

Introduction

If you are like me and am unable to find any literature or instructions online for installing a trailer lighting module to your Chevy Bolt, you need look no further! These are instructions for installing a **Tekonsha Modulite HD Protector Trailer Light Power Module (p/n 119148)** to a **2017 Chevy Bolt**. The information below could also likely be used for installing any other trailer light module from other manufacturers.

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER!!: These are NOT official instructions and are not endorsed or verified by Tekonsha or Chevrolet and as such, you follow these instructions at your own risk. The author is not responsible for any damages of any kind resulting from the use of these instructions.

I trust that you will find these instructions clear and concise. Most importantly, I hope you are able to realize the full potential of the Chevy Bolt and demonstrate to the world that BEVs are fully capable of being utility vehicles!

All the best,

Joseph
2017 Chevy Bolt (White)
Ontario, Canada

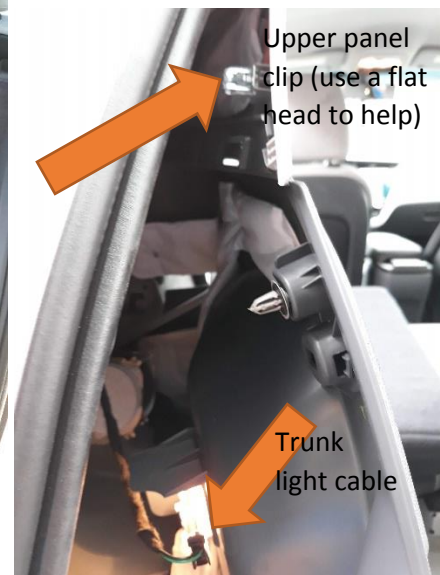
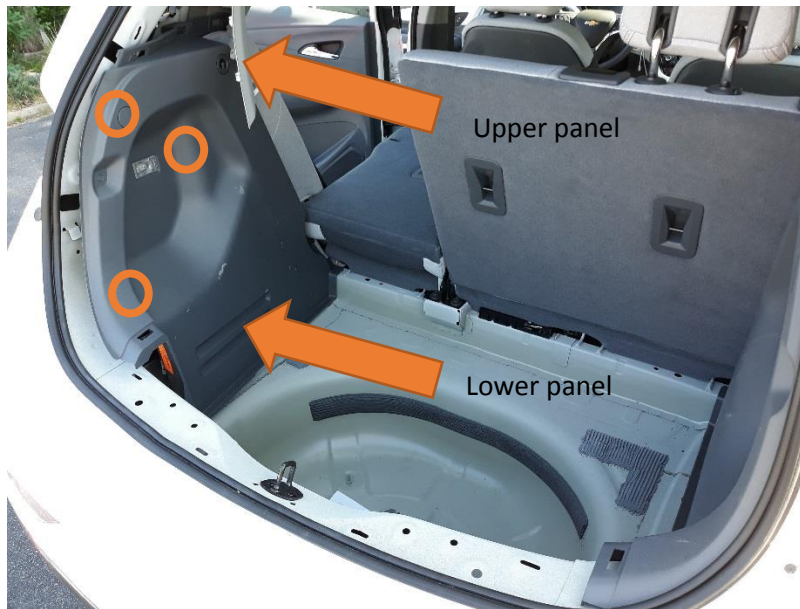
Step 1: Gaining Access



- Fold down the left-side rear bench seat back
- Remove trunk lining to reveal "spare wheel" well.
- Remove rear trunk "lip" panel by firmly yanking at it to release clips

