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W211 Illuminated Door Sills Installed

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07-06-2005, 01:33 PM

#1

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Join Date: Jul 2002

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Vehicle I drive: '04 E500, '02

ML500, '00 Ducati 748 Biposto

Posts: 76

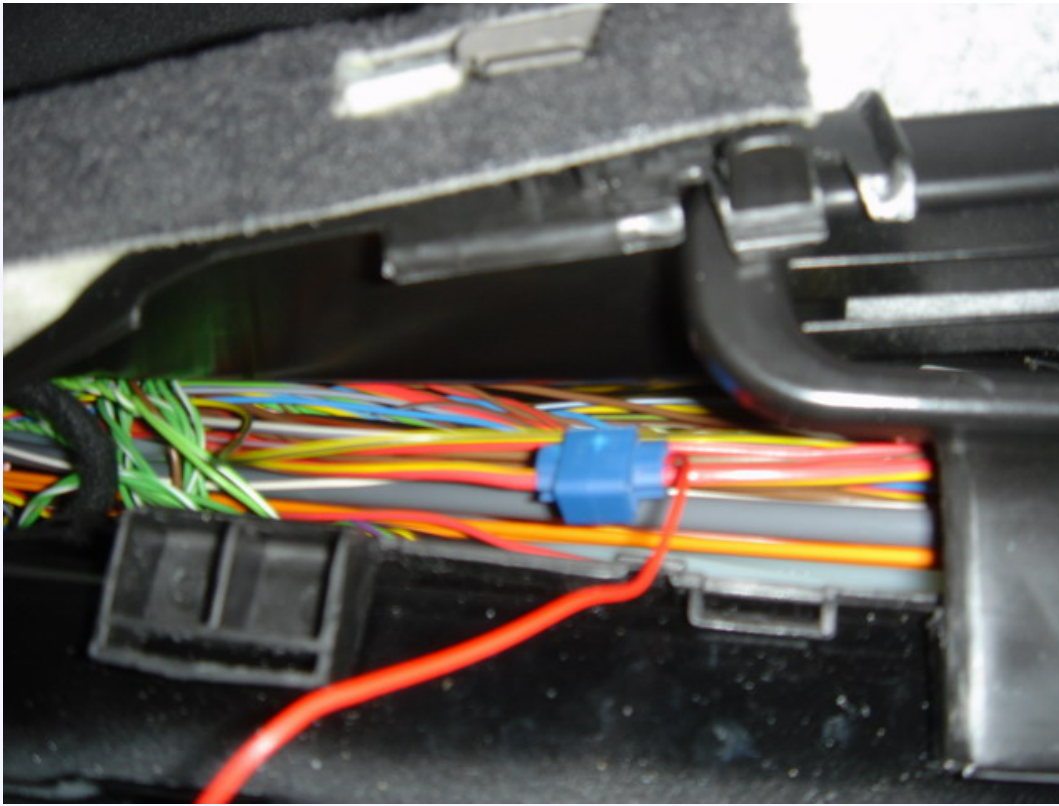
😊 W211 Illuminated Door Sills Installed

I bought the illuminated door sills from Jerry at formymercedes.com. It comes with 4 "replacement" sills that are illuminated by EL. So it's not some cheap stick onto the factory sill type. The fit and finish are really good. The kit however doesn't come with a installation instruction so i will share my installation experience. It is not too hard to install the sills. I spent about 30 minutes installing the front ones and i will install the rear ones over the weekend. The following instruction is for reference only and I am not responsible for anything that happens to your car as a result of you doing this. (that means, do it at your own risk. 😊) I assume that you have some basic knowledge of electrical wiring if you want to do the installation yourself, so I am not going to explain how to use the test light, etc..



These are all the tools that I have used.





Start from the driver side, pull off the door trim next to your factory door sill by pulling it upwards. Then you pull off the black plastic cover (yours might be different color) also by pulling it up. The black plastic cover is held in place by two metal clips. Pushing the carpet towards the seat will reveal a black plastic channel that holds all the wiring. Pop that open and use something to hold it open (as you can see in the picture, I used a black AC vent that I have removed to hold it in place). Then you use your test light to try and find a constant 12V power source (that means you get power even when the key is not in the ignition switch). I use the test light and probed the Red wire with yellow strip and found it to be a constant 12V so I have decided to use that wire. You can use a tap splice like the blue one shown in the picture to connect the red wire from the EL transformer to the Red wire with yellow strip.



