



RS4-Style Grille Installation



Audi

2009-2012 pre-facelift
B8A4/S4

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RS4-Style Grille Installation

Audi 2009-2012 B8A4/S4 pre-facelift



Installing an ECS Tuning RS4-style mesh Grille on an Audi B8A4/S4 pre-facelift car is a great weekend project. To do the job properly, you'll need to remove the front bumper cover, but the job is fairly simple, and doesn't require a lot of special or exotic tooling. You'll need a couple of Torx drivers and 10mm sockets with extensions, but no drilling or body mods will be needed.

Available in plain black or black with chrome accent, these ECS Tuning grilles come as a complete installation kit with integral Euro-plate holder, emblem attachment plate, mounting straps, and screws. That way, you can transfer your chrome Audi rings to the new grille, or go badgeless.

The procedures in this tutorial are one way to install the new grille. There are surely other options, and you may choose to add your own styling and mounting preferences for a unique, personalized installation.

with chrome accent frame

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all black

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These two grille options have built in logo rings and cannot be run badgeless. Otherwise, the installation instructions apply to all four grilles.

Step 1

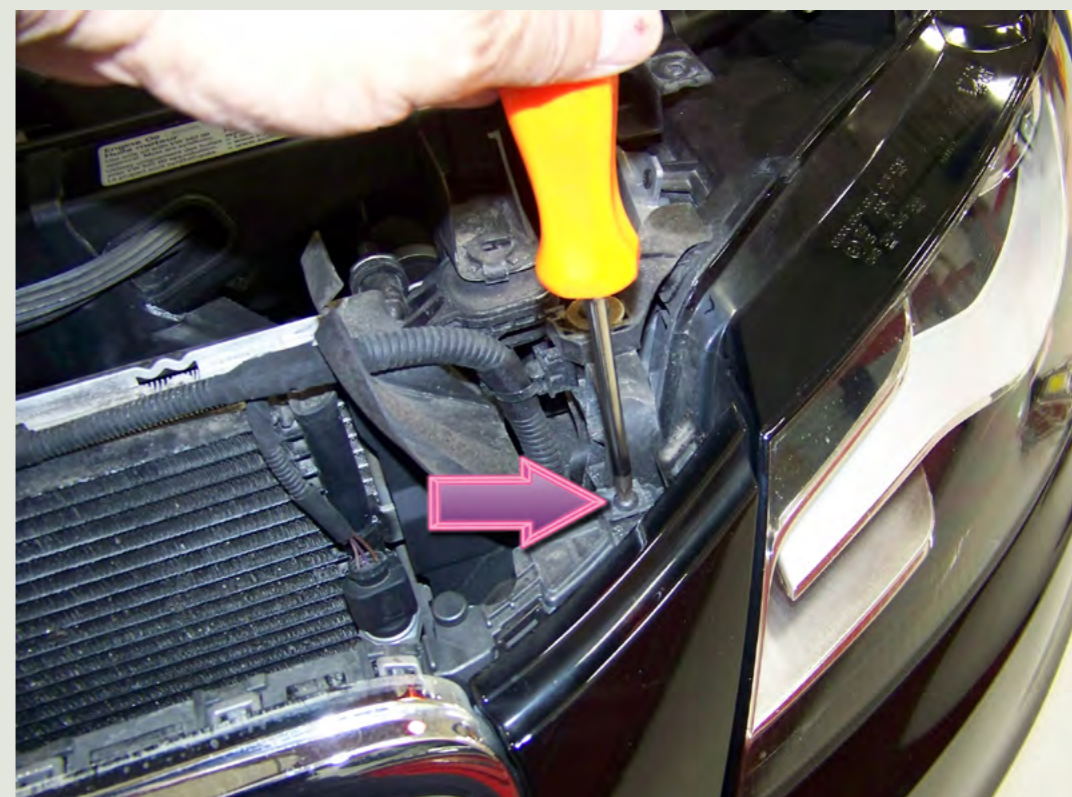
Open the hood.

Remove the screws securing the radiator core support cover. Slide the cover rearward and up to remove it.



Step 2

Remove the two top bumper cover screws, one on either side, located next to the headlights.