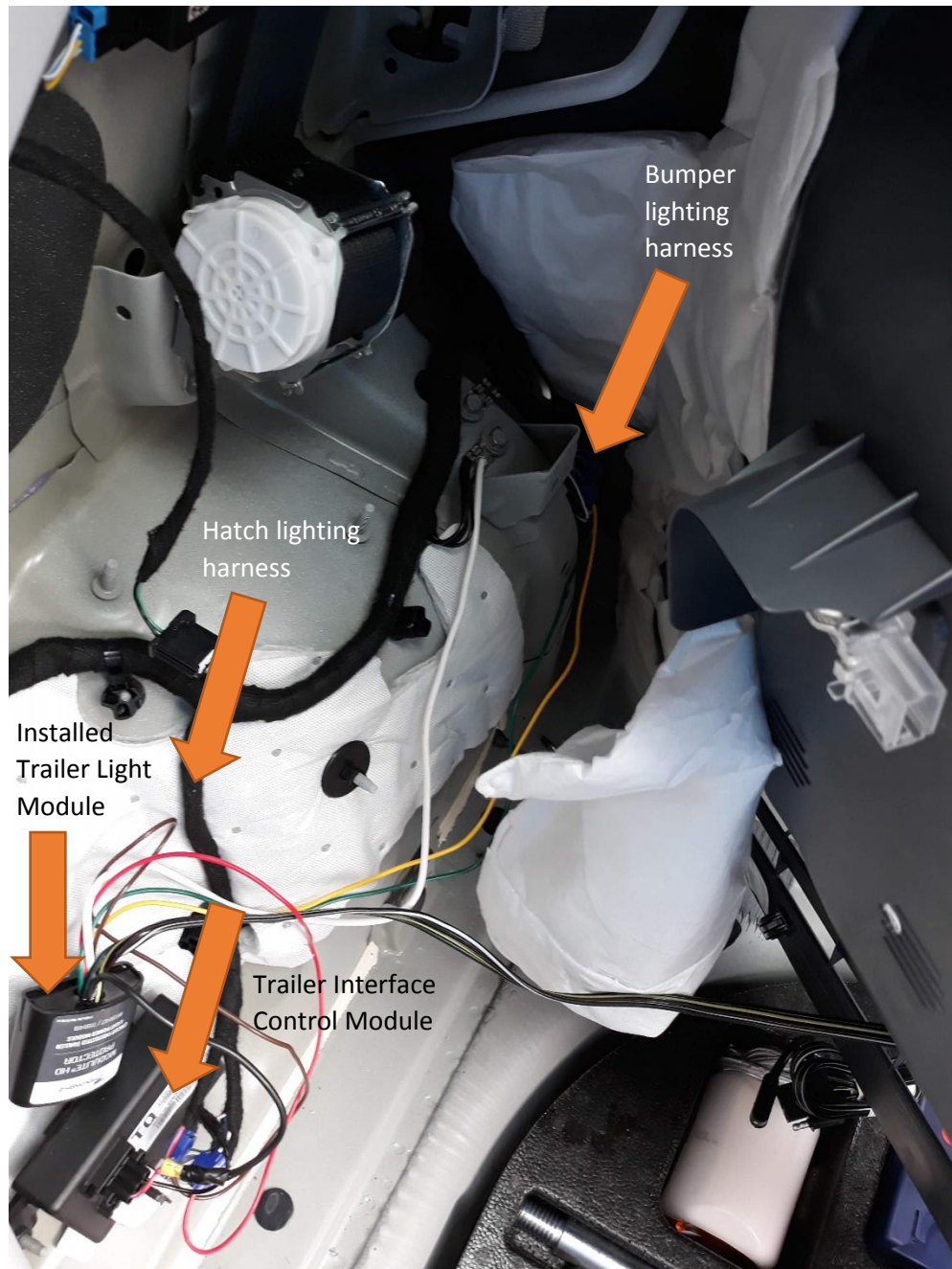


- There are a total of 8 clips securing the panel
- Try to "pull/yank" as close to the clips as possible to avoid damaging the panel



