

Carbon Fiber Grille Bar

Decided to Replace the Chrome Grille Bar with Carbon Fiber

Actually don't mind some chrome on the C7. There is chrome on the front and rear logo badge; chrome Corvette word on the rear; chrome "fish" on the sides and a thin chrome ring around the wheel center cap. In fact decided because of the chrome on the wheel center cap I would just use chrome locks and keep the chrome lugs on my black wheels.



However after installing the Carbon Fiber Splitter, that matched the CF side skirts and CF Hood Vent, matching the OEM CF roof, perhaps

that

Chrome Grille Bar was a bit much!

Some say it looks like a tooth retainer!



It's a dramatic visual difference.

Real Carbon Fiber-Not Black or Fake CF Tape

A number of posts discuss covering the chrome bar with black tape. There is even carbon fiber look tape available. Some carbon flash tape kits are sold for \$20 and match the rest of the carbon flash grill. Some folks used electrical tape and others sprayed the bar with black Plasticoat.

However having spent the money for the OEM CF roof, real CF Side Skirts, CF Hood Vent and a CF Splitter, I wanted real CF for the grill bar. Concept7 makes a Carbon Fiber Grille Insert Overlay. TKO sells them for \$205 (plus shipping) on their website. That was only 4% of what all the other Carbon Fiber on the car cost and for me was the way to go!

THE FOLLOWING IS A PICTURE REVIEW OF THE INSTALLATION OF THE CARBON FIBER GRILLE INSERT OVERLAYS

Photo Sequence

The Carbon Fiber Grille Insert Overlays are shipped in a rugged cardboard tube. There are made in two parts that are well packed and come with a sheet of instructions.



The two Overlays are the exact same shape as the two piece chrome bar. They are shaped the same, where the chrome is wide and rounded at the ends, so are the CF parts. Where it narrows to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in the center- so does the carbon fiber Overlay. Each is ~25 inches long

After checking the fit of both sides, the instructions say to scuff the chrome with 80 grit sandpaper. They suggest taping the area around the chrome to avoid damaging that surface. I used 3M painters tape so it was easy to remove. **SUGGESTION: Don't put the tape too close to the chrome edge or you'll be using a dental tool, as I did in some areas, to remove it!**



They recommend using a 2 part epoxy designed for joining plastic. Note, plastic epoxy is different than the standard product. They indicate it should be placed on the back side of the carbon fiber Overlays. It also suggests cleaning the surfaces with glass cleaner. However prior to sanding I use the professional general purpose adhesive cleaner by 3M shown left since it will take off any silicone, my Zaino etc.

Bought this JB "Plastic Bonder." It's called a Body Panel Adhesive, Filler & Sealer. Worked great. It is thick and will not drip out of the joint as could a typical 5 minute epoxy.

Mixed the two part epoxy in cut down paper cups. Cut the bristles short in two disposable parts cleaning brushes to apply after mixing.

Mixed enough to do one side (only need a small amount) for about 45 seconds to be sure it was well combined. On the first side applied as directed with a brush by staying away from the edge so it did not squeeze out on to the protective tape. That worked well, in fact could have used a bit more.



Prior to mixing the epoxy I placed strips of painter's tape where it would be needed to hold the Overlay in place.



Epoxy setup time is dependent on temperature. The package just said not to use below 40F. However it was 90 in the garage so I worked quickly. Probably had 5 minutes max but used less time to apply it in the center of the CF Overlay and pressed it onto the chrome bar. I then placed the Overlay over the chrome and pressed it firmly all along the 1st half.

Then placed more tape over the Overlay to press it to the chrome bar. One area appeared to be somewhat loose so after about 10 minutes used hand pressure in that section for 5 minutes. At 15 minutes, as the instructions note, it was set. It takes 30 minutes to fully cure.





Did the same for the 2nd side with another batch of epoxy. The butted center fit perfectly. This time I put a somewhat larger amount on the wider part of the Overlay where it had felt slightly loose until I held it in place. As with the first side I put additional strips of tape along that whole section. It felt very secure, no need to hold it in place.

Left it overnight.