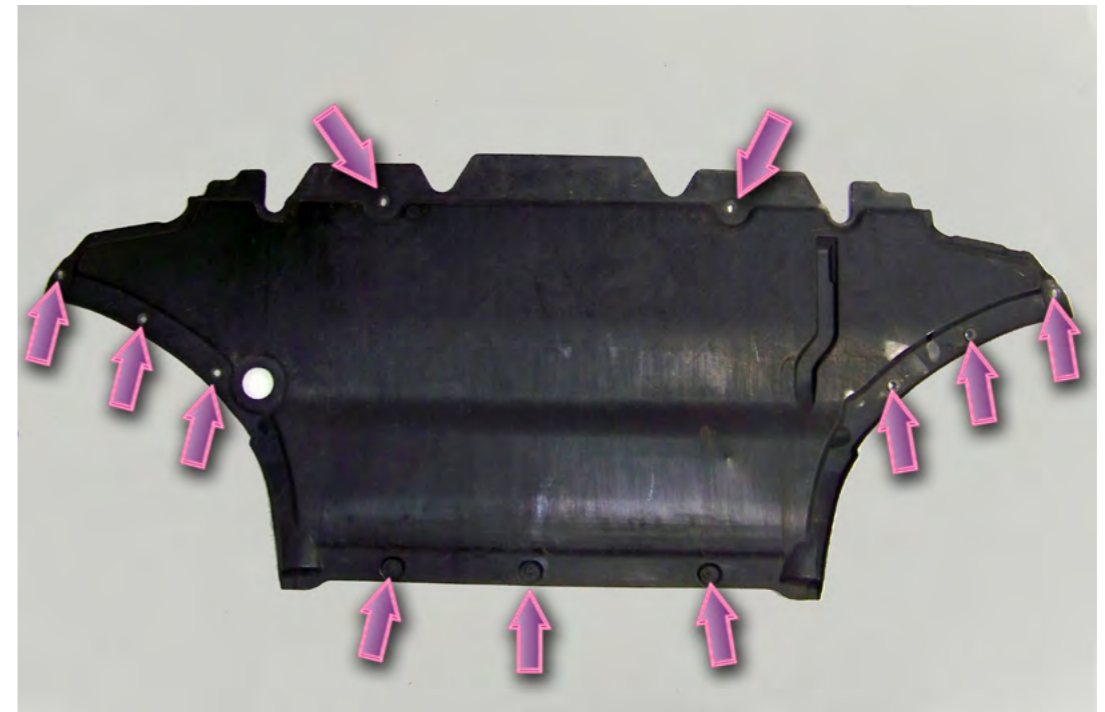
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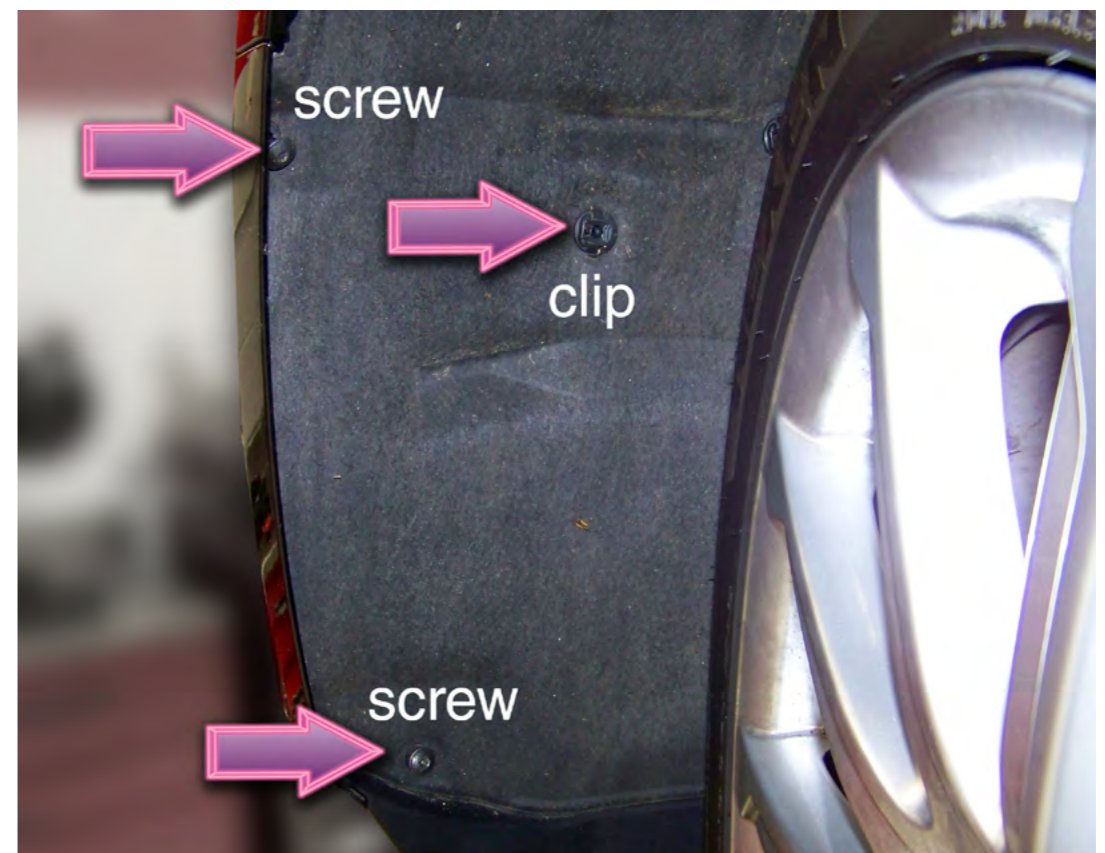
Step 3

Raise the car and remove the main belly pan screws (arrows). OE screws can be removed with common or Philips head screwdrivers or a T25 Torx® driver



Step 4

Turn the wheels all the way to one side; remove the two screws and plastic clip holding the fender liner to the bumper cover and chassis.



Step 5

Reach up inside the fender liners and disconnect both fog lights.



