

Poor man's fix for your broken mirror –

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If your mirror is loose, or hanging, or fell in pieces into your hands/console, here is my fix.

First, the back of the mirror separates easily from the front. Use a very narrow screw-driver or knife to separate the back from the front. You will find a couple of grey, U-shaped plastic pieces – these are the broken pieces. You will also find two metal spring clips. When you remove the back, be sure to find the small clear-plastic indicator lens – looks like a very tiny plastic golf ball marker. Place this in a safe location. Unplug the wire clip from the automatic dimming unit to completely remove the mirror face.

I removed the black plastic support plate from the swivel in order to estimate proper fitting for my fix, but you can leave it on the swivel if you wish to trust my measurements!

Here are the important pieces:



The mirror face slips into the front plastic frame. The mounting plate lays against the mirror face – wider tabs at the top. Note the plastic clips on the front plastic rim that should hold the metal spring clips. One or more have broken.



You can check the location of the clips as noted below. On mine, one side is retained by the existing clip, the other side has no retaining plastic clip. The objective is to provide something for the clip to grab onto. My solution was to purchase ½ inch stainless steel screws, washers and nuts. The size was quite small – I think 2-56. The secret is to get the nut sized to fit snugly between the small plastic ribs in the mirror face ring – the place where the clips broke off.



I drilled a hole $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the edge of the mirror face ring and exactly in the middle of the two plastic ribs. The location of the hole is important to keep the metal clips snug, but not too tight. $\frac{1}{4}$ was exactly correct for mine. Measure first by laying the metal clip in place where it should be to hold snug. The proper size nut will fit firmly between the two plastic ribs. Note one screw installed.



Next is to prepare the spring clips. Laying them flat in a vise, I used a small triangle file to cut a V-shaped groove in the tab at the end of the clip. This will grab the threads of the screw and hold tight.



Once you have your screws installed and the V's cut in the clips, it is time to re-install. I first re-installed the backing plate to the swivel. This takes a little thumb-muscle. Do not try to do this with the mirror face plate attached. Next attach the mirror face plate with the metal clips and plug in the automatic dimming wire clip.



Last, prepare the back of the mirror for re-attachment. Insert the clear plastic ‘ball marker’ in the hole next to the three garage door actuator holes. Next, lay the rubber garage door buttons into their place. The garage door opener unit lays into slots just above the rubber button strip. Keep the back of the mirror flat while doing this to avoid losing parts. Tip the front of the mirror towards the roof as far as possible and attach the rear of the mirror by pressing it to the front of the mirror.



Last thought is that you may want to use shorter screws, especially if you need to install them at both ends of the same spring clip. Mine did not matter as I placed the clip-end under the screws first and then under the remaining plastic clips. The front frame flexes a little to allow for this. Shorter screws may be necessary to install the clips with a reasonably small flex of the frame. If you do not mind the screw heads showing on the rim of your mirror, this is a great fix. Actually, the tiny stainless steel screws look like they were supposed to be there. My mirror is tighter than it has been in years...enjoy! If you have questions, you may email me.