be drilled in plastic base, lined up with EL strip wiring junction – wire and junction feeds through hole as seen in the following two pages.

# Marking Door Sill Base for Wiring

Driver Side Sill

EL strip wiring junction

Stainless Sill lined up with groove in plastic base

Mark this position so a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter hole can be drilled in plastic base, lined up with EL strip wiring junction

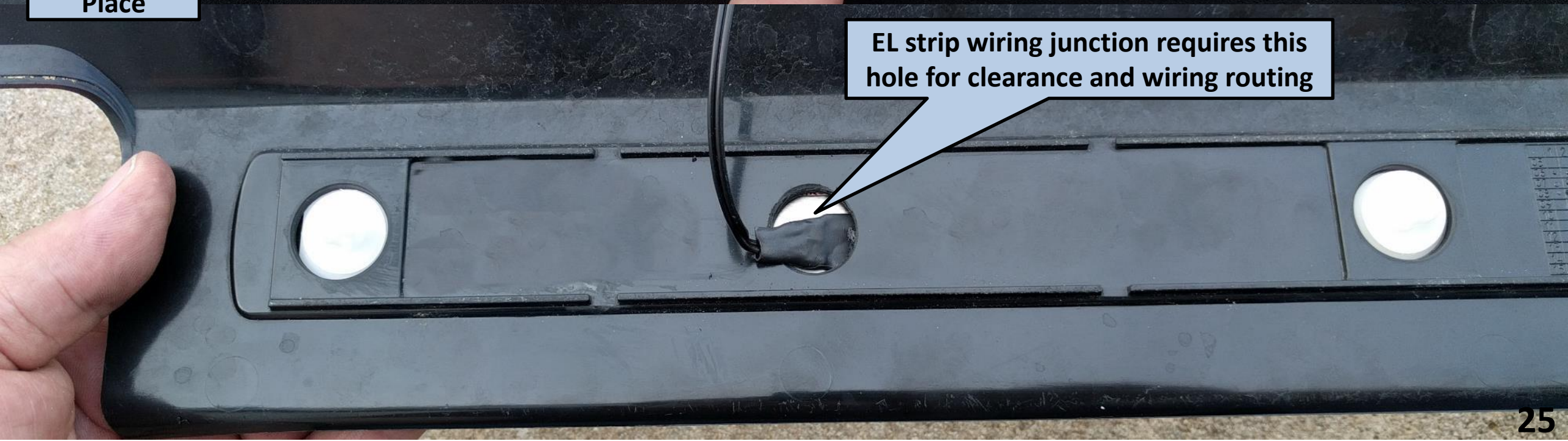


# Drilled Hole for Door Sill Wiring



White Push Fasteners In Place

EL strip wiring junction requires this hole for clearance and wiring routing



# Installing Door Sill

Begin peeling tape backing...

Begin peeling tape backing...



