



RS4 Style Grille Installation

Audi
2013+
B8 A4/S4

ES2627562
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RS4 Style Grille Installation Audi 2013+ B8 A4/S4



Installing an ECS Tuning Blackout Grille on an Audi B8 A4/S4 Facelift car is a great weekend project. To do the job properly, you'll want to remove the front bumper, but the job is fairly simple, and doesn't require a lot of special or exotic tooling.

Available in plain black or with chrome accent, these ECS Tuning grilles come as a complete installation kit that includes emblem attachment plate, Euro-plate mount, mounting straps, and screws.

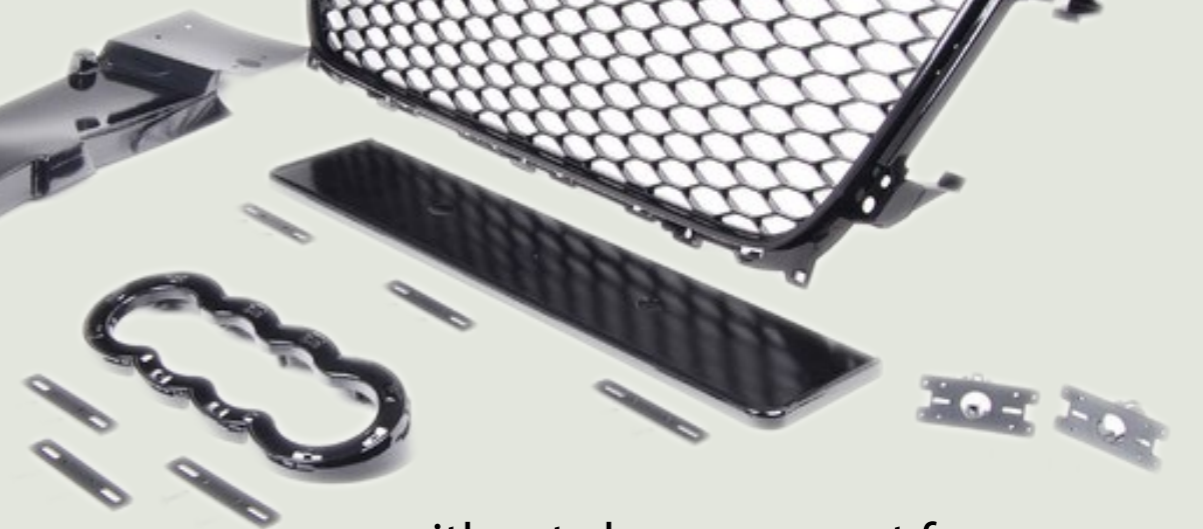
