



DIESELMANOR™

Installation Instructions

Gauge Mount Painting Instructions

Preparation

First test fit your gauges in their respective holes. If they fit too tightly open the holes up by sanding with 220 grit sandpaper. You want to enlarge the holes just enough that the gauge will seat fully and fits tightly. With the gauges fitting snugly in their pods, you can omit using the mounting brackets. This makes future servicing easier, for instance replacing a bulb or gauge replacement.



CAUTION!
When working with chemicals such as solvent based degreasers and aerosol paints, always wear protective gloves and a respirator with the proper rating.



The next step in preparation is cleaning the mount. Just because the mount is new, does not mean that it is free from chemicals used during the manufacturing process. The mount was formed in a mold and therefore a mold release compound was most likely used to prevent it from sticking. If you skip the cleaning step and start sanding the plastic, you can push any contaminants into the plastic, causing the paint to blemish later. There are many commercial cleaning degreasers on the market that can be used, such as Acryli-Clean,[®] Prepsol,[®] and Pre-Cleno.[®] If one of these cleaners is not available, the use of Isopropyl or Denatured Alcohol can be substituted. Clean the plastic by dampening a clean rag or a wad paper towels with the degreaser and wipe in one direction. Start at one end and wipe toward the other. You want to avoid wiping back and fourth, which would merely displace the contaminants to another area. (see Figure 1)

Once the degreaser has flashed dry, you can start sanding. With a small circular motion, sand the entire surface that will receive paint with 220 grit sandpaper. (Figures 2-3) Only light force is needed. All you want to do here is scuff down the surface to give the paint something to bite into. When done properly, the black mount will take on a grey haze. Light sanding will not remove the grain pattern that most of today's mounts display. Sand down any burs or flashing that may be present from the manufacturing process. (Figure 4)

After the mount has been sanded, use compressed air to blow off the residue from the sanding process. (Figure 5) Next clean the mount two more times with the same degreaser. Now the mount is properly prepared to receive the paint. When using a premium paint, such as SpectraMatch, the use of primer or other adhesion promoters is not necessary. NOTE: Many A-pillar gauge mounts come with plastic fasteners (pushpins) that secure the mount to the factory pillar. If you will be using these fasteners make sure that you prep and paint them as well.

Painting

Just prior to applying the first coat of paint, blow off any dust one last time with the air gun. Depending on the color of paint that will be used, you will be applying three to five light coats of paint to the mount. We've found that dark gray colors usually only require 3 coats, while light tan colors require five to six light coats. The key here is to apply "Light Mist Coats". If you spray the paint on too heavy, you will get runs and sags.

Shake the spray can vigorously for at least two minutes after the mixing ball first starts rattling. Don your

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protective respirator and get ready to spray on your first coat. The proper painting technique is to spray horizontally, slightly overlapping the previous pass. (Figure 6) Keep the can 8 to 10 inches from the surface. While keeping the can in a steady and slow horizontal motion, press the nozzle prior to reaching the surface and make a pass. After you have fully passed the surface release the nozzle. Spray the entire mount in this method. Once again, this is just your first coat. Do not expect to see any significant color on the mount. If some areas seem to have received more paint than others, don't worry. They will eventually be covered by subsequent coats.

After your first coat is complete, wait 15 to 20 minutes before applying the second coat. Apply the second coat in exactly the same manner. Repeat additional coats waiting 15 to 20 minutes in between each coat. Remember, you can always apply additional coats later, but undoing an excessively heavy coat is harder to fix.

Once the gauge mount has received the final coat of paint, wait at least 24 hours before mounting it in the truck. This will give the paint adequate time to cure and harden.

SpectraMatch paint is available from DieselManor (www.dieselmanor.com) in most popular diesel truck A-pillar colors.



Figure 1) Cleaning with degreaser, wiping in one direction



Figure 2) Sand all surfaces to receive paint with 220 grit paper



Figure 3) Sand in a small circular motion



Figure 4) Remove any sharp edges or flashing

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Figure 5) Blow off with compressed air



Figure 6) Applying the paint



Figure 7) After the first coat



Figure 8) After the third coat

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Figure 9) After the fifth coat



Figure 10) Let dry



TECH TIPS



- Temperature – effects the drying time between coats. The colder the temperature, the longer it will take for the paint to dry. Always paint at or above 60° Fahrenheit. Temperature also effects the way the aerosol can will perform. If the can of paint is too cold the propellant in the can will lack pressure, resulting in a blotchy spray pattern and an uneven mist. Store the aerosol can at room temperature prior to painting.
- You'll find that it's easier to paint your pillar at eye level. Rather than placing it on a piece of cardboard on the floor, hang the pillar at comfortable level. We've found that using a wire coat hanger works well for this. Make a large hook in one end of the hanger and a small hook in the other end. Put the large hook through a gauge hole and the small hook to hang the hanger from something suitable like the track of an overhead garage door.
- Protect your floor from overspray – If you are going to be painting inside your garage, spray down the entire floor with water. When the overspray hits the floor it will not stick due to the water acting as a barrier. Just be sure to keep it wet during the process. When done, simply squeegee off the floor. Make sure you don't accidentally spray the gauge mount when re-wetting the floor between coats.
- Runs, drips and sags – If you sprayed a little too heavy on a coat, stop what you are doing and just let the paint fully dry overnight. Once dry, gently sand down the drip with 220 grit sandpaper until smooth, blow off with the air gun, and pick up where you left off.

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- When painting the plastic push pins, we've found that a small cardboard box makes this task a whole lot easier. Just punch a bunch of holes in the box, and put the push pins in the holes. Just insert them far enough in the holes so that they stand up and will not fall out.
- Always keep all sources of heat, flame and sparks away from the painting area at all times. Aerosol paints and degreasers are extremely flammable. Exercise common sense – Think Safety!
- In addition to wearing a respirator, always paint in a well ventilated area. If painting in the garage, make sure the door(s) are open. Never expose yourself or others to paint fumes. Never paint in confined areas such as a basement.



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