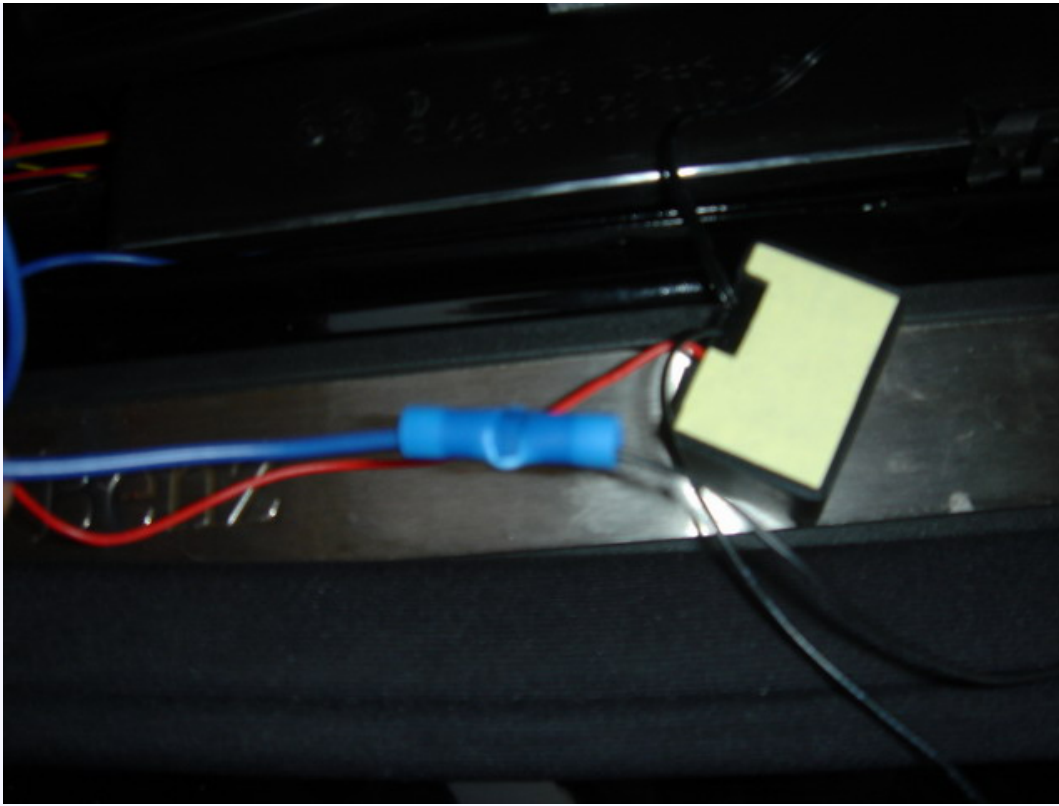




Next you will have to locate the door switch as shown in the picture. Pull out a black plastic AC vent that is near the door switch (it is the one that I used to hold the black wire channel open in the last step) Then pull out the door trim to locate the wiring for the door switch. You will see a brown wire and a brown wire with white strip taped together by some sort of fabric tape. Pull the wires out and carefully cut the tape apart to separate the two wires.



You want to connect the black wire from the EL transformer to the brown wire with white strip. Since the black wire on the EL transformer is not long enough, you need to get a piece of wire that is about 3 feet long (mine is the blue wire in the picture). Then you can use a tap splice to connect the extension wire to the brown wire with white strip.



And then, just use a butt splice connector to connect the extension wire to the black wire on the transformer.



Now connect the EL transformer to your illuminated door sill. Your illuminated door sill should light up. Press the door switch and see if it turns the illuminated door sill off. After you make sure that everything works, hide the transformer into the black wire channel. Remove the original door sill by pulling it upward. It is held down by three white plastic clips. If you do this right, you will remove the factory door sill and reveal three holes. Wipe the area clean using something alcohol based. Remove the protective backings on the 3M tapes at the back of the illuminated door sill. Use the three plastic guides on the back of the illuminated door sill and fit them into the three holes. Press the illuminated door sill down and make sure that it seats securely.



