

Show your Clubman some love now that the new model is looming in the rearview. Dress out your taillights with chrome trim rings. DIY.

Purchase some chrome foil from [rvinyl.com](http://www.rvinyl.com) Chrome Vinyl Film Wrap 24" x 12" is the right size for this project. with extra if you goof up.

(<http://www.rvinyl.com/Chrome-Vinyl-Film-Wraps.htm!/Silver-Chrome-Vinyl-Film-Wraps.html>)

also need : sharp blade x-acto knife, some adhesive tape and some onionskin/tracing paper.

the shape of the trim ring is easily patterned from the slight edge ring that surrounds the taillight.

once you have materials in hand, use tape to lay a piece of onionskin over the taillight cutout in your door like this:

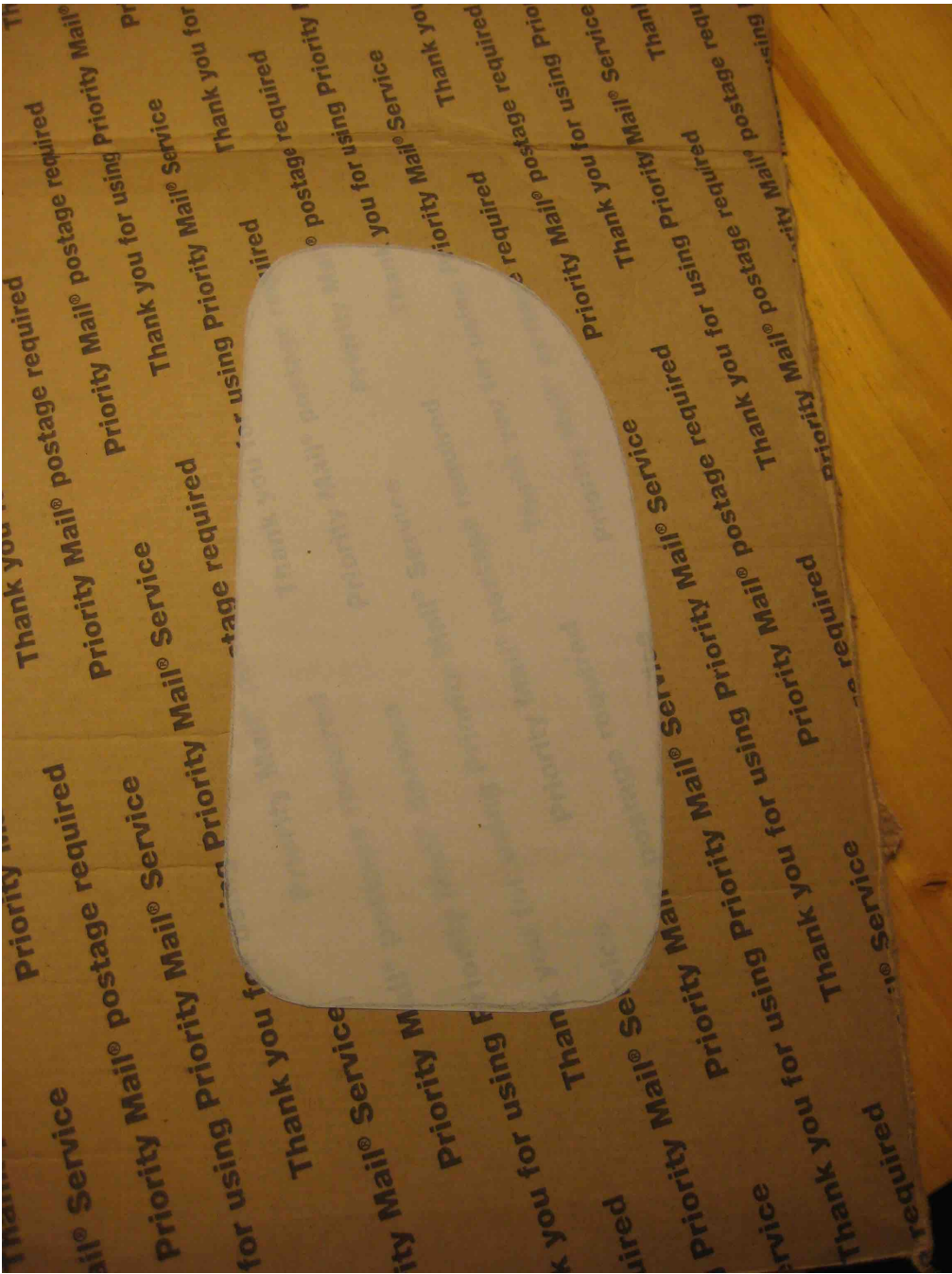


I do not have a photo of my process of marking the ring in pencil. But it is done with a standard sharpened wooden pencil laid crosswise(the way you might make a gravestone rubbing image) and creating a trace of the crease/ridge. This plastic molding is pronounced enough to easily create a sharp duplicate pattern on the tracing paper.



