TRAIL FORTRESS

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Rough Country A-J02022 Installation Instructions

WF1 Fender Flares for Jeep Gladiator (2020-2025)

Part number: A-J02022

trailfortress.com/wf1-fender-flares-jeep-gladiator-rough-country-a-j02022

Scan for fitment, price and install help

ROUGH COUNTRY SUSPENSION SYSTEMS®

WARNING: *This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause Cancer and Reproductive Harm. For more information, go to* ***www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.***

2020-2022 JEEP GLADIATOR JT

PRIOR TO INSTALLATION

A) Install the flares according to these written instructions with the hardware provided. WARNING: Failure to install according to these instructions will invalidate the warranty. This includes, but is not limited to, using alternative installation methods, hardware, or materials. DO NOT USE: Loctite, Superglue, or similar products on the hardware or the flares. *Install flares on cleaned vehicle surfaces*.

B) **Fit:** Verify the fit of the flares to vehicle prior to installation (some filing, sanding, or cutting may be necessary to ensure proper fit).

C) **Painting:** (Optional) if paint is desired it must be done prior to installing flares on vehicle. Clean outer surface with a good grade degreaser. DO NOT USE LACQUER THINNER OR ENAMEL REDUCER AS A DEGREASER. Wipe outer surface thoroughly with a tack rag prior to paint. Application of plastic adhesion promoter for ABS plastic as per your paint system manufacturer's recommendations is required. Paint flares using a high-quality enamel, or polyurethane automotive paint. If painting edge trim (not recommended), use a flex additive.

D) **Performance:** Using larger tires may increase the area required to turn the vehicle. Some tire/rim combinations may require lowering bump stops and or installing steering stops to prevent tire from contacting flare.

E) **Exhaust System:** Modifications may be necessary to maintain a minimum 4" clearance between flares and exhaust pipes. (Exhaust gases should not vent directly onto flares)

F) **Metal Protection:** All exposed fasteners and bare metal should be treated with
rust resistant paint BEFORE installing flares. Spray inner fender wells with undercoating AFTER flare attachments have been completed.

G) **Decals:** Flares may interfere with existing decals on vehicle. If you wish, remove decals prior to installation of flares.

H) **Care & Cleaning:** Fender flares are built to last; any detergent you use to wash your vehicle is sufficient to clean the flare. Do not use any harsh abrasive detergents.

TOOLS FOR EASY INSTALLATION:

- Safety Glasses
- Gloves
- 10mm Socket
- T-30 Torx Bit
- Ratchet
- Phillips Screwdriver
- Plastic Pry Tool
- Awl
- Cut-off wheel or Saw/Snips
- Sanding Disc or Sandpaper (50-80 grit)

PLEASE READ: Dirt and debris can become lodged between the fender flares and the vehicle's fenders, causing scratching and paint wear from vibration. Manufacturer is not responsible for any damage, and the installation of our fender flares is done with the buyer's understanding that this scratching and paint wear may occur.

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY AGAINST ANY MANUFACTURING DEFECTS: To claim warranty you must provide Proof of Purchase.

Rev 2 10-17-22

INCLUDED IN HARDWARE KIT:

1.



"U" Clip
6 pcs

2.



Truss Screw
6 pcs

3.



Plastic Retainer
44 pcs

4.



Coarse-Thread Screw
2 pcs

5.



Left Front Bracket
1 pc

6.



Right Front Bracket
1 pc

7.



Left Front Flare
1 pc

8.



Right Front Flare
1 pc

9.



Left Rear Flare
1 pc

10.



Right Rear Flare
1 pc

WARNING Installation of these flares may require aftermarket wheel well liners or modification of factory wheel well liners (not outlined in this instruction).

SECTION 3: FRONT FLARE REMOVAL



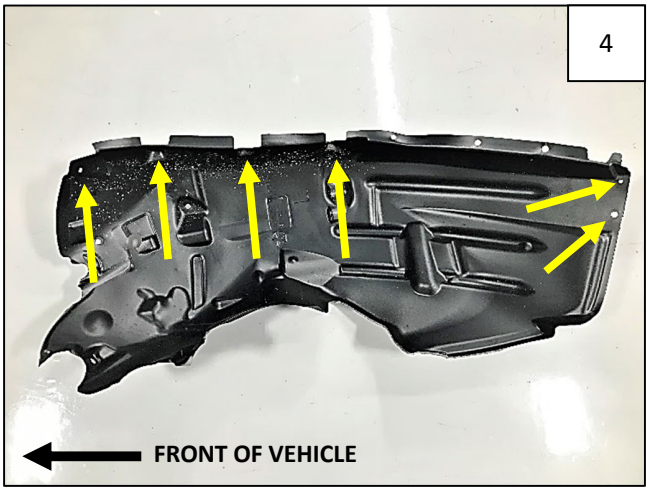
Put on safety glasses and gloves. On front factory flare, use an awl to pop 8 factory retainers in center of each retainer to disengage.



