How to Repair a Porsche 993 Failed Third Brake Light Lamp

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Background:
I purchased a '95 993 in September of 2004 and, at that time, the car had a non-op lamp in the third brake light assembly. Not wanting to purchase an entire light assembly, I investigated ways to repair it.
Luckily, Porsche offers individual replacement lamps so the job was very easy….. Only requiring $3.50 in parts and 30 minutes in time.
My car has a basket handle brake light assembly. For those with 1996-1998 cars, access to the light assembly will be different. However, the lamp's part number is the same for all third brake lights.

Tools Required (This is for the Basket Handle mount)

- 10mm socket/ratchet
- #2 Phillips screwdriver
- #1 Phillips screwdriver
- Very small flat-blade screwdriver
- Soldering Iron and solder

Parts Required

- 999.631.135.90 ---- 12V/1.4W lamp available at Porsche dealer for ~$3.50.

How-To Steps

1) (Optional) Remove light bar by removing two 10mm nuts accessed under the decklid. I removed the entire basket handle so I could replace the rubber gaskets between the basket handle and deck lid.
2) Use the #2 screwdriver to remove two screws under the basket handle. This will allow the brake light assembly to be removed.
3) Un-plug light fixture
4) Using the #1 screwdriver, remove five (5) screws from the back of the light assembly. Figure 1. This will allow you to open the assembly

Figure 1.

5) Un-plug the two wires (one brown and one black) from the light assembly printed circuit board. Figure 2.

Figure 2.

6) Here comes the delicate part….. 24 brake lamps are attached to the printed circuit board. The circuit board/lamp assembly is press-fit into the brake lens.
Using the tiny flat-blade screwdriver (Figure 3.), gently pry the printed circuit/lamp assembly from the brake lens. It is best to start on one end of the assembly and work toward the other by lifting the circuit/lamp assembly about 1 or 2mm at a time (Figure 4). Two or three passes should allow you to completely separate the circuit/lamp assembly from the lens.

Figure 3.

Figure 4.

7) Once you have removed the circuit/lamp, the failed lamp should be evident, Figure 5. I double-checked by using a small 12V battery, Figure 6. You should be able to use a common 9V battery to power the lamps for testing as well.


Figure 5.