

What The Tech? Red Brake Calipers

By: Mitch Mitchell

You just bought your new Mustang and are looking for a way to personalize it. Just like the original 1965 Mustang was advertised - sold & made to fit your style. Here is a way to get in touch with your new Mustang and an easy DIY afternoon job that you can be proud of.

Ever notice the high-performance cars have flashy color race brake calipers? Think Shelby GT350R with their bright red calipers that scream performance. We're working on a 2019 Mustang GT California Special; it has factory accents of red throughout the car, inside and out, so why not paint the brake calipers red for an extra pop of color. I used Ford Torch red code D3.

We've already installed STEEDA jacking rails, which I highly recommend, so lifting the whole side of the car to remove both front and rear wheels at the same time makes it even easier.

The key to painting anything yourself is in the preparation and the products you use. You will want to thoroughly clean your brake calipers and rotors with some spray brake cleaner and scrub if it is really dirty. We are working on a brand-new Mustang so we are lucky it did not need a lot of prep.

There are a couple of ways to paint the calipers and it is your choice. You can remove the calipers and paint them suspended by a wire or carefully tape them off leaving them bolted on. We are going to tape these off & paint on vehicle. Tape anywhere you don't want color and remember overspray will go even where you can't see; your taping job is very important. I also use heavy duty aluminum foil to cover suspension and the rotors along with several sizes of tape and masking paper too. The foil conforms to the shape of the part making a nice sealed component.

Start with a light coat. I like to use a soft touch on the spray button to lightly fog the paint where I want it to go. Practicing your spray touch on scrap cardboard is a great way to get the feel. Do not spray continuously until you see what overspray pattern you might have or until you have runs.

Follow along in the photos to see how much of a difference this makes in the car's appearance.

I used only a couple coats of color from www.AutomotiveTouchup.com and followed up with their excellent clear coat. This is truly professional grade base coat clear coat automotive paint in an easy spray can. They also carry the masking, respirators & extra supplies needed. Please note to protect your car with masking & also a great tip is to put down a plastic drop cloth on the floor under where you will be painting. Make sure you don't have fans blowing directly on the project spreading overspray and please do this project in a well-ventilated area.

Totally optional, but we also purchased some Ford authorized transfer stickers that say GT/CS to go on the calipers from an eBay vendor. You can easily clear over the decals too if you wish.

Carefully un-tape the calipers and any residue clean up can be done with thinner and if there is a spot you missed or tape covered you can spray some of your spray paint in the cap and use a paper match out of a match book using the fuzzy end as a tiny touch up brush or the awesome paint touchup micro brushes from AutomotiveTouchup.

One afternoon & you have customized your Mustang just like Ford intended from the beginning in 1965!

Sources: AutomotiveTouchup.com, Steeda, fuzemods

BEFORE:



Factory Finish

PREP:



Jacking, Cleaning, Masking, Test Sprays



APPLICATION:



Paint, Clear, Unmask

FINISH:

