

1956 to 1962 Side Window Glass Frame Restoration

Rich Mozetta

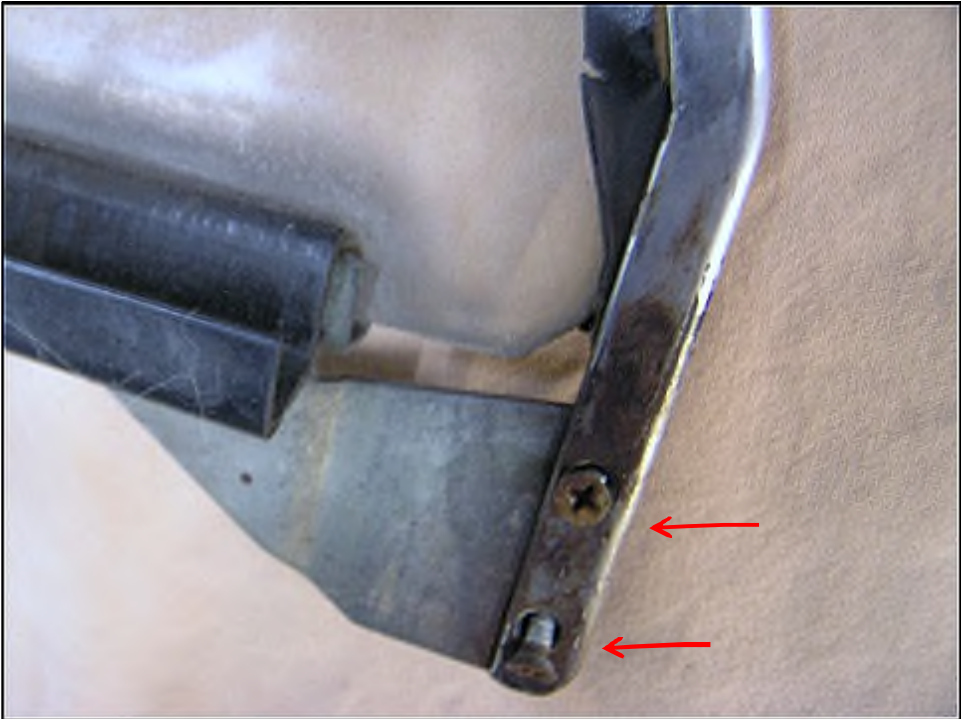
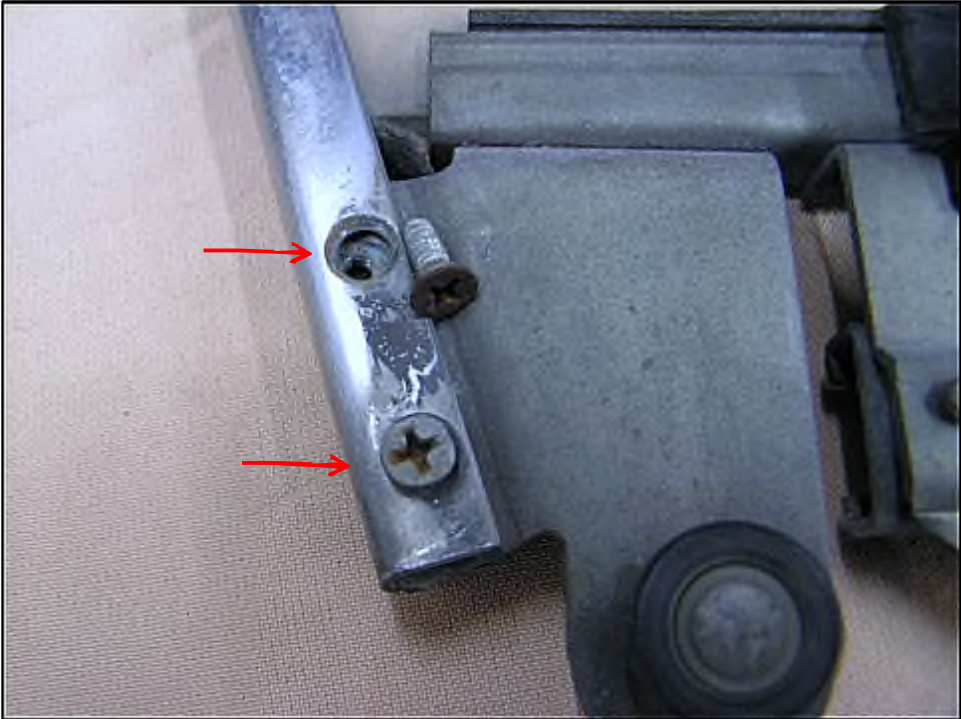
http://home.comcast.net/~richmz/site/?/page/1956_to_1962_Side_Window_Glass_Frame_Restoration