Step 6

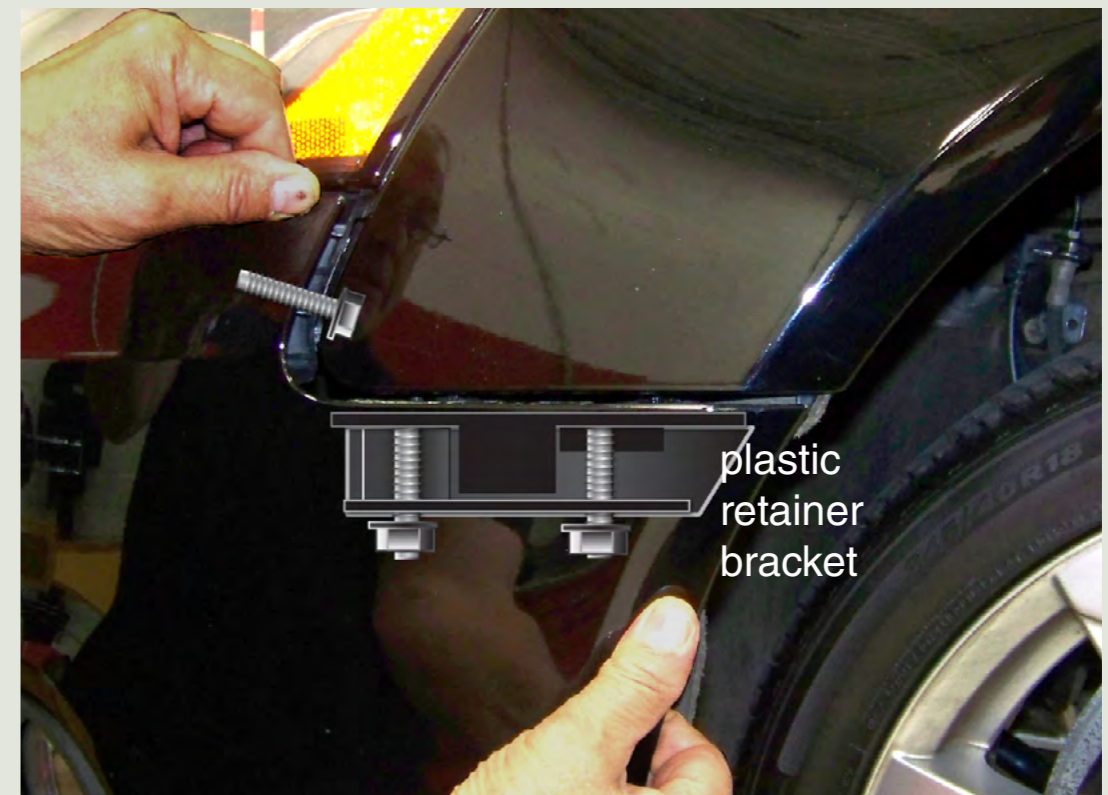
Reach up inside the fender liner and unbolt the fasteners securing the bumper cover to the fender.

We overlaid an illustration to show you the fastener locations. There are two threaded studs pointing downward from the lower edge of the fender and a 6mm bolt (10mm socket) that threads horizontally through the fender into a metal bracket in the bumper cover.

Service Tip: Loosen the two nuts until they are flush with the ends of the studs, but don't remove them.

Unbolt and remove the single bolt.

Do this on both sides



Step 7

Pull the bumper away from the fender, until the snap clip retainer pops free from its mating tab on the plastic retainer bracket.

Repeat this process at the opposite side.

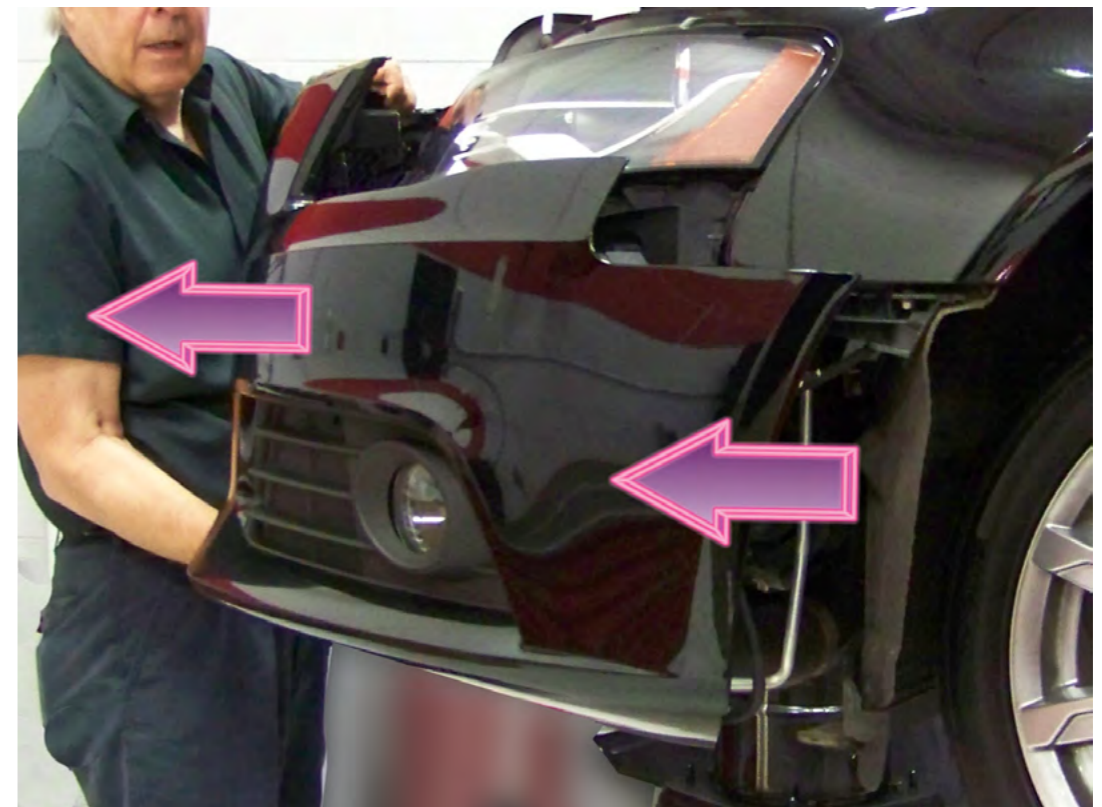


Step 8

Grab the bumper in the center at top and bottom and slide it forward slightly. Before removing the bumper cover completely, reach down at the rear top center of the grille and unplug the garage door opener module (if your car has one).