with chrome accent frame

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without chrome accent frame

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Step 1

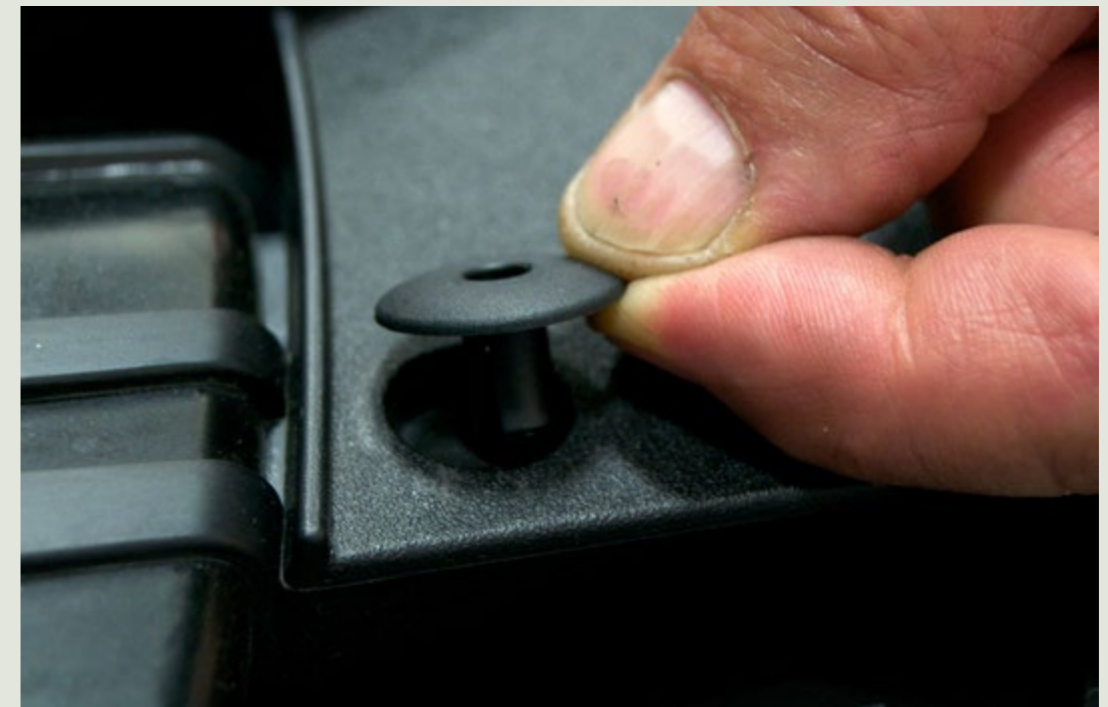
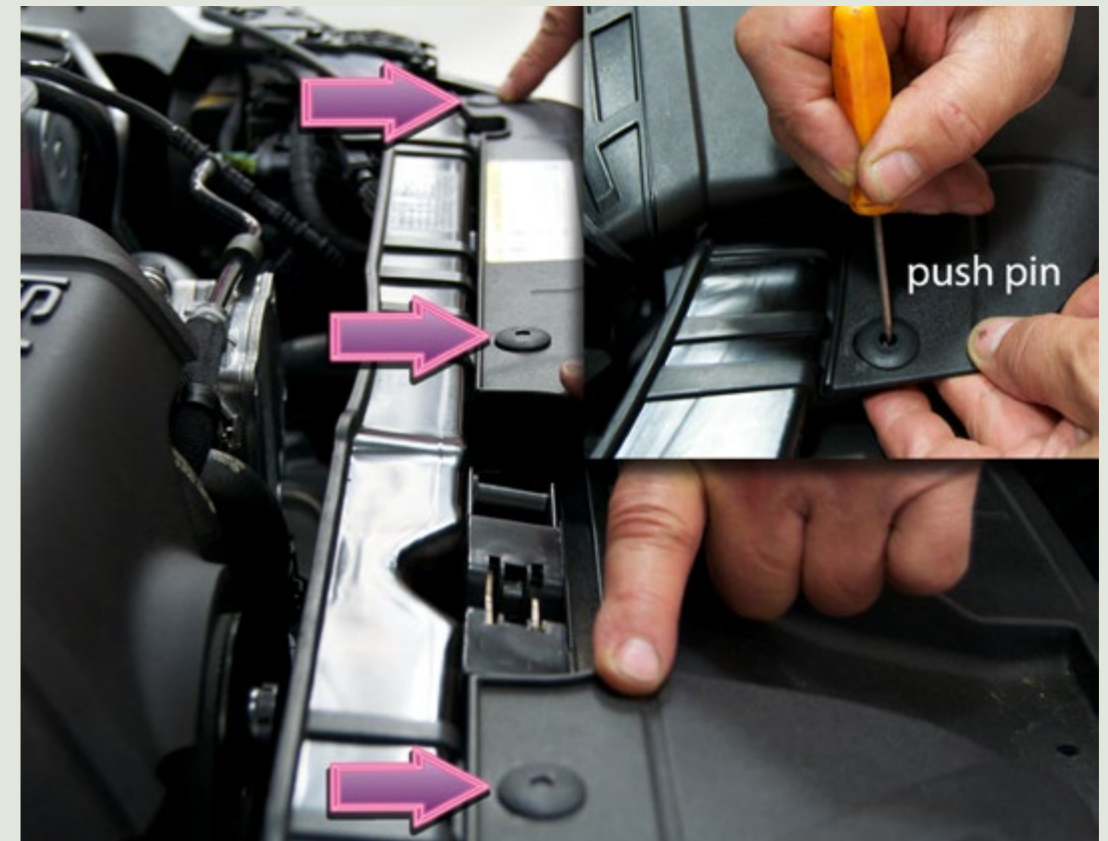
Open the hood.

Remove the four plastic retainers securing the radiator core support cover.

To release the retainers, push the center spreader pins down to the next stop (inset photo)

Step 2

Don't press too hard on the center push pins or they'll go all the way through and fall out. Push them just until they click on the next "stop," then pull the main pin bodies out.



