



How To: Install a Shark Fin Aerial

Courtesy of Zak123

Whats needed:

Shark Fin

Part: 65 20 6 955 557

Cost 27.- Euro, primed (painted is 82.- Euro.)

Betalink BMW Betalink K1 glue

Cost 10 euros

Part: 82 69 9 408 866

Hi-bond clear tape

Cost £18 – perhaps an overkill.

Tools:

Dremel

Wrench or adjustable spanner

Torq screwdriver set

Flat head.

Shark fin shape.



Dremel the three prongs. Sorry, don't have a pic with the prongs. But basically there are 3 plastic prongs that are easily removed.

Attach double-side tape. Note that there is a small lip around the outside edge. I would suggest using tape that is no more than 1mm to achieve a flush look. Again, damn camera is too crap to macro focus otherwise I would show the lip around edge.



I removed the rear pillar to make access to the roof line easier. I am not sure if it is necessary, but I did it anyway. It takes just a few minutes.

To do this, unclip the 'airbag' tab. Undo the screw and gently push down and wriggle out.

Note that there are two plastic 'catches'. Also remove the two plug screws from the rear of the liner. There should be enough space for the next bit.



You don't actually need that much space to work. As you can see from where the mobile phone below is, the gap is not that large. As long as you are careful and willing to put up with a few scrapes, all is fine.



Now, slide your hand under and move your fingers around until you come across a large nut (oh er..). As someone else mentioned on the forum, this nut is not that tight.

However, I did use an adjustable spanner to undo - I guess the pliers above would have been enough as well. You don't need to use a tool to undo the nut after you have loosened it.

Use your hands. Once you have removed the nut, you don't need to take anything out the roof liner, especially the nut. Just undo the nut completely. The nut is attached to a module of some sort, so please do not try and pull it out.

Perhaps there is enough wire to do so, but I didn't try. Now pull the top of aerial base off.



There are five torq screws to undo, to split the base.



I cleaned the area around the aerial+base with the Betalink cleaner (photo of betalink at the end). I was amazed how much dirt came off. I replaced the aerial base back on to the roof, so the aerial' elements were exposed i.e. at the end of the day.

I have just removed the top of the aerial (the cover). Refit and tighten the nut.

Place shark on the roof over the aerial and that is it! Oh there seems to be a natural position for the shark fin, so if you move it around before taking off the double-sided tape you should find it will sit flush.

As you can see from the photo below, the front of the shark fin isn't quite flush. I hadn't pressed down on it. I thought it would be difficult taking a photo with lots of duct tape over it!

If there are any problems in terms of the aerial staying on, I would consider using the betalink glue. I've used this before and it is incredible stuff. It seems to be some type of rubber glue.

If you have any worries about water-tightness you may want to use this instead of tape. However, I assume it will be very difficult to remove the aerial after using the betalink.

The betalink cleaner is also excellent at removing duct tape residue.

Oh in terms of radio quality. I haven't noticed any difference?





Photo of betalink found on web. You don't get the tapes btw.