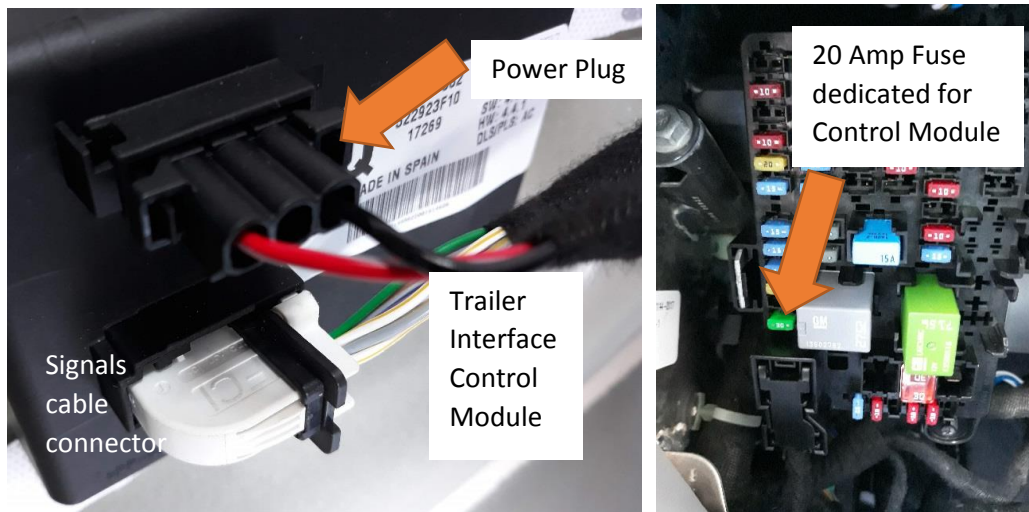
- Release the left-side panels upper and lower
- I was NOT able to completely remove the side panels unless I wanted to attempt to remove the rear-passenger side air-bag module (not a good idea). I ended up working with it partially attached – it's tight, but workable
- There are 3 circular style plastic clips holding the lower panel (locations roughly marked in photo above)
- There are 2 metal style clips holding the upper panel. Use a flat-head to help pry these out as yanking too hard can cause damage to the fragile upper panel
- Unplug the trunk light cable
- To work in the left side panel area, you will need to lean on the lower panel (don't worry, it won't break) in order to keep it open.

Step 2: Locate Harnesses and Components

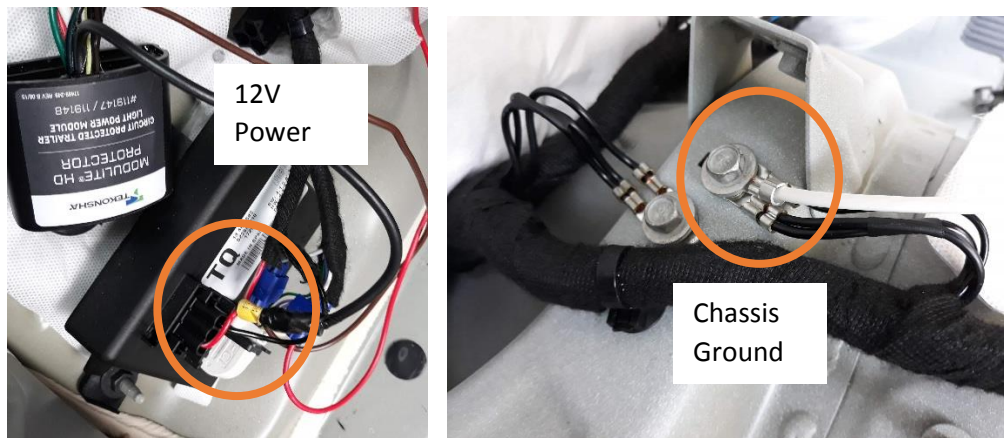


- Locate the misleadingly named "Trailer Interface Control Module"
 - o You will be splicing into and drawing 12VDC power from the feeder of this module
- Locate the hatch lighting harness (attached to the Trailer Interface Control Module)
 - o You will be tying in the "stop light" and "tail light" signals to this part of the harness
- Locate the Bumper Lighting Harness (it's located pretty far in close to the front side of the wheel-well; Difficult to see in the above photo). This harness goes out through the wheel well and back to the rear bumper.
 - o You will be tying in the "left turn" and "right turn" signals to this part of the harness