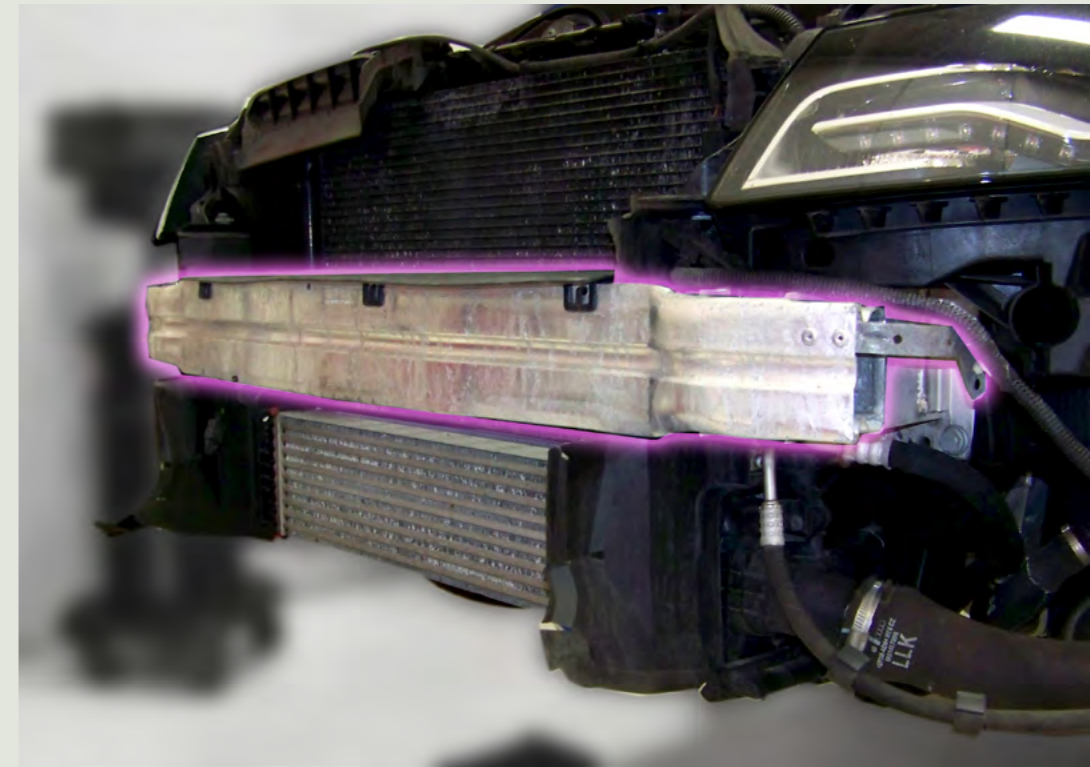
Service Tip: The garage door module is attached to the back of the grille, behind the Audi ring logo, and its plug is more accessible with the bumper cover pulled forward slightly.

(The bumper is not heavy, but may be awkward. You may want to ask an assistant to lend you a hand as you guide the bumper off safely.)



Step 9

With the bumper cover removed, the aluminum crash bracket is exposed.



Step 10

For improved appearance, we elect to clean and paint the aluminum bumper bracket. First we apply a coat of plasticized stone shield spray, then final coat with a matte black trim paint.

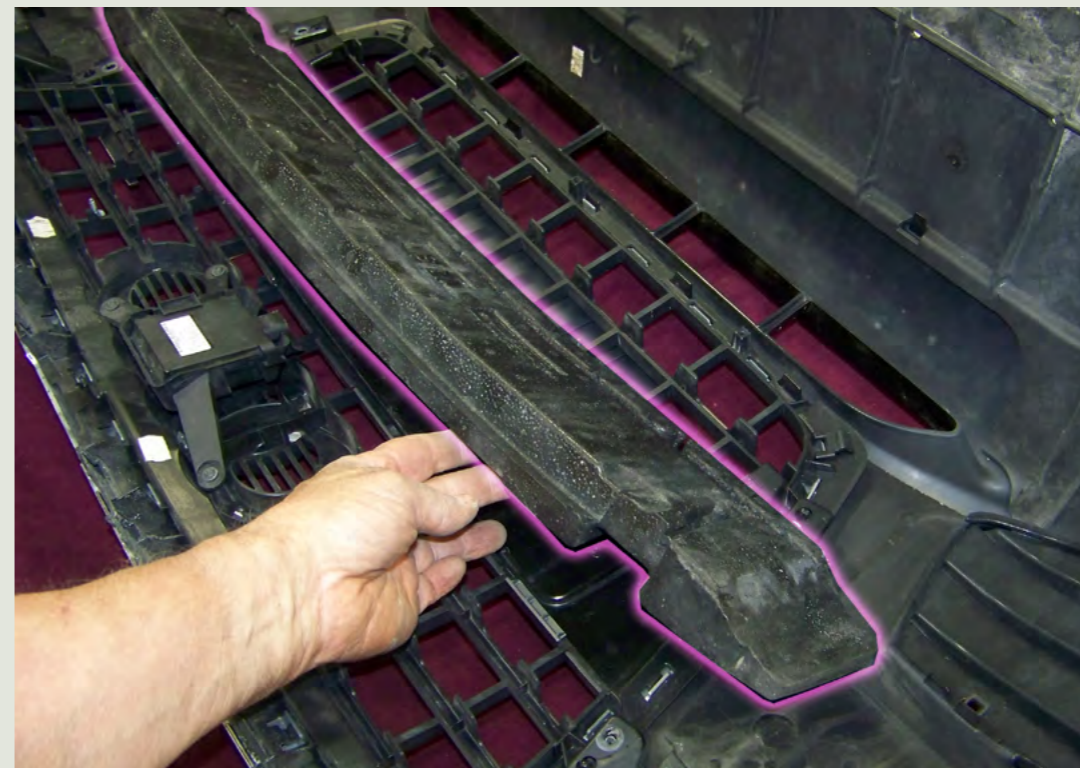
We will also remove the plastic air deflector (arrow) so it doesn't interfere with the new grille. It just snaps off.



