



My Modded OEM Grill

After the RMM grill, I was search of a grill that was well made, fit perfectly, and at the same time, was somewhat original. Hmm, what to do? Modify the OEM grill of course!

As a fellow member told me recently 'you can't leave well enough alone...' I decided to pass along the RMM grill, and modify another part which I know is of solid construction, with perfect fit and finish; none other than the OEM grill of course.

That said, my options were few; go for the bling-attempt, and chrome it, or, what else really? I decided against the chrome since on *my* GS, the interpretation of the chrome grill is that of a "cruiser" [300s are cruisers, not 4s 😊], and the look takes away from that of sport. I wanted something classy, like OEM, but a hair more aggressive, which leads me to my mod.

The idea had surfaced some while ago while spotting an Aristo, with a fully blacked out OEM grill. I started with that vision, and tweaked it just a tad.

I started with my OEM grill and removed the center 'L'. I primed the grill portion with a dark color primer. All of it; chrome trim and all. I applied about 3 or 4 light coats.

Next came the flat black enamel paint; the number of applications was closer to at least 5 or 6 here.

In the meantime of applying the coats of flat black, I applied an aerosol foaming *Citristrip* (Home Depot - \$3) to the entire center 'L' emblem. The directions state you can leave it on for 24hrs, so I did that, twice. After the 2nd day, I started rubbing lightly with a cotton shop towel, and removed most of the black/grey OEM paint from the **entire** emblem. Yes, the entire emblem is chrome (or chrome-esque), like the grill. 😊

After removing most of the paint with the shop towel, I rinsed off the emblem in a weak solution of liquid dishwashing soap and water, dried off with a paper towel, and went back over the non-finger-permittable cracks and crevasses with some additional *Citristrip* and Q-tips and toothpicks.

And here is the end result. Nothing flashy, perhaps a little better than OEM, since the color is more black, than grey. I may try a few coats of glossy black to see if I can get the color a little deeper. If it chips, no big, I can fix that in a few minutes. If it chips really badly, I may consider powdercoating it.

Another consideration is to PC the entire grill, but not sure how a total blacked out grill would look on the Blue.

It sure as heck fits nicely. 🚗





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