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### **INSTALL INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Cognito Instructions for  
Trimming Fender Wells for  
2019-2021 GMC Sierra 1500,  
Chevrolet Silverado Trucks**

## **INTRODUCTION**

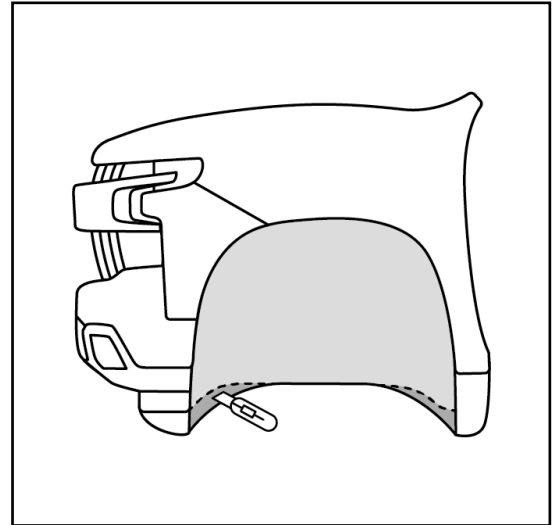
Depending on your wheel and tire combination and what Cognito Leveling or Leveling Lift kit option you have chosen, trimming of the inner fender well might be required to allow proper clearance during the full motion of the suspension. This instruction set is designed to provide some options on what we suggest for Minor and Major trimming

## **TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

- Minor trimming is suggested for 34"x11.5" tire on 9" wide wheel with more than 4.5" of backspacing.
- Major trimming is suggested for 34"x12" tire on 9" wide wheel with 4.5"-5.25" backspace.

## **TOOLS NEEDED**

- Box cutter
- Painters tape
- T15 Torx wrench
- 10mm socket



## **WARNING**

Please read this entire instruction sheet before beginning installation. Proper installation of these components requires a qualified mechanic. Always wear safety glasses when using power tools, and take appropriate precautions when working under a vehicle. If these instructions are not properly followed you may jeopardize your, and your passenger's safety, and severe frame, suspension or tire damage may also result from improper installation.

## Minor Fender Well Trimming:

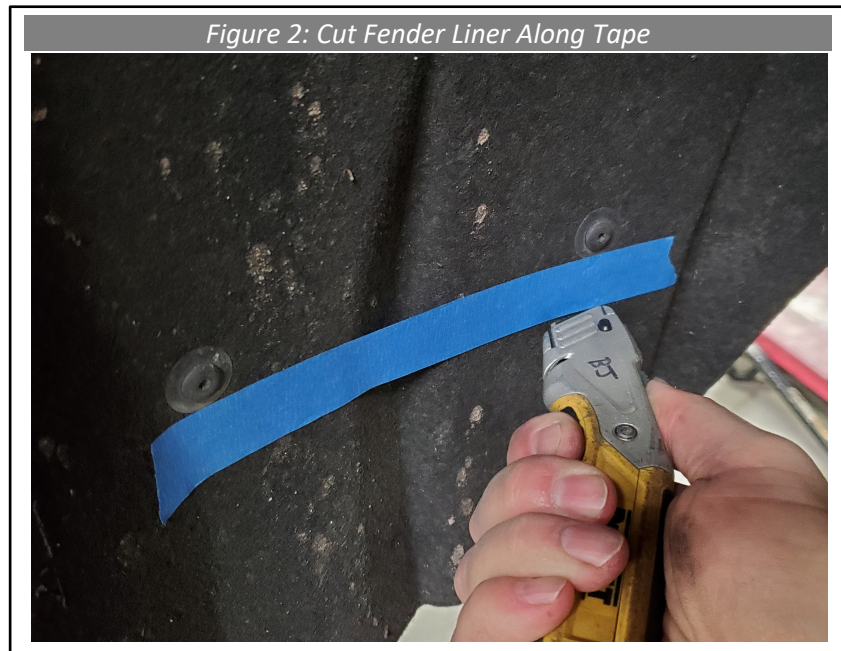
Minor fender well trimming is recommended for 34x11.5" tire with more than 4.5" of backspacing.

1. Begin by removing the wheel and tire, or by steering all the way out so you can access the front of the fender well.
2. Locate the two screws which attach the fender liner to the frame in front of the tire. Place a 1" wide piece of tape across the fender liner below the screws to use as a guide. See figure 1.

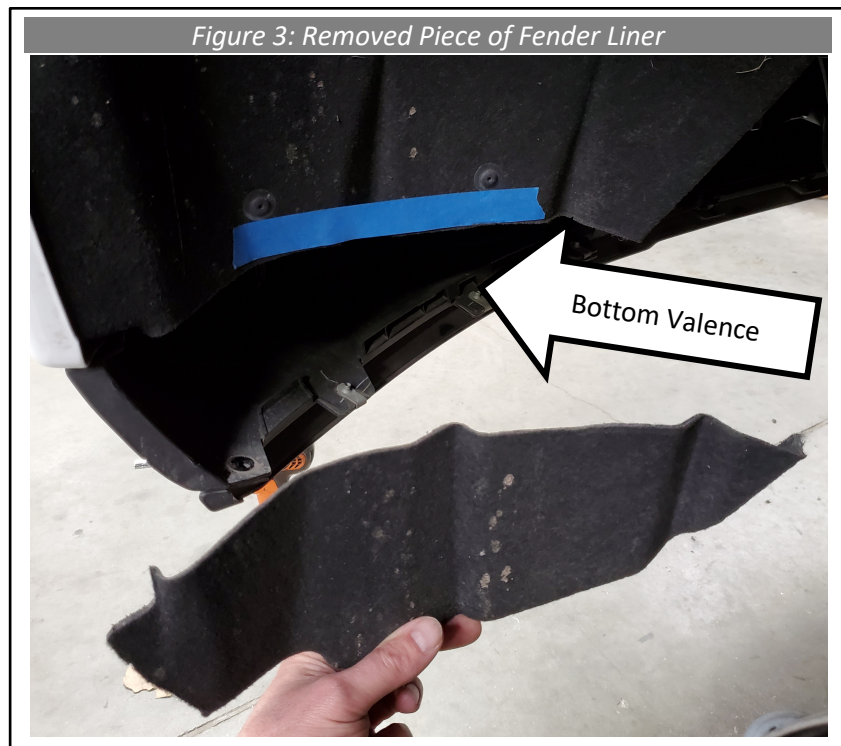


3. Look from below the truck to make sure there is nothing else behind this section of fender liner which could be accidentally cut.
4. Using a sharp box cutter, poke thru the fender liner material and make the cut. Be very careful to not cut yourself or slip and cut into the paint. See figure 2.

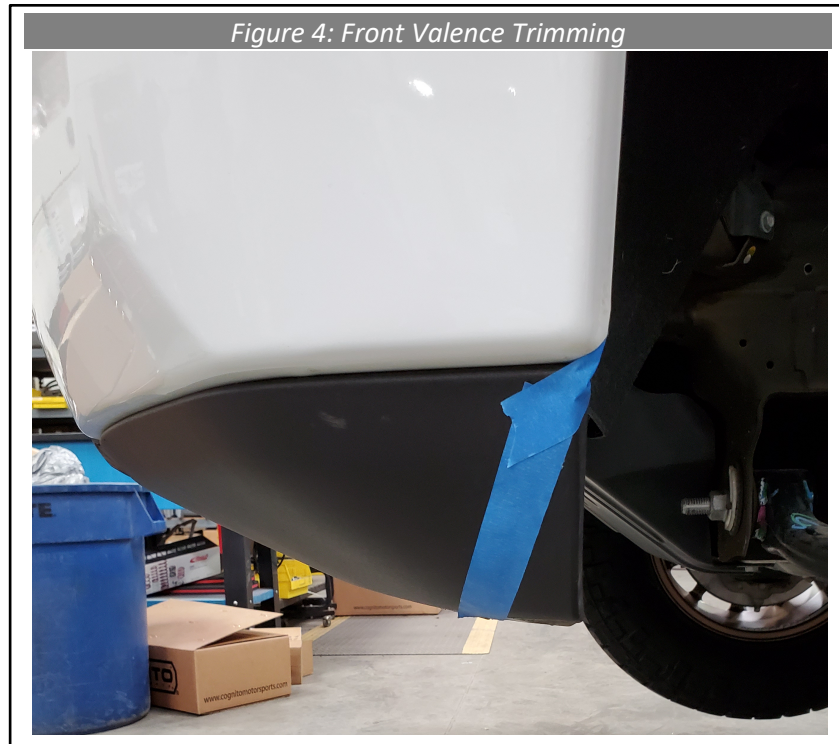




5. Remove the small bottom valence shown in figure 3.



6. Using masking tape or a marker, mark the plastic under bumper valence as shown in figure 4, then cut with a sharp box cutter.