Step 11

Remove the old grille from the bumper cover.

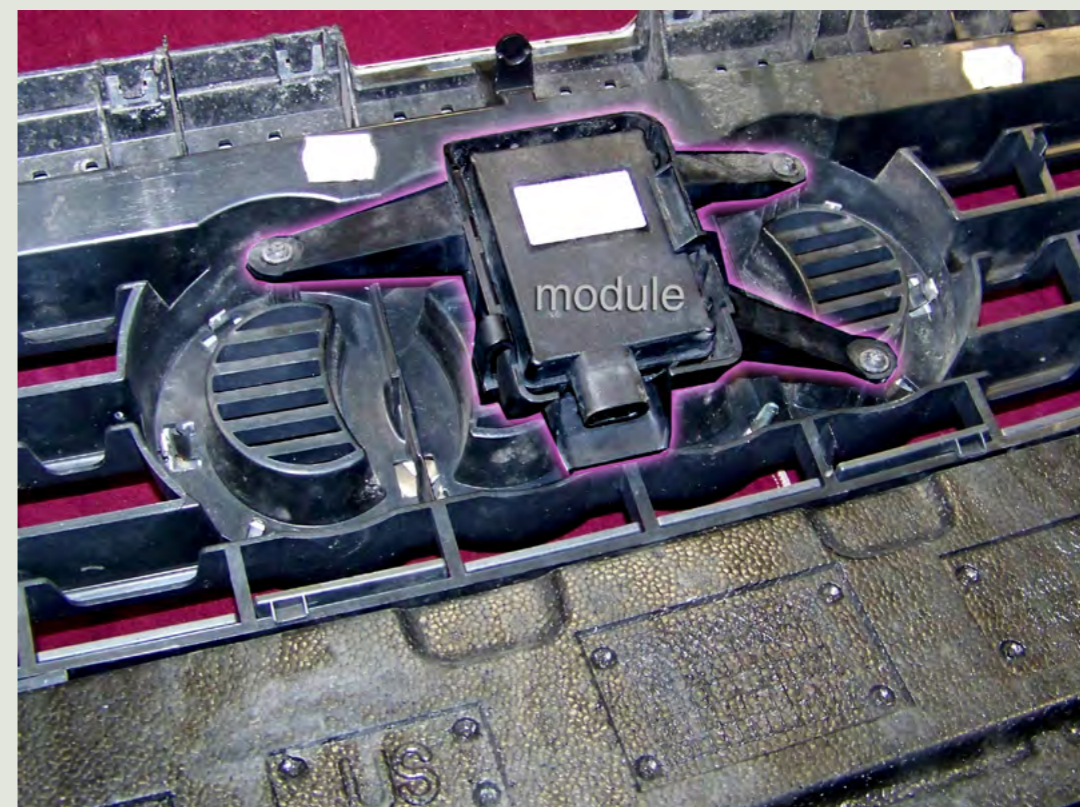
First, unsnap the foam pad from the rear of the grille and lift it out.



Step 12

If your car has one, unscrew the mounting bracket for the garage door opener module, and remove the module from the bracket.

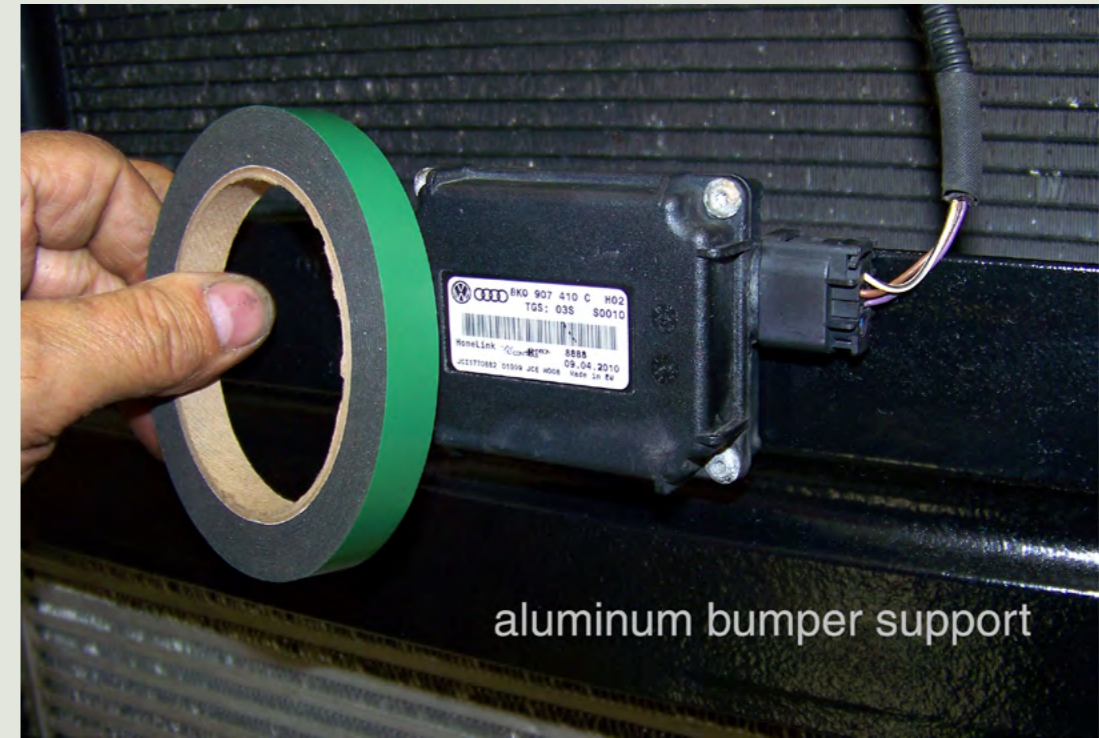
The bracket is not a direct-mount fit on your new grille, so we will mount it at an alternate location.



