Installing Beep to warn Pedestrians you're backing up

You will need:

(1) High Intensity, slow-pulsing 12 VDC Piezo Buzzer, part # 273-080 Radio Shack
(1) package Tap-In Squeeze connectors, part # 64-3053 Radio Shack
pair of scissors
pair of pliers
piece of electrical tape
Flashlight
two twist ties

Costs: Less than $10.

First you will want to disable the current reverse beep for the Prius:

1. Power on the car to IG-ON or READY. IG-ON will do for this purpose.
2. Using the Trip/ODO button, set the Trip/ODO display to ODO (not Trip A or Trip B)
3. Power off the car.
4. Now power the car to READY (brake on). This is required so that step 6 works correctly.
5. Within 6 seconds of powering on, press and hold the Trip/ODO button for 10 seconds or more.
6. WHILE STILL HOLDING ODO *after* the 10 seconds, shift the "gear" selector from P to R, then back to P. Now release the Trip/ODO button.
7. If the last step was successful, "b on" or "b off" should be displayed in the location where the Trip Odometer or Odometer is normally displayed. "b on" is beep on, and "b off" is beep off.
8. Press Trip/ODO to toggle the mode.
9. Now power the car off to exit the toggle mode.
10. Power the car on to READY and confirm the reverse beep status by shifting to R. The beep should not be audible if "b off" was selected, and should be audible if "b on" was selected..

Open back hatch and remove everything so you can crawl in the cargo area and work comfortably. Remove the cover of the left back taillight.

You'll see a lot of wires. Quite a few of them go to a big white plug. If you grab that plug and gently wiggle and pull it will come off of the black plastic bracket that's holding it. Don't worry. You'll be able to put it back.
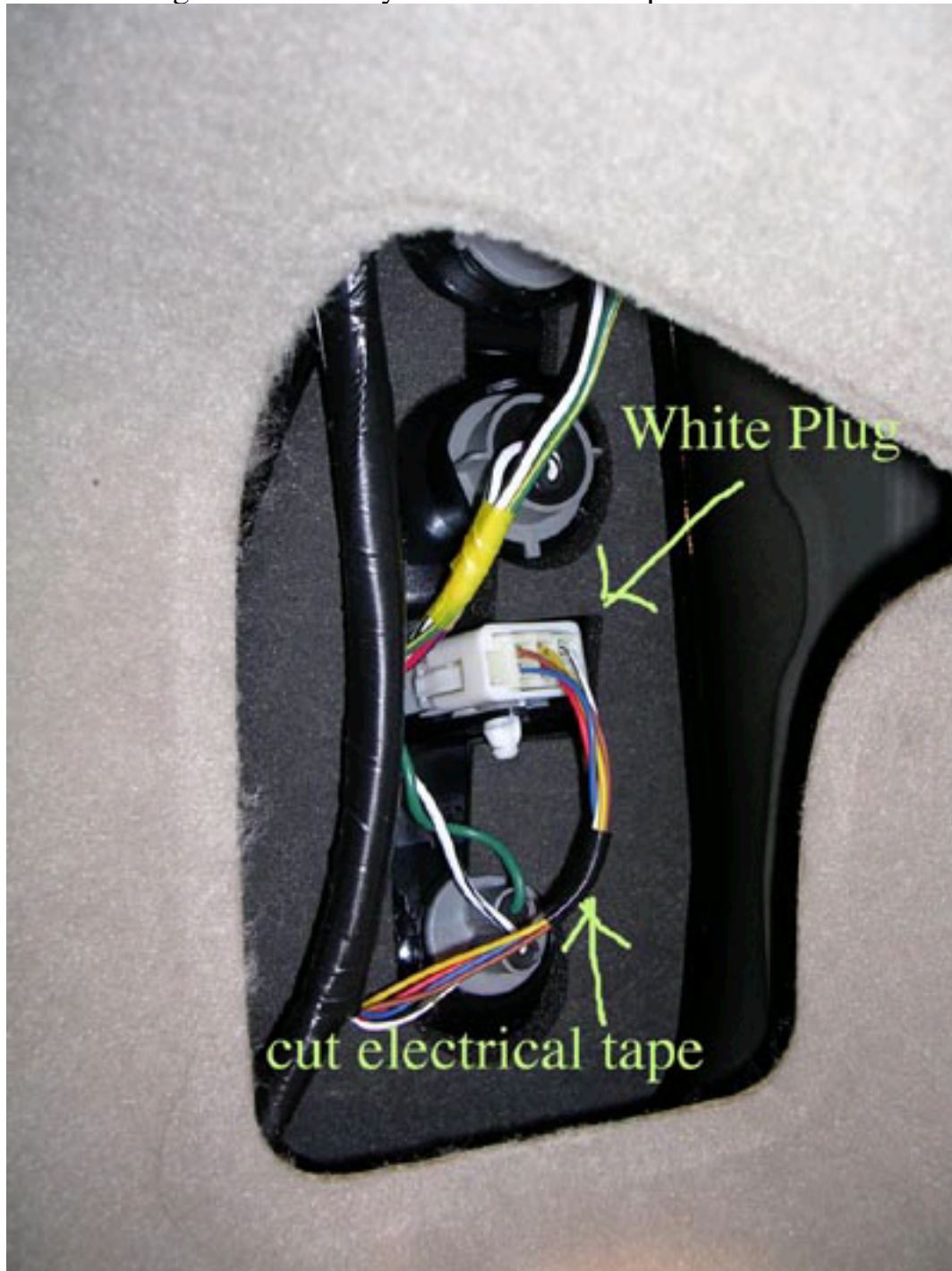