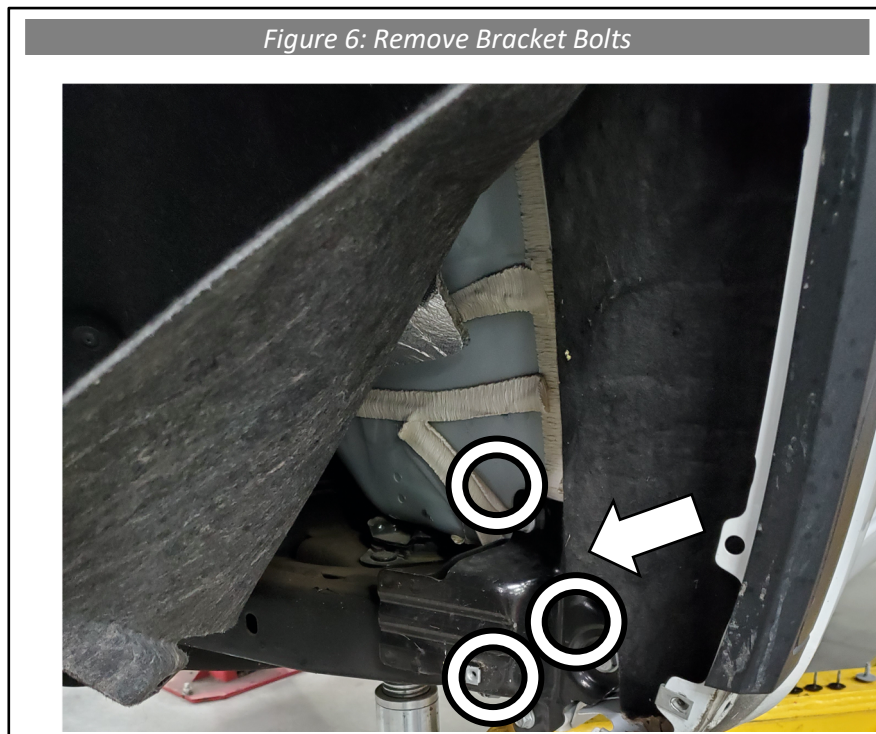
## Major Fender Well Trimming:

Major fender well trimming is recommended for 34x11.5" tire with 4.5"-5.25" backspacing. Read through the following steps 1-11 before beginning.

1. If minor trimming does not provide enough clearance for your tires, perform the following steps.
2. Remove the plastic mud flap behind the tire by removing the T15 Torx and 10mm screws, as well as the screw which holds the fender liner to the bracket shown in figure 5.

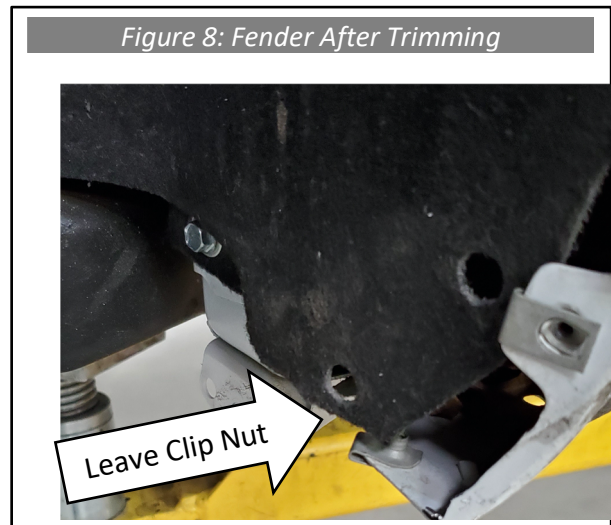
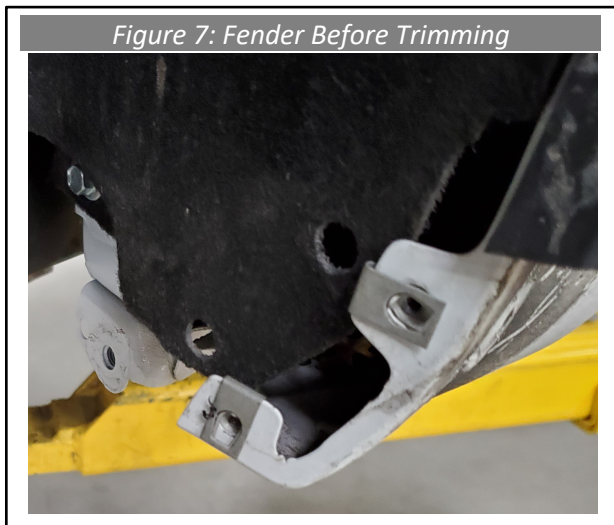