These 1956 to 1962 Side Windows needed to be resealed and restored. The stainless steel frames needed buffing and the original dated glass required resealing. The lower sash-to-glass rubber gutter seals were dried out and needed replacing as well.

Here are the pieces before restoration. These came from a very original 1962 Corvette. Notice the lower sashes were in very nice original condition with their yellow cad/zinc plating very obvious.



I start the work by removing the 4 screws holding the frames to the sash.



Using an awl or small screwdriver in the holes of the frame, carefully pry the sash from the glass. **Do not pry on the edge of the glass.**



The rubber gutter has a channel which grips the glass. It may be stuck on there so you can use a soapy water solution to help free it up.

Next, slightly pull the 2 frame ends apart from the glass to see how well it's adhered to the glass. Then take a razor-blade tool and carefully push the blade between the glass and the tarlike seal. Do this along the entire periphery of the glass to release the glass from the seal. Do this on both sides. You can use the soapy water solution to help the blade slide between the glass and seal. Don't slide the blade, just put a corner in and push straight in. This is time-consuming but necessary to get the glass free.



Once you're done separating the glass and the seal on both sides, brush on more soap solution on both sides of the seams. Pull the frames slightly apart and work the glass from the frame. Do not use any metal tools, just your hands.



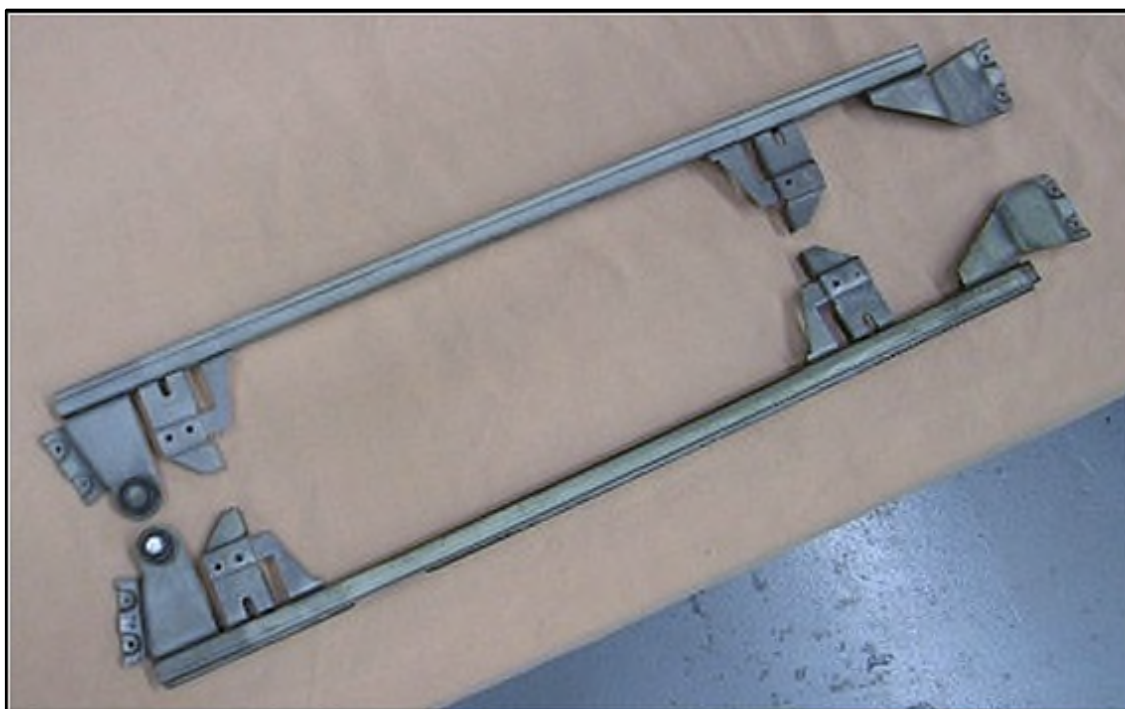
Separate the old seal from the frame. Clean the glass along the edges using a solvent to help remove the old seal residue.