The end of the plug that was facing into the taillight has all of the wires that lead to all of the lights. The end of the plug that was facing out has the wires that come from the car. That's the end you want to work on; the wires that are facing out. There are five wires with electrical tape wrapped around them to keep them together. With the scissors, gently cut the tape along the wires, being careful not to

cut any wires, and remove the tape. You can now separate the wires to look at them. You want the red wire and the white wire with the black stripe. You are going to use the squeeze connectors to add the buzzer wires to the existing taillight wires. No cutting, stripping or soldering necessary. The red buzzer wire will go to the red taillight wire and the black buzzer wire will go to the white taillight wire wiith the black stripe.

Look carefully at the squeeze connectors. The channel on the outside goes all of the way through and that is the channel you will use for the existing taillight wire. The channel inside next to the hinge is the one you'll use for the buzzer wire.

Hold the connector with the hinge facing to the right. Put the taillight wire into the outside channel. Push the buzzer wire up into the hinge side channel. Take the pliers and put them over the metal bar in the middle of the connector and squeeze the bar down. After it's all of the way down gently tug on the buzzer wire to make sure it's tight. Then take the plastic "door" and close it over the connector and snap it closed. Repeat with the other wire.
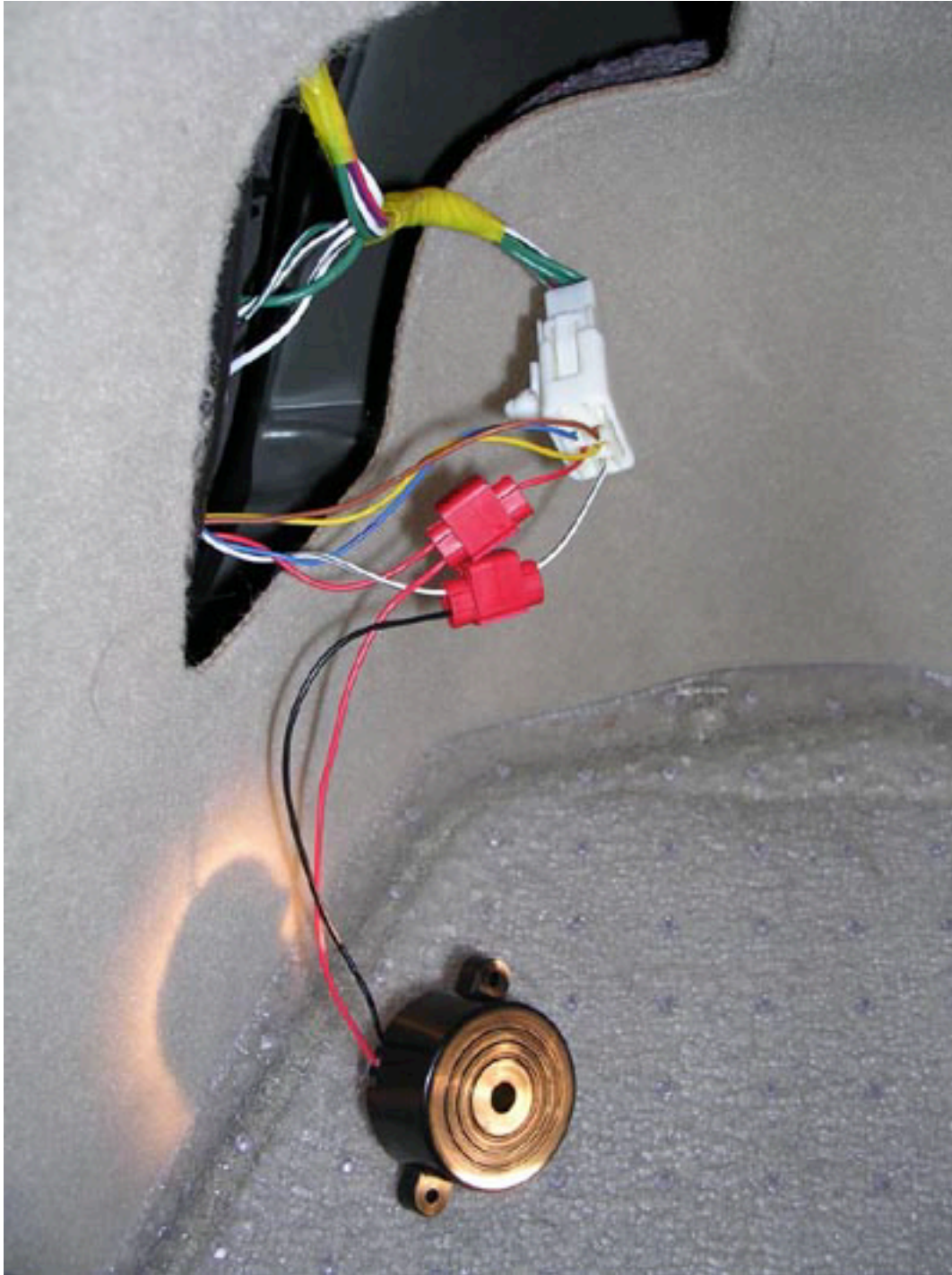
Now take a piece of electrical tape and tape all of the wires together including the buzzer wires. Push the white plug back into place making sure it clips into the black plastic bracket.