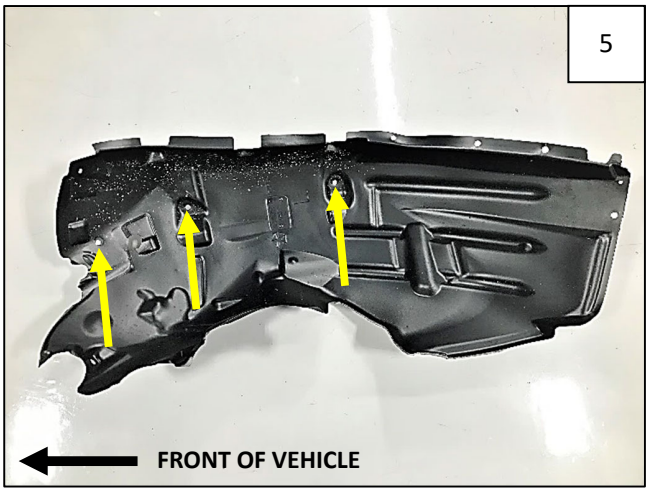
Factory retainer locations.



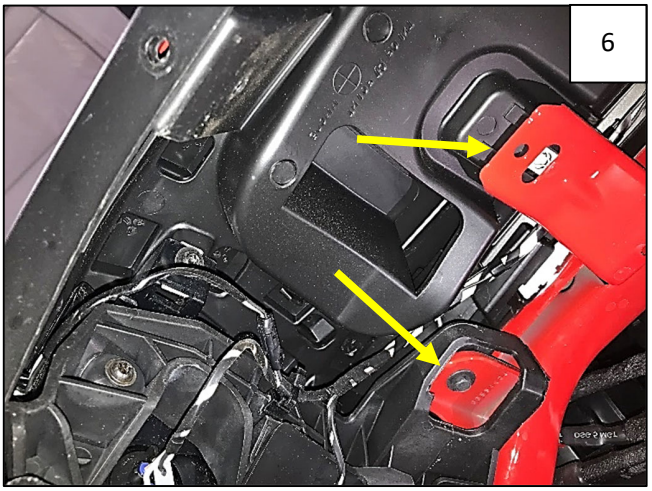
Using a plastic pry tool, remove each retainer popped in Step 1. Discard.



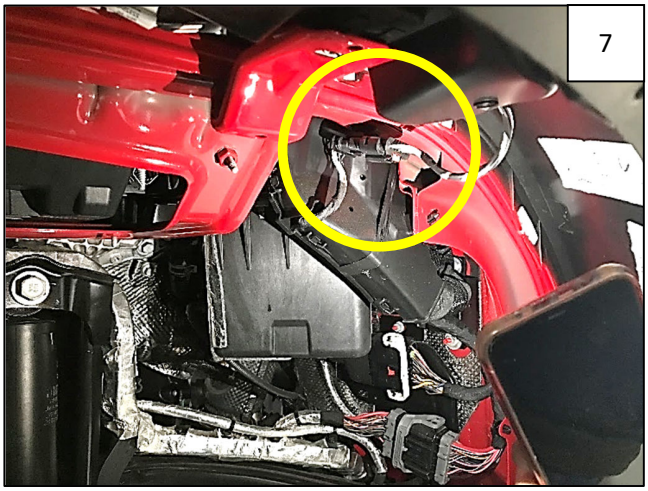
To remove wheel well liner, first use a pry tool to remove 6 factory retainers from liner and discard (liner is shown removed from wheel well for viewing ease).



Using a 10mm socket, remove 3 factory bolts. Retain. Remove and discard wheel well liner.
NOTE: Liner will need to be trimmed and reinstalled, or replaced with an aftermarket liner.



Remove 2 bolts from Light Housing. Retain.



Disconnect Light Wire Harness by pushing the red tab out to unlock. Push the release tab and pull the harness out.



To remove lower bracket, use pliers behind bracket and sheet metal to disengage 2 white factory retainers. Discard.



