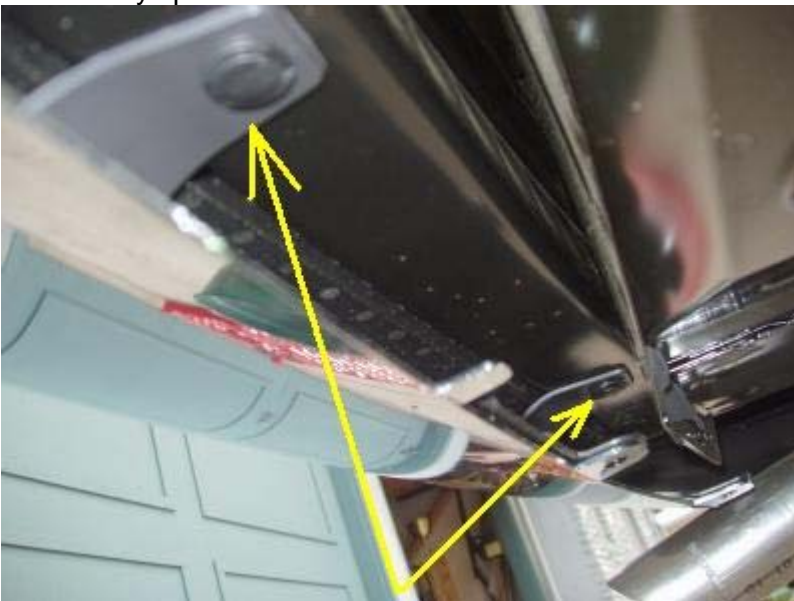


Rear Bumper Fascia Removal

I've heard of folks putting on their hitch without removing the rear bumper fascia. Many of the same people discuss how frustrating it was to get the mount bolts threaded through the rear frame tube. Removing the bumper fascia eliminates that issue. Start by removing the plastic push pins underneath the bumper. There are two sets of 4 push pins underneath the bumper. The first set simply holds the chrome (or darker plastic) piece to the rest of the fascia. Since they need to be removed eventually when replacing the fascia with a new chrome one or the cut original one, I go ahead and take them out now since I'm already on my back there.



Up a little higher are the four push pins you need to remove from the bumper cross bar. Two of them will be a bit harder to install once the hitch is in place, but it can be done without any special tools.



Next, remove the pushpins that are holding the top of the bumper fascia in place.



After all the pushpins have been removed I find it easier to remove the bumper fascia if you remove a bolt that sits near the wheel well. This picture shows the bolt I'm talking about in the left wheel well.



Finally the bumper fascia is ready to be removed. In each wheel well is a pair of tabs. Press on the tab while wiggling the side to get fascia loose and remove it. One person can do it one side at a time. This picture shows the tabs in the wheel well on the right side.



This picture shows the outboard side of the tabs on the left side after the bumper fascia has been removed. Hopefully this will give you a better idea of how you are releasing the fascia when pressing on the tabs inside the rear wheel well area, forcing those little tabs inward.



With the wheel well housings and the bumper fascia removed it is time to replace the chrome piece on the bumper fascia (shown in the next few images) or cut the notch in your own fascia (not shown).



There is one more step of preparation before we get to the meat of the matter. We need to work on the.....

Onward to

Rear Bumper Fascia Chrome Insert Replacement