

PURET34 STEP BY STEP: Restoring Bulb-Type Headlight & Foglights

If your fog lights are like most T34s, then the reflectors are beginning to flake-off and rust, the inner rings are rusting, and the chrome outer ring needs rechroming. Restoring your foglights (and bulb-type headlights) is a fairly easy process that takes a weekend and only \$15 in supplies.

Supplies Needed: primer (gray), chrome spray paint, gray spray paint, 160 & 600 grit sandpaper, Neutra-Rust, & large zip-lock baggies.

Disassembly: remove the retaining screw from the lower edge of the fog lights, pull the fog light unit off the car and disconnect the two wires at the bulb. Turn the light upside-down and use a screwdriver to carefully remove the four spring-bars that keep the chrome ring onto the bracket. These can fly away in an instant, so be careful. Then remove the glass lens from the bracket, and undo the U-clip holding the bulb assembly to the reflector. Next separate the inner bracket from the reflector, and remove the reflector cup from the reflector. With all the parts separated, place everything except the reflectors into the baggie to keep all the parts together.

Preparation: Use 160 grit sandpaper to remove the inner surface of the reflector, then go over it with 600 grit sandpaper to get a smooth surface. If there's rust then apply the Neutra-Rust (a rust converter solution) to the rusty area with a cloth. Wash the reflectors with soap & water and dry completely in the sun before attempting to paint. Use masking tape around the edge of the reflector to keep things clean.

Reflector Painting: Apply two thin coats of primer & allow to dry 30 minutes. Use 600 grit sandpaper to remove the primer dust and then apply two thin coats of chrome and allow to dry 30 minutes. Sand with 600 again and then respray one last coat of chrome. Allow to sit overnight before removing masking tape for a perfect finish.



Inner Bracket resto: The inner bracket holds the reflector by sliding into the two black rubber seals on either side of the reflector. It's often rusty and in need of a repaint back to its original gray color. First, carefully remove the tiny spring attached to the bracket. Use 600 sandpaper to remove the paint & rust on the bracket. Apply Neutra-Rust if necessary. Then apply primer & gray paint.

Reassembly: While the paint is drying, sand-down the bulb spade connections for a brighter light and wash the glass lens and all other parts. To reassemble, slide the reflector into the bracket, install the bulb holder into the reflector and hook-up the U-clip. Install the glass lens into the reflector, and then put the chrome ring over the lens. Turn the light upside-down and carefully install the four spring-bars inbetween the chrome ring & bracket.

Bulb Headlight Resto: The bulb headlight has a very similar design to the foglight and is disassembled the same way. However, there is only one black rubber seal that connects the reflector to the bracket, and there is a parking light bulb fitted just below the large headlight bulb. Follow the same preparation & painting instructions as for the foglight. The headlights have a black inner metal ring (bottom pic) that holds the glass lens in place. This ring will need to be stripped, prepped, and painted glossy black. The chrome outer ring simply clips over this black ring and is held in place by one screw.



Restored headlight reflector (left) to an original (right).

The complete set of restored lights (below).



Restored fog light reflector (left) to an original (right).