Step 13

We elect to mount the module on our freshly painted bumper bracket using strips of automotive grade double backed tape, the kind used to attach body side moldings.

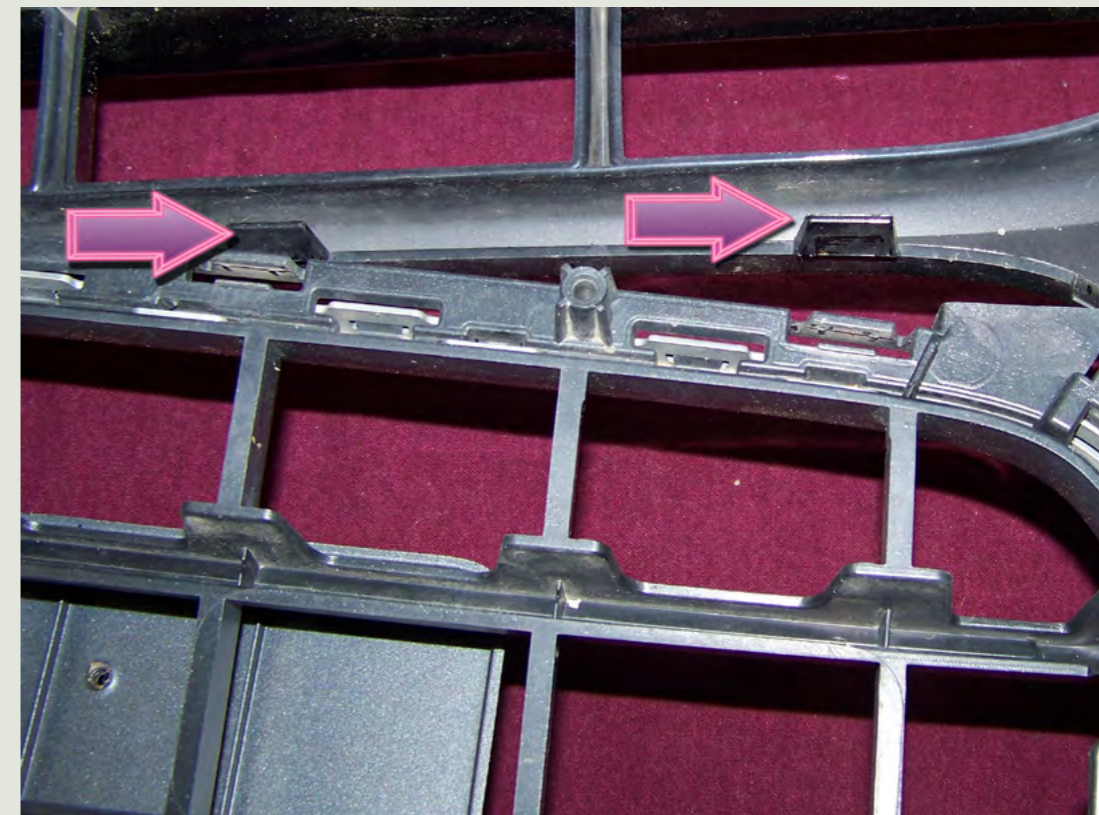
Service Tip: Use any mounting method you choose as long as the module is attached securely: tie wraps, tape, double-backed tape, or possibly a homemade bracket. Just be sure to mount the module safely and close enough to the wiring harness that you can plug it in.



Step 14

Remove the screws from the perimeter of the old grille, and release the plastic clips (arrows). Pry carefully to avoid breaking the clips.

Lift the old grille from the front bumper cover.



Step 15

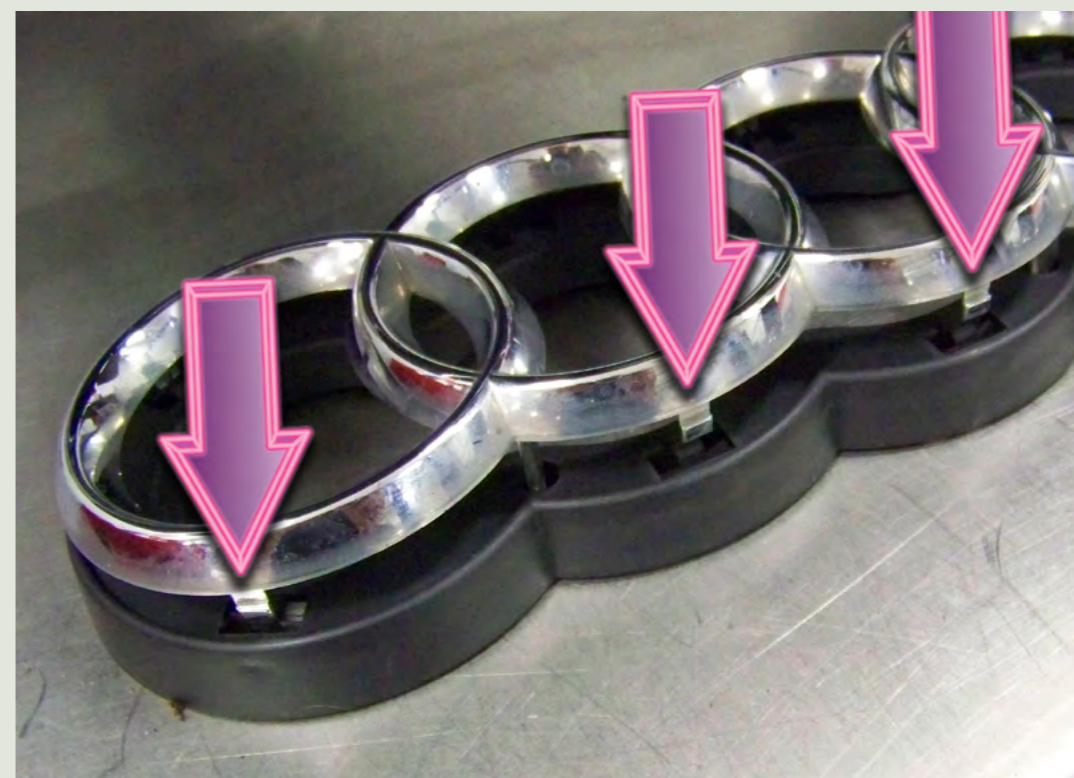
Drop the new grille into the bumper. Align the tabs and screw holes as you carefully snap the new grille in place and reinstall the perimeter screws.