Position Door Sill in groove and pull tape backing, and press into position



EL wire

Finished Installation of Door Sill





# *G8* Designs

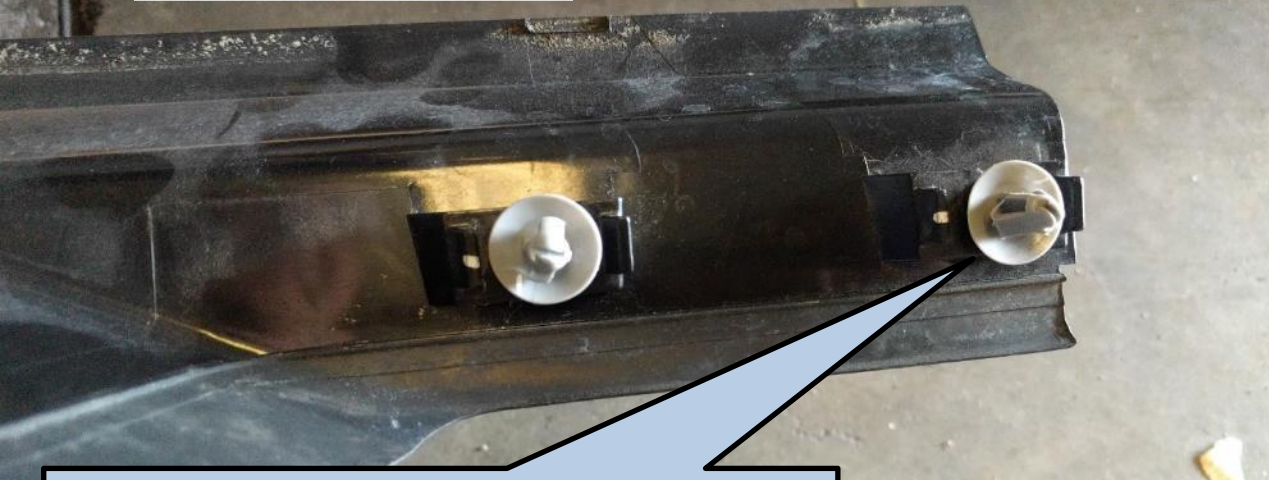
## Step 3: Reinstalling Door Sill Base



PONTIAC **G8**

# Reinstall Door Sill Base and Route Wire Into Car

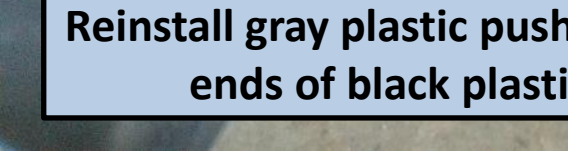
Rear End of Sill Base



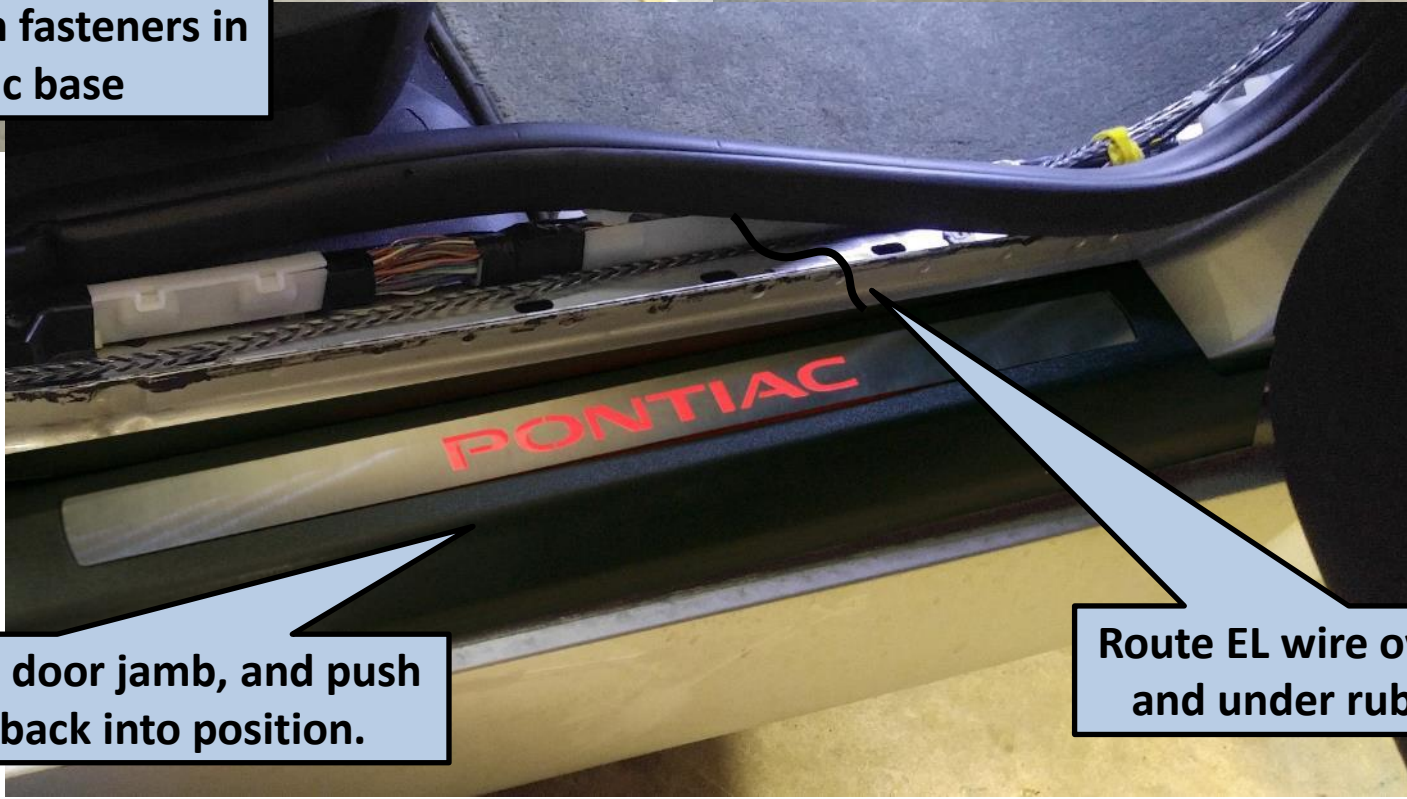
Reinstall gray plastic push fasteners in ends of black plastic base