3. Peel the fender liner into the wheel well exposing the bracket behind. Then remove the bolts shown in figure 6 and discard the bracket. FYI, Chevy trucks may have a 4<sup>th</sup> bolt located at the arrow in figure 6.

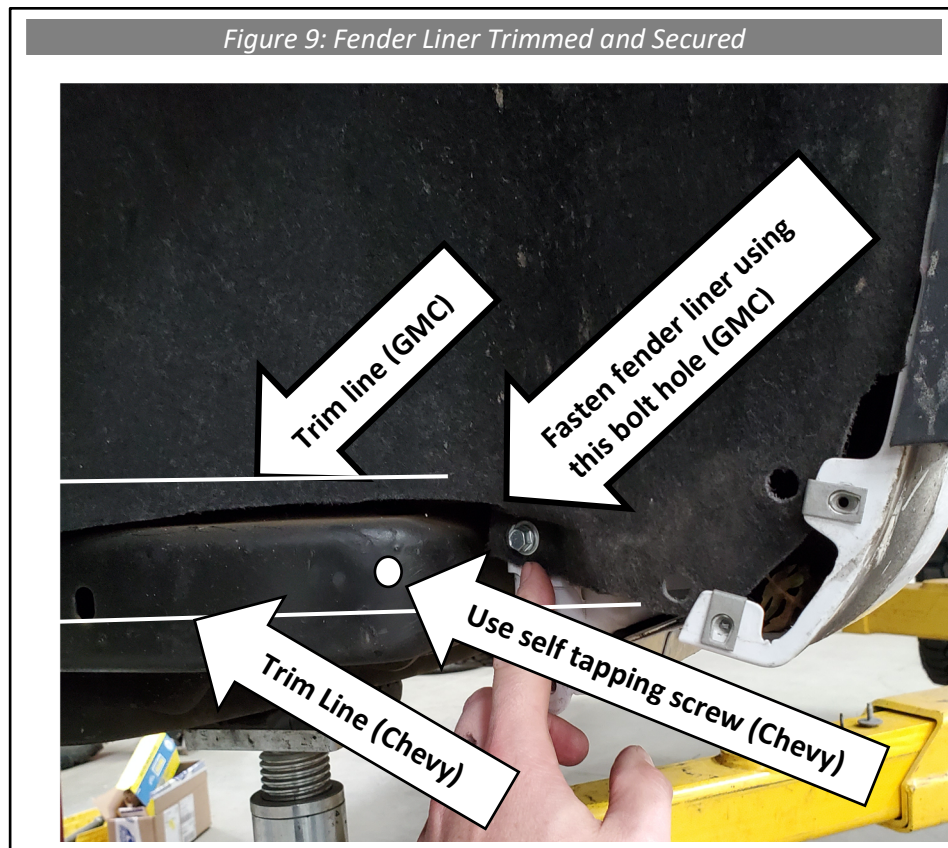




- Using a metal cutting saw, trim the corner of the fender as shown in figure 7 and 8 below, then paint the exposed metal black to match the fender liner. Note that the lower clip nut shouldn't be cut off.



- Trim the fender liner so that it will sit above the tube shown in figure 9 for GMC trucks, then install one of the bolts removed during step 3 into the hole shown to secure the fender liner. For Chevy trucks, cut the liner at the bottom of the tube and use a self tapping screw in the location shown in figure 9 to secure it.

