

# MACH 1 MAKE-OVER

SIMPLE TOOLS AND A FEW BUCKS EQUALS HIGH-STYLE



WHEN FORD RELEASED THE MACH 1 MUSTANG TO THE PUBLIC JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, MUSTANG ENTHUSIASTS HAD EVEN MORE TO GET EXCITED ABOUT. AND WITH GOOD REASON. THE MACH 1 BOASTS A 32-VALVE, DOHC 4.6L ENGINE THAT CRANKS OUT 305 HP. IN ADDITION, IT INCLUDES A SPORT-TUNED SUSPENSION, IMPROVED FRONT AND REAR DISC BRAKES, UNIQUE INTERIOR, AND A HOST OF TASTEFUL EXTERIOR BODY MODIFICATIONS THAT MAKE THE MACH 1 A REAL SHOWSTOPPER.

Arguably the best view of the Mach 1 is the front end. Ford treated the Mach 1 to a Ram-Air shaker hood, Mach 1 grille delete kit, and a Mach 1 chin spoiler. These three styling cues help the Mach 1 achieve a distinct and aggressive look that some feel is missing on the base Mustang. The good news, is that any Mustang enthusiast that lusts after the unique Mach 1 appeal can easily dress up their 1999 and newer Mustang to resemble it.

For this article, we will take a look at how simple it is to convert your Mustang's front end and give it the Mach 1 treatment. Here we start off with Frank Mancini's Mustang GT and give it the Mach 1 touch by replacing the factory stock honey-comb grille with Steeda's sleek Mach 1 Grille Delete kit. Also, we will add the Mach 1 chin spoiler to complete the package. These two modifications can be done easily by the average "shade-tree mechanic" with basic tools in a little over an hour, and can fit into everyone's budget.

So how much overtime will you have to work in order to get your hands on these goodies? GTR High Performance, located in Rancho Cucamonga, California, is a leader in Mustang specialty parts, and retails the Steeda Mach 1 Grille Delete kit for \$49.99 and the Mach 1 Chin Spoiler for \$74.99. Not too shabby, considering the tremendous visual impact they will yield. Follow along as the professional crew at GTR High Performance illustrates how to give your Mustang the Mach 1 makeover. Otherwise, if you don't have the desire to turn wrenches, GTR High Performance offers professional installation on-site for a minimal fee. ■



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1. Begin by removing the two plastic screws from the top of the grille cover.

2. Carefully pull the outer grille forward so that you can reach the four 7mm bolts on the bottom of the grille. Removal of these bolts will allow you to completely remove the outer grille. There are two plastic pushpins that secure the inner grille insert. Pry them out with a screwdriver and remove the inner grille.

3. Install the new inner grille insert and secure with the two original plastic pushpins. Wash the top of the bumper cover that was behind the original grille to remove any dirt or dust to allow the adhesive on the new grille to stick.

4. Install the new outer grille in place using the double-sided tape provided. Make sure to line up the pegs on the bottom side of the grille with the holes on the top of the bumper cover. Install the plastic pins at the corners to secure. Firmly press down on top of the outer grille to ensure the adhesive sticks.

5. Attach the new chrome horse emblem with the screws provided. Make certain to hook the back of the bracket into the bumper support. Re-install the original plastic screws on the upper grille to complete this phase of the project.

6. Moving to the Mach 1 chin spoiler, line up the spoiler under the front bumper. It will be helpful to have an assistant (or two) for this. Make sure that the ends of the chin spoiler are even with the ends of the bumper cover.

7. Hold the chin spoiler in position while you mark the locations where you will drill on the bottom side of the bumper cover. Drill a series of holes on the bottom side of the bumper cover and secure the chin spoiler with either plastic push clips or "self-tapping" screws. Be sure that the hardware you select will securely hold the chin spoiler, and make certain to attach the chin spoiler to the bottom of the bumper cover along the entire length of the chin spoiler. This completes the Mach 1 chin spoiler installation.

#### SOURCE

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