

## ***B. TRANSFERRING YOUR DOOR PANEL TRIM***

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1. Place your original panel face down on a large, flat, clean work surface.
2. Remove the staples from the back of the panel that secure the metal prongs holding the metal trim to the panel. Use a flat blade screwdriver. Work only on the "race track" section above the armrest at this time.
3. Carefully straighten the metal prongs on the "race track" section with needle-nose pliers. Avoid repeated bending of these tabs as they are soft and will break.
4. Remove the "race track" trim from the front of the panel. It may be necessary to use a flat blade screwdriver to gently pry the trim loose until you get it started.
5. Place your original panel face down again. Straighten the four metal prongs that retain the bezel surrounding the opening for the door opening knob and then remove the bezel from the front of the panel.
6. Remove the staples from the back of the panel that secure the metal prongs holding the armrest trim to the panel. Use a flat blade screwdriver.
7. Carefully straighten the metal prongs on the armrest trim with needle-nose pliers. Some of the prongs securing this piece of trim are located inside the actual armrest of the door panel. These prongs can be reached with needle-nose pliers through the access holes in the cardboard back of the door panel.
8. Once all the metal prongs are straightened, work the armrest trim free from the front of the panel, being very careful not to bend the trim.
9. If your door panel has an escutcheon around the window crank, remove it by straightening the three metal prongs that go through the panel and then pull the escutcheon free from the front of the panel.
10. With all of the metal trim off of the panel, straighten all of the metal prongs to prepare them for installation on your new Corvette America Door Panel.

At this point, it is also the perfect time to go over all the trim with a metal polish and really make it shine. The recessed center of the "race track" trim and the armrest trim can also be easily touched up with flat black paint. These two steps will bring the original luster back to your door panel trim. If your trim is missing the metal prongs or in some other way is unusable, replacement sets are available through Corvette America Dealers as part #X2036.

11. Place your new Corvette America Door Panel face up on a clean, flat work surface.
12. Note that there is a slip joint where each of the two horizontal pieces of "race track" trim fit into the end pieces. These joints give you a certain amount of adjustability in sizing the trim to your new panel. Place the "race track" trim in position over the new panel and adjust the length by pushing or pulling on the slip joints as needed.

Due to the nature of the construction of the door panel, with all the ABS and foam on one side of a flexible cardboard back, they are susceptible to a very small amount of bowing during storage and transit. This is normal and does not affect the fit or the quality of the panel and it is eliminated once the panel is installed on the door.

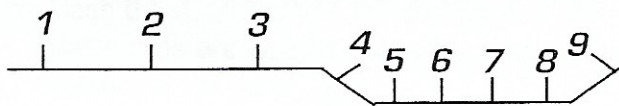
This bowing can cause problems in fitting the "race track" trim if you are unaware of it. It is easily overcome by having an assistant help you to hold the panel flat while you are sizing and installing the trim.



13. With the "race track" trim properly sized as to length as described above, and with an assistant to help keep the door panel as flat as it will be once installed on the car, place the "race track" trim in position on the panel. With your hands, push down on the trim so the metal prongs leave indentations in the vinyl covering of the door panel. Be careful not to push so hard that you bend the prongs.
14. Remove the trim from the panel. Punch a small hole with an awl at each indentation left by a metal prong.
15. Place the "race track" trim in position on the panel and align the metal prongs on the trim with the holes you punched with the awl. Carefully push the prongs through the holes and seat trim in the groove on the face of the panel.
16. Be sure the trim is tight against the face of the panel and then bend each of the metal prongs over so it rests against the cardboard door panel back. Secure each prong by stapling it to the cardboard door panel back. Use a staple gun with 1/4" staples. Straddle the staples over each metal prong so one leg of the staple is on each side of the prong.
17. Carefully cut away the vinyl and foam covering the hole for the door opening mechanism with a utility knife, X-acto knife or single edge razor blade. Cut from the front of the panel so you can see the edges of the opening. Only cut away enough material to allow the bezel to fit snugly in the hole. Start with a small hole and gradually enlarge it to size. Once the hole is trimmed out, place the bezel in position and bend the four mounting prongs around to the back of the panel to hold it in place.
18. The armrest trim strip is the next piece to be installed on your new panel. These pieces are susceptible to a lot of abuse due to their location on the door panel and often are in poor condition. If this is the case with your armrest trim strip, replacements are available through Corvette America Dealers under part #X2035.

With all of the metal prongs on the armrest trim strip straightened according to Diagram A below, place it in position on the panel. Push gently on the trim strip so the prongs leave small indentations in the ABS covering of the door panel.