Now that the frame is released from the glass it can be cleaned and buffed to a brilliant shine. Also wire brush the inside of the frame to remove any old seal material or dirt. Here is the buffed frame sitting on the unsealed cleaned glass to see the results.



Clean the sash and install the new gutter seal. Note the orientation. When installed, the gutter is to the outside of the door. Note the original markings from the manufacturer of the sash and the oval symbol "Elkhart Indiana".



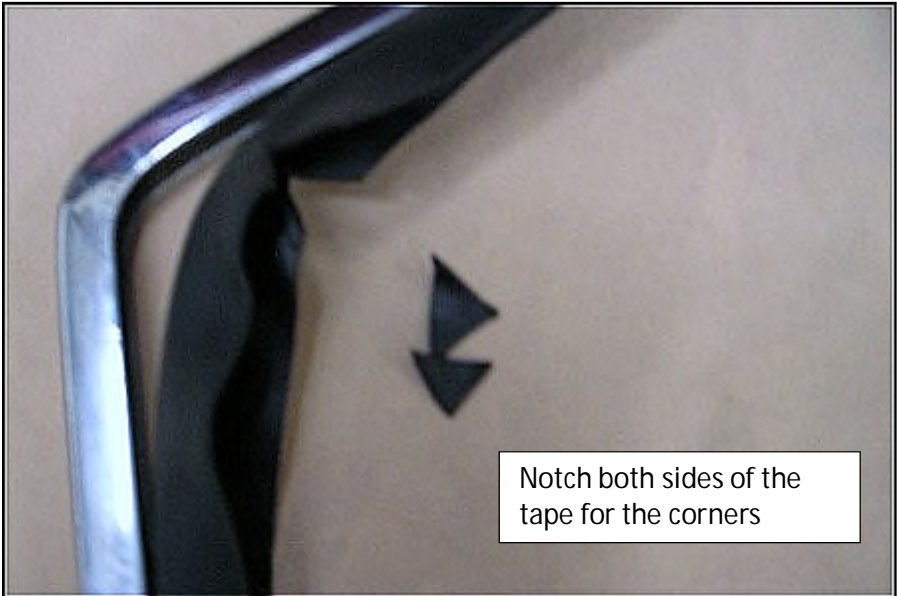
I cleaned these sashes and sprayed several coats of Mat finish Clear paint to protect them in the future.

Prepare the new sealing tape and rubber gutters for assembly to the frame and sash. You will be using plenty of soapy water solution here.

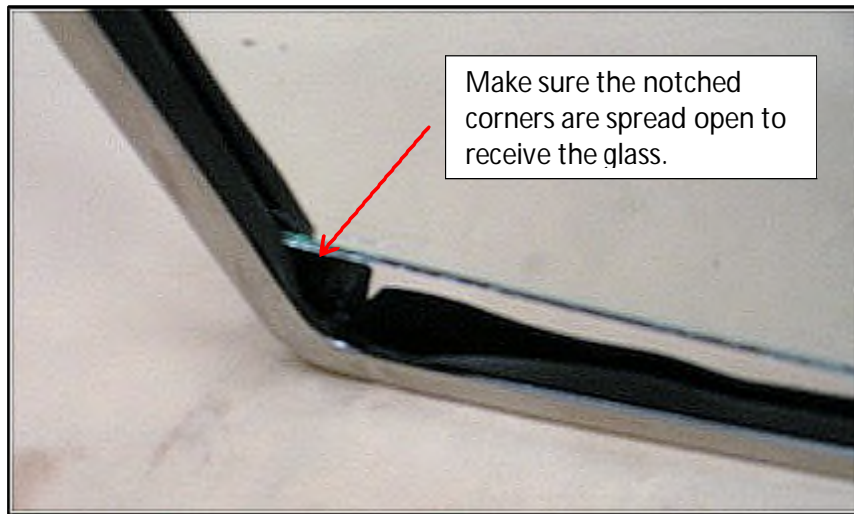
Brush on liberal amounts of soap solution to the inside of the frame, glass edges and sash. Also coat both sides of the frame sealing tape. If it dries as you're working, keep it wet with reapplications. Don't be afraid to use too much. The more the better.



