Fitting a grille badge to an RV8

Soon after getting an RV8, Paul Wilson joined the Club in June 2020 and purchased the small grille badge. In a post on the V8 Bulletin Board he sought help saying “the apertures in the grille on the RV8 seem to be just too small to permit the folding ‘wings’ of the badge to slip through. Short of bending and ruining the integrity of the front grille, is there an alternative way to secure your badge?” Here Marion Quarrington explains how she fitted a grille badge to her RV8.

Photo 1: grille badge kit

It is not easy to fit some types of grille badge to an RV8 due to the reduced access at the rear of the grille. Here Marion Quarrington explains how, with some simple tools, it is possible to fit a grille badge without dismantling any of the car. This guide is for the grille badge kit consisting of two butterfly springs with threaded insert, two threaded bolts and the badge, see Photo 1.

Brief guide

The key to fitting the grille badge is to prepare the butterfly spring and then grip it in a suitable tool so that it can be offered up into the small space at the back of the grille. Photo 2 shows the pair of locking pliers that we used for this, but slim mole grips would also work. Note that it may be helpful to have a second person at the front of the car to assist at Step 3.

Step 1.

Get secure access to the front of the car from underneath, either by jacking the car and putting it on axle stands, or by using a pit.

Photo 2: locking pliers with a bolt

Photo 3: folded butterfly spring

Step 2.

Take one of the butterfly springs, and rotate the threaded insert as necessary until the thread is fully available. Gently fold the wings towards each other until they are almost parallel, (see Photo 3) which will move the spring away from over the insert, see Photo 4. Grip the wings in this position using a suitable tool, and check that the bolt will run smoothly between the wings and into the insert.

Step 3

Fit the bolt through the badge and identify where on the grille it is to be fitted. Offer the butterfly spring up to the back of the grille, with the wing tips against the grille. Note that, depending on the size and shape of the badge, the wings can often be positioned so that they will not visible from the front of the grille. Offer the bolt through the grill from the front, engage the bolt in the threaded insert and use an appropriate screwdriver to continue. The overall intent of how the kit goes together is shown in Photo 5. Once the bolt is running through the insert the lock on the tool can be released to allow the wings to open against the back of the grille, which will also put the retaining spring in tension against the bolt. Do not fully tighten at this point.

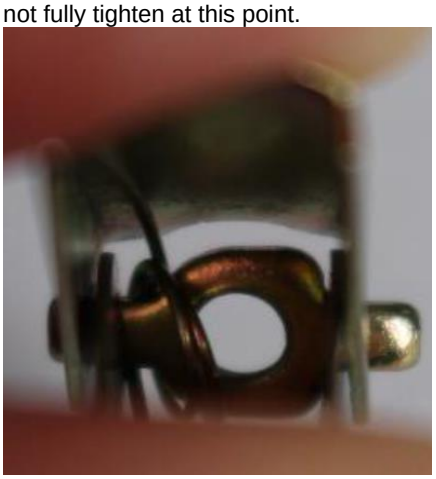

Photo 4: spring moved from over the insert

Step 4

Repeat with the other bolt and then tighten both bolts to the required tension once the badge has been positioned correctly.

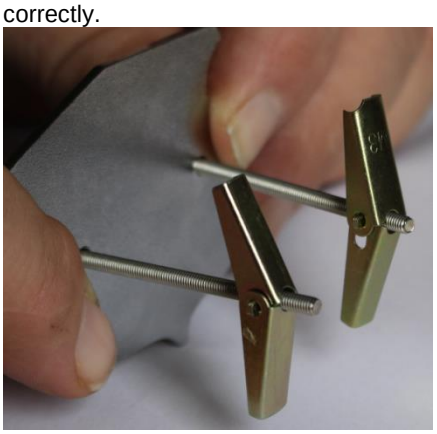

Photo 5: wings open to clamp on the back of the grille