

**WIN A WILD MUSTANG RESTOMOD SEE P.18**

# **Mustang Monthly**

**SHELBY-STYLE  
CENTER-MOUNT  
FOGLIGHTS**

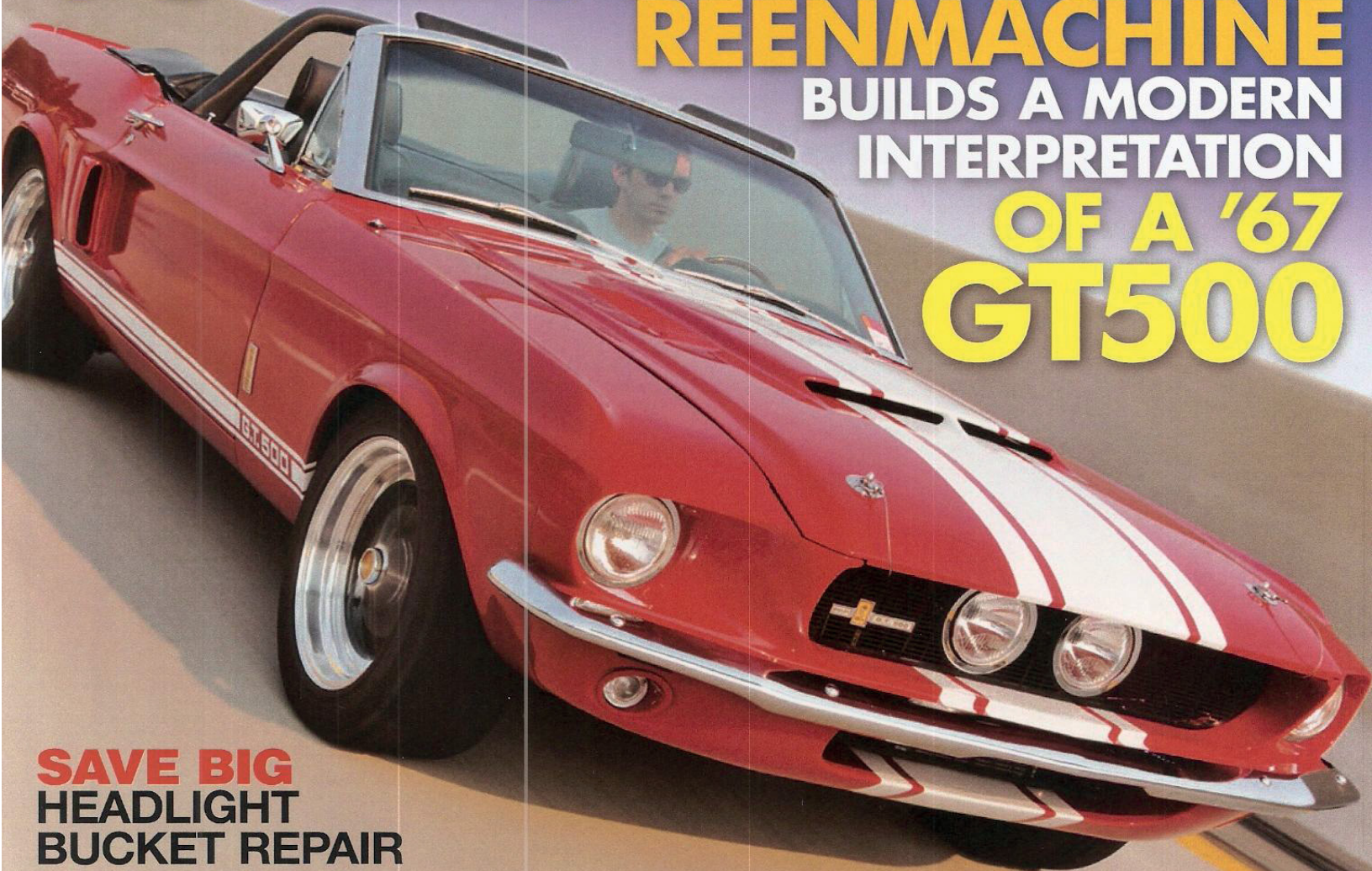


## **TOPELESS TRIBUTE**

## **REENMACHINE**

**BUILDS A MODERN  
INTERPRETATION**

**OF A '67  
GT500**



**SAVE BIG  
HEADLIGHT  
BUCKET REPAIR**



**DYNO-  
TUNING  
FOR MORE  
POWER**

**BATTERY  
TRAY  
REPLACEMENT**

**SAFETY FIRST! ADD A SEATBELT WARNING LIGHT**

# How To

# Repair Headlight Buckets

**B**roken headlight buckets are one of the common maladies on '65-'66 Mustangs. The factory castings are narrow and thin at the

