

# Replacing the rear bumper cover of my 1999 Audi A6 Quattro Avant

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Thanks to a miserably designed parking lot and a dishonest driver I ended up with my rear bumper tagged. I didn't want to take it to the body shop (low estimates of \$600 up to \$1,000) so I decided to try it myself. Scouring the usual sites like eBay and Craigslist, I got lucky and found an unpainted OEM bumper cover in southern California for \$55! After the item arrived I had it painted in a local body shop (\$150) and went to town.

Here are the steps I took with some images to support my writing:

1. The infamous "before" shot:



2. The Avant has the CD changer mounted behind the rear driver side wheel well and the amplifier behind the rear passenger side wheel well. In order to get to the bumper screws I had to remove the CD changer and its holding bracket on the driver side and part of the amp on the passenger side. Both were not hard to get out and it made the job a lot easier.

Driver side CD changer bracket. I don't have the changer so I just had to remove the bracket.



Passenger side amp. At first I thought I had to remove the whole amp, but fortunately removing the head unit was enough to get comfortably to the screws.



CD changer bracket completely removed, great access to the screws.





Passenger side is a little tighter but still manageable.



3. There are 15 screws/bolts all together holding the bumper cover on. 5 bolts on each side inside the body, 2 bolts on each side right behind the rear wheels and one screw below the bumper cover, right in front of the tow hook. Loosen all the screws and you are ready to pull off the cover. Since I wasn't going to reuse my old cover I wasn't concerned about scratches. If you are reusing the cover, lay out some moving blankets to set the cover down after it comes off. After I loosened all the bolts/screws I grabbed the bumper cover on one side of the car from down below and gently started pulling. Driver side came right out but the passenger side needed some serious pulling. But nothing broke and it all came off nicely.



4. I did some cleaning as there was a lot of dirt and grime underneath the cover. Then I had to remove the black trim pieces from the old cover and put it on the new one. This was a little tricky as the tabs on the plastic are not easy to get off. It's not so hard on the long center piece, but the two side pieces did not budge as I could not get to the tabs at all. I ended up just janking them out and got lucky that they didn't break off. If they do I would suggest adding a screw to each one to hold them tight in place after you put them on the new cover.



5. Once the trim is on you are ready to put the new cover back on. The new cover fit very nicely and I got it on very easily. Once I had it in place I put the nuts back on the 3 studs on each side of the car. The bottom part of the cover that goes forward to the tires is a little tricky as it has tabs that act as a guide. The cover didn't immediately go in and I had to slowly tighten the lower nuts until the cover was far enough forward for the guides to align. Then I tighten all the other nuts. There may be a better way, but being by myself it was the (in my opinion) safest way without being too worried about breaking anything. Take your time, you don't want to ruin any of the bolts or tabs.



6. And finally the even more infamous “after” shot:



The whole deal took about 1 ½ hours and the tools I needed were a 10mm long socket, a 8mm long socket and a torx bit for the screw underneath.

Overall this cost me about \$300...not bad after I thought I would have to dish out close to \$1,000. And now I have a spare bumper cover I can repair and then sell...maybe for \$300. ;o)

Hope this will help someone and I'll be glad to answer any questions you have, just message me.