After removing the tape, cleaned with the 3M cleaner. It was all attached very securely, no loose areas. Since I had put the tape close to the chrome to prevent any epoxy squeezing out (which it did not) there were a few areas where a small edge of the tape remained tucked under the chrome. Used a dentil pick to carefully remove it. Cleaned the whole area with the 3M cleaner and reapplied Zaino #5 polish followed immediately with Zaino CS, Clear Seal. The Clear Seal is just applied sparingly (as with all Zaino products) with no buffing or removal. Just apply and let dry!



Final result is excellent!

Now the OEM CF roof is matched with the CF Side Skirts, CF Splitter, CF Hood Vent, and now the CF Grille Insert!

Other 2017 Grand Sport & 2014 Stingray PDF's Available:



Some 40 items discuss improvements or information about a 2017 Grand Sport and 2014 Stingray function and/or esthetics. Some are minor and others, like the installing ceramic brake pads, include detailed install information.

Below are the PDF's available. Click on picture (may need Ctrl pressed.) Or just copy and paste the PDF info (Blue type) into your browser. Or email me at GUtrachi@aol.com and state the title desired, shown in Yellow:

Note: GS indicates that info may only be in the process of being added to C7 PDFs.

Rusty GS/C7 Muffler

*Why the C7 muffler is rusted and a simply way to make rust turn matte black.
Bottom pic rusted, top pic treated*

http://netwelding.com/Muffler_Rust.pdf



Change GS/C7 Oil

*WHY change your own oil and HOW to do it
Revised, includes C7 Lifting Methods*

http://netwelding.com/Changing_Oil.pdf



C7 Carbon Fiber Side Skirts

*How to install side skirts with jacking information for
DIY's without lifts*

http://netwelding.com/Side_Skirts.pdf



C7 Carbon Fiber Splitter w/End Plates

How to install Splitter & Nylon bra fit

http://netwelding.com/CF_Splitter.pdf



C7 Removing GM Plastic Film

How To Remove The Rocker Panel Film

http://netwelding.com/Rocker_Panel_Film.pdf



GS/C7 Mirror Proximity Alarm

Limit switch alarm warns when passenger mirror is too close to door frame

http://netwelding.com/Mirror_Proximity_Alarm.pdf



Jacking Pads for GS/C7

Jacking Pads must 2 1/2 inch max OD. Made four. Also Hockey Puck pad and 2 1/2 inch OD x 2 inch high pads bought after installing side skirts.

http://netwelding.com/Jacking_pads.pdf



GS/C7 Radar Power

The C7 cannot tap the mirror or sun visor for power !

http://netwelding.com/Radar_Detector_Power.pdf



GS/C7 Belt Rattle

Passenger seat belt rattles against the seat back. The solution, add a shoulder belt pad.

http://netwelding.com/Eliminate_Rattle.pdf



Aluminum C7 Chassis and Weld Repair

The C7 has an all aluminum chassis, made from 117 welded pieces

http://netwelding.com/Aluminum_Chassis.pdf



GS/C7 Ceramic Brake Pads

The Z51 has very dusty brakes. These pads help!

http://netwelding.com/Ceramic_Pads.pdf



GS/C7 License Plate Frame;

Must Meet South Carolina Law

[http://netwelding.com/License Plate_Frame.pdf](http://netwelding.com/License_Plate_Frame.pdf)



Manage GS/C7 Spilled Gas

Protect the side of the C7 when filling up with gas

http://netwelding.com/Manage_Spilled_Gas.pdf



GS/C7 License Plate & Cargo Lights

LED license plate light & cargo area bulbs are brighter and whiter

[http://netwelding.com/License Plate_Light.pdf](http://netwelding.com/License_Plate_Light.pdf)



GS/C7 Rear Cargo Area

Rear cargo area needs storage device and rear protector

http://netwelding.com/Rear_Cargo_Area.pdf



C7 Door Panel Protector

protector plate added to prevent scuffing of door when exiting

http://netwelding.com/Door_Panel_Protector.pdf



GS/C7 Improved Cup Holder

A solution to the cup holder spilling under hard braking or sharp turns.