Step 16

If you are transferring the Audi rings to the new grille, pry on the plastic tabs at the rear of the old grille to release them. Remove the ring emblem and insert the tabs (arrows) into the emblem mounting bracket included in your grille kit.

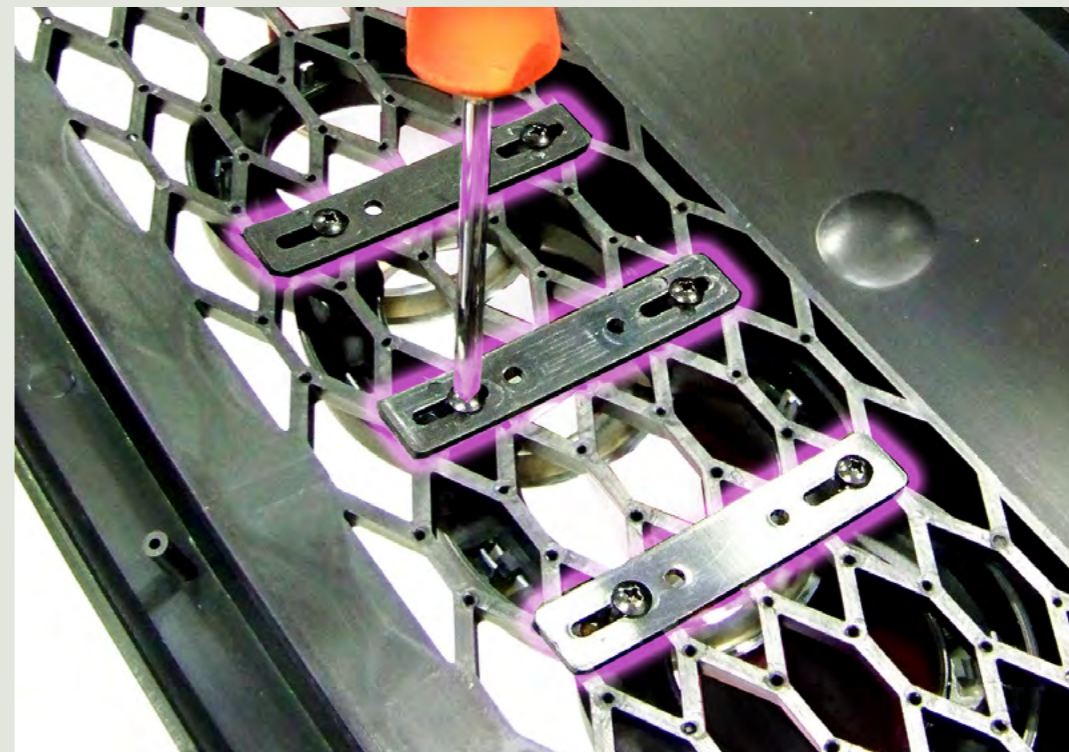
Align the tabs in the bracket notches, then press down on the rings until they snap in place.



Step 17

Attach the Audi emblem support to the grille. Use the straps and screws in the kit. Lay the straps across the back of the grille. Insert the screws through the slots in the straps and mesh openings; then screw them into the raised screw posts on the back of the emblem holder. Alternately tighten the screws to pull the straps tight against the grille mesh; just don't overtighten.

Mounting location is up to you.