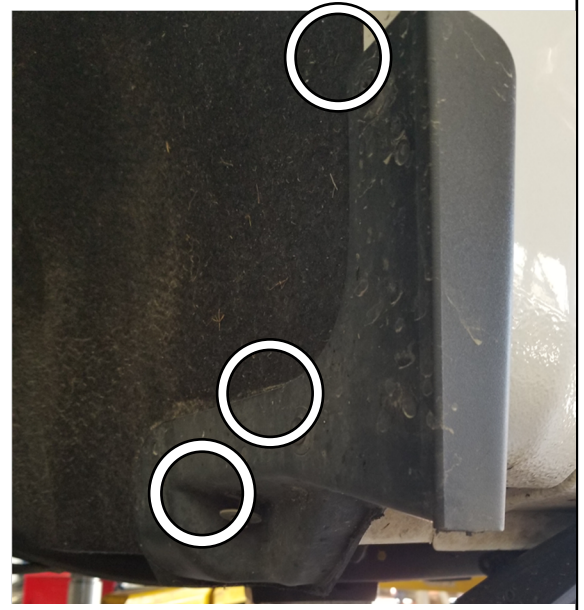


- Trim the plastic mud flap, the bottom should be relatively flush with the lower body line for GMC trucks as shown in figure 10. Reinstall onto the truck using the original screws and make sure the inner fender liner is tucked behind the plastic trim. For Chevy trucks, leave enough of the plastic mud flap so the OEM 10mm screw and 2 of the torx screws can be used to hold it on (See Figure 11)

Figure 10: Plastic Mud Flap Trimmed and Reinstalled GMC



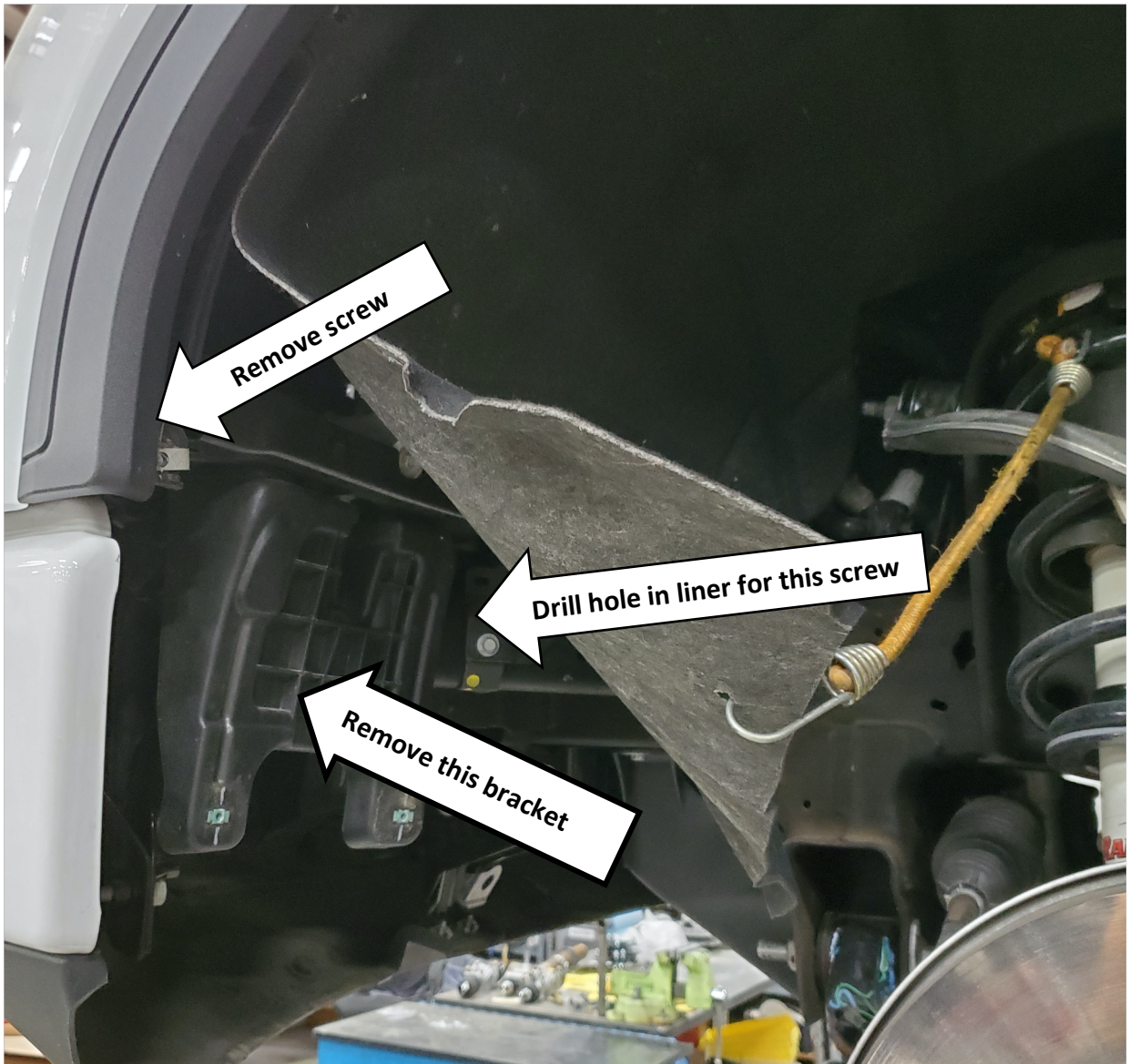
Figure 11: Plastic Mud Flap Trimmed and Reinstalled Chevy