Install the sealing tape into the frame channel so it's even on both sides. Measure and mark the inside corners and cut a notch in each corner for the bends.



Apply more solution to the inside of the sealing tape. Start the glass into the frame. You may have to spread the frame a bit to get it past the bent corner of the glass. Get it down to the channel and carefully push down against the frame. Make sure the sealing tape in the corners is spread open to receive the corners of the glass.

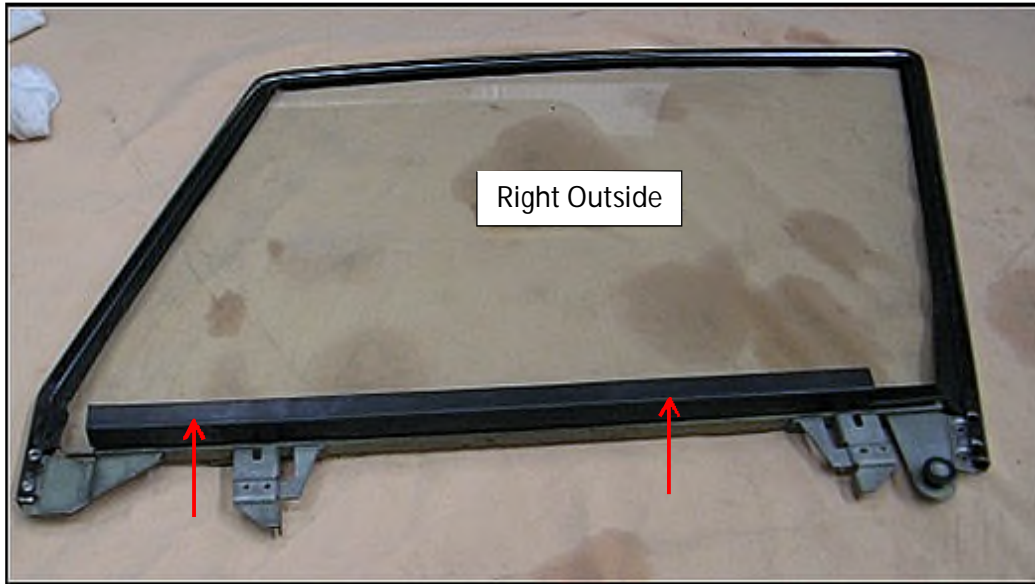


Lay the top edge of the frame, face down, on a padded solid surface. Push down evenly to seat the glass as far as possible.