Reinstall gray plastic push fasteners in ends of black plastic base



Front End of Sill Base



Press sill base back into door jamb, and push the plastic fasteners back into position.

Route EL wire over metal seam and under rubber door seal

## Route EL Wire Into Car

We recommend notching the top edge of the metal seam as shown to prevent potential wire damage. Notching can be accomplished with a Dremel tool, hand file, or similar tool.

EL wire routes inside car under plastic trim

(duct tape)  
(duct tape)  
(duct tape)  
(duct tape)  
(duct tape)

It's recommended to add a layer of duct tape or similar material **UNDER** the wire to ensure no contact with any sharp metal edges. This will prevent wiring from shorting out.

Door Sill Base

EL wire wraps over metal seam as shown.

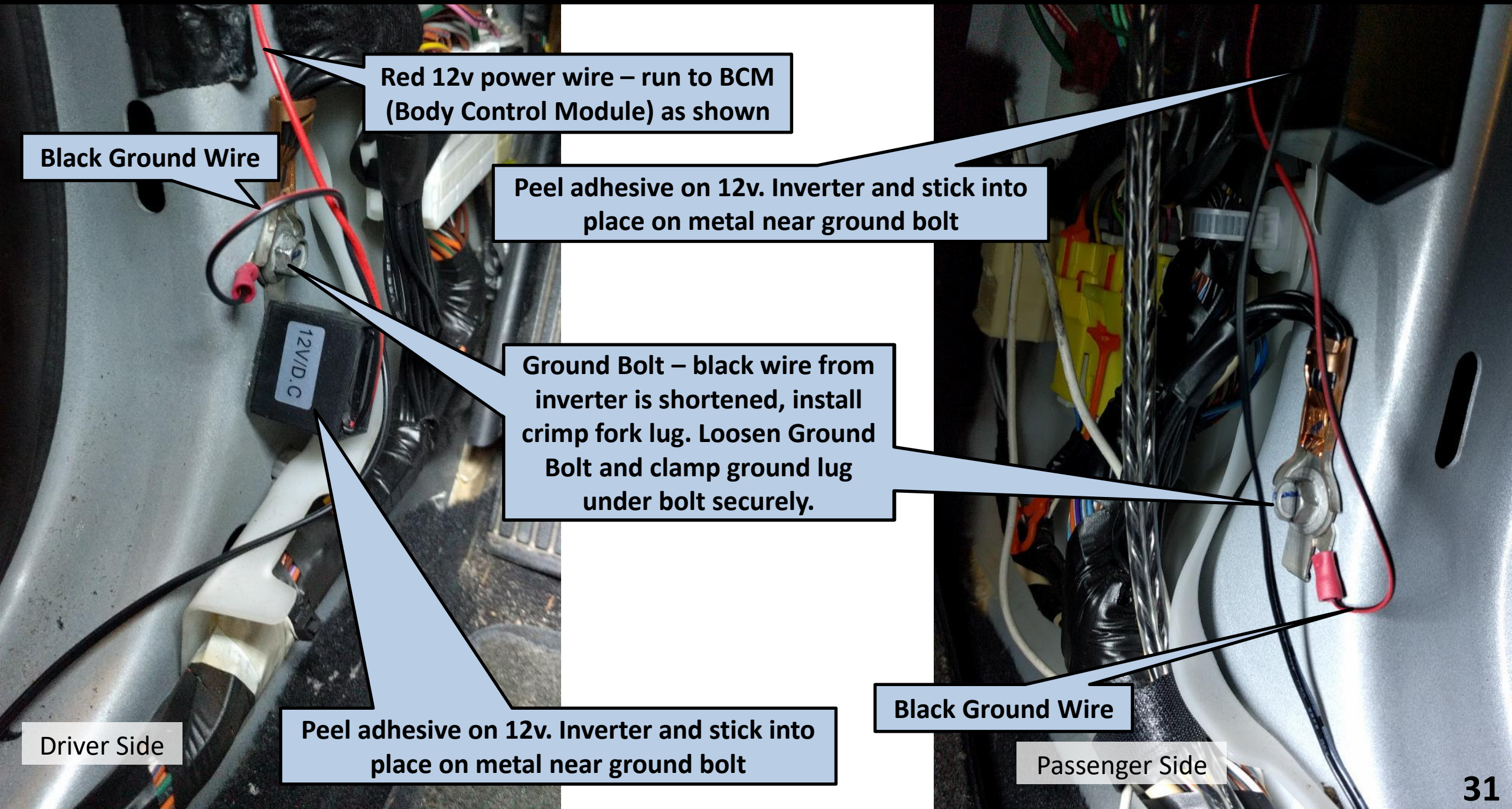


# *G8 Designs*

Step 4: Install Inverters and Wire EL Strips



# Mount 12v. Inverters and Begin Wiring



Red 12v power wire – run to BCM (Body Control Module) as shown

Black Ground Wire

Peel adhesive on 12v. Inverter and stick into place on metal near ground bolt

Ground Bolt – black wire from inverter is shortened, install crimp fork lug. Loosen Ground Bolt and clamp ground lug under bolt securely.

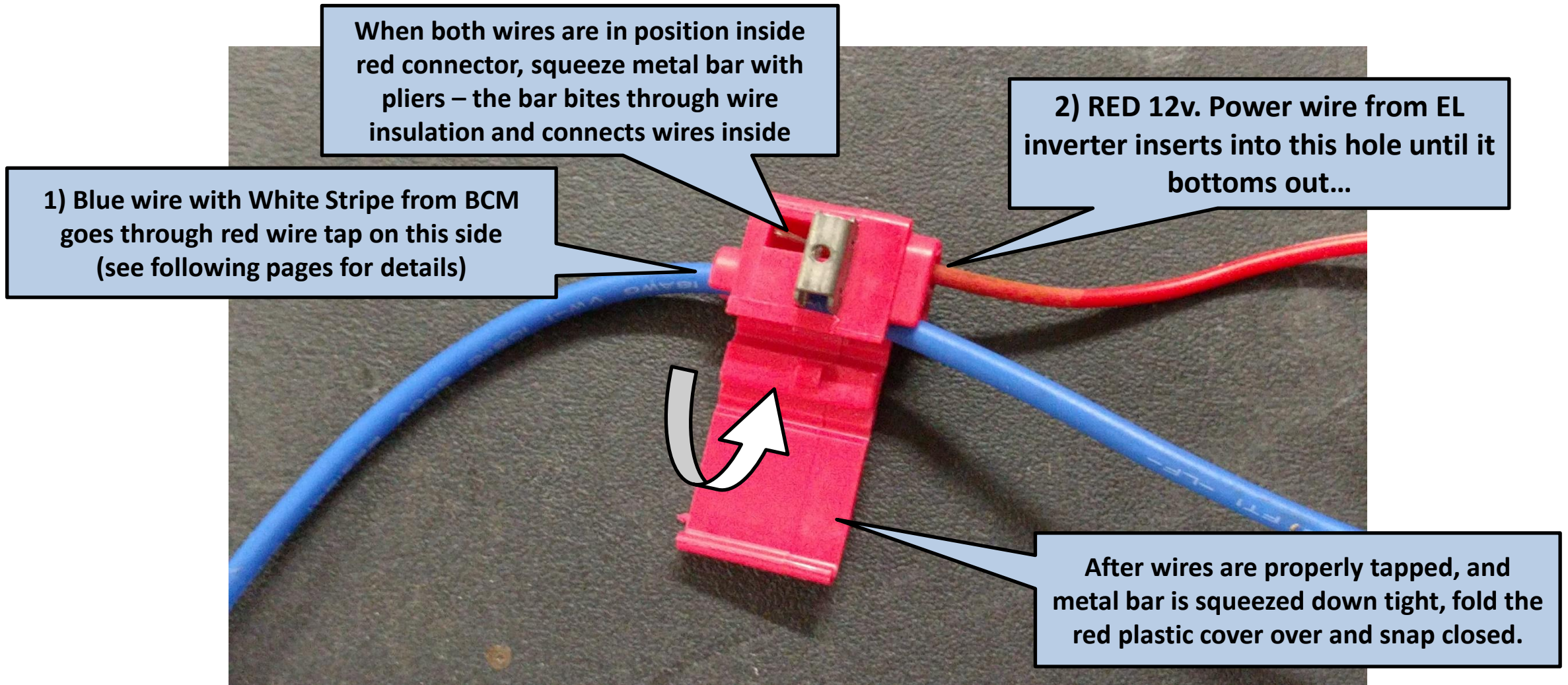
Peel adhesive on 12v. Inverter and stick into place on metal near ground bolt

