

# 1983-1988 THUNDERBIRD / COUGAR MIRROR UPGRADE

FOR ALL VEHICLES WITH OR WITHOUT POWER OUTSIDE MIRRORS

## SETTING UP

### ▶ *Donor Cars:*

- 1984-1994 Ford Tempo / Mercury Topaz 2-doors

### ▶ *Parts Required from Donor Car:*

- Power Mirrors (pair)

### ▶ *Tools & Materials Required:*

- Philips Screwdriver
- Utility Knife / Scissors
- Socket Set; 10mm Socket
- Power or Cordless Drill (3/8" bit)
- Dremel Tool (optional)
- Tin Snips

NOTE: If your vehicle does not have power mirrors and you are installing new mirrors that are power, then you will not be able to use your interior remote switch to adjust the mirrors. Extensive rewiring of the vehicle is required to make a power mirror operable.

It is also recommended that you paint the outer mirror housings of the new mirrors several days before installation.

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## **PART 1**

## **REMOVAL OF EXISTING MIRRORS**

- 1) Roll each window down, then DISCONNECT THE VEHICLE'S BATTERY.
- 2) Start with either the driver's or passenger's side door. Remove the interior door panel.
- 3) Remove the black triangle access cover, inside the door opposite the outside mirror.
- 4) Reach inside the door, in front of the handle, and disconnect the wiring harness for the power mirror.  
NOTE: If your car does not have power mirrors, disconnect the cable linkage going to the door panel.
- 5) With the 10mm socket, remove the three nuts holding the outside mirror on. Remove the mirror.
- 6) Repeat for the other side.

## **PART 2**

### **PREPARATION OF NEW MIRRORS**

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- 7) Note that the new Tempo/Topaz mirrors are a two-piece design: the painted outer cover, and the inner mirror housing. The outer cover slides onto the inner housing. You will not need to modify the outer cover at all. However, the inner housing does need one minor adjustment before it can be installed.
- 8) There is a small bump on the lower portion of the window-side flat spot of the inner housing. This bump must be removed before the mirror is installed; otherwise, the mirror will not seat properly.
- 9) Using the utility knife (or optional Dremel tool), cut the bump completely out.
- 10) Repeat for the other mirror housing.
- 11) When finished, slide the outer covers onto the inner housings, and set aside.

## **PART 3**

### **PREPARATION OF DOORS**

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- 12) The outside window trim (chrome on most cars, and black on XR7's and Turbo Coupes) will need to be cut back a few inches so that the new mirrors will fit flush with the door. Temporarily fit the mirror in its place, and mark the trim where it needs to be cut. Mark the upper and lower trim portions. You can make an approximate guess; however, it's better to mark the trim closer to the front of the car, in case you need to retrim. You may wish to mark the lower trim from inside the car, where you can better see where it will hit the bottom of the new mirror.
- 13) It is suggested that you remove the trim to cut it. The bottom trim piece will simply twist and lift out from the door. The upper trim needs the screw under the mirrors removed; it can then be unhooked and moved out. Use the tin snips to cut the trim, then reinstall.
- 14) Check to see that the proper fit can be made with each mirror. If you need to recut the trim, you can do so in a few more steps. When finished, set mirrors aside.
- 15) The new Tempo/Topaz mirror studs will use 2 of your 3 existing holes to mount the mirrors. The bottom, front-most hole must be slightly elongated in order for the mirror studs to clear the holes. Using the drill and 3/8" drill bit, round out the hole toward the back of the car. You will need to keep fitting the mirror to the door to make sure you're elongating the hole the correct way. Do this for each door.
- 16) Once the holes are elongated properly, the mirror will slip into place. You can temporarily tighten down the mirror a bit with one or two nuts. If you need to recut the trim, now is the time to do so.

## **PART 4**

### **INSTALLATION OF NEW MIRRORS**

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- 17) When you have determined that the window trim is at its proper length on each side, you can then permanently install the mirrors. Fish the wiring harness through the access hole by the mirror studs, and then push the mirror studs into their respective holes. Place the 10mm nuts on each stud, then tighten down completely. Then, if applicable, connect the wiring harness from the mirror with the door's factory harness. The new mirror's harness does not need to be modified at all; it is identical to your old one. Do this for each door.
- 18) Try out the power mirror switch to ensure that the mirrors work correctly.
- 19) Reassemble each door panel and triangle cover and you are finished. Enjoy!