

How To - Replace the Docking Lights with LED Fixtures

The goal was to replace the 2011 Fleetwood Discovery 40X Docking Lights that are just behind the rear wheels with LED Fixtures. The old incandescent bulbs were dull, the covers were fogged, gave off very little light and were – ugly.

Starting with the Rear Side Docking lights, the existing incandescent fixtures were recessed in oval openings in the side of the coach and held in place with a rubber grommet. We could simply replace the incandescent bulb but decided to opt for a truck style LED fixture that provided much more light and looked really sharp. Fixtures were located that exactly matched the existing oval hole in the side of the coach. There were also chrome accent rings available that made the fixtures look even better. Before replacing the new rear LED fixtures, I made a paper “pattern” of the rear oval hole to be used on the front set of fixtures. More on the usage of that pattern later.

The new LED fixtures slid into the new oval rubber grommet with a little bit of liquid soap being used as a lubricant then the chrome rings slid over the rubber grommet and latched into place.



Parts: The new fixtures were available for \$41 for four on eBay at <https://www.ebay.com/itm/253975174786>

Parts: The chrome rings were available for \$5 each from the Big Rig Chrome Shop at <https://www.bigrigchromeshop.com/chrome-plastic-oval-twist-on-bezel-p-8295.html#.XHcMVcBKgV2>

Parts: Waterproof Electrical Connector Plug were available for \$8 for a set of 5 from https://www.amazon.com/Qook-Waterproof-Electrical-Connector-Female/dp/B075LJJK2/ref=asc_df_B075LJJK2/?tag=hyprod-20&linkCode=df0&hvadid=316685777931&hvpos=1o3&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=1633967135522490925&hvpon=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=c&hvdvcmcl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9010670&hvtargid=pla-594291589609&psc=1

With suggestions from the iRV2 Forum, I went looking for options for a front set of Docking Lights just behind the front wheel.

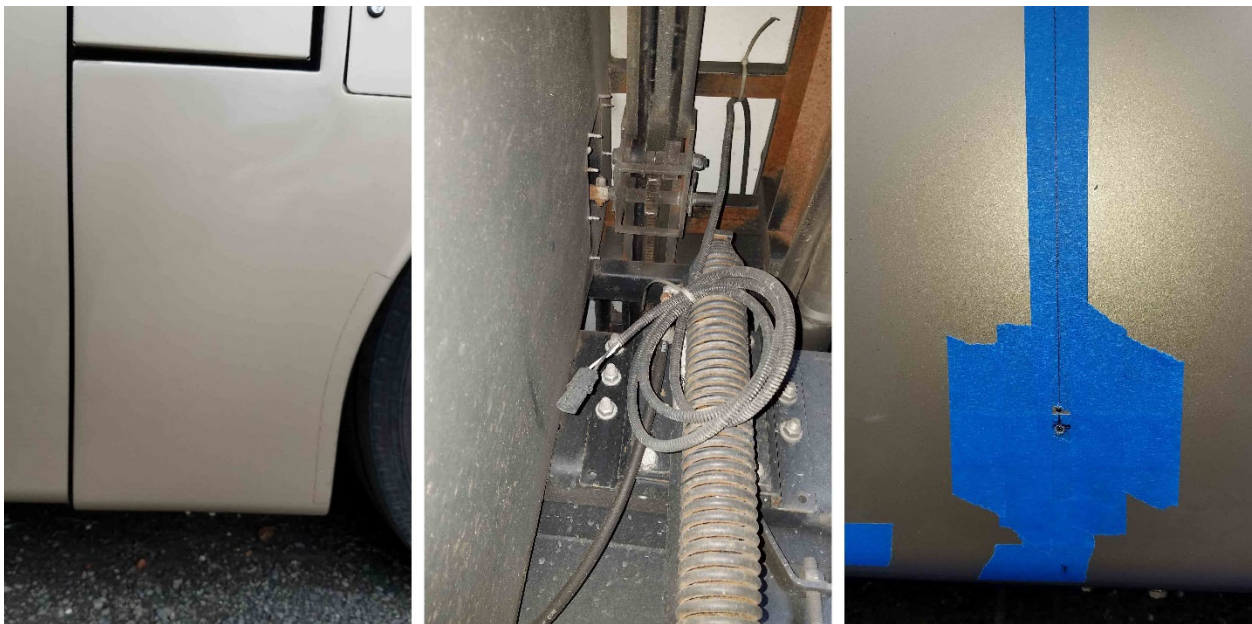
In my coach in the chamber behind the front wheels and below the slide outs there is a cable that looks exactly like the rear Docking Light cable and is marked as 4037, the same numbers on the rear docking light cable.

It appears that the D is pre-wired for front docking lights. To install the front docking lights an oval hole matching the rear Docking Light Hole will need to be cut in the exterior panel, but where?

The first image shows where the oval hole is to be cut.

The second image shows the preinstalled Docking Light cable.

Behind the panel is a steel plate with a $\frac{3}{4}$ " hole for the wire exactly in the center of the 2" circle that forms the bottom of the oval. Using this hole as a guide, a pilot hole was drilled and a reference line was drawn upwards, but how far?



This is where the paper pattern that was made from the rear Docking Light hole comes to the rescue.

We can position the 2" hole saw exactly in the top of the oval pattern. Be sure to tape the area to be cut and start the drill cutting in reverse to minimize chipping of the exterior panel.

Once the top hole is positioned we can cut away the sides of the oval for a perfect match with the rear Docking Light oval. I used a Dremel with a diamond disk to cut away the section to be discarded.



A little more trimming on the sides using a Dremel with a drum sanding head, insert the rubber grommet, insert the LED Fixture and finally insert the chrome ring.



New Front and Rear Docking Lights installed!