Driver Side

Black Ground Wire

Passenger Side

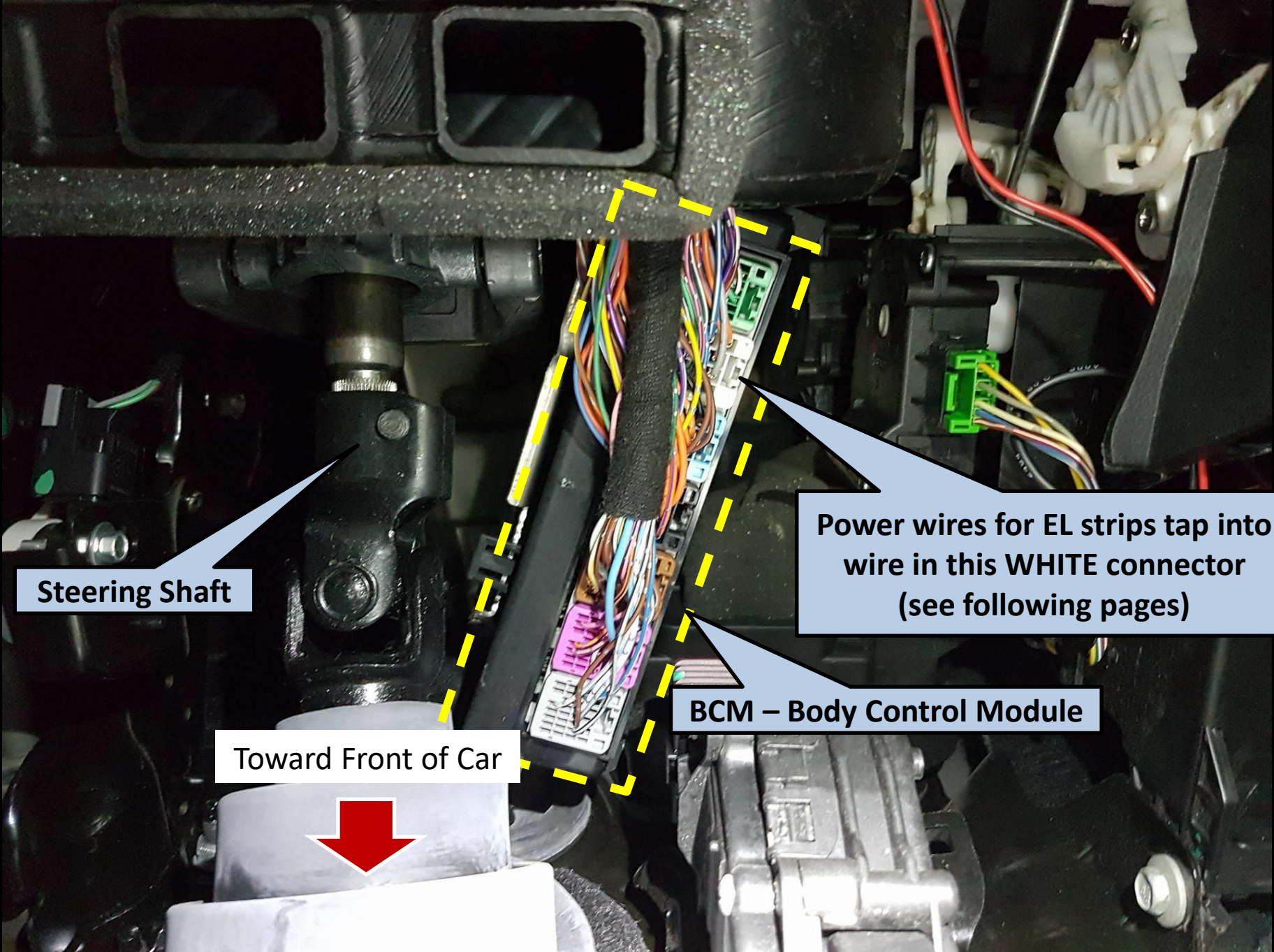
## How To Use Red Wire Taps



- 3) When you are sure wires are inside red wire tap properly, squeeze the metal bar with pliers, which bites through insulation and bridges the two wires together. TWO red wire taps are supplied, one for each 12 volt wire from each inverter.



