

“Mustang How To”

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Mustang II dash bezel insert repair

I would like to share some fabricating tricks with those of you who are into making your own repairs, small parts or trim pieces for your older Mustang. As you all know parts for a Mustang II are very hard to find. Any body or interior items are hard to get if you can find anything at all. Most mechanical items are relatively common and easier to obtain. This article will show you how to make your own dash inserts with very little expense and a little time and effort. The end result can be very rewarding.

The dash on my 1978 Mustang had a wide variety of insert options. Some options were a light or dark wood grain finish, brushed aluminum etc. When I bought my car the previous owner had covered the dash with a wood grain contact paper that at first I thought was original until I did some research on the car. For years I left it as it was and finally decided that I wanted the original brushed aluminum look back. I peeled off the contact paper and found out that the previous owner had covered it for good reason. The original brushed aluminum was really worn in places and looked real bad. The inserts are made of thick vinyl and are glued to the dash bezel.



Original brushed aluminum insert



Wear on left of dash



This original insert is badly worn, cracked and faded in many places making it look rather ugly.



The first step in this repair was to carefully remove the old insert without breaking it as it was to be used as a template for the new piece. I used a small 90 degree pick to get under the insert and very carefully started to work the pick through the glue that held the insert in place. This step was time consuming but the insert was finally removed intact and was ready to be used as a template. The same process was used to remove the inserts on the passenger side bezel as well.



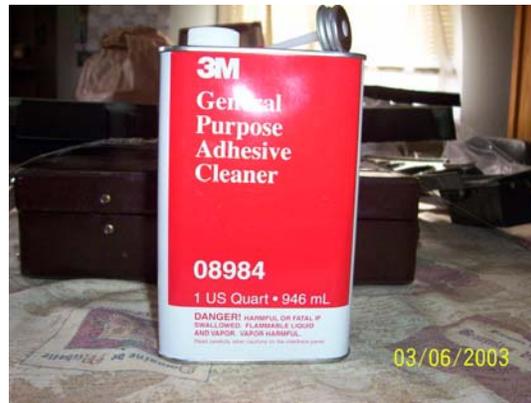
Original insert removed from bezel



Dash bezel without insert



Passenger side bezel disassembled



3M adhesive remover

Once the inserts were removed it was time to clean all the old glue from the bezels and get them ready for the new inserts. For this I used some 3M adhesive remover. This stuff works great to remove old glue or decal adhesive on your car. Next time I will show you how I made the new inserts and what tools were needed to get the job done.