

Volkswagen Cabriolet DIY Guide

Installing A2 "Big Bumpers"

This how-to is/was hosted at <http://www.geek-out.com/vw/bigbumps.htm> . The instructions are for a Volkswagen Caddy; however, the process is virtually the same for a Cabriolet. A2 "big bumpers" look best on USA-built A1 Volkswagens due to the height of the front valance/radiator support (sheet metal below the grille). On the USA-built cars, the A2 bumper meets up with the grille creating a somewhat seamless look; while on Cabriolets, a small section of the valance/radiator support will be seen unless the bumper can be raised. What this means: the A2 bumpers look better on the USA-built cars and look silly on Cabriolets unless it's done right.

Parts Needed:

- A2 Big front bumper cover (with center part painted to match your truck preferably)
- (2) A2 Big front bumper cover side mounting brackets
- A2 Steel front bumper
- (6) Wedges to hold bumper cover clips into steel bumper

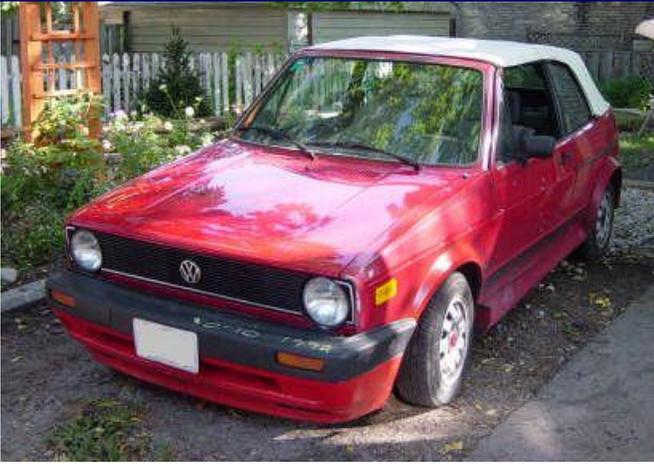
Instructions:

1. Remove stock bumper from factory mounts.
2. Place bumper cover over mounts and measure gap between body and edge of cover (so edge of bumper will fit up under the grille). Take that measurement and subtract another 1/4" to allow for thickness of the steel bumper.
3. Remove mounts and have them shortened (cut and welded back together) by the amount you measured. Caution! Do not try to cut and weld a set of bumper shocks. The heat could cause them to explode. Use the brackets from the mount and fabricate a set of mounts from some metal pipe. I had to do this so if you need more info, let me know.
4. On the front of the mount where the bumper will attach, cut off the outer mounting wing. The wing will interfere with the parking light hole.
5. Mount brackets back in and lay cover on top. It should fit about right.
6. Take steel bumper and hammer tabs where the factory lights were flat.
7. Mount bumper to brackets by drilling holes as needed.
8. Trial-fit cover and since the front of the truck is wider than the inside of the bumper, mark the area where you will have to remove material to allow it to fit.
9. Grind out the bumper cover a bit (an air die grinder with a carbide cutting tip works great) and trial-fit on truck. Mark any areas that need more attention and re-grind. Repeat about 3 dozen times (you get the idea). Careful with the grinder... you can always remove more material but you can't put it back.
10. Once the cover has about an 1/8" gap between it and the body, it should be perfect.
11. Lay bumper cover on mounts and line up where the side brackets will have to go. Use a level so they are straight. Once you have the holes marked, get out the drill and drill a hole for the bracket. (Note: Only the top hole of the bracket will fit. Secure the bottom with a bolt)
12. Mount the bumper and secure with the wedges on the back of the bumper.
13. Mount in parking lights if you want or need them. Or, what I did was cut some textured black plastic and blank off the holes.
14. Enjoy!

Just take your time, measure and trial fit often.

Contributed by Greg Coombs (vwdude@iname.com)

Maintained by Josh W (josh_w@sprynet.com)



looks silly & out of place



Looks good

Above photo from <http://www.geek-out.com/vw/bigbumps.htm>

* * Remember, **you** are responsible for working on **your** car; Cabby-Info.com, Greg Coombs, Josh W., VWvortex.com, VAG, VWoA, or anyone else are **not** responsible if **anything** goes wrong while **you** are working on, in and under **your** car!

Use this information at your own risk!* *