

A-BODY CRUISER FOR UNDER \$2,000 '68 GTX STRIPE INSTALL

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SEPTEMBER 2008

Mopar released a lot of cars from the factory with a stripe installed. Don't look at the stripe as something you have to have a professional bodyman install, you can do it yourself, and we're here to help.



GIVE IT AN ACCENT

ADDING A SIMPLE AND UNDERSTATED STRIPE CAN GIVE YOUR CAR'S APPEARANCE A BOOST

text and photos: Lynn Wilson

You have to admit Mopar's sometimes flamboyant body stripe accent in the '60s and '70s definitely came across as overstated, but then again, it was a time of hippies, free love, and—dare we say—hallucinogens. Stripes on Mopars ranged from the quarter-panel-covering billboards on Cutlacs, to tail stripes on Corbs, and even simple classic body side stripes seen on the GTX. The stripes planted Mopar firmly in the minds of consumers as stylish, if sometimes gaudy.

But now it's thirty years later, and many of these cars have been or need to be repainted. In future issues, we will

show you how to properly place and install all of Mopar's famed stripes, but for now, we'll focus on the simple side stripes of the '68 GTX. Extending from the GTX emblem on the lower quarter-panel up to the front fender, the side stripe on the GTX was not one of Mopar's over-

stated stripes, but it did add a nice accent to the side of the car.

We decided Denny Ackley's '68 GTX needed a little something after it was painted. The white wrapper on Denny's X was just a little too Plain Jane looking, and a stripe is just what the doctor ordered. A quick call to Phoenix Graphics netted us what we needed. Phoenix Graphics has these stripes in black, white, maroon, or Peacock Blue—a rare color. Don't think it's a job you can't handle. It's simple, and in a few hours you can have the appearance of a factory-installed stripe, just not done at the factory.

SOURCE

PHOENIX GRAPHICS
Chandler, AZ
800/941-4550
phoenixgraphics.com



The first thing you need to do is find the center of the stripe location. To find the centerline, measure from the GTX emblem-mounting hole to the bodyline on the door.



Next, using a grease pencil, transfer that measurement to a few spots between the emblem location and the front fender behind the front tire.

Now, you can take a chalk line and make a mark. If you don't have a chalk line, place a piece of masking tape on the car following the marks you made. Then, you can take the grease pencil and make a mark along the masking tape. Next, remove the masking tape, and you have a straight line to follow.



Now roll the stripe out on a flat surface so you can measure the stripe's width to locate the center. Measure from the center mark you made on the stripe to the lower edge of the covering paper.

GIVE IT AN ACCENT



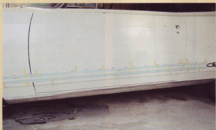
The measurement you made on the stripe can now be transferred to the car using the chalk line or the tape method. This new line will represent the bottom edge of the stripes covering paper to be used as a guide.



Use masking tape to hold the stripe in place, and to make sure it is level. We also temporarily installed the GTX emblem to make sure we positioned the stripe correctly.



Since you will be using soapy water to help install the stripe, the chalk line will not survive. This was just a temporary line to get the stripe level. With the stripe taped to the car and level, take your grease pencil and mark the top edge of the stripe. This will be your final guide, since the grease pencil will wipe off when the soapy water hits it.



After you're sure the stripe is where you want it and your marks are made, remove the stripe from the car and carefully remove the masking tape from the stripe. Now gently wash the chalk lines off the car.

GIVE IT AN ACCENT



Start at the rear of the stripe near the GTX emblem. Carefully remove the backing paper from the stripe and submerge it into the bucket of soapy water. Make sure the car is wet in the area you will be applying the stripe. Line-up the stripe with your marks and apply the stripe. Avoid any wrinkles or creases, as they cannot be removed. Once you have the stripe in place, take a soft squeegee (available at any parts store), and carefully work the water and bubbles out from under the stripe.



Once you are happy with the positioning of the stripe, and all the air bubbles are removed, you can now remove the protective tape covering the stripe. If you encounter small bubbles under the stripes that will not come out with the squeegee, use a small straight pin to poke a hole in the bubble to allow the air to escape.



Repeat the process on the door and front fender. Now, you get to do the other side.



When finished, the stripes should be straight and, hopefully, level. Use some wax and lightly rub the grease pencil marks off the car. **MOPAR**