

Volkswagen Cabriolet DIY Guide

Badge Restoration

There are four methods for refurbishing your Cabriolet's badges in this how-to. Read through them all first, and then decide which method is best for you.

Method 1

This method is by "Dr. Dub" and is/was hosted at http://website.lineone.net/~dr.dub/karmann_badge_restoration.htm .

Tools needed:

- Degreaser
- Chrome tape (available at hobby stores)
- X-Acto-type knife with new blade

Step 1



Firstly, de-grease the badges.

Step 2



Then press the tape onto the letters to reveal the outline.

Step 3



Carefully cut around the letters with a super sharp scalpel; take your time.

Step 4



Finished. They look like new, which is good as they are no longer available.

I have used this technique on other badges to great effect. Just be careful when cleaning your car; the chrome can come off if you get carried away with the sponge.

Method 2

This method is by "DaveLinger" and was originally posted on VWvortex.com.

Tools needed:

- Elmer's silver Metallic Painters pen (available at Wal-Mart and other craft stores, or at markersupply.com), or any paint pen with a solid color of your choice
- Paint pen with clear paint
- Sandpaper

Step 1



Carefully and lightly scuff the area to be painted, if need be, using sandpaper.

Removing the badges from the car is not necessary.

Step 2



Using the paint pen, simply paint the area requiring refurbishing. Let the paint dry and apply a second coat. Apply a coat or two of clear to seal the color coats and/or to apply a slight gloss.

Method 3

This method is by "KaeoFLUX" and was originally posted on VWvortex.com:

1. Paint the whole piece with 3 coats of durable silver paint.
2. Then paint 1 coat of black, and carefully wipe it off the top with something stiff like a sponge and some paint thinner. Repeat this process until the surrounding area is covered well in black. DONE! Or,
 1. Paint the whole piece with a durable silver paint - 3 Coats.
 2. Then paint it black using Rustoleum Satin Black. Then *carefully* sand the black off the letters with 300 or 400 grit paper. DONE!

Similar to the one above, this method is by "chef.stephen" and was originally posted on VWvortex.com:

Here is a tip from a friend who did it this way. Spray the badges with the silver paint and let them dry thoroughly for a few days. Before painting with black, roll a light coat of wax on the letters using a cheap waxing roller from the drug store. They sell them in the hair removal section for ladies who want to wax their own legs. He, I understand, stole his wife's. Anyway, apply a light coat of wax and let it harden. Spray with a satin black and let it dry. Use a hot damp sponge to gently wipe the wax and the black paint off of the face of the letters.

Method 4

This method is by "briano1234" and was originally posted on www.ToplessRabbit.com.

Tools needed:

- Satin black spray paint
- 600-grit sandpaper
- Tub of water
- New Sharpie® pen (black)
- Small, stiff paint brush
- Clear acrylic sealer (high gloss used in this method)
- Silver, gold, etc. leafing kit (available at craft stores or at www.dickblick.com)

Step 1



Clean all the wax off the badge and then paint the badge a satin black (this color best works with the cover-up). Spray at least 2 coats of black and allow to dry for at least 1 hour.

Step 2



Using 600 grit paper and plenty of water sand off the shine of the paint (careful, only on the exposed lettering).

Step 3



Shake the sizing (adhesive) really well.

Step 4



Pour the adhesive into the cap, making sure that it is bubble free. Using the 600 grit sand the tip of your finger a bit to remove the finger print. Using your fingertip, apply the sizing to the raised portion of the badge; be very careful as anywhere that you put the sizing the leaf will stick. If you get it in places that you don't want it to be, you can wash the sizing off with warm soapy water.

Step 5



Allow to the sized badge to dry about 15 minutes to 24 hours, the sizing will remain tacky for about 4 days. Wash your hands well in warm soapy water as you need to be adhesive free.

Step 6



Apply the leaf to the item; rub the leaf with your finger tip to the raised letters. It will start coming off where you didn't put the adhesive. Save the big pieces for other projects.

Step 7



Using a stiff brush, brush the remaining part of the leaf off.

Step 8



The leaf will only stick to where the adhesive is, or where the paint is still wet.

Step 9



Where the leaf didn't stick to your lettering, reapply a thin coat of sizing; then apply a little more leaf to cover when dry.

Step 10



Brush off the excess.

Step 11



You will now have the basic letters leafed, and maybe a little ragged looking.

Step 12



Using a new Sharpie®, cover up the bits that are overages; be very careful to stay off the raised parts of the letters.

Step 13



The finished badge.

Step 14



Now you are ready to spray sealer on the badge - at least 3 coats. I use high gloss; it will appear milky but dry absolutely clear.



** Remember, **you** are responsible for working on **your** car; Cabby-Info.com, "Dr. Dub", "DaveLinger", "KaoFLUX", "chef.stephen", "briano1234", 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!**