

INSTALLATION DIY

G8X M3 / M4 Painted Front Reflectors

A step-by-step guide for installing IND-painted OEM front reflectors on the G8X M3 and M4. Designed for at-home installation in about 15 minutes per side.



FITMENT	INSTALL TIME	DIFFICULTY	FINISH
G80 M3 G82 M4 · G83 M4	~15 min per side	Beginner friendly	Color-matched OEM reflector

Overview

Painted reflectors are among the first additions made by most modern BMW owners. Thanks to U.S. DOT requirements, the orange reflectors fitted to North American cars continue to break the smooth lines of BMW bumpers. While BMW has begun lightly tinting the reflectors on the G8x chassis, IND continues to offer painted reflectors as a cost-effective alternative to sourcing an OEM European bumper.

We start with genuine BMW reflectors for a factory fit and use the same paint process used to spray an entire vehicle. Each reflector is sanded, prepped, primed, then painted. All lettering on the face of the reflector is fully removed so the finished surface matches your factory bumper. This guide walks through the at-home install in six steps.

Tools needed

- Bondo spreader (plastic body filler spreader)
- Adhesive remover or cleaning solvent
- Heat gun or hair dryer (optional)
- Painters tape (optional, recommended)

PRO TIP

Work in the shade and let the painted reflectors come up to ambient temperature before install. The adhesive on the back of the painted reflector bonds best between 60–85°F.

INSTALLATION

Step-by-step

Repeat the same procedure for both the driver and passenger sides.

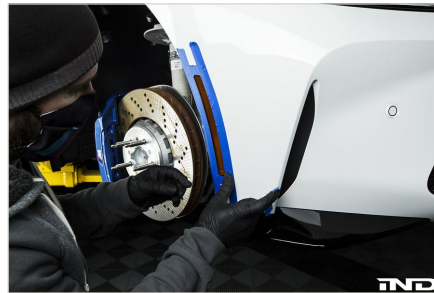
01**Create working clearance**

Removing the front wheel gives you the most space and the cleanest line of sight to the back of the reflector. If you'd rather not pull the wheel, turn the steering wheel to full lock so the wheel points inward — this exposes the back of the reflector through the front air duct opening.

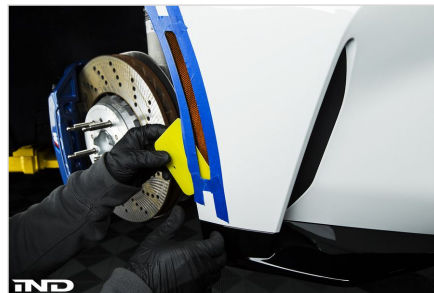


02**Heat the OEM reflector (optional)**

If this is your first time installing reflectors, apply a layer of painters tape around the OEM reflector to protect the surrounding paint. Pass a heat gun or hair dryer back and forth across the reflector, keeping the nozzle several inches away. The goal is to soften the factory adhesive — not to bake the paint. Move continuously and avoid focusing heat on any one spot.

**03****Separate and remove the reflector**

With the adhesive warmed, press on the lower portion of the reflector with your thumbs while using your fingertips to pull the bumper toward you. As soon as the reflector lifts away from the body, slide a Bondo spreader between the reflector and the bumper. Work your way upward, alternating between thumb pressure and advancing the spreader, until the reflector releases cleanly from the bumper cover.



**04**

Clean the bumper surface

Once the reflector is out, wipe the recess with a clean cloth and adhesive remover (or a mild solvent). If any factory adhesive remains, peel it off with your fingertip. The surface needs to be smooth, dry, and free of residue before the painted reflector goes in — this is the single biggest factor in long-term adhesion.



05**Install the painted reflector**

Remove your painters tape, then peel the adhesive backing off the painted reflector. Position the reflector against the bumper recess and press it home, applying firm, even pressure around all four edges. Hold each edge for several seconds to seat the adhesive.

**06****Reinstall and inspect**

If you removed the front wheel, reinstall it now and torque the lugs to factory specification (approximately 103 lb-ft on the G8x platform — always confirm against your owner's manual). Step back and verify the reflector sits flush with the surrounding bumper paint and that the color match looks correct in natural light.



Aftercare

- Avoid washing the car or driving through heavy rain for the first 24 hours so the adhesive can fully cure.
- Skip high-pressure washing directly over the reflector edges for the first week.
- Hand-wash with a pH-neutral shampoo; the painted reflectors clean and wax exactly like the rest of your bumper.

NEED A HAND?

Our team is happy to walk you through the install.

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