# Location of BCM – Body Control Module



Steering Shaft

Toward Front of Car



BCM – Body Control Module

Power wires for EL strips tap into wire in this WHITE connector (see following pages)

## Wiring 12 volt power for inverters

Tap ONE of the two 12v wires into this Blue wire with White Stripe

WHITE connector on BCM contains Blue/White wire for courtesy lamp circuit. This wire supplies 12 volts when doors are opened or closed, or dome light button is pressed.

BCM – Body Control Module

Note – unfortunately, this area is cramped, and hard to get access to – sorry!

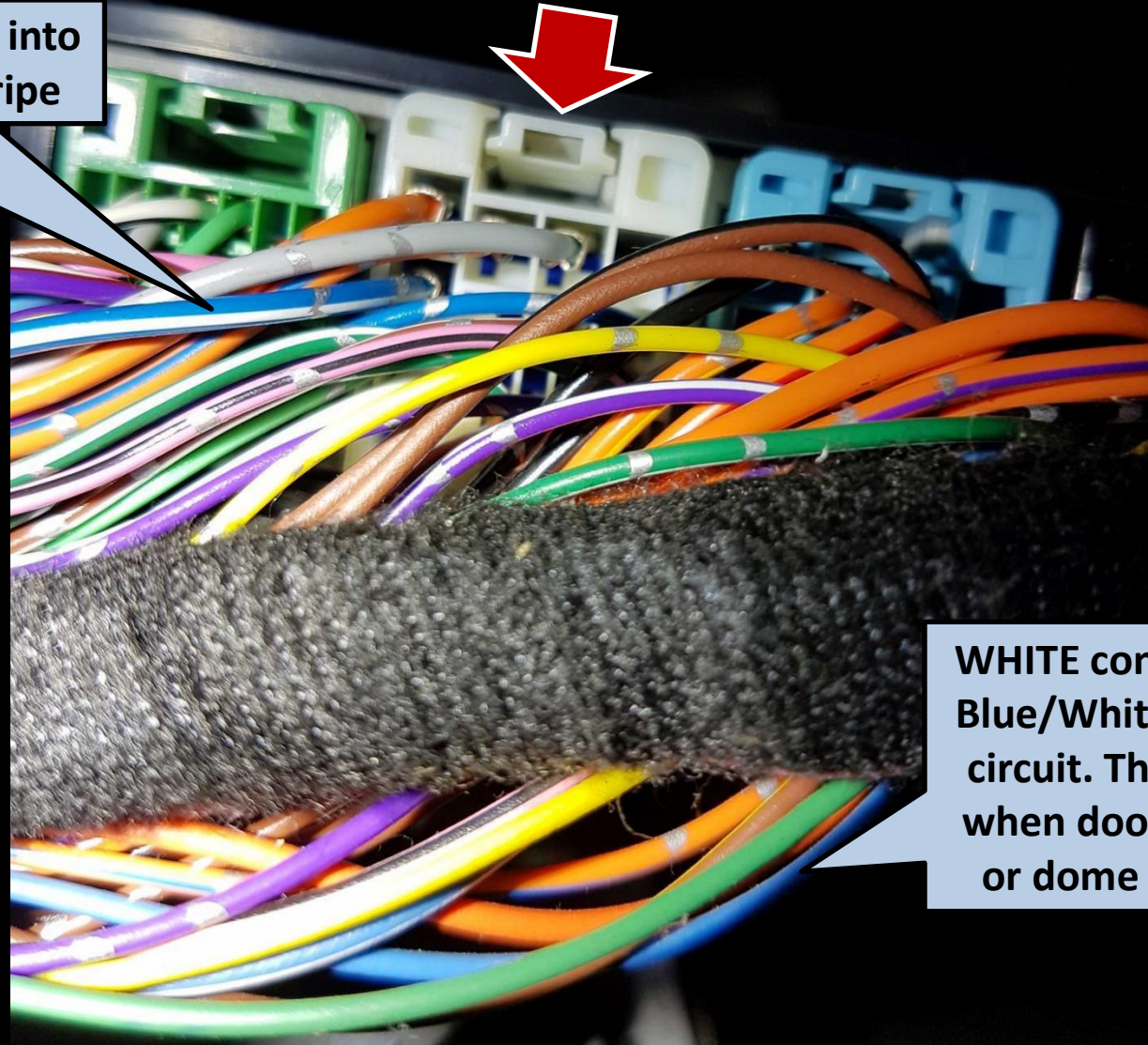
## Wiring 12 volt power for inverters

If you press this latch on the white connector, you can unplug it, pull the plug downward, and gain better access to the Blue/White wire. Plug back in when you're done!