You only really need one of these tracings. The left and right openings are mirror image identical. Reversing the template will allow fabrication of the other trim ring.

Take the paper off your door and cut out along the line you just created and end up with this:

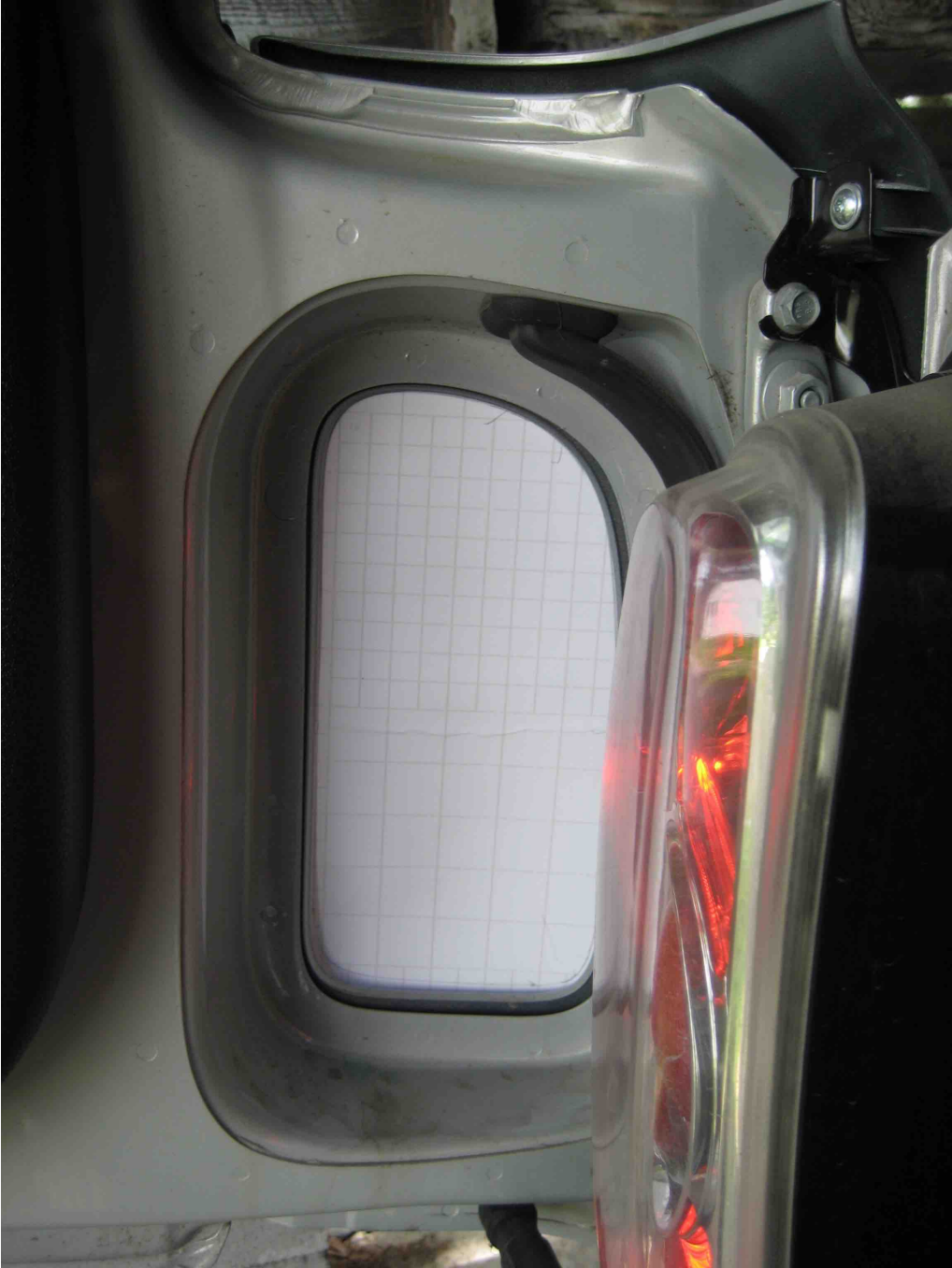


Once you have this paper cutout shaped smoothly, lay it on the back side of Chrome foil roll. Make sure to position it on the foil with some extra all around to make it easy to cut out the shape. Draw around the tracing paper template onto the foil backing and make sure you can see the pencil mark clearly on the backing paper. Then use your scissors and cut out the vinyl.

Take that piece of vinyl and and tape it to the outside of the door, lining it up with the crease all around .



