

# PANAMERICANA GT GRILLE INSTALLATION GUIDE (A35 AMG)



WWW.A35STORE.COM

### **Tools Required**

T25 Torx
10mm socket
8mm socket
Rachet & Extension bars
Body trim removal set ( or use a flathead )
Rail sleepers / Wood or
Jack and axle stand

\_\_\_\_\_

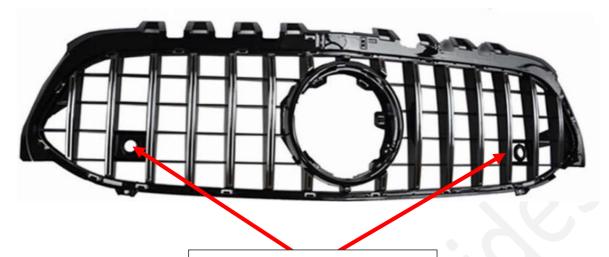
# Purchasing the Grille

It is important you purchase the correct the grille for the A35, or you could make an expensive error. In the UK the majority of A35 Premium and Premium Plus models come with the distronic system. This requires a radar unit to be installed within a **bracket** that sits behind the front grille star badge. When buying an aftermarket Panam grille, you need to make sure this bracket comes on the grillemany oriental offerings do not. You also need to ensure you select "Without" camera. The grille camera option was not an option for the UK market. It's no issue if you order with camera in error, it'll still fit.

<u>WWW.A35STORE.COM</u> stocks the correct grilles for the UK market.

Finally, you need to ensure the **parking sensor positions** are located in the correct place, at the very bottom of the grille slats- see pic below.

## **Incorrect Grille**



Incorrectly positioned parking sensors. Your car will misinterpret distances and constantly sound off. Also this grille is and lacking a radar bracket

# **Correct Grille**



Parking sensors are in the correct position.

#### **Correct Grille Cont**



Arrowed is the circular radar unit bracket (you can see it is fixed with 3 fasteners. It important your grille has this, or else it is basically scrap plastic. Inspect the video below.

# Correct Grille Video (mine)

The grilles are sold on eBay and other oriental marketplaces. Aim to spend around £70-100, the UK sellers ramp their prices up, but the products are all basically the same.

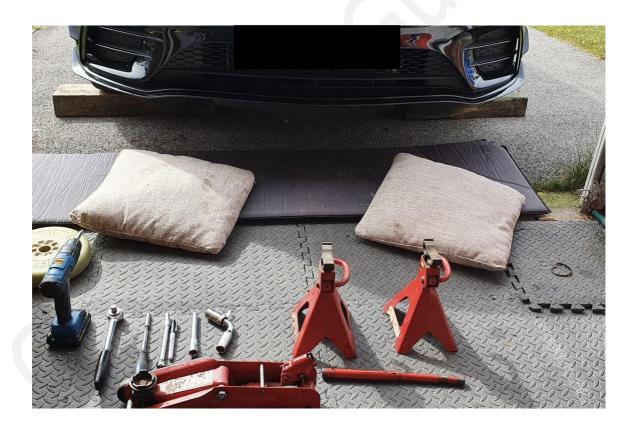
NOW WATCH THIS TIME LAPSE OF THE GRILLE INSTALL
EXCELLENTLY PUT TOGETHER BY TRACK DAVE ( WILL GIVE YOU
AN IDEA OF WHAT TO DO

• Note the order of installation in the time lapse differs from mine

# Installation of the grille

# 1. Bumper removal

There are two methods to this, first one is to jack up the car on axle stands with wheels removed, and completely remove the arch linings. The second more fiddly (but quicker) method is to just drive onto some wood sleepers, that is the method used for this guide.



1.1 - Ensure you organised your tools and place a mat / cushions underneath the bumper to prevent any scratching and cushion any fall.

Carefully drive on to the wooden sleepers (or jack up the car and place axles stands in position)

1.2 – remove the 3 x lower bumper trim bolts (0mm)



1.3



Remove the plastic push rivets from the outer edge of the arch liner, and 1 under the outer edge of the bumper, arrowed red. Use the body trim tools on pop rivets. Pull the centre of the rivet out then pull the main rivet.

On the N/S (passenger) you will need to peel back the arch liner and remove a temperature sensor which is fastened in the lower front bumper area (marked with green arrow) it just pulls out, with minimal force

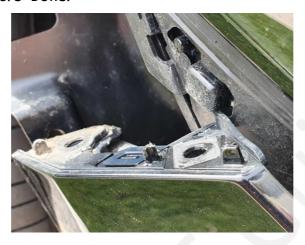


1.4 On the O/S, carry out the same procedure as above, peel the arch liner back, but this time disconnect the parking sensor loom socket. Push the grey socket retaining clip down and remove the lower portion of the loom socket. BE VERY CAREFUL, there is potential to pull the o/s/f parking sensor away from the bumper \* no picture of the socket, but it is self-explanatory.