http://netwelding.com/Improved_cup_Holder.pdf



GS/C7 Wheel Chatter/Hop

Why sharp, low speed turns with cold tires causes the front tires to chatter/hop.

http://netwelding.com/Wheel_Chatter.pdf



C7 Carbon Fiber Grille Bar

Install genuine carbon fiber grille bar overlay

http://netwelding.com/CF_Grille_Bar.pdf



Jacking a GS/C7 Vette

Safely jacking either front only or back and front

http://netwelding.com/Jacking_A_C7.pdf



Deer Whistle Installed on GS/C7

Do they work? Plus Install Info

http://netwelding.com/Deer_Whistle.pdf



Replacing C7 Battery

After using a GM type charger and showing fully charged, voltage low, replaced battery with AGM!

http://netwelding.com/Battery_Issues.pdf



GS/C7 Window Valet

Lower Windows with FOB

Window Valet Helps 2014/2015 Latch Hatch

http://netwelding.com/Hatch_Latch.pdf



GS/C7 Splash Guards

GM offers splash guards for the C7 Corvette. An easy DIY installation.

http://netwelding.com/Splash_Guard.pdf



GS/C7 Blind Spot Mirror

Smaller rear and side windows cause C7 blind spots. Small "blind spot mirrors" help

http://netwelding.com/Blind_Spot.pdf



GS/C7 Skid Pad Protector

After the air dam, the aluminum "skid pad" hits driveway ramps etc. Plastic protector helps.

http://netwelding.com/Skid_Pad_Protector.pdf



GS/C7 Wheel Locks

Wheel locks, torqued to required 100 ft-lbs, help protect your expensive wheels from theft.

http://netwelding.com/Wheel_Locks.pdf



GS/C7 OnStar Lights

The OnStar LED's in the rear view mirror, at a quick glance, look like a police car flashing light! This is a fix.

http://netwelding.com/OnStar_Lights.pdf



GS/C7 Skip Shift Eliminator

Skip Shift Eliminator install with suggestions on jacking a C7.

http://netwelding.com/Skip_shift_Eliminator.pdf



C7 Catch Can & Clean Oil Separator

Direct inject engines like the LT1, are particularly subject to "coking." What is Coking and how to reduce the potential?

http://netwelding.com/Catch_Can.pdf



GS/C7 Round Shift Knob

A round shift knob shortens throw.

http://netwelding.com/Shift_Knob.pdf



GS/C7 Stingray Sill Plate

Stingray sill plate replaces original.

http://netwelding.com/Sill_Plate.pdf



GS/C7 Nylon Bra

Nylon Bra Stops Bugs on Front and Grill.
http://netwelding.com/Nylon_Bra.pdf



GS/C7 Clutch Fluid Change

Clutch fluid after 3000 miles gets dirty
http://netwelding.com/Clutch_Fluid.pdf



C7 Carbon Fiber Hood Vent

Replaces Plastic Hood Vent
http://netwelding.com/Hood_Vent.pdf



GS/C7 Cold Air Intake

Low Restriction Air Filter & Duct
http://netwelding.com/Cold_Air_Intake.pdf



Garmin GPS for GS Cubby

Garmin Mounts in GS Cubby
http://netwelding.com/GPS_In_Cubby.pdf



GS Splitter Stage 3 Winglet

Stage 3 Winglets Intergrate with Spats
http://netwelding.com/Stage_3_Winglets.pdf



GS 2LT to 2.5 LT

Red Upper Dash Pad Like 3LT
http://netwelding.com/Red_Dash_Pad.pdf



Jake Emblem/Decals for GS

Jake Symbols Support GS Racing Image
http://netwelding.com/Jake_Emblems.pdf



GS Splitter Protectors

Cone Washers Protect Splitter Bottom
http://netwelding.com/Splitter_Protectors.pdf



May Be Of Interest:

Engineering a ProStreet Rod

*How Our '34 ProStreet Rod Was Designed and Built
8.2 Liter Engine, 4 Wheel Disk Brakes & Coilover*
<http://netwelding.com/Engineering%20Street%20Rod%203-08.pdf>