From the inside of the door, you should see something like this:

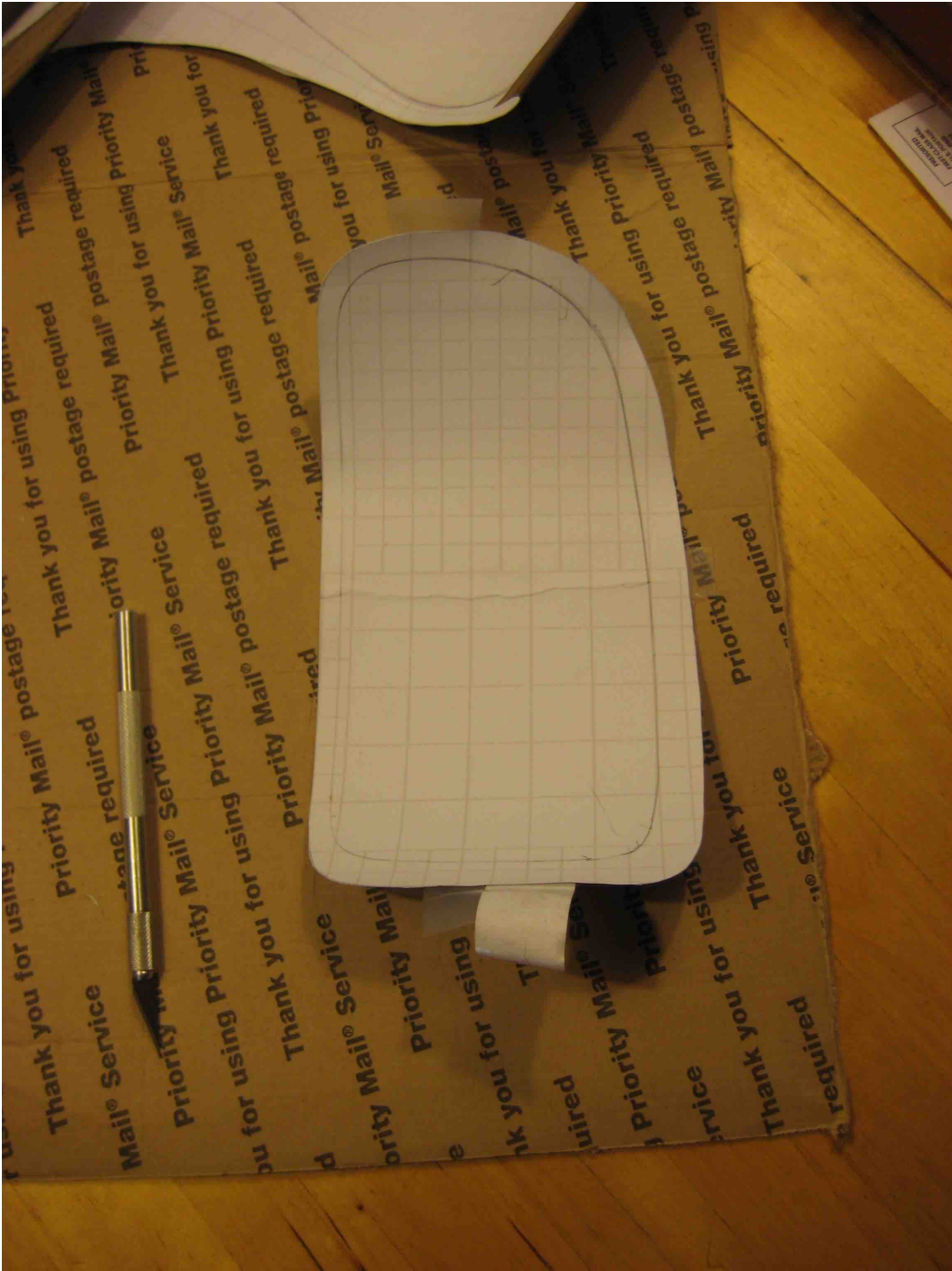


Next, take your pencil and trace the inside of the opening onto the paper backing the chrome foil.