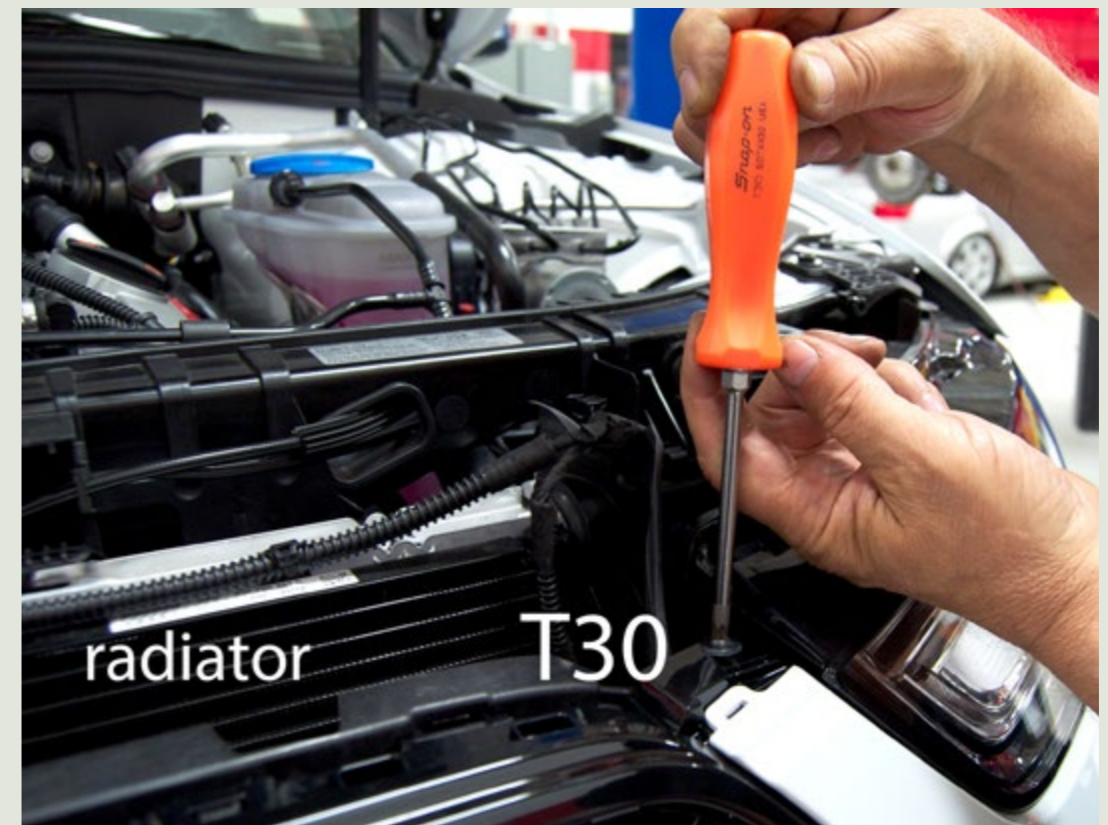
Step 3

Remove the radiator core support cover and lay it aside.



Step 4

Using a T30 Torx driver, remove the two top bumper screws, one on either side of the grille.



Step 5

Remove the twist lock fasteners on the main belly pan.

Remove the screws securing the pan to the small pan attached to the bumper.

Drop the rear belly pan and lay it aside.