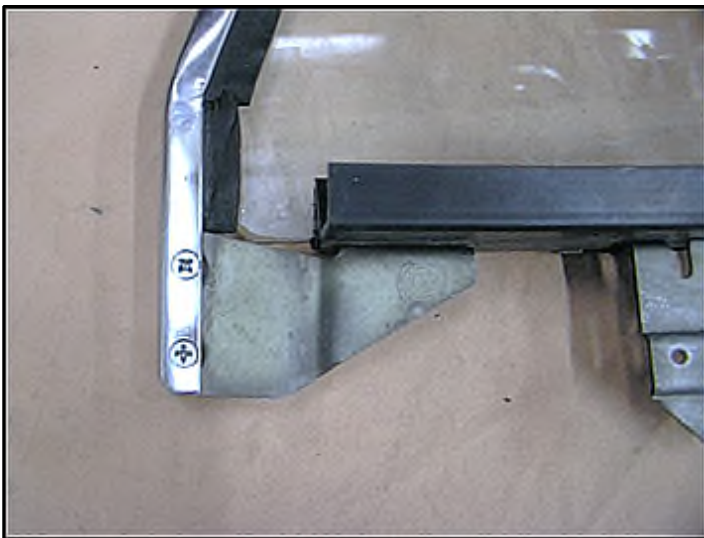
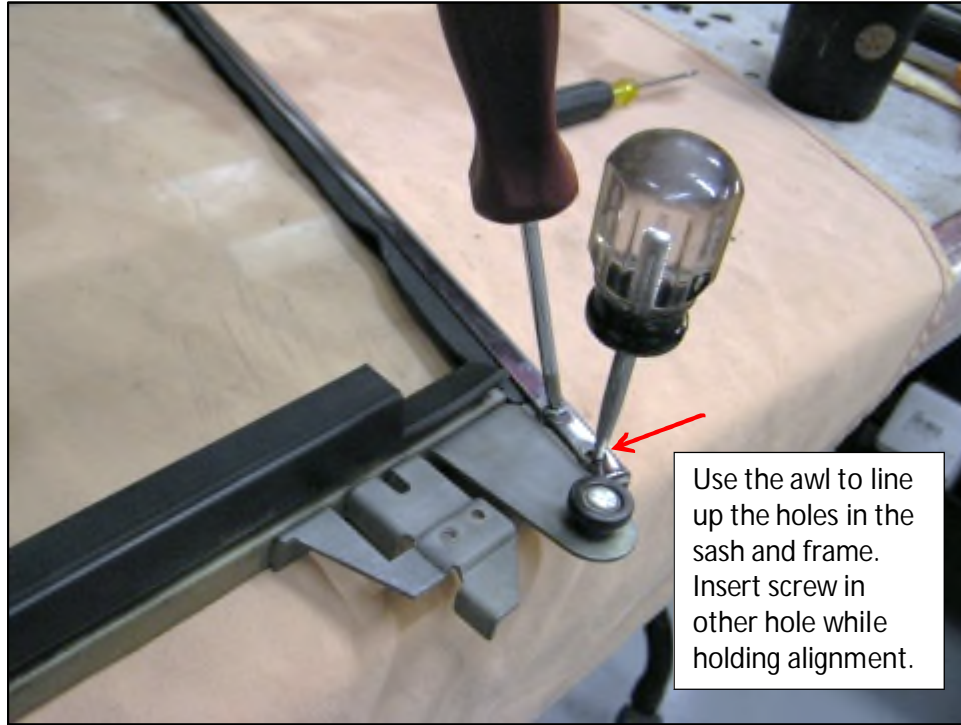
Install the gutter onto the sash using your solution as an aid. Brush more on the edge of the glass and inside the rubber. Install the sash onto the glass and push down to seat it.

At this stage you may need a rubber mallet to drive the sash onto the glass and the glass into the seal. Use caution and hit squarely down to seat the glass. The sealing tape is a tar-like seal and will thin out as it's compressed. Use a block of wood on the ends of the sash to get a better rubber mallet hit if needed.

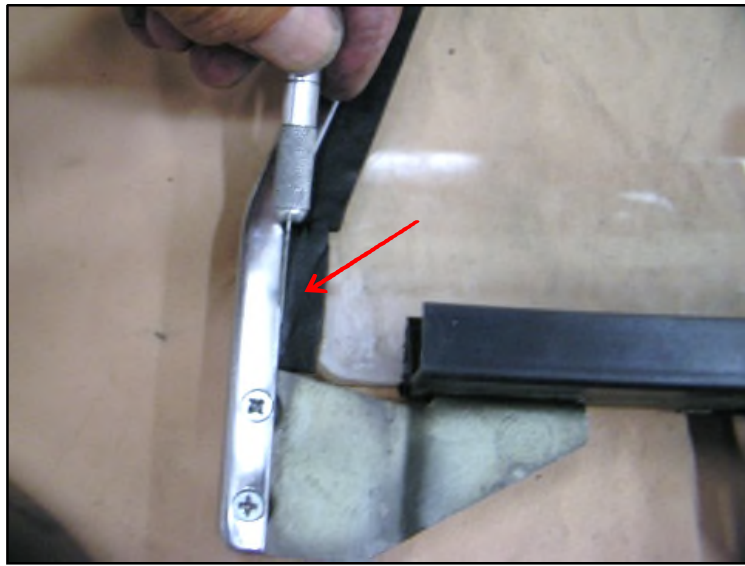
Get the frame to sash mount holes as close together as possible in this operation. This will allow you to use those holes as a guide to tie the assembly together more easily.