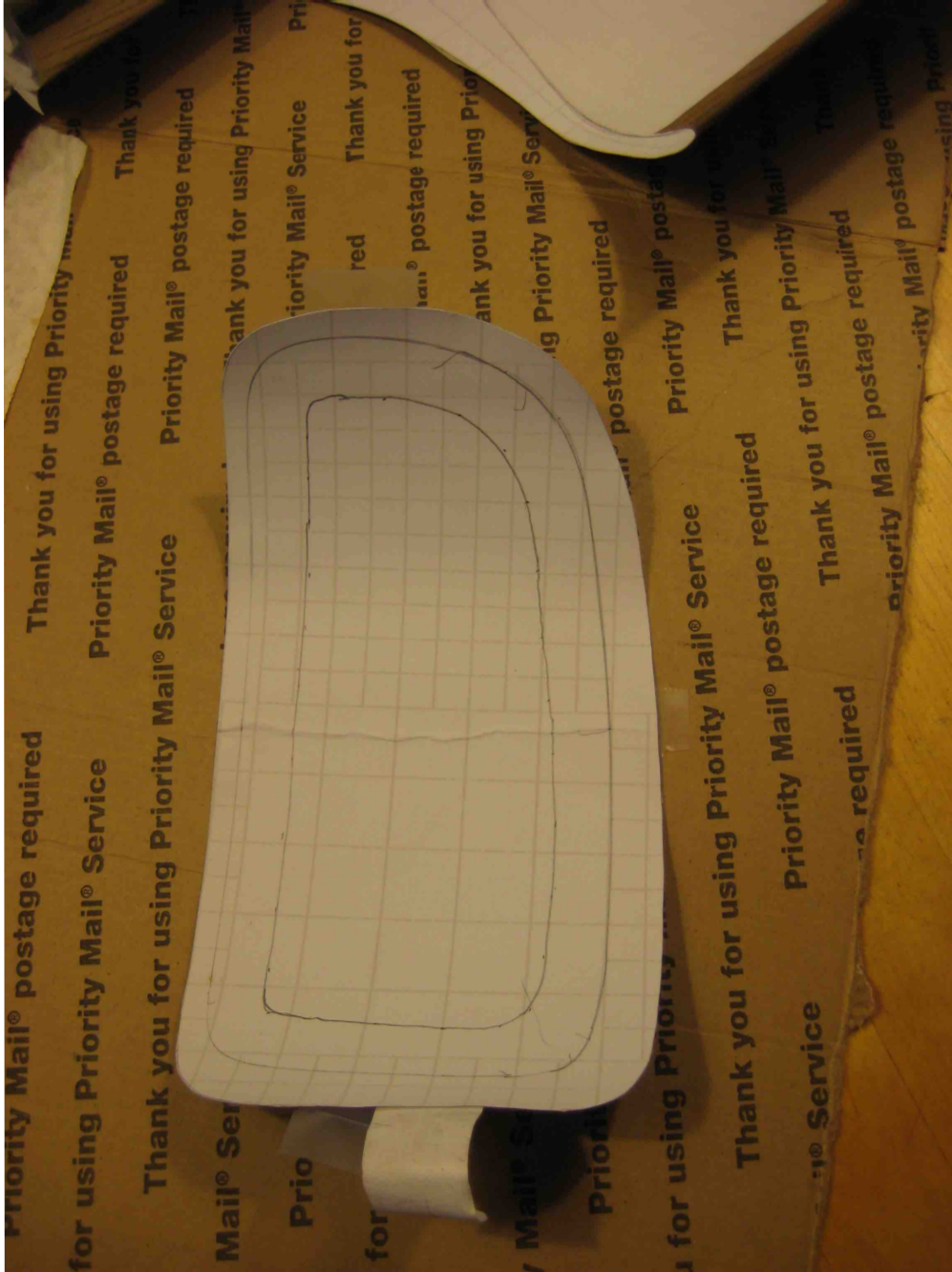


This line will be useful in a few moments.

Take the piece back off the door and see something that looks like this:



Create a ring inside the one you just traced that is approx. $\frac{5}{8}$ smaller all around. I did mine by eyeballing a series of dots from my line and then connected them to form this:



now take your scissors and cut out this inner, inner line and end up with this sort of donut.



the shiny side looks like this.



Almost time for the install. Take the foil to the car. Make sure the inside and outsides of the taillight opening are clean of any dirt, grit and debris.

Remove the paper backing and position the ring to match the crease around the taillight opening. The foil is pretty forgiving. I was able to push my ring around to eliminate any bubbles and creases just using my fingers. If you need to reposition, that can be done with some of the foil still attached to the car.

Once the ring is smoothly attached and looks good from the outside, it is time to form it to the inside edge of the opening. This is done with a series of radial scissor cuts from the inner edge of the foil toward the edge of the opening. Keep your cuts shy of the plastic so there are no visible hints of the base plastic underneath. The series of cuts will have to be much closer together at the corners to allow a smooth curve. Cut “triangles” instead of the “rectangles” that work well on straight sections of the opening.

Use an ice cream stick, tongue depressor, or plastic spudger to direct the slit pieces into the space between the metal door frame and the plastic panel. stick your flaps down to the inside of this gap as well as you can.

my photos from here on were taken weeks after the install, so you can see some signs of road debris and dirt. These rings were installed in July 2014 and are still looking fine today. They have been through a harsh upstate NY winter and multiple carwashes with no signs of damage or failure.





the second trim ring is created in the same manner as the first, simply flip the template over and create the "Other hand" version.



Here is the back of my 2013 White Silver edition finally properly dressed. I imagine these will “pop” a lot more on ones with the black trim panels.