

Working Clear Corners for B4

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I wanted clear front corner lights for my B4, but I found like everyone else, that you can only buy dummy clear corners. I bought the DEPO brand and installed them and quickly one of them started filling with water. By the time I got a chance to drain it, the chrome finish inside was burned off. Feeling like I had nothing to lose I decided to make my own working clear corners. I took a sturdy pocket knife blade and inserted it in the seam between the front and back halves and twisted it a little. Without very much force I heard a crack. The seam started to open so I kept going. Some spots were tough and some of the crack sounds were loud. But it broke apart at the seam fairly well. In some places the plastic broke instead of the glue, but close enough to the joint that it wasn't a problem.

The original Hella's came apart much easier than the new dummies. Maybe due to age and heat breaking down the glue. Anyway I matched up the DEPO lenses with the hella reflectors. There were a few high spots where the plastic broke away that I was able to trim down with the knife. They don't have to fit together perfectly. I used clear RTV silicone adhesive/sealant to glue them together. I ran a bead around one of the halves, whichever one that you could better tell where the gluing area should be. There's a small drain hole on the bottom of the Hella reflector that you must not block with the glue. I pressed the halves together and was relieved that I had not put too much glue on. I was afraid it would mash to the inside and be visible. But if you pay attention to the shape of the pieces where they fit together, you can stay out of trouble.

The finished product looks great and i am very pleased with the appearance when the lights are on. You need to use an amber bulb, I used 194NA from Pep Boys and it is just right. There are some nerve-racking moments as you try to separate the halves, but you can move on to another spot that opens easier and come back for the stubborn places. They come loose easier when the area around them is loose already. Let the RTV dry overnight, but wipe the edge ooze immediately. Be careful you don't get RTV fingerprints on the lenses! I recommend this mod to those who would like working clear corners. Just be careful and go slowly. Results are worth it. Here's a pic of my B4 with parking lights on. The city lights, corners and smoked sidemarkers all come on with them.

