

Installation Instructions – Facelift Tail Lamp Set

Audi A8 (4E)



Overview

This article is intended to provide a step-by-step guide for enthusiasts wanting to update their 2003-2007 Audi A8 (4E chassis) to the 2008+ rear LED lights. Wiring is involved and total time should be 3-4 hours.

Parts Required for Installation

- EU or US Rear light set, 2008 onward
- Trigger Wire - 000 979 131 E

Installation

Wires must be run from the rear fender lights to the lights on the rear decklid. This is required for the turn signals to light across both lamps. Additionally, the Cold Start Diagnostics must be defeated to prevent a "Lamp Out" error on the dash.

1. The outer lights are held in by two 10mm nuts that are accessed by removing small cosmetic covers near the trunk threshold. Be careful when removing them because they will disappear forever if you drop them inside the frame of the car.
2. Once the bolts are loose, the lights will wiggle out and can be disconnected. Refer to the new lights in order to see the tab that secures the old lights to the body of the vehicle.
3. On the left outer light, splice into Pin 5 (purple/green) on the tail lamp harness and run enough wire to reach the trunk hinge wiring loom and then back along the inside of the trunk lid to the inner light. We normally allow for 8' or so of 20GA wire.
4. Using a pin removal tool, disconnect and fold back Pin 2. This is the wire that tells the car when a bulb is out. Since the new lights are almost entirely LED, this warning is no longer needed and will be on constantly if you don't correct it.
5. Repeat steps 1-4 on the right side. Pin 5 on the outer light will be white/blue.

6. The inner covers for the trunk will need to be pulled back enough to run the new wires from each side to the trunk hinge. Go slowly when removing the tabs and securing elements to avoid damage. Once the wire is to the hinge, use a wire “fish” to pull them up through the hinges and into the trunk lid area.
7. The inner cover of the trunk lid will need to be fully removed in order to access the top of the hinges and the inner rear lights. This can be done by removing the screws inside the grip handles and then the latch surround.
8. Once they are off, the felt liner can be pulled down firmly around the edges until all of the clips are off. Be careful not to pull too hard, as there are electronics connected under that can be damaged.
9. The inner lights are secured to the trunk lid with more 10mm bolts. Once you have the new lights in place, route the wires you ran to Pin 7 (green on both sides) and it will bridge the turn signal across the lights properly. If you want to put the right end on the wires, add the trigger wire listed above to the end.
10. Once that is complete, test the lights for error codes and proper functionality. When everything is confirmed, reinstall the covers and trim in the reverse order.