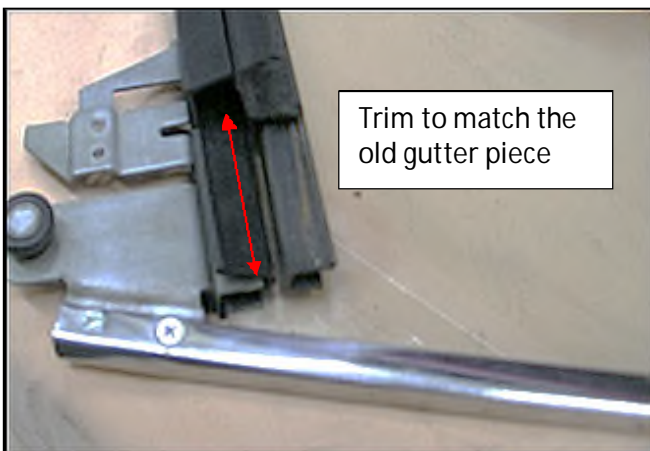
Using an awl or small screwdriver, pry the sash using one frame/sash hole to align the other screw hole between the sash and the frame. Insert that one screw and tighten loosely. Go to the other end of the sash and do the same. Once one screw on each side is installed, use the pry tool to align the next screw and tighten, ensuring the countersink in the frame is centered over the sash threaded hole. Do the same on the remaining end, then tighten all screws securely.



Using a sharp pointed blade, trim the sealing tape all the way around at the edge of the glass/frame on both sides.



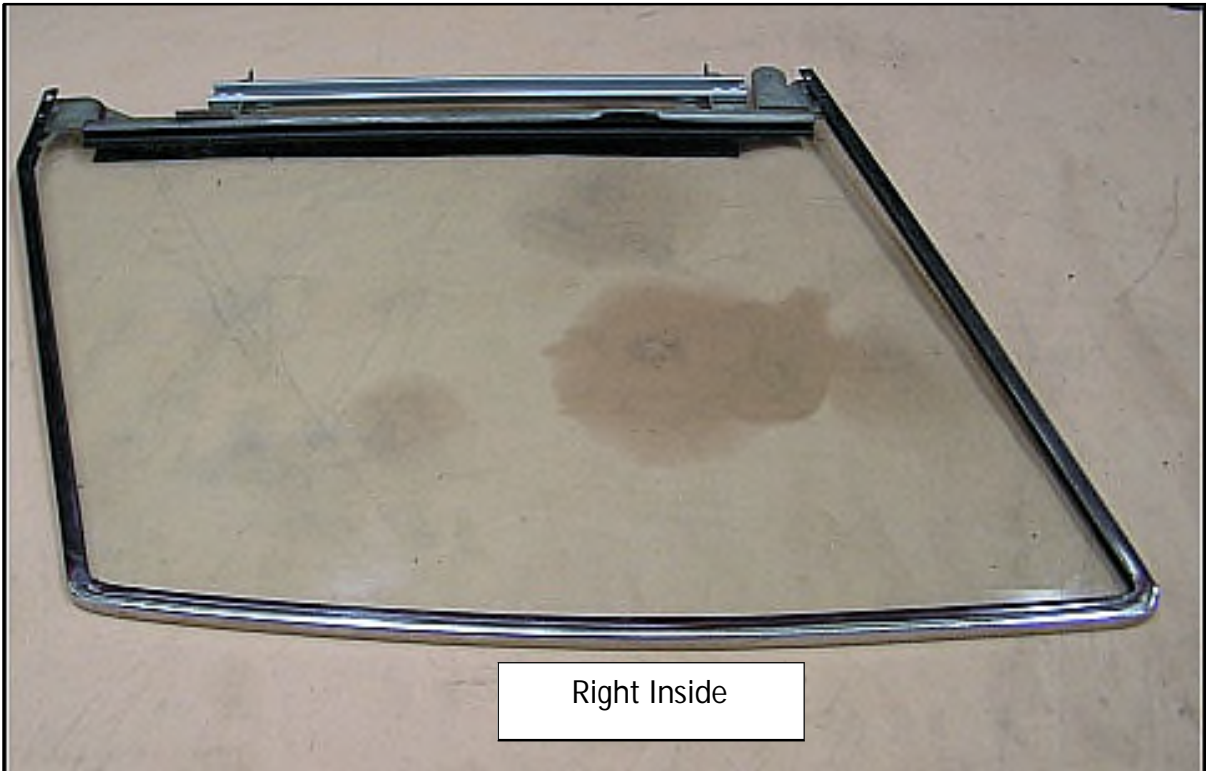
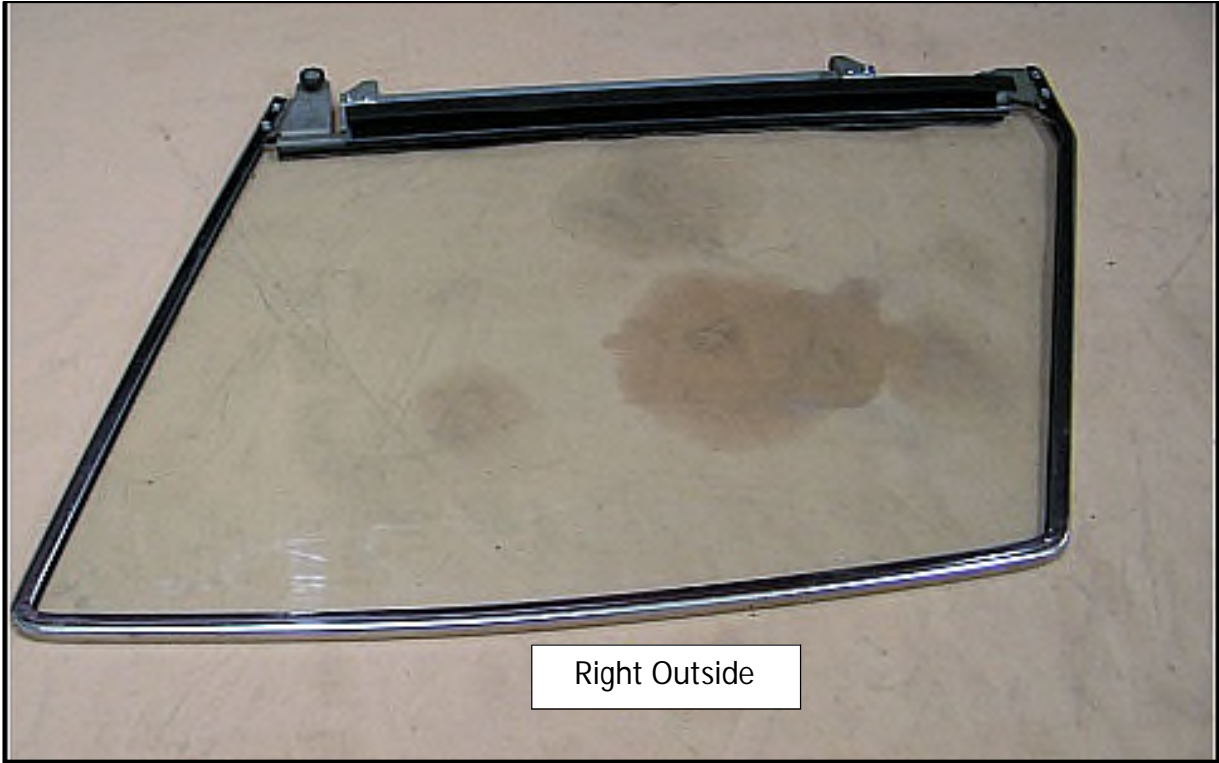
Trim the sash gutter rubber seal at the front end as the original was (right of photo below). This prevents clearance issues when installing the assembly back in the door.