Disengage 9 white factory brackets that are holding factory flare onto vehicle, spaced along wheel well. All but 1 bracket are accessible by pliers. If you wish to preserve the paint finish (which will be covered by flare), use a plastic pry tool to help remove retainers.



Pull factory flare from vehicle. Pry any white retainers from sheet metal and discard – holes must be clear for installation. Retain factory flare to remove light housing in next steps.

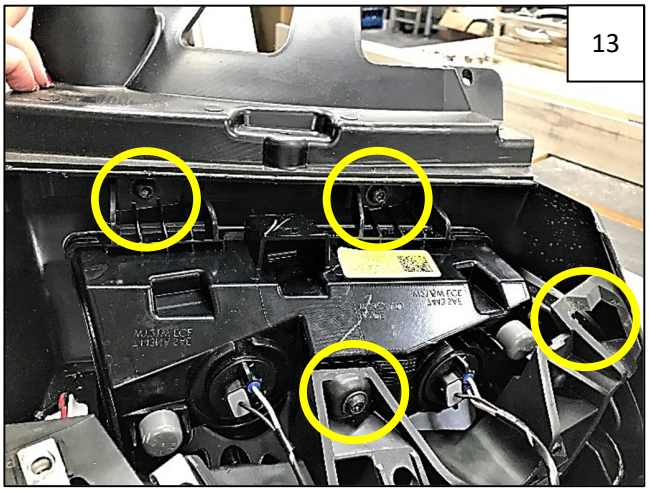
SECTION 2: LIGHT HOUSING REMOVAL AND MODIFICATION



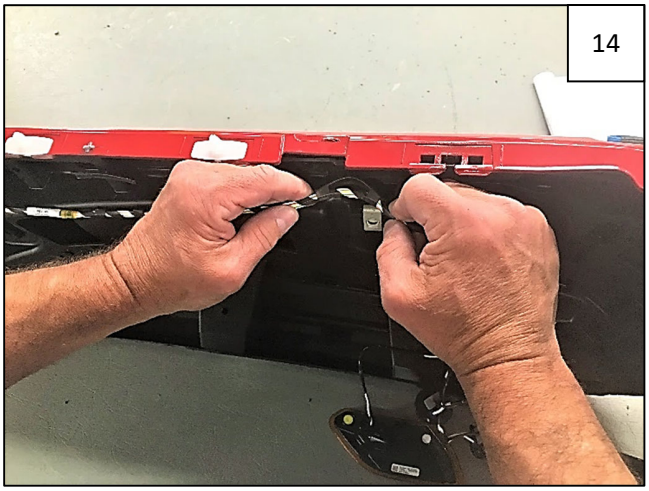
Turn flare on its back on a work surface. Using a Phillips screwdriver, remove 1 factory fastener from light housing as shown. Retain ALL factory fasteners – most will be reused.



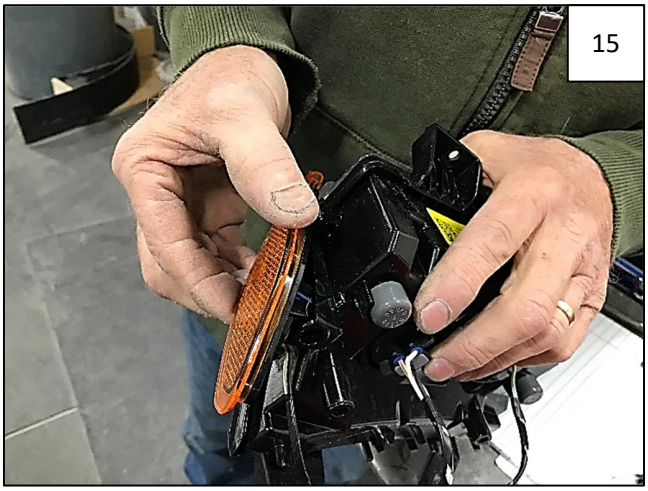
Using a T-30 Torx bit, remove 4 factory fasteners as shown.



Lift housing flap up to remove 4 more fasteners underneath it as shown, using a T-30 Torx bit.



