

Modifying a New Vanagon Bra/Front-end Cover to Fit Bumper-mounted Lights

Note:

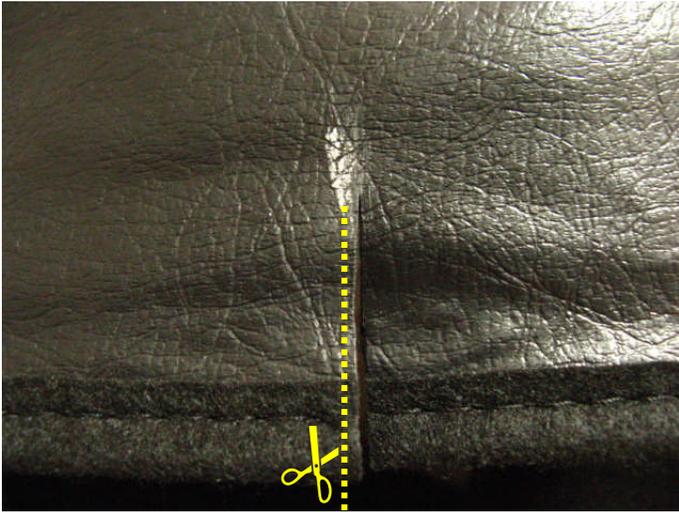
- Do this modification at your own risk! I take zero responsibility for your potential screw-ups and potential irreversible damage to your van's bra. If you are unsure about your ability to do this modification, please take the bra to a professional (alteration shop, upholstery shop, seamstress, etc.).
- Altering your van's bra will void the bra's warranty.

Instructions (read before beginning):

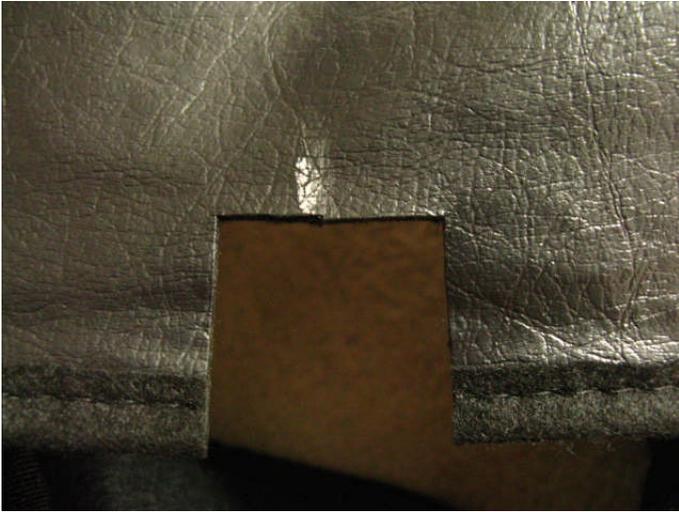
1. Place the new bra in the sun for about an hour.
2. Clean the front of your van.
3. Install the bra, making sure all clips and tabs are fastened. Leave the bra in place for several hours, or overnight to allow it to stretch.
4. Mark the centerline of each bumper-mounted light using chalk, or tape.
5. Measure (and make note of) the width of the light brackets.
6. Measure (and make note of) the depth of the light brackets, from the back of the bumper to the front of the brackets.
 - a. For example, my light brackets are 1½" from the back edge of the bumper to the front edge of the light brackets.
7. Cut a slit in the vinyl to the depth you measured in step 6.
 - a. If desired, re-install the bra to ensure your measurements are correct, or to precisely locate your cutting marks for step 8.
8. At the end of that slit, cut the vinyl parallel to the felt edge for half the width of the bracket.
 - a. For example, my light brackets are 1½" wide. From the slit, I would cut left ¾" and right ¾".
9. From the felt edge, cut up to each end of the new slit you just made in step 8. You should now have a complete cut-out at each light bracket location in the bra.
10. Cut an appropriate length of new black felt, 1" wide. Make it a little longer than the length of the cut-out (you can trim it later).
11. Placing the edge of the felt against the edge of the bra, fold it in half over the cut-out edge and use paperclips to hold it in place.
12. Using black thread (nylon preferred for durability), sew the new felt in place around the edge of the cut-out.
 - a. Using a sewing machine is preferred. Backstitch each end and tie the thread ends into a knot on the underside of the bra to secure them.
13. Repeat steps 10 through 12 for the second cut-out.
14. Trim, if need be, excess felt to the edge of the existing felt. Be careful not to cut the original, existing felt.
 - a. If your bumper lights are mounted more towards the middle (depth-wise) of the bumper, you may need to add Velcro tabs to the back of the cut-outs to keep the bra taught and/or to keep it from flapping. There are a couple of options:
 - i. Sew a Velcro tab on each side of the cut-out, at the edge of the bra, and wrap the Velcro over the back of the bumper, which is then "stuck" to the other half. Place Sticky-back Velcro tabs on the underside of the top of the bumper (do this step last: place the Sticky-back portion onto the sewn-on tabs, wrap the tabs over and your Sticky-back pieces will then be stuck in their proper places).
 - ii. Sew one piece of Velcro to one side of the cut-out; sew the other piece to the other side of the cut-out. Once the bra is in place, "stick" the two pieces together.
15. Re-install the bra (make sure the van and the bra are clean and free of any dust/dirt!).



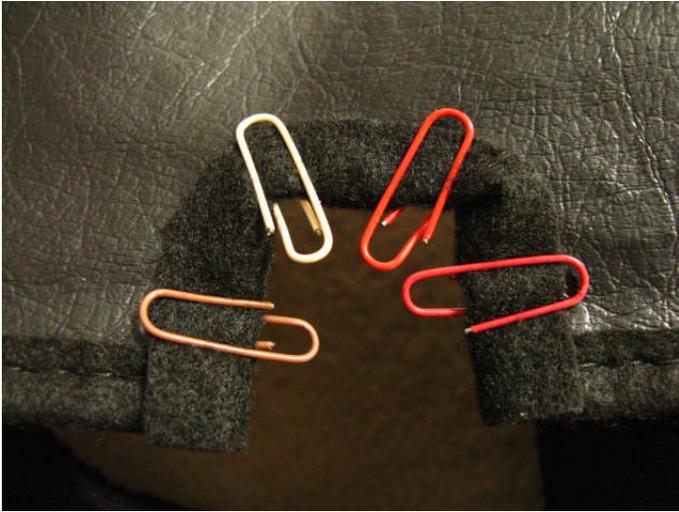
Step 4



Step 7



Steps 8 & 9



Step 11



Finished cut-out



Altered bra installed