***With California Pony Cars' new kit, you can repair '65-'66 headlight buckets instead of replacing them***

*text and photography  
by Donald Farr*

top where the buckets mount to the fender, almost always resulting in broken flanges after years of road bumps and body twisting. Without the security of the top bolt and locating pin, the buckets vibrate and shake. You've no doubt noticed jittery headlights at night on approaching early Mustangs.

Previously, the only way to fix the problem was to replace the headlight buckets, an expensive proposition considering they typically cost more than \$100 each—and that's without

being painted to match the car. Now California Pony Cars offers a simple, inexpensive headlight bucket repair kit. Included in the \$39.95 price is a pair of die-cast replacement flanges—one for each headlight bucket—for repairing the broken flange areas. After cleaning the broken area, the supplied J-B Weld is used to secure the new flanges. No bolts, screws, or welding are required.

The kits are available directly from California Pony Cars or any of CPC's distributors.



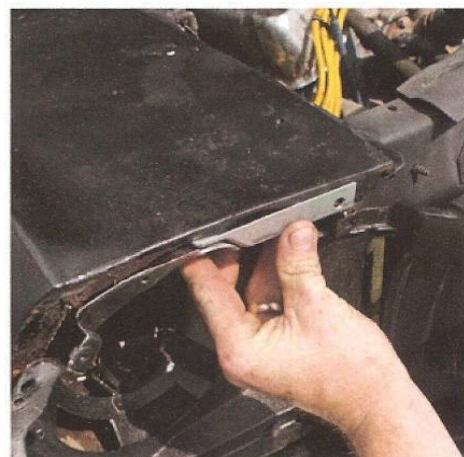
# How To Repair Headlight Buckets



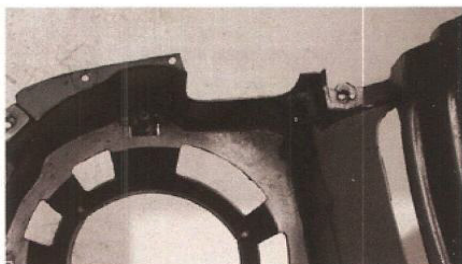
We checked several parts cars at Classic Creations of Central Florida, and they all had broken headlight buckets. Most resemble this one, which is completely separated.



**3** After dressing the edges with a file, the repair patch can be positioned on the bucket for a test fit. Make sure all casting flash and burrs are removed.



**4** California Pony Cars recommends trial fitting the panel and bucket to the car before securing with J-B Weld. The bucket may require some distortion for a proper fit.



Here is a comparison of a new headlight bucket (top) and a used bucket with the broken mounting flange.



**1** After unbolting the bucket from the car and removing the headlight, place the repair patch and note how it's positioned. You'll need to break off or cut the remaining section of the old flange. Here, Merv Rego marks the area that needs to be removed for our bucket repair.