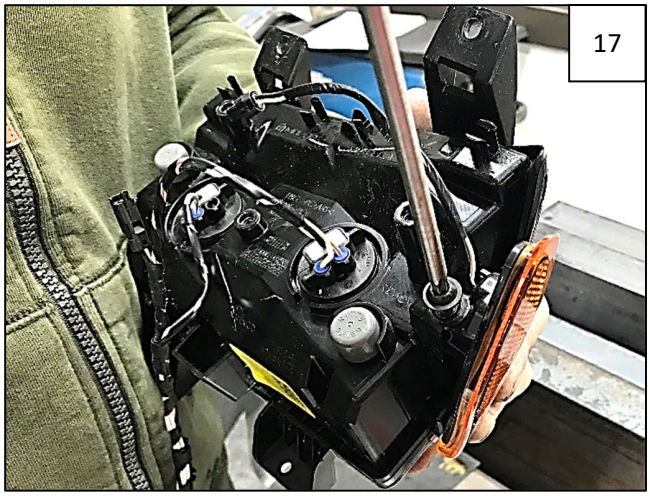
Remove wire harness from light housing routing using your hands or pliers. Do not cut the electrical tape; simply pry from contact points gently. Disconnect light bulb connector(s). Remove light housing from factory flare.



Slide side marker light from housing.



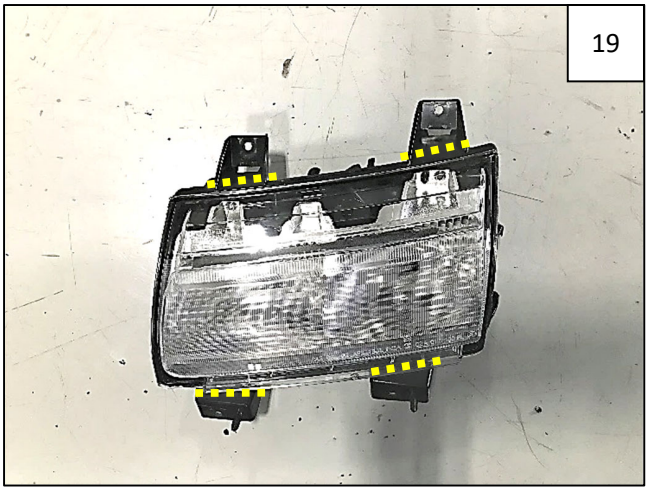
Light is taped to OE flare. Gently pry housing from flare to disengage tape. If tape sticks to lens surface you may remove it, but it will not show in the final assembly.



Reinstall side marker light by installing the short factory coarse-thread screw removed earlier back into light housing as shown.



Using a cutoff wheel or saw, cut 4 plastic tabs on light housing as shown.



Areas to cut are marked with dashed lines. The goal is to remove these tabs parallel with contours of light housing as cleanly as possible.

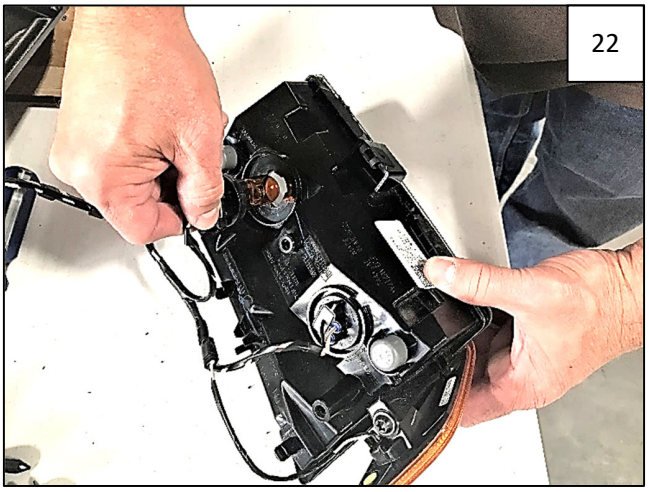


Using a sanding disc or sandpaper, sand down any remaining tab vestiges. Tab vestiges must be as flush as possible for proper installation.