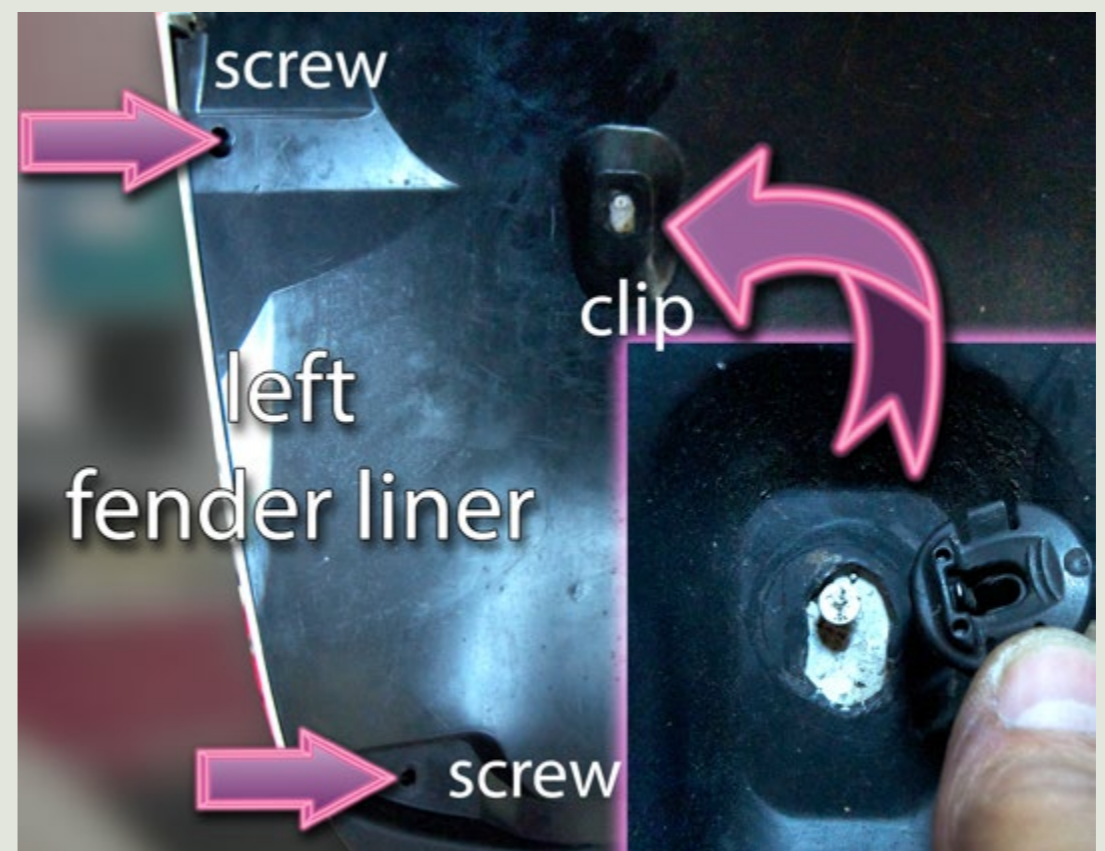
Step 6

Move to the front wheel wells.

Remove the screws and retainer clips from the front edge of the inner fenders on both sides (left inner fender shown here).

The clips can be removed by lifting their back edge and pushing them off the tee-headed studs in the body. Reinstall later in reverse order.

Note: If you want more elbow room, turn the wheels to the side or remove them altogether.