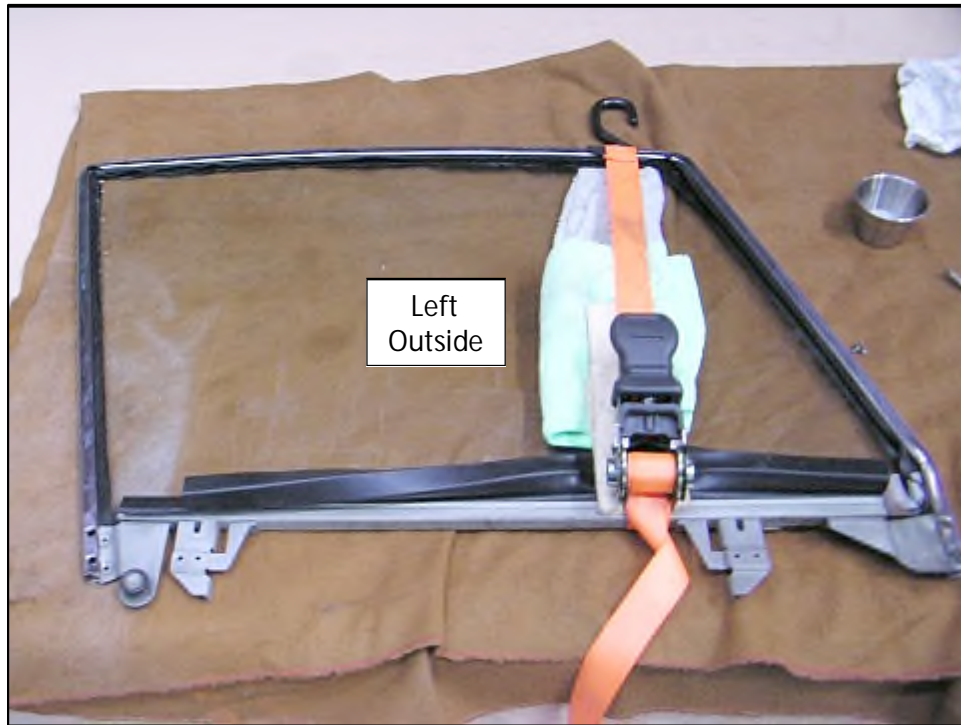
Clean or refinish the lower track guide and install for later. Note this must be removed for installation of the glass assembly into the door, as the window is installed first and the track is slid onto the 2 window regulator rollers then attached with the 4 screws to the sash.