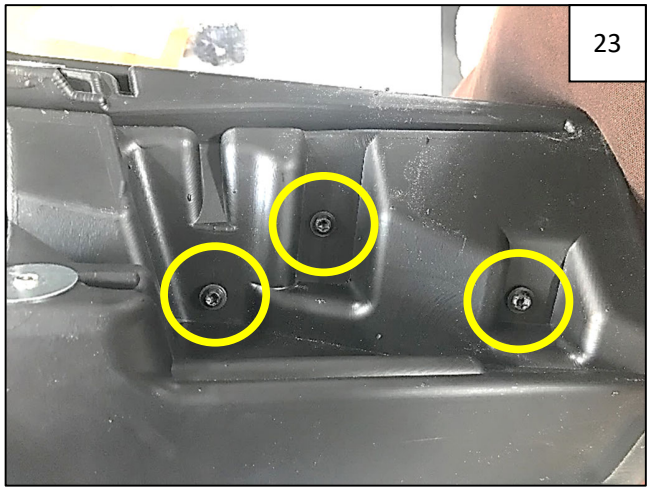
SECTION 3: LIGHT HOUSING REASSEMBLY



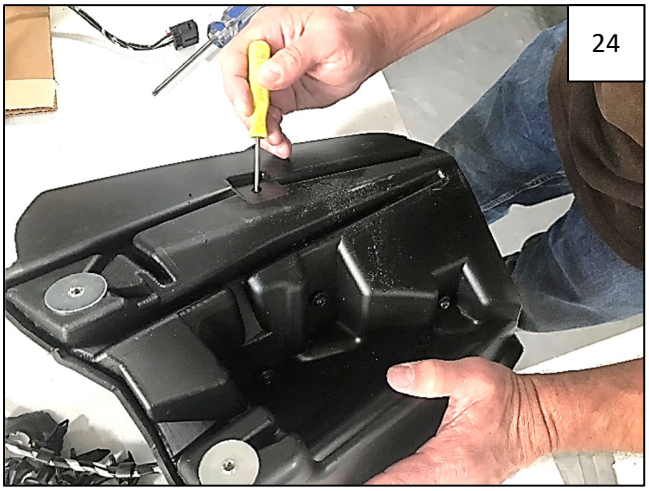
Install a supplied “U” Clip over hole in bottom bracket of modified light housing, centering hole in clip over hole in bracket.



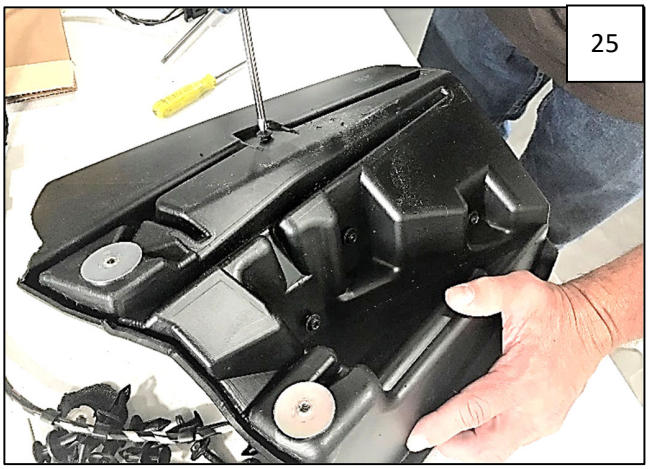
Reconnect harness and/or light bulbs if you removed them. The wire harness will need to be routed in the formed-in groove in the housing and ultimately to the connector in the engine compartment when installing new flares.



Assemble modified light housing with supplied Front Bracket. Start 3 factory screws through supplied Front Bracket and into modified light housing, but do not tighten.
NOTE: 2 Coarse-Thread Screws are included in case of loss.

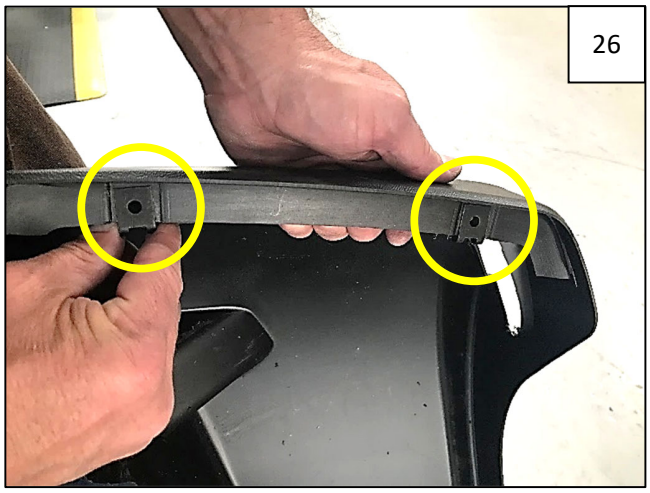


Using an awl, make sure “U” clip installed previously is still centered over hole in bracket.



Start a supplied Truss screw into clip – only engage a few threads to catch screw. Screws will not be tightened until after the light housing is installed in new flare.