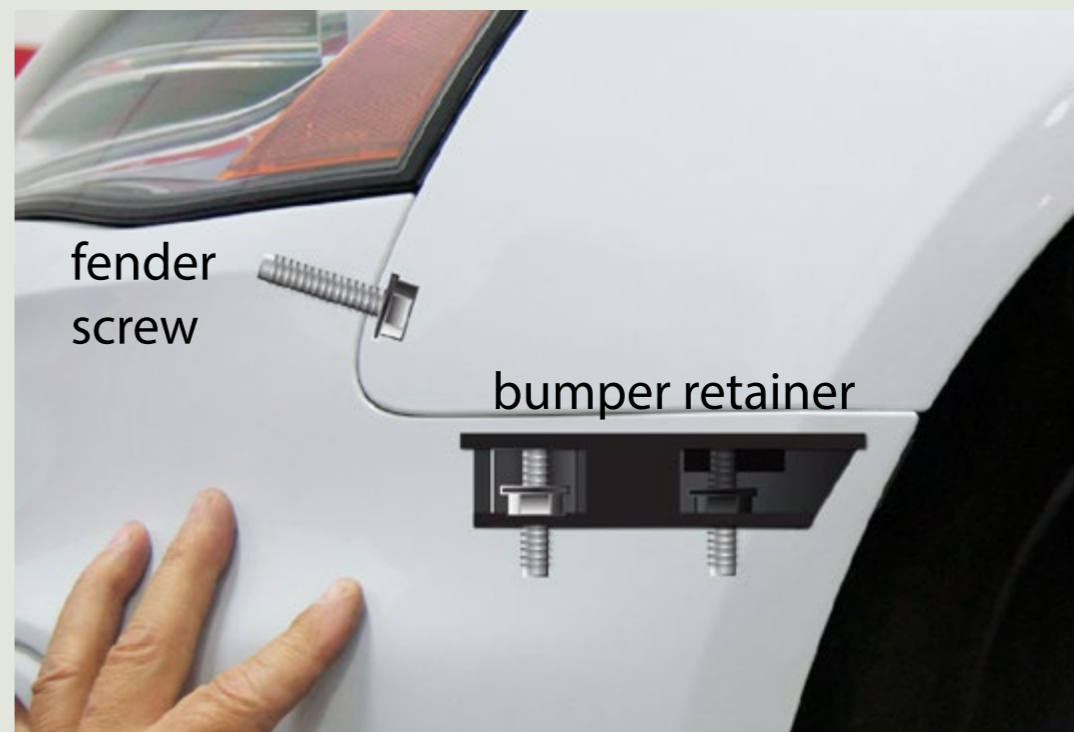


Step 7

Reach up inside the fender liner with a long extension and 10 mm socket. (A swivel extension at the socket end helps.)

Loosen the nuts on the two fender studs that point downward from the lower edge of the fender, and pass through the plastic retainer clip that holds the bumper in place. Back the nuts off flush with the end of the studs, but don't remove them.

Reach up with a 10mm socket and shorter extension and remove the 6x1.0 bolt that screws in from the rear.



Step 8

Pull the edge of the bumper away from the base of the fender, as shown here.

Note the location of the studs as they pass through the black plastic retainer clip and the location of the hole for the 6mm fender screw.



Step 9

Reach between the inner fender and backside of the front bumper and disconnect the fog light electrical connectors.



Step 10

The bumper is ready to come off.

It helps to have an extra set of hands at this point. The bumper is very light, but twists easily. To avoid damaging paint or plastic, have an assistant grab the opposite end as you pull forward to remove the front bumper from the car.

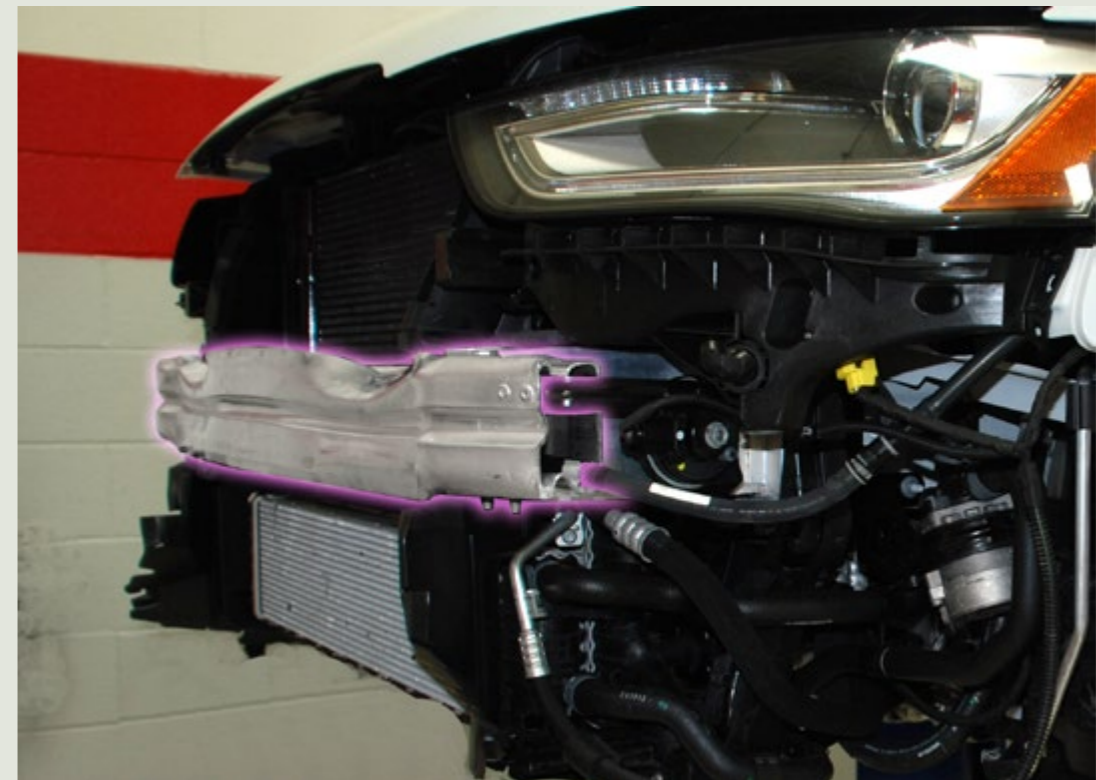
Take the assembly to a clean work bench or table top and lay it face down on a soft clean surface.