Tap ONE of the two 12v wires into this Blue wire with White Stripe

Once you get a solid wire tap on the blue/white wire, then you can easily tap the OTHER EL strip's power wire into the first EL strip's power wire with the other red wire tap.

Be sure no wires are hanging down, dress them neatly, and reinstall kick panels and knee bolster when done.



**WHITE** connector on BCM contains Blue/White wire for courtesy lamp circuit. This wire supplies 12 volts when doors are opened or closed, or dome light button is pressed.



# *G8* Designs

## Step 5: Installing the Rear Door Sills



PONTIAC **G8**


## Removing Stock Sills and Installing New Sills



Pry rear sills loose  
with stiff blade tool



Rear sill is easily removed



Peel adhesive strips  
and install rear sills



# *G8* Designs

Finished Installation and Notes



PONTIAC **G8**

## Finished Installation and Notes



Once you have installed your new sills and wired them, you'll be greeted with a unique appearance every time you open your doors!

**Cleaning:** Your stainless sills can be easily cleaned with Windex or any glass cleaner, or any stainless steel cleaner or polish, commonly available at any grocery or shopping store. Stainless can get fingerprints – they'll have fingerprints after installation - but these products will easily clean them with a simple wipe of a soft cloth or paper towel. Wipe very carefully to avoid snagging any sharp edges of the letters or accidentally bending the metal features!

**Moisture:** Your EL strips are completely sealed against any damage from moisture, and are maintenance free. In some climates or weather conditions, it is possible for water or moisture to accumulate on your door sills, but this won't hurt them in any way. Simply clean them as described above when needed.

**Minor imperfections:** Though these sills are cut with a computer-guided laser, this is a largely hand-made and assembled product. As such, it is possible to have minor imperfections in them that are hard to see without very close examination. Such imperfections as minor (tiny) nicks or scratches in the stainless surface are unavoidable with this type of product. Because of the design of the G8 door sills, your stainless sills are generally protected from any damage getting in or out of your car. Because they lie in a valley, they are "guarded by location", and your foot should never hit them getting in or out of the car. It is advised that you do not stand on the sills (using the sills as a step to reach something on the roof of the car), to avoid any scratches from dirt on your shoes.



## Finished Installation and Notes



**Power draw:** The EL inverters supply 12 volt power to your sills ONLY when you open the doors, OR when you press the courtesy lamp button on the roof panel. After your courtesy (dome) lights go off, so do these strips, and power draw when running is very minimal. **The inverters are not designed for continuous lighting for long periods – only coming on when doors open or intermittently is advised.**

**Adding Under-Dash LED Strips:** Once you have installed your G8 Designs Door Sills, you may want to also add some under-dash lighting that is tied into the same courtesy lamp circuit. Doing this is easy with modern LED 12 volt strips available in any auto parts store or from online LED sellers. To wire in these LED strips, you can tap into the same wires as the power (RED) wire, then ground the black ground wire from your new LED strips. The current draw of these strips is also very minimal, and well within the current draw of your fuse on that circuit, so no need to worry about over-current conditions. When wiring in your new LED strips, just be sure you get the power and ground wires right, or the strips won't come on. The LED strips typically have a self-adhesive strip and can be adhered to the bottom of your under-dash panels out of sight.

**Removing G8 Designs Door Sills:** In the unlikely event you have a failure of the EL strip, these sills can be removed for replacement of the EL strips without damaging the metal by simply using a thin wire (like a guitar string or piano wire) and pulling the wire carefully under the sill to cut the double-sided adhesive, taking care not to bend or kink the stainless sill itself. Alternately, you could use a few strands of dental floss or fishing line the same way, although it might snap or break more frequently. If you ever experience an EL strip failure, contact G8 Designs for guidance!