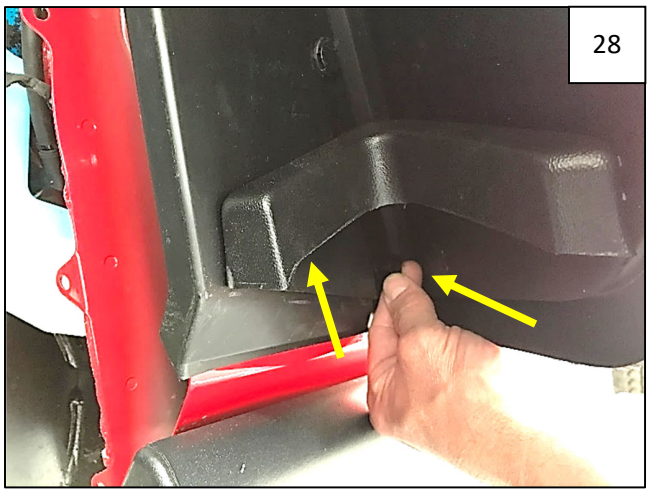
SECTION 4: FRONT FLARE INSTALLATION



Slide 2 supplied “U” Clips onto Front Flare Inner Bracket as shown.



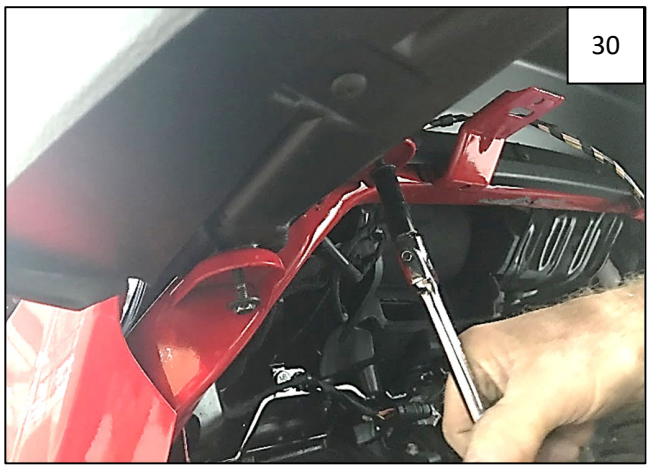
Holding flare on fender, install 2 supplied Plastic Retainers through holes in flare in locations shown and into holes in fender. Push each retainer in to engage. The remainder of Plastic Retainers will be installed in later steps.



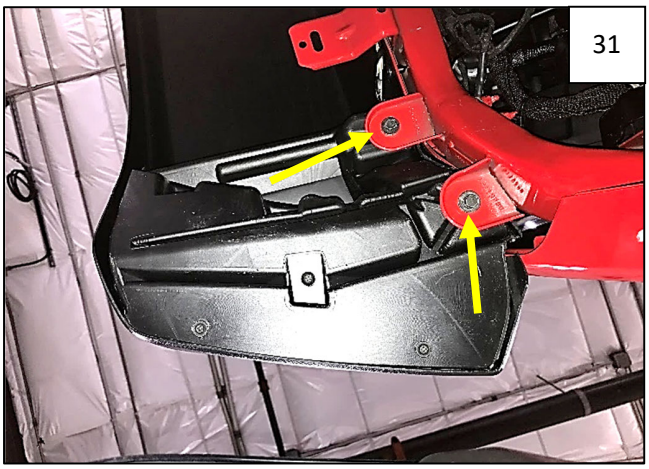
Holding flare on fender, install 2 supplied Plastic Retainers through holes at bottom rear of flare, under flare corner bracket feature, and into holes in fender. Push each retainer in to engage.



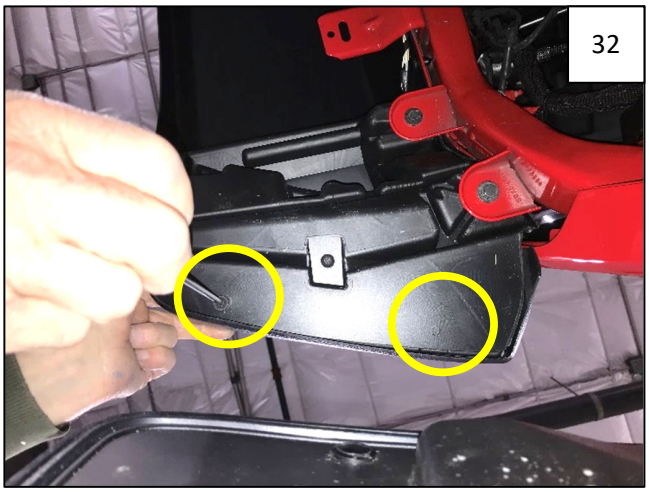
Fit assembled light housing bracket into inside of flare as shown.



