

As always you do this at your own risk. Only you are responsible for what you do.

If you are like me, then you don't like your car to be like anyone else's. I decided to replace the incandescent lights in my car with LEDs. LEDs are dimmable just like incandescence but they have a narrower viewing angle so you end up with "hot spots". They also have a life of about 10,000 hours. Also, if you replace the lights with blue LEDs, the red parts are not as bright because of the color filters. Or if you replace them with red, then the blue is dimmer.

I went online to [Super Bright LEDs .com](http://SuperBrightLEDs.com) and ordered blue LEDs for the background light on the gauges and cruise control, and matching colors for the warning lights. A word of advice; you really only need to replace the lights for the background color, replacing the warning lights really doesn't do anything. You only need to buy the bulbs, the stock light bases work fine.

You will need **9** LEDs for your background color (in my case blue), 4 red LEDs (warning lights), 1 blue (bright lights), and 2 green (turn signals), and probably a few more if you have an automatic and/or low gas light. You can't replace the cruise control light or the brake pressure warning light because the LEDs' low current draw keeps those lights on constantly.

Once you have the bulbs it is time to install them. You need to remove the gauge cluster to replace the bulbs. There are two screws underneath the garnish that has the aux light and hazard light switches that you have to take out. Then pull the garnish towards you and remove the plugs on the back. Then you will see 3 screws that are holding the cluster in; remove them too. Gently pull the cluster out and remove the plugs from the back. The back of the gauge cluster looks like this

Twist the black plugs counter clock-wise and pull to remove them. Here is a map of what each of the plugs is with their respective color filters

Unfortunately, the LEDs that I ordered were slightly larger in diameter than the stock bulb so it is necessary to sand the top edges of the socket a little bit to make it fit. Other than that all you need to do is pull out the old bulbs and put in the new ones. LEDs are polarized so it is necessary to

plug the gauge cluster back in and check to see that the lights are working. It is basically trial and error. There are 7 "hot spots" that you can look for to see if the background lights are on (fuel/temperature gauge, 120mph, 100mph, 70mph, 0mph, 6000rpm, and 1500rpm). Now put the gauge cluster back together (don't forget any plugs).

It's time to move on to the 2 LEDs behind the climate control. Caution: you might scrape up your hands a little bit during this process if you don't wear gloves. You need to remove the center console (5 screws; two on each side and one inside the cupholder compartment). There is a plug on the bottom of the center console that you need to disconnect.

Now the radio console; you need to take out the screws (one on either side); Manual Transmission, unscrew the shift knob; Automatic Transmission, put in neutral or drive; quickly pull the console towards the back of the car (to release two metal clips at the top of the radio opening, try not to lose them). Then pull the radio console back, grab the two "wings" and pull them outward and up. Put your hands on the corners to protect the dashboard from scratches.

Now you need to remove your radio. There are 4 screws on the front and, depending on your radio, a few on the sides. Unplug it and set it aside.

There is one screw on the bottom of the climate control that you need to remove (you will need a short Philips screwdriver). Then look up in the passenger side footwell towards the center of the car. You will see a wire coming from the climate control, you need to disconnect it from the stuff in the footwell (slip off of the pin and snap out of the connector. Now you should be able to slide the left side of the climate control. Disconnect the brown plug. The other plug is a bit harder to get to, you need to angle the climate control as much as possible to get to it. You can try to get to the button on the plug with your hand from the front or with a screwdriver from underneath.

Now that the climate control is finally out you can see the two light sockets on the bottom with red wires coming out of them. Pull the bulbs out and replace them with your LEDs. There is no need to sand the socket for these. Don't forget that the LEDs are polarized; plug the climate control back in and test the lights before you put everything back together.

Once the lights are working you can put everything back together. Make sure you remember the two plugs on the climate control, the wire for the climate control in the passenger's foot well, the radio plug(s), the antenna plug, and the plug under the center console.

Enjoy your new LED lighting.