



# DODGE CHALLENGER FRONT HOOD/BUMPER GAP CORRECTION



**PROBLEM...**The hood to front bumper gap is excessive or unsightly on model year 2008-current Dodge Challengers.

**SOLUTION...**Go to your local hardware store and purchase some **REAL** hardware items to replace the cheap and weak factory plastic tree fasteners at the bumper cover/radiator support area under the hood. Another member on the forum [[hunttriumph1500](#)] originally came up with the idea and I am simply illustrating it and showing how I did the fix with hardware I found and used.

### PARTS NEEDED....



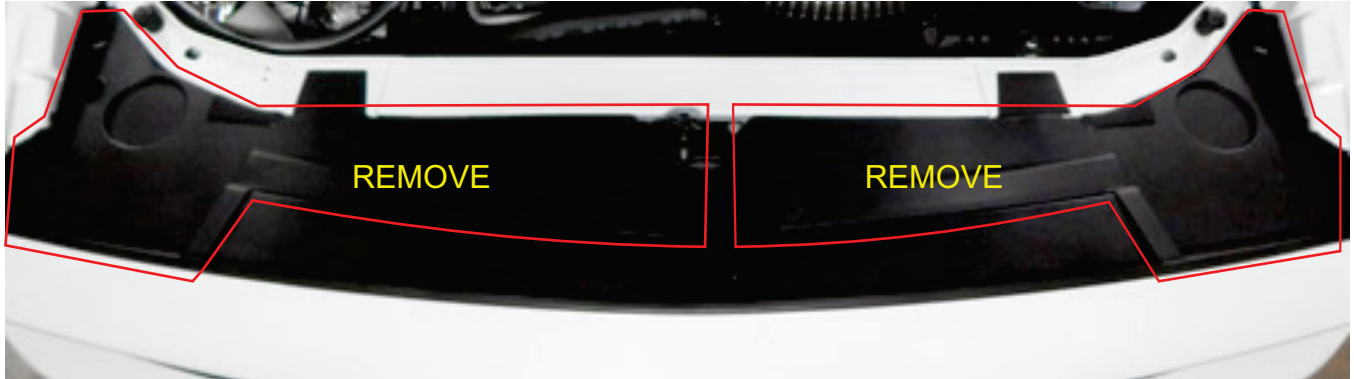
### TOOLS NEEDED...

You will need a plastic trim clip removal tool (or putty knife) to remove trim clips, a 13mm regular well socket and a phillips head screw driver to install the parts in the photo above. In addition, you will need some masking tape to wrap around the 13mm socket that you will load with the hardware that goes underneath the radiator support tabs that the upper screw and fender washer connect into.

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The first thing you need to do is remove the two trim panels that cover the radiator support panel. These are press fitted and you simply grab each of them in the middle area by the hood latch and carefully pull up across the length of each.



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*This is the view of the piece that ties into the radiator support from the upper portion of the front bumper cover. You will need to remove two of the three plastic tree inserts noted below on both sides of the bumper cover where it attaches to the radiator support. The ones closest to the fender on each side are not really sucking in the bumper cover so you don't need to worry about those.*



### INSTALLING YOUR NEW HARDWARE...

Now it's time to gather the stainless hardware. Pair up the screw and large fender washer first. Then, get the smaller washer, lock washer and nut and place them inside a 13mm standard well socket with the nut going in first, then the lock washer and finally the small flat washer. Get some masking tape and wrap it around the socket so it keeps everything inside positioned. The idea here is that you will be reaching up from underneath each hole location in the radiator support tab with one hand holding the socket with the lower hardware while your other hand is inserting the screw and large fender washer down into the hole threading it in from the top.



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### INSTALLING YOUR NEW HARDWARE CONTINUED...

Once you have the new hardware hand tightened, back the nut off a little bit so as to allow for movement of the bumper cap in the next step. Get the philips screwdriver to hold the screw from the top and a deep well 13mm socket on a 1/4" ratchet to final tighten the bolt underneath the radiator support. Get a soft towel and then place your knee into the center grille area of the bumper and push up and in while tightening the hardware firmly. Do the same for the hardware on the passenger side of the bumper cover. At this point you can do a test fit by closing the hood and sighting down the gap across the front of the hood. If it's not quite right just loosen the hardware near the area you need to adjust and try it again. Once satisfied, give the hardware a final snugging up and you will be finished.



Here is how my hood gap turned out. I'm super picky and it wasn't that bad to begin with, but I think it looks quite a bit better now. Total cost around \$10 in stainless hardware. CHEAP TRICK!