Using a 10mm socket, start 2 factory bolts through housing and into red sheet metal brackets on vehicle. Do not tighten.



Bolt locations.
NOTE: It is helpful to use an awl to line holes up prior to starting bolts.



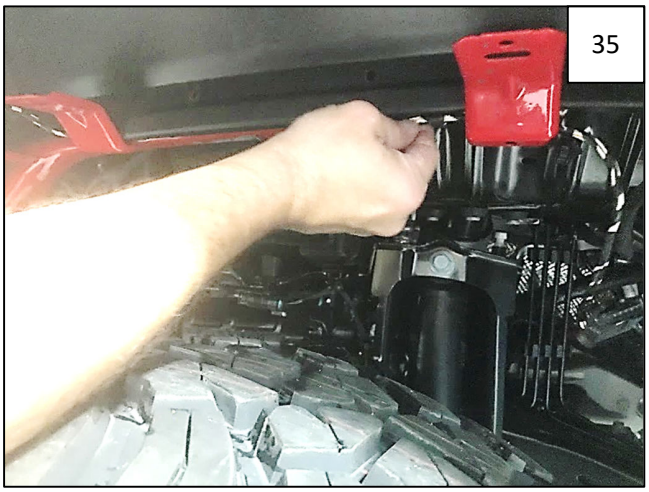
Using a Phillips screwdriver, start 2 supplied Truss screws through clip holes in bracket and into Flare Inner Piece. Do not tighten.



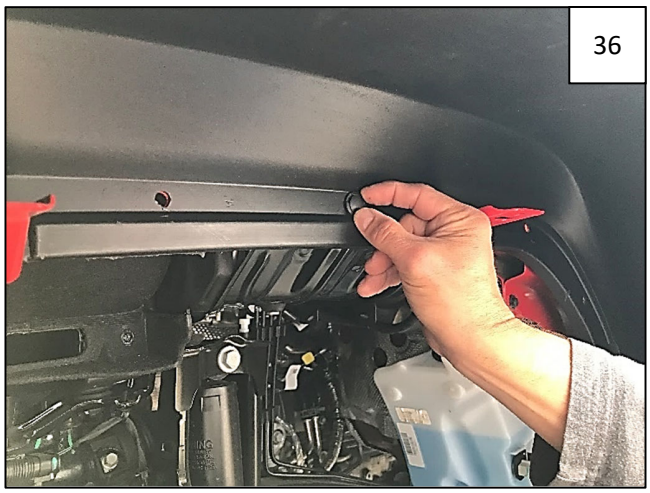
Check fit of light inside light pocket and adjust screws incrementally as needed to ensure even fit – tighten screws installed in Step 23 *before* screw installed in Step 25. Slowly tighten all screws in light housing and bracket.



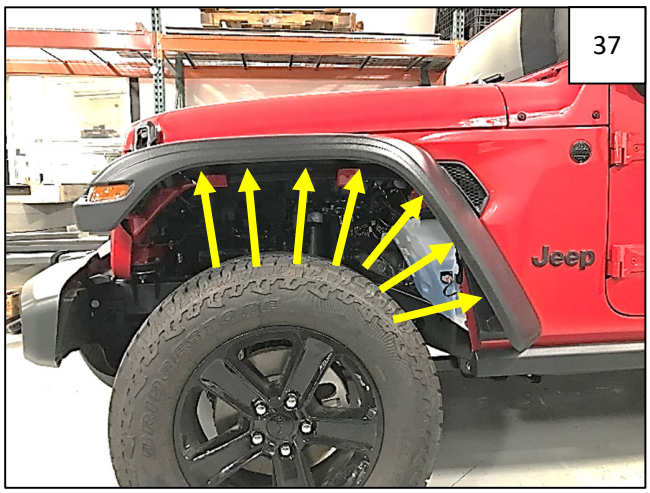
Route wire harness from light housing over the first of the metal fender brackets and toward channel molded into Flare.



Tuck wire harness up into channel in flare and route into engine compartment (connector is located near washer fluid reservoir). Connect wire harness to connector.



Install remaining 7 plastic fasteners.