Put everything back to where they were before. Use the door trims to conceal the wires. After that is done, it will look like it came from the factory. No drilling involved!



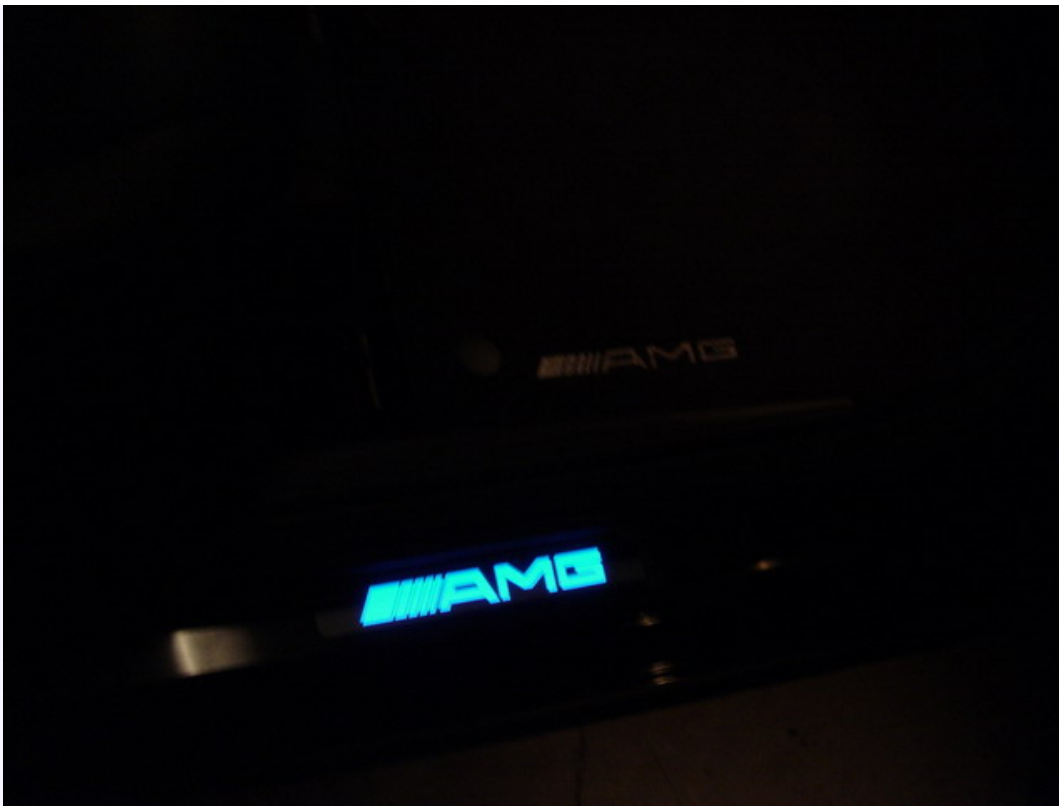


Remove the white protective films on the top of the illuminated door sill to reveal the brushed steel trim. Installation for the driver side is now complete.



The Passenger side is a little bit more difficult. There is no wire channel at the same location to find a 12V source. So you will have to remove the plastic panel beneath your glove compartment (you just need to remove two screws and then pull it down), and find your 12V power source towards the back corner. I found myself a red wire with green strip as shown in the picture. Again, you use a tap splice to connect an extension wire to the red wire with green strip. Run the extension wire behind / beneath all the trims and connect it to the red wire on the EL transformer. Everything else is the same as the driver side.







Now enjoy your illuminated door sills. 🙏

- '04 Black/Black E500 w/ Appearance & Premium Pkg, Full AMG body kit w/ factory Nano paint, 20x9/20x10 HRE 543R/547R forged wheels w/ High Polish Center, AMG Qua-Tip Exhaust, K&N Filters w/ heat shield wrapped air box, Philips Ultinon 6000K, 35% Solar Gard Tint, TWS Lowered Airmatic, TWS Custom Camber Kit
- '02 Silver/Black ML500
- '00 Red Ducati 748 Biposto
- '99 Silver/Black E430 Sport w/ MODs (SOLD)
- '97 Silver/Gray BMW 540i (SOLD)
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Last edited by amgkoo : 07-06-2005 at 01:35 PM.