The parking sensor loom connector is just here (on inside of bumper)

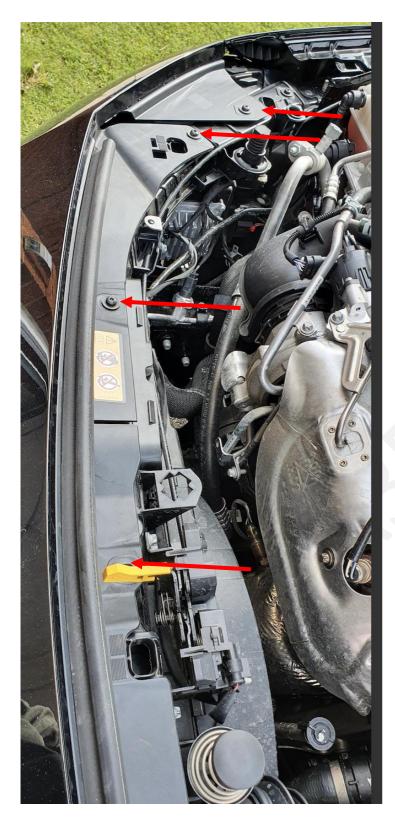
1.5 Now a fiddly part. Get your hands up in the arch and feel for 2 x 10mm bolts that fasten the bumper on to the wings (2 bolts per side). Gauge the location and angle of the bolts and carefully feed your 10mm socket on the extension rods and undo accordingly. Pictured below is the edge of the bumper unfastened from the wing. Unfasten both the n/s and o/s bolts.



1.6- get underneath the car and remove the 3 x T25 torx bolts holding the front bumper on to the undercar panelling. You can't miss them, as they're the only ones in the bumper area.

1.7- Now you are ready to move on to removing the upper bumper fixings

PTO



1.7 cont- Using a T25 Torx undo the bolts which fasten the bumper on to the front of the car ( arrowed red- there a few towards the N/S which are not on the picture )

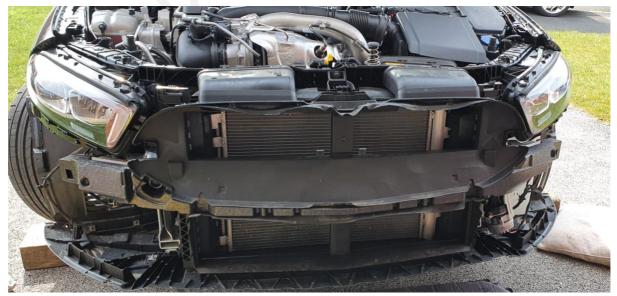
1.8- now you need to remove 2 x sneaky bolts which are hard to spot – 8mm socket required. 1 bolt per side, located near the lighting unit, and pictured on the next page :

#### 1.8 cont:





Now you are ready to manipulate the bumper off. It is doable on your own, but better with an assistant, grasping the grille area wiggle and pull backwards on the



bumper and it should come off. Remove to your work area for the worst phase of the job, the actual grille removal.

#### End of Phase 1, bumper removal

#### Phase 2 – OEM Grille Removal, Panam Grille install

This phase is somewhat tedious and may cause you to swear. The grille is held in by plastic tabs, which are a major pain to remove. The only tip I can offer is to heat up the tabs using a hair dryer / heat gun to aid manipulation.

Watch this you tube video again: Time Lapse Grille install

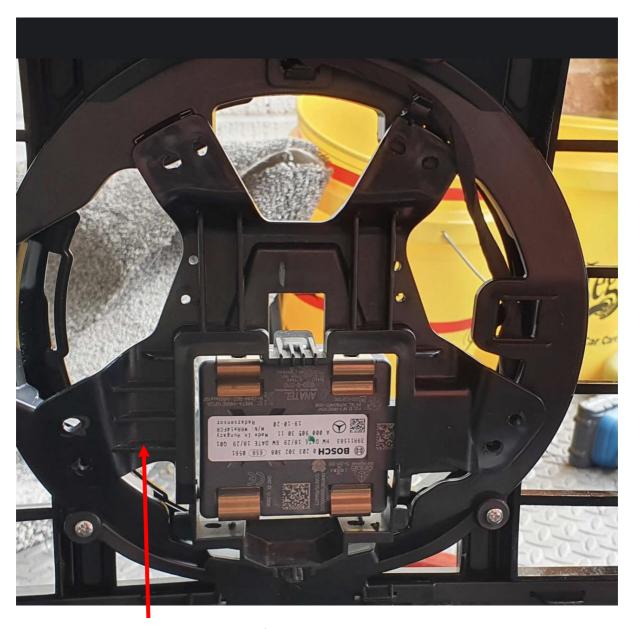
- 2.1 remove the rubber seal and unhook plastic shroud as per video
- 2.2 remove front grille badge by turning anti-clockwise slightly
- 2.3- remove radar unit / socket off
- 2.4- remove parking sensors carefully
- 2.5-!! will cause you to swear!! undo tabs by applying force in the direction arrowed:



Go around the full circumference of the grille and release all tabs and pull grille off towards you.

# 2.5 With Grille off, remove radar bracket...

#### 2.5 cont:



Removal of the bracket is simple ( pic for illustration purposes only, radar should be removed by this stage )

## 2.6- Build up your new grille

a) Screw the 2 guide arm brackets on to your new grille



- b) Install the radar bracket, radar unit
- c) Install the grille, being very careful not to snap any clips
- d) Reinstall radar loom
- e) Reinstall parking sensors
- f) Reinstall shroud
- g) Reinstall rubber seal

#### 2.7- reinstall bumper

- a) Reinstall bumper carefully as per removal, ensure guide arms are seated in correct position and that you reconnect temp sensor in N/S and parking sensor loom O\S
- b) Reinstall front grille badge





Enjoy your aggressive look!



## Other GG A35 guides available as of June 2020:

- 1) Quad tip installation guide v1.1
- 2) Panamericana / GT grille installation guide v1.1
- 3) Dashcam hardwire installation guide v1.0
- 4) W177 A Class Chrome handle wrap guide v1.0 <u>www.eazi-wrap.com</u> now have a much easier solution so you don't have to remove the handles.

Please get in touch if you require any of the above guides or any A35 help in general:

# gibbo1981@gmail.com

Happy motoring,

Gabe G