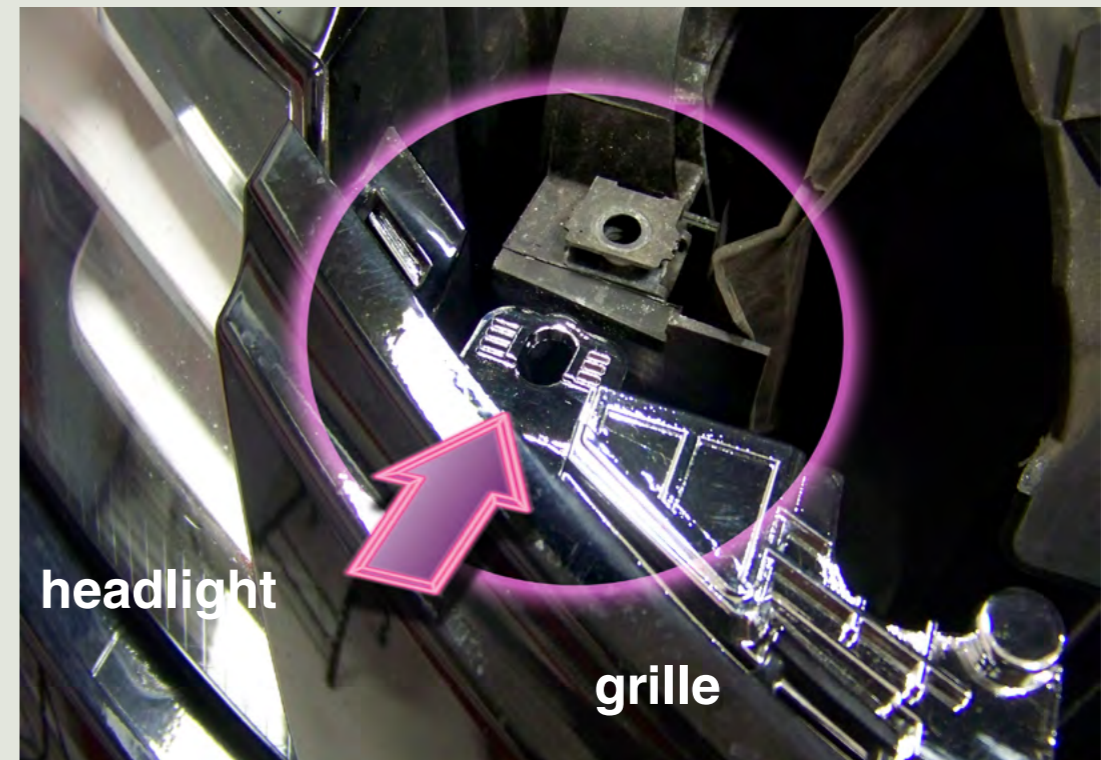
Step 18

With the grille assembled, reverse your steps. Slide the bumper cover onto the front of the car.



Step 19

The top fender mount has a metal retainer clip that will grip on raised teeth in the grille mounting tab as you slide the bumper in place. These will hold the bumper until you can start the two top screws and thread them in finger-tight.



Step 20

Pull the rear edge of the bumper toward the wheel opening while inserting the top edge of the bumper cover into the gap between the plastic retainer and fender (arrow).

When the bumper tab is properly aligned with the retainer clip, push the top edge of the bumper cover inward until it snaps in place (arrow).

Replace the fender screw removed in Step 6 and tighten the two nuts on the fender studs, keeping the bumper and fender edges flush as you tighten. Repeat this sequence on the other side.

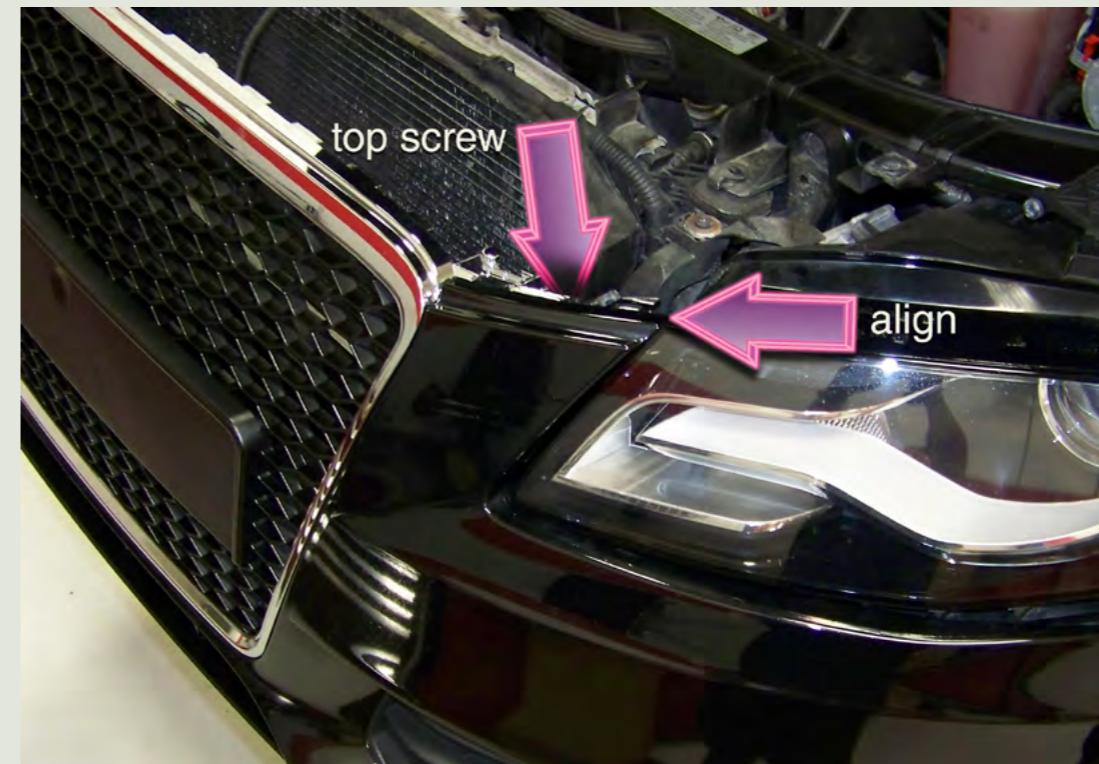
- Reconnect the fog lamps.
- Replace the fender liner fasteners.
- Reinstall the belly pan.



Step 21

Lower the car and align the top of the bumper with the headlights. Close the hood to check the grille face-to-hood alignment.

Service Tip: Slide the top grille tabs in or out as needed to align the grille before tightening the two top screws.



Step 22

Replace the top radiator cover. Slide the tabs at the front of the top cover into the rear top of the grille and replace the four screws removed back in Step 1.



Thanks!

**For purchasing your blackout grille
from ECS Tuning.**

**We appreciate your business and
hope this tutorial has been helpful.**

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