Step 3: Powering the Tekonsha Trailer Lighting Module

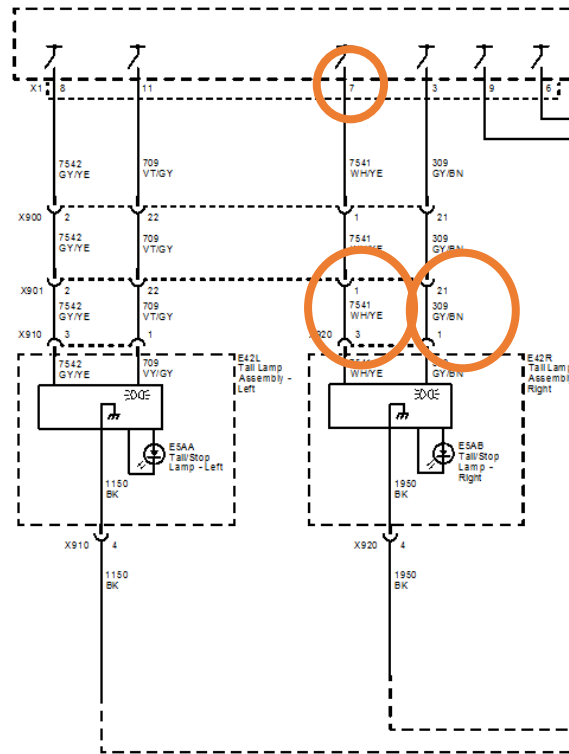
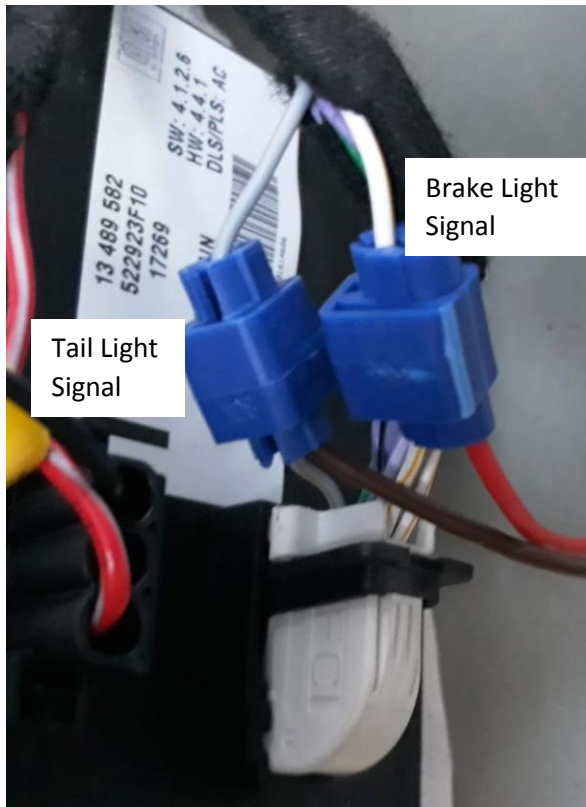


- Powering the trailer lighting module with 12VDC (upper plug)
 - o The top plug provides 12VDC to the module from a 20A fuse located under the driver-side instrument panel. You will be “tapping” this power source to power the trailer lighting module. **YOU DO SO AT YOUR OWN RISK – SEE NEXT BULLET.**
 - o **DISCLAIMER: ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS, the Tekonsha trailer lighting module SHOULD be powered directly (via a provided 15A fuse, which I also left out) by the 12VDC conventional battery at the front of the car.** I was not in the mood to tear half the car apart to run this cable plus I do not anticipate a set of trailer lights to draw more than 5 amps.
 - o Also note that this 12VDC source is permanently powered regardless of whether the car is on or not – which is what is required as you want the trailer lights to work regardless of the car’s ignition state.