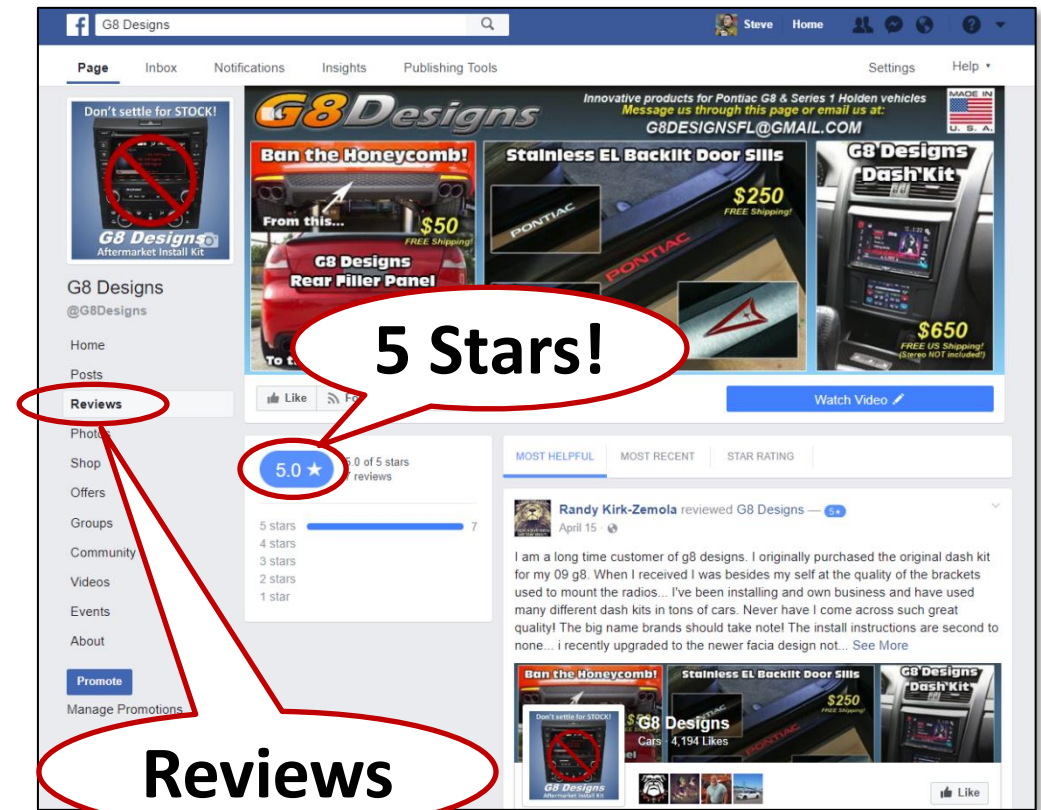
# G8 Designs – We Appreciate Your Reviews, Recommendations, and Ratings!

G8 Designs is an American business, run by an American entrepreneur who is dedicated to creating unique, useful, and dramatic products for the Pontiac G8 and other Holden-based vehicles. Products that cannot be obtained anywhere else. We work hard every single day to support the G8 and Holden community of owners, and have done so since 2013. Our solid reputation of extraordinary customer service and product support has been gained one satisfied customer at a time, through word of mouth, and through customer recommendations to other owners of these vehicles.

When customers message us, we work hard to respond as quickly as we get the message, at all hours of the day and night. We want our customers (existing or potential) to know that there is someone available to them to answer questions, provide advice or tech support, and give sales assistance even to those who live halfway around the world in other time zones. Even nights and weekends! How many businesses do you know of that provide this level of customer support? NONE we'll bet! Providing this level of support is pretty much a 24 hour a day job, but well worth our effort!

If you've had a great experience with G8 Designs and our products, we would be most grateful if you tell others about us! Post about us on any of the G8 or Holden Facebook pages, with pics of your car and G8 Designs product after installation. Post about us in forums dedicated to these cars. Tell friends who have these cars about us through Facebook pages, or at car shows or meets. If you help spread the good word about us, that is payment enough for our top level customer support we provide every day and night of the year!

There simply is no advertising better than word of mouth. We work hard every day to earn your trust, your business, and your recommendations! Please leave us another great 5-Star Review in the "Reviews" section of our Facebook page!



[www.facebook.com/g8designs](http://www.facebook.com/g8designs)

**G8** Designs



**END**

Thank you for supporting this product, and we hope you will help us spread the good word about G8 Designs!