There is plenty of room above the white plug for the buzzer. Take the two pieces of twist tie (I used gardening wire or you can use white plastic zip ties) and using the two holes on either side of the buzzer, wire the buzzer to something so it doesn't bounce around.

twist ties

new tape
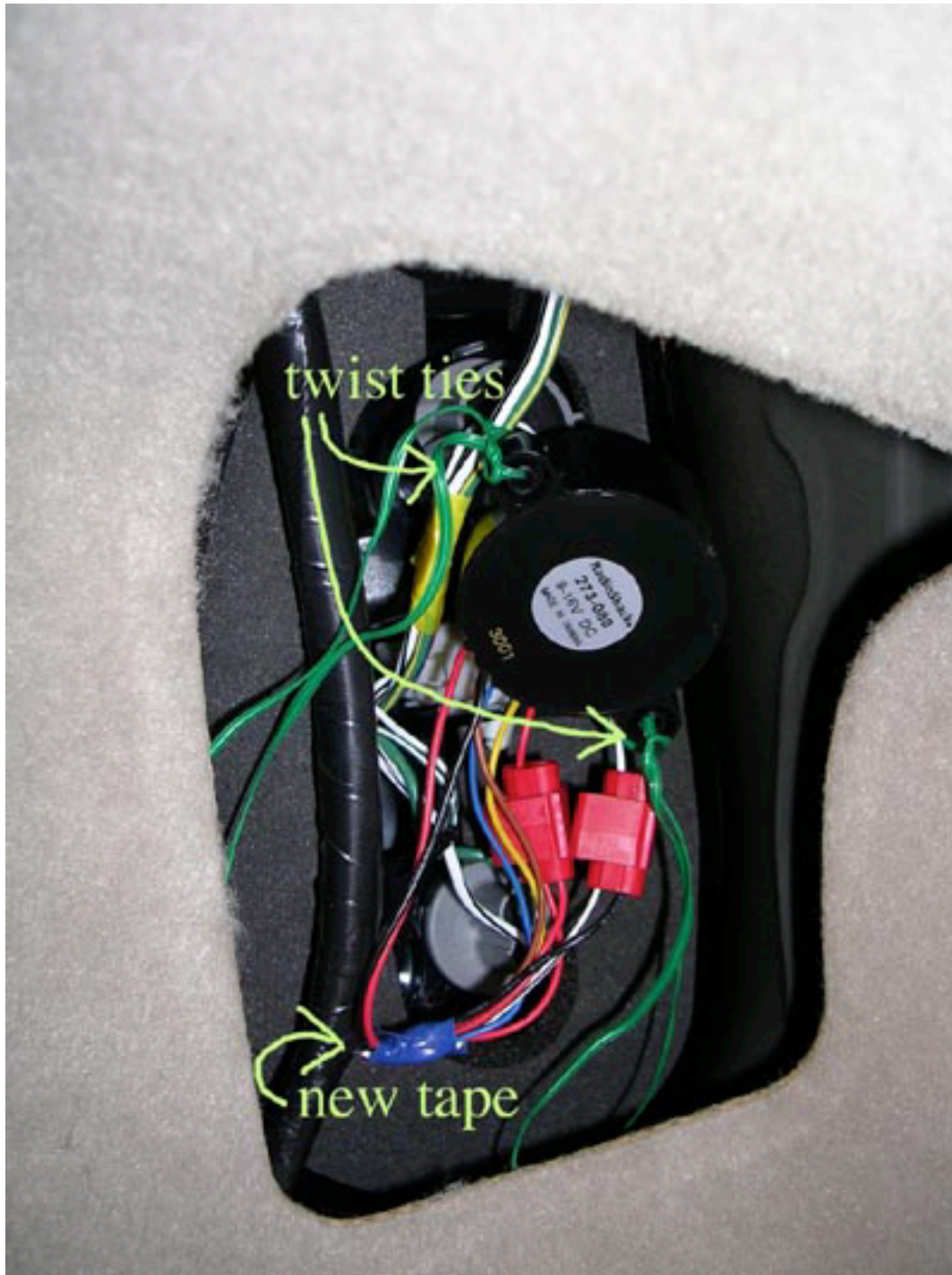
Now turn your car on and put it in reverse. You will year the new buzzer from both the inside and the outside. Replace the access panel.

(There are also end to end splicing connectors so if for any reason you need to replace your buzzer, you can cut the buzzer off and attack a new one to the old buzzer wires using the end to end connectors.)