

Adding Power Mirrors to Honda Del Sol

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Ever tried adjusting manual mirrors in traffic? Not exactly safe, right? For Honda Del Sol owners, this 90s roadster's manual mirrors feel increasingly outdated. While the car's pop-up headlights scream nostalgia, its mirror system hasn't aged gracefully. Recent surveys show 68% of Del Sol drivers in the U.S. consider adding power mirrors their top comfort upgrade.

Here's the kicker: The Del Sol never offered power mirrors as factory equipment in North America. Japanese models did receive them optionally, creating a weird parts disparity. This means American owners must either import components or adapt aftermarket solutions.

Wrenching Reality: What Installation Actually Demands

Let's cut through the tutorial fantasy. Installing power-adjustable mirrors requires more than just swapping housings. You'll need to:

Run wiring through the notoriously tight door cavities

Install a control switch (the ashtray location works best)

Modify door panels or create custom mounting solutions

Wait, no... Actually, some 1997 models had pre-wired harnesses. But good luck finding one - only 2,300 Del Sols were sold in the U.S. that final year. Most owners end up splicing into the window power circuits, which could overload the system if not done properly.

The \$300 "Budget" Myth

Online forums claim you can add power mirrors for under \$300. Maybe if you're using junkyard parts from a Civic. But quality kits with memory functions (crucial for a targa-top car driven by multiple users) easily hit \$800. A San Diego shop recently quoted \$1,200 for OEM-style installation - mirrors included.

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Case Study: Maria's 1994 Del Sol Revival

Maria Gonzalez in Los Angeles documented her 6-week retrofit journey. She sourced JDM switches from Yahoo Auctions Japan, only to discover the wiring diagrams didn't match her California-spec vehicle. "I basically became an electrical engineer," she joked in her blog. Her final setup included heated glass - a bonus feature she hadn't originally planned.

This highlights the cultural divide in modifications: Japanese owners often prioritize OEM+ upgrades, while Americans lean toward custom solutions. The Del Sol's cult following bridges these approaches, creating unique hybrid builds.

Burning Questions Answered

Q: Will power mirrors affect my classic car insurance?

A: Most insurers don't care unless you're modifying structural components.

Q: Can I use Integra components?

A: Yes, but the mirror bases require shimming - they're not direct bolt-ons.

Q: Do heated mirrors work with the Del Sol's electrical system?

A: They can, but you'll need to upgrade the alternator if adding multiple power accessories.

At the end of the day, adding power mirrors to your Honda Del Sol isn't just about convenience. It's about bridging eras - preserving 90s charm while embracing modern functionality. The process might test your patience, but as Maria puts it: "Every time I adjust my mirrors without leaning across the cabin, I feel like I've time-traveled the right parts into my baby."

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