The completed and restored right side window assembly.

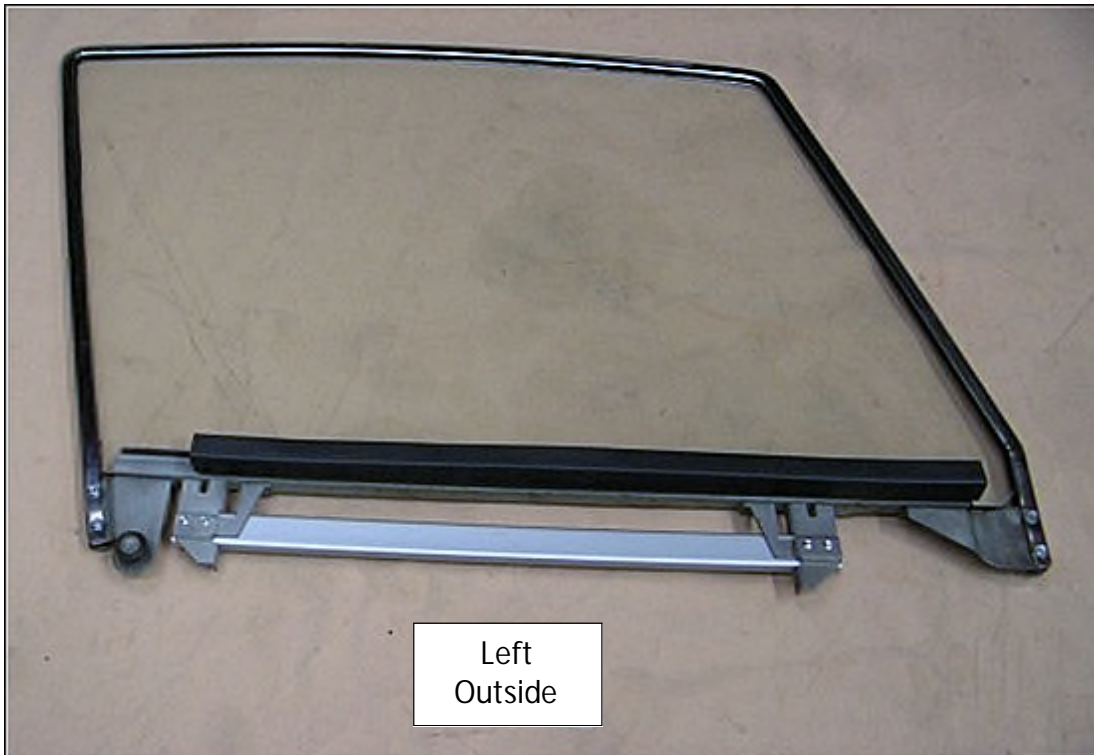




The left side required some additional "pulling power" to install the glass. Use plenty of caution and soft cloths to protect the glass when using this method. The ratchet strap helped pull the glass into the frame enough to allow the pry tools to align the frame/sash mount holes to assist in the assembly. Again, always use plenty of soapy water solution when working these methods to help glide the pieces together. It will eventually dry out.



The completed left side assembly.



Done...

Thanks to Dave Zuberer for doing the PDF version and to Frank Dreano (a.k.a., Frankie the Fink) for review comments.