Step 11

With the bumper removed, the substructure is exposed, including the bright aluminum bumper crash bar, silhouetted here to make it stand out. This silver contrast will not look good behind the new black grille.

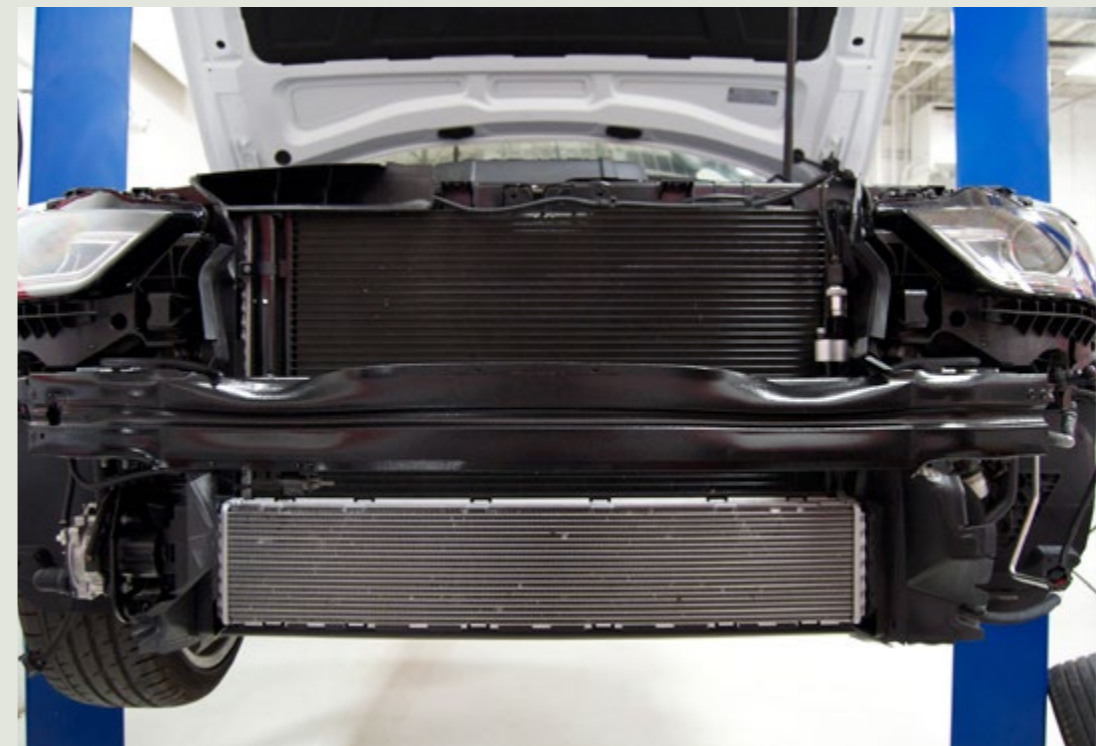
To “black out” this bar, the grille kit includes a gloss plastic facing, but we prefer to paint the bar instead for durability and appearance.



Step 12

After cleaning the bar thoroughly with a professional grade paint shop surface wash, we apply a spray coating of black plastic stone shield, just like the coating applied to rocker panels at the factory. Then we spray the bar with a professional grade matte black trim paint.

With the front of the vehicle prepped, we can remove the old grille from the bumper.



Step 13

Unsnap the foam pad from the rear of the grille and lift it out. (This pad normally rides against the aluminum crash bar we just painted.)

Special Note: If you want to reinstall this foam, your kit includes a gloss plastic cover piece. Otherwise the foam will be visible through the new grille and may be hard to clean due to its large open pores. If you want to cover the pad, ECS Tuning also sells vinyl, adhesive backed coverings to suit your styling tastes.



Step 14

Remove the T25 attachment screws from the perimeter of the stiffener support brace that straddles the top inner face of the grille.