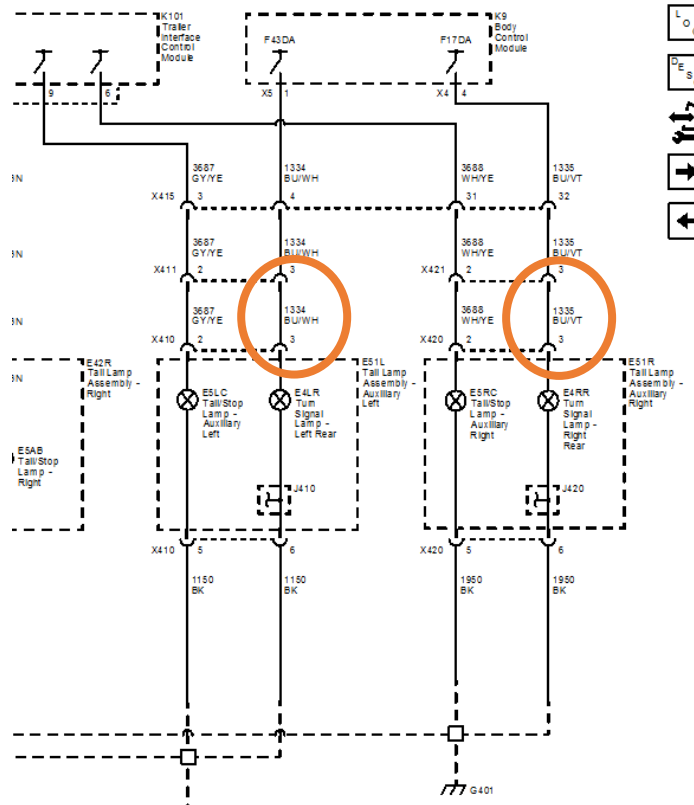
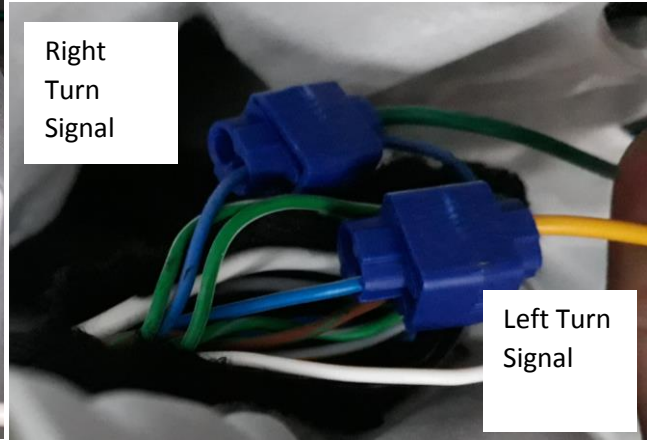
- Remove some of the cloth sheathing from the power cable
- Cut and strip the red (+12V) cable leaving enough slack on both ends for crimping
- Twist and crimp together with the Tekonsha 12V power cable (black)
- Secure and terminate the Tekonsha Ground cable (white) to the other chassis ground cables

Step 4: Terminate Signal Wires Brake and Tail Signals



- Remove some of the cloth sheathing from the signal cable attached to the Trailer Interface Control Module
- Locate the White/Yellow-stripe “stop” signal cable (**there will be TWO of these, locate the one coming from Pin 7 of the connector**) and splice it to the “brake” signal cable from the Tekonsha module (red cable) using the provided splicing tool.
- Don’t worry, if you get the wrong White/Yellow-stripe cable above, you can switch it to the correct one after testing
- Locate the Grey/Brown-stripe signal cable and splice it to the “tail light” signal cable from the Tekonsha module (brown cable) using the provided splicing tool

Left and Right Turn Signals



- Remove some of the cloth sheathing from the signal cable harness that leads to the bumper lights to expose the signal wires
- Locate the Blue/White-stripe “turn-signal left-rear” signal cable and splice it to the “left-turn” signal cable from the Tekonsha module (yellow cable) using the provided splicing tool.

- Locate the Blue/Violet-stripe “turn-signal right-rear” signal cable and splice it to the “right-turn” signal cable from the Tekonsha module (green cable) using the provided splicing tool.

Step 5: Test It!

IMPORTANT: Close the trunk when conducting these tests because the Bolt is configured such that the lights on the hatch DO NOT OPERATE with the hatch open and will default to the lights on the bumper. Best way to do this is to access the Tekonsha trailer plug from the driver side rear seat (which is folded down).



Power

- Check that you getting 12VDC at the terminals of the Trailer Interface Control Module
- Simply stick your multi-meter prongs into the terminal holes in the plug



Tail Light

- Turn on car lights

- Check for 12V signal between Pin 0 and Pin 1

Left/Right Light

- Turn on left-turn signal
- Check for 12V signal between Pin 0 and Pin 2
- Turn on right-turn signal
- Check for 12V signal between Pin 0 and Pin 3

Stop Light

- Step on brake
- Check for 12V signal between Pin 0 and Pin 2 AND Pin 1 and Pin 3
- IF THE OTHER TWO TESTS ARE SUCCESSFUL, BUT THE STOP LIGHTS ARE NOT, Go back to Step 4 and find the other White/Yellow-stripe signal cable and splice to that. Reperform test.

Step 6: ReAssemble

- Use double-sided tape or the hole at the top of the Tekonsha unit to secure it
- Take the trailer plug cable and feed it through the conveniently located vent slots on the side panel; It may take a little work to squeeze the plug through, but it will fit.
- Optional: Use wire-ties to create a mini-strain-relief for the cable using the elements on the vent
- **DON'T FORGET TO PLUG THE TRUNK LIGHT CABLE BACK IN!**
- Put the panels back together in reverse order.
- **YOU'RE DONE!**