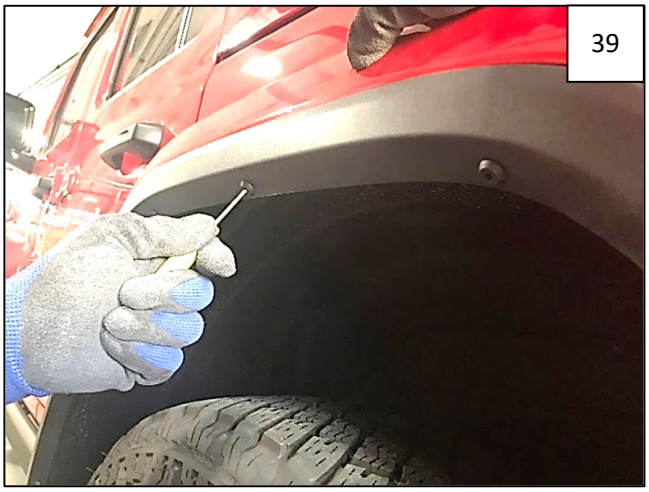


Plastic Fastener locations.



Complete Front Flare installation.

SECTION 5: REAR FACTORY FLARE REMOVAL



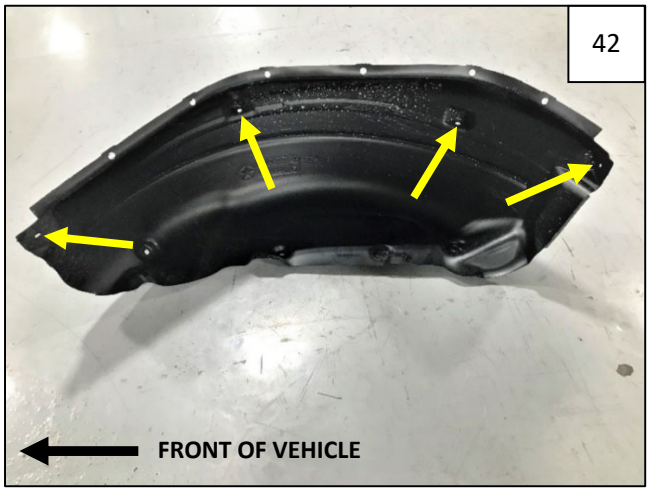
On rear factory flare, use an awl to pop 8 factory retainers in center of each retainer to disengage.



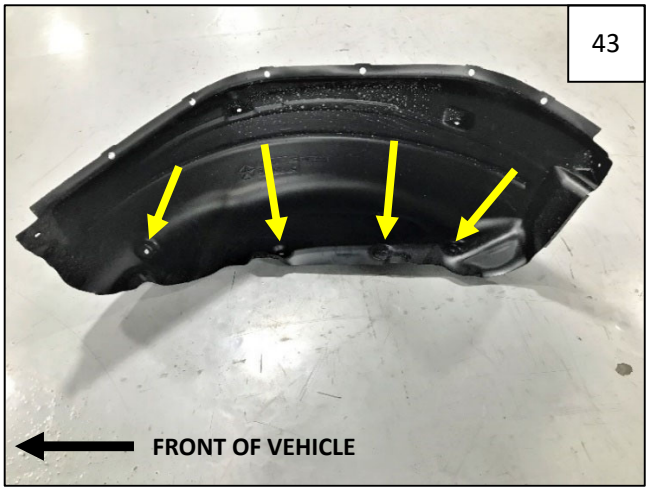
Factory retainer locations.



Using a plastic pry tool, pry each plastic retainer from vehicle and discard.



To remove wheel well liner, first use a pry tool to remove 4 factory retainers from outer edge of wheel well liner and discard (liner is shown removed from wheel well for viewing ease).



Using a pry tool, remove 4 factory retainers from liner area behind wheel and discard. Remove and discard wheel well liner.
NOTE: Liner can be discarded, trimmed and reinstalled, or replaced with an aftermarket liner.



Use pliers and pry tool to disengage 12 white factory retainers. Unlike the front, these retainers are not accessible from behind, so force will be needed. Discard.



Pull factory flare from vehicle. Pry any white retainers from sheet metal and discard – holes must be clear for installation. Discard factory flare.

SECTION 6: REAR FLARE INSTALLATION



Holding flare on fender, install 11 supplied Plastic Retainers through holes in flare and into holes in fender. Push each retainer to engage.
NOTE: 1 Plastic Fastener will be placed in the factory hole at the lower front *without* engaging the flare.



Plastic Fastener locations.
NOTE: Fastener in lower front goes directly into sheet metal.



Complete Rear Flare Installation.