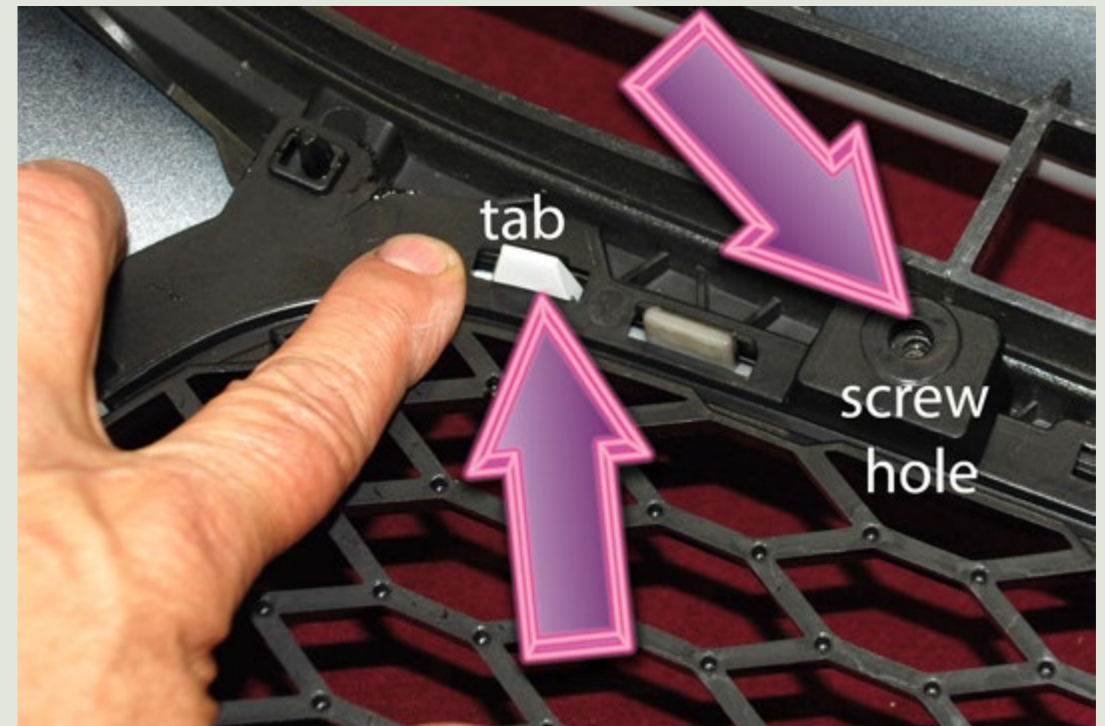
After removing all the screws, lift the stiffener off the grille.



Step 15

Remove the remaining T25 attachment screws from the perimeter of the old grille.

Then work your way around the perimeter of the grille, prying the plastic snap tabs to release the grille from the bumper.



Step 16

When all clips and fasteners are released, lift the old grille from the bumper.



Step 17

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



Step 18

Reinstall all perimeter screws.



Step 19

Attach the Audi emblem support to the back of the grille. Use the straps and screws in the kit.

Installation Note: Position the emblem support to match the location of the original, or move it to any position you choose.



Step 20

Pry the plastic tabs holding the chrome Audi rings in the OE grille. With the tabs released, lift the rings out.



Step 21

Snap the chrome rings into the emblem holder installed in Step 19.



Step 22

Your grille kit includes a Euro license plate holder. If you choose to install it, attach it using the strap holders and screws in the kit.



Step 23

Reinstall the upper support brace removed in Step 14.

The brace has a special adjustable support rod. Loosen the spreader screw and push upward on the adjustable support rod. Later, after the grille is installed and located in its final position, push the adjustment rod down until it contacts the top of the crash bar and re-tighten the spreader screw to lock it in place.



Step 24

Have a friend help you reinstall the front bumper.

Service Note: Pull outward slightly on the ends of the bumper as you slide it in place.



Step 25

Loosely install the two top screws removed in Step 3 to keep the bumper from falling.



Step 26

- Snap the bumper into the plastic retainer at the fender.
- Align bumper and fender until they fit without a gap. Hold them in this position with one hand as you tighten the front fender bolt and the two nuts on the plastic retainer bracket.
- Plug in the fog lamps.
- Close the hood and check the alignment between the front of the hood and top of the bumper. Adjust the top of the bumper as needed, then tighten the two top screws, installed loosely in the previous step.
- Reinstall the radiator core support cover, belly pans, and fender liner fasteners.



Thanks!

For purchasing your blackout grille from
ECS Tuning.

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

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