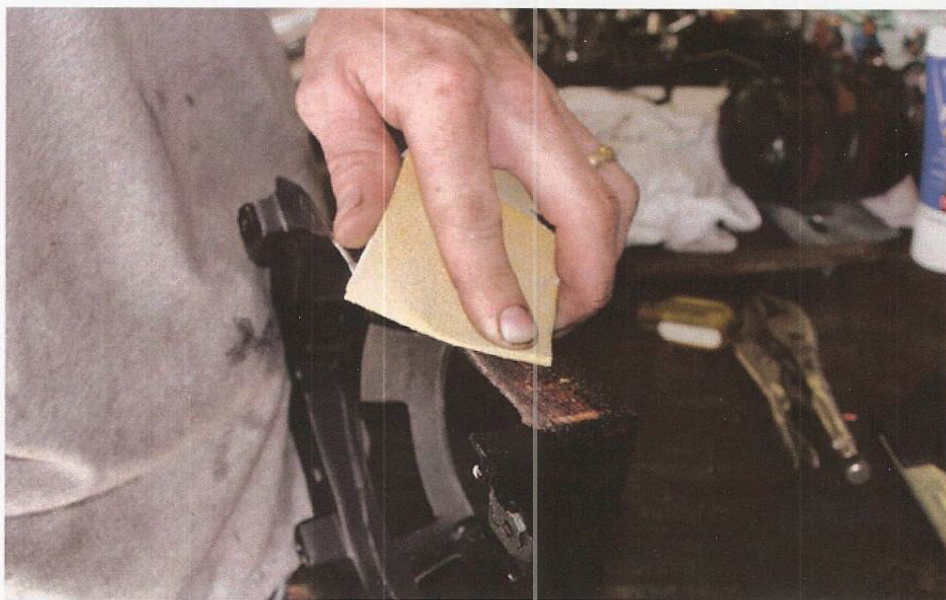


California Pony Cars' '65-'66 Mustang headlight bucket repair kit comes with two die-cast patches, one for each side, along with J-B Weld for attaching them.

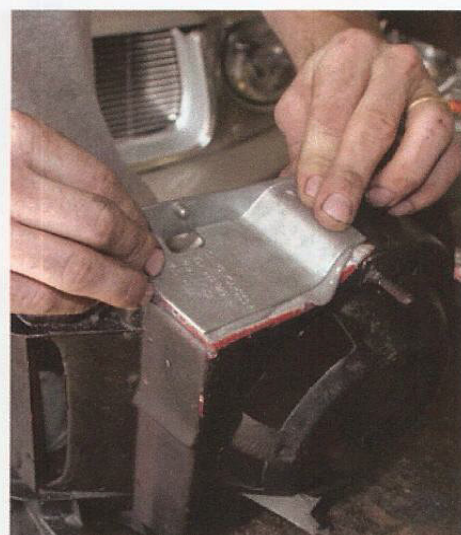


**2** There are several ways to remove the remaining section of flange, including the use of a cutting wheel. In some cases, you may be able to break off the cast metal. Merv chose to start the cut with a hacksaw, then used a file to remove metal until he was able to snap off the piece with pliers.

# How To Repair Headlight Buckets



**5** To assure adequate bonding, remove paint from the contact area and mark where the patch will be bonded.




**7** Position the patch on the headlight bucket without pressing firmly in place. Wipe away any excess adhesive and try to fill any gaps between the bucket and patch.



**6** Mix enough J-B Weld to apply a 1/8-inch-thick layer of adhesive on the headlight bucket.



**8** Install the headlight bucket while the J-B Weld is still wet, and allow the adhesive to set up. J-B Weld recommends a 16-hour cure time, after which you can remove the headlight bucket for cleanup before final installation. With the headlight door installed, you'll never see the repair. 



## Instructions for headlight bucket repair kit

The headlight buckets for 1965-66 Mustangs have a design flaw that characteristically results in premature failure at the upper/inner "mounting flange", where the "mounting flange" makes a right angle turn which connects it to the "bucket body". This area of the casting is only about 7/10" wide and quite thin.

CPC's solution to this problem is a fairly quick fix, as follows and remember the value of this product is that you don't have to repaint your bucket, if you handle with care.

### **\*\*Please read the instructions first, before attempting to repair the headlight bucket\*\***

Step 1: Break off the entire broken mounting flange and using the repair panel as a guide, file or grind any remnant of the old flange or any casting flash or burr that prevents the repair panel from making contact with the headlight bucket.

Step 2: Clean any loose paint from the contact area to ensure adequate bonding.

Step 3: Bolt the repair panel to the fender bucket using the standard ~20 bolt with washer.

Step 4: Trial fit the modified headlight bucket to the fender. Note that the headlight bucket design allows some distortion and some distortion may be required to allow installation of the 3 remaining mounting bolts. Distort the bucket as is possible to make it fit as closely as possible to the repair panel.

Step 5: With a pencil or scribe, mark the area of the headlight bucket surface where the patch is to be bonded. Mix enough J-B Weld to apply several-beads approximately 1/8" thick within the marked area.

Step 6: Carefully position the repair panel on the headlight bucket without pressing firmly in place and install this fabrication while still wet into the fender bucket. Wipe any excess J-B Weld away making sure to fill any gap between the bucket and panel. Caution: If excess adhesive oozes out of the joint and onto the fender bucket surface, you may not be able to remove your repaired bucket from the fender, so be careful. Isolate these surfaces with a piece of plastic bag if necessary but use caution. Allow adhesive to cure 16 hours, (per J-B Weld instruction sheet) before continuing.

Step 7: Remove the repaired bucket, clean up as required, and pat yourself on the back because you just saved the cost of a new headlight bucket and the cost to repaint it to match your car.

