

T-Top Headliner Repair Guide

With detailed instructions

Supplies:

Fabric: 1 ¼ yards will do

-You can use any kind of fabric you want. Some fabrics will be harder to install than others. I'd highly recommend a thick stretchable fabric. The thicker fabrics seem to hide imperfections in your repairing of cracking in the fiberglass board, this way you don't have to do a perfect repair job.

-I used fur, which doesn't look bad at all; its light gray and dark gray/black. My fur was \$6.57 a yard. I got all they had left which happened to be 1 ¼ yards.

-You can find all the fabric in your local Wal-Mart. They have decent prices also.

Spray adhesive: I got the cheap stuff, and it still holds up perfectly.

Some people recommend the 3M Headliner Adhesive

Hot glue gun with glue sticks: (about ten: long ones)

Very sharp scissors (tip: dull ones will make it look ugly, no doubt)

Duct Tape

Razor Blade

Philips Head Screw Driver

Gloves: Fiberglass and bare hands is not a good idea

Something to drink: its gets hot in the car after a while

Pre steps:

Carefully take the fiberglass headliner out of the car. There are 8 things holding it to the roof actually.

First area to remove is the dome light; pull the white plastic off, then pull the light bulb out with a rag covering your finger (it gets hot). There will be two washers on two pieces of metal. Get some pliers and pull them off. Then pull the whole assembly off.

Next; will be the sun visors, there are 3 screws holding them up. Just simply unscrew them



Next; the long plastic panel along the hatch area, there are 4 screws holding it in there, take them out.



Next; take both of your t-tops off (if you have t-tops), and remove the two plastic molding to them.



Next; pull the 6x9 speaker grills off; the coat hanger is what holds them on. One screw. But now the front of the headliner should be resting on the rear view mirror and the back is being held on by the sides above the speaker grills. Carefully remove the corners from the speaker grills. (Tip: You don't have to be really careful but don't just yank it out)

Next; take your time removing the clips from the metal. They really aren't needed to hold the board up but they make it look better. There are two metal clips holding the board on the front (try not to break them people, if you do it's not a bad thing but try not to) I managed to break one of mine and you can't tell.

Getting down to the actual repair:

Repair any rips in the fiberglass first, I used duct tape instead of that fiberglass stuff. Just put some spray adhesive down then the tape and it sticks really well. (Tip: some people asked me if they could use Elmer's glue, yes you can I did; I was just too anxious to wait the time until it dried. But it will work.) I also made a nice blanket over the duct take with hot glue. Well it wasn't really a blanket it was just stingy parts to help keep it straight. They acted as reinforcements.

Step one:

You put all the fabric on the floor to make sure you got all the right lengths. Then lay it out on the board how you want it. Then start doing small parts of it at a time. I did both the front arms first then went to the middle and then to the back. Spray handsomely. (Tip: don't cut the fabric before you glue, that's the stupidest thing you could do).



Step two:

Flip over the board so you can see where to cut the fabric. Then cut. (Tip: always give yourself at least 1/2in overlap)



Step three:

Do all the corners first. If you have stretchable fabric (which you should definitely have) just put hot glue down and use three fingers to push the fabric onto the hot glue. **DONT BURN YOURSELF!!!!!!** (Tip: the corners have to be done with the most care on precision, or else the whole thing will be stupid looking)



Step four:
Glue everything else down. (Tip: don't burn yourself)



Step five:
Cut all the holes for everything, the light, the visors, the seat belts.

For the seat belts I have no idea how you are "supposed" to do it, but I glued it down, then with the scissors I cut the line out so you could put the seat belt through, see Diagram 2 below
(Tip: Use a razor blade for the holes, see below diagram 1)



Diagram (1) for cutting

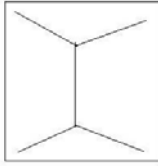
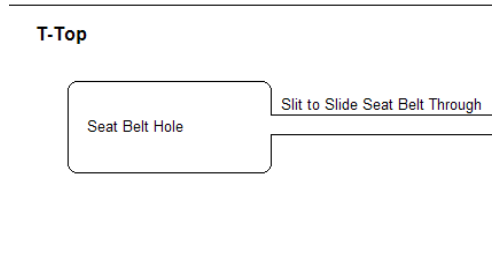


Diagram (2) for seat belt



Step six:

Flip it over and admire your beautiful work.



Step Seven:

Let it sit for the rest of the day/night to dry completely. You can install it the next day.

Step Eight:

Install the headliner, in the completely reverse of the take out.

Step Nine:

I don't really have any pictures on how I recovered the Visors but I did get it done with spray adhesive, hot glue, and needle and thread.

- Take the old fabric off, if yours is anything like mine was there wasn't really anything holding it on.
- Spray the adhesive on the cardboard so as you can attach the fabric.
- Get the general area of the fabric glued and then get most of the corners done with hot glue. Then sew them together to make it a flawless seam.

Step Eight:

Install the sun visors; one thing you might find tricky is to install the visors. Those three screw holes are very hard to find so this may take a couple Beers/Pepsi. It is do able

however it will make you really mad when you're trying to find them holes think you did and can't seem to find the others. Don't give up. It will, and I repeat will make you hate doing it. It is very hard to find them holes. You just got to play with it; but in the end it is all worth it.

Step Nine:

Voluntary: go get your camera and take pictures of your new install, and show it to everyone on TGO. We'd like to see it.

Sit back relax and enjoy your work. Drink the rest of your Beer/Pepsi.



(Tip: one thing you may notice is that where the headliner meets the t-bar, it may not exactly hold to it. What you do it take you nice hot glue gun and put little dots every inch or so and put it against the metal, it will hold)