- Remove the two screws holding the fender liner to the front of the wheel well in figure 1 and the ones near the plastic edge trim in figure 12. Then fold the fender liner up to allow access behind it and remove the 4 screws holding the plastic bracket shown in figure 12 with a 10mm socket.

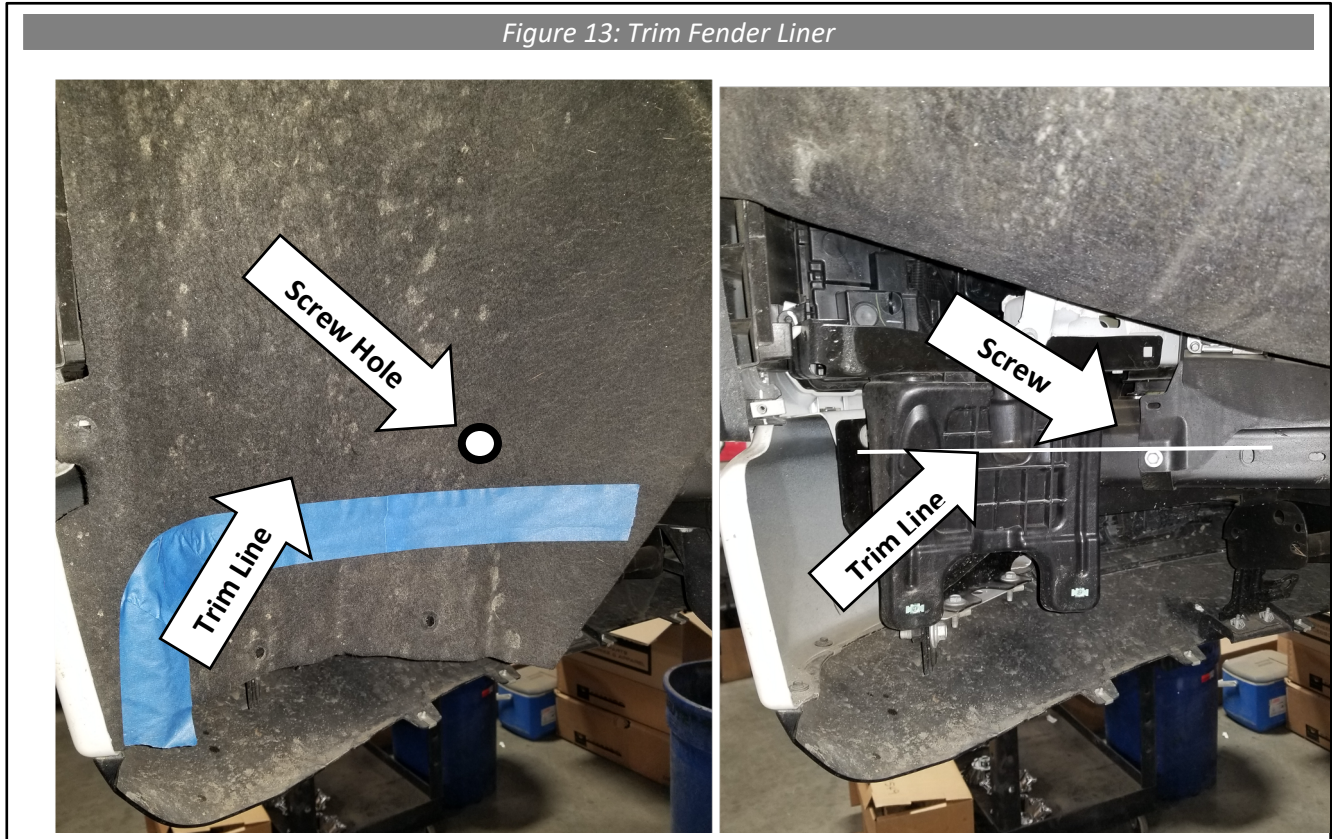


Figure 12: Remove Bolts and Plastic Bracket

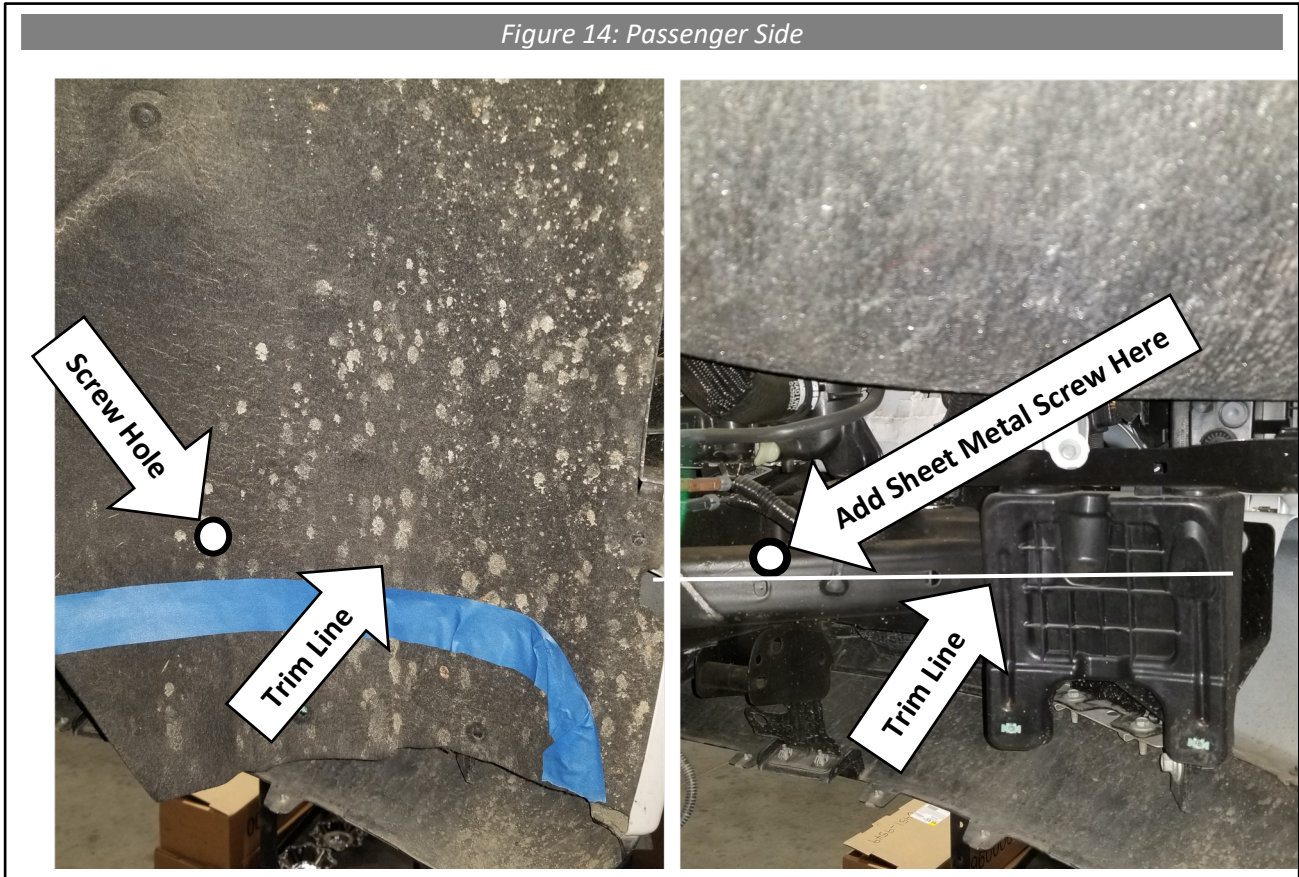


8. Return the fender liner to its original factory position. Drill a small hole in it so the screw shown in figure 12 can be used to hold it down.
9. Use masking tape to mark the trim line. It should pass just below the screw hole drilled in step 8. See figure 13 for reference.





10. Using a sharp box cutter, poke thru the fender liner material and make the cut. Be very careful to not cut yourself or slip and cut into the paint. Return the fender liner to the factory position and reinstall all screws.
11. Steps 1-10 are for the driver side of the vehicle. Follow these same steps on the passenger side except for step 8. For the passenger side, a pilot hole and sheet metal screw will need to be used in place of the screw mentioned in step 8. See figure 14 for reference.



## WARRANTY / RETURN POLICY / SAFETY

### **Cognito Limited Lifetime Warranty**

Cognito Motorsports, Inc. hereinafter “Cognito,” warrants to the original retail purchaser, that its suspension products are free from workmanship and material defects for as long as the purchaser owns the vehicle on which the product(s) were originally installed. This warranty will be void if any modifications are made to the components, including alterations to the surface finish, i.e.; painting, powder coating, plating, and/or welding, or if they are improperly installed. Cognito truck suspension products are not designed nor intended to be installed on “competition” vehicles used in race applications, stunt or for exhibition purposes that are outside of the intended operating conditions specified by the manufacturer. Racing and competition are defined as any contests between two or more vehicles; or vehicles competing individually on off road circuits in timed events (whether or not such contests are for an award or prize).

This warranty does not include coverage for police, taxi, government or commercial vehicles, and the warranty does not cover Cognito products sold outside of the USA. Cognito’s obligations under this warranty are specified and applied at its sole discretion, and warranty coverage is limited to repair or replacement of the defective product(s). Any and all costs of removal, installation or reinstallation; freight charges, incidental or consequential damages associated with the covered products are expressly excluded from this warranty.

The following items are exempt from Cognito limited warranty coverage: bushings, bump stops, tie-rod ends (Heim joints) and limiting straps. These parts are “consumables” and designed to wear as a normal part of their duty cycle, therefore they are not considered defective when worn. The aforementioned products are warrantied separately against defects in workmanship, for 60 days from the date of purchase. As a condition of warranty validation, respective Cognito suspension components must be installed as a complete system (not combined with non-Cognito hardware or ancillary parts). Any substitutions or omission of required components will void the warranty. Some minor cosmetic wear and imperfections may occur to parts during shipping, which is not covered under this warranty. This limited warranty does not apply to any components that have been subjected to collision damage, negligence, alteration, abuse, or misuse, and coverage does not extend to products manufactured by third-party companies. Cognito reserves the right to supersede, discontinue, or change the design, finish, part number and/or application of its parts when deemed necessary, without notice.

### **Return Policy**

Product returns will not be accepted without prior written approval from an authorized Cognito representative. All products being returned must be shipped via trackable, prepaid freight. Returned products are subject to a 25% percent restocking fee. The eligible return period for products purchased directly from Cognito is 30 days from the verified date when the product(s) were originally received by the purchaser.

### **Product Safety Advisory**

The installation of Cognito steering and suspension components will modify your vehicle’s original factory equipment and geometry, which may cause it to handle differently than a stock (unaltered) vehicle. Installation of these components is not intended to strengthen nor reinforce the vehicle’s frame, nor are they designed to increase rollover protection. It is necessary to periodically inspect all suspension and drive train components for proper attachment, torque specifications, operation, and for any potential unusual wear or damage. Installation of these parts will modify the height of the vehicle and may raise the center of gravity. Modifying vehicle height combined with off road operation may increase your vehicle’s susceptibility to rollover conditions, which may cause serious injury or death. Many states regulate allowable vehicle height modifications, and it is your responsibility to know and comply with the legal requirements specified by the laws where you reside. Modifications to your vehicle’s ride height may also affect the ride quality, driver input response, trackability and handling, and wear to your vehicle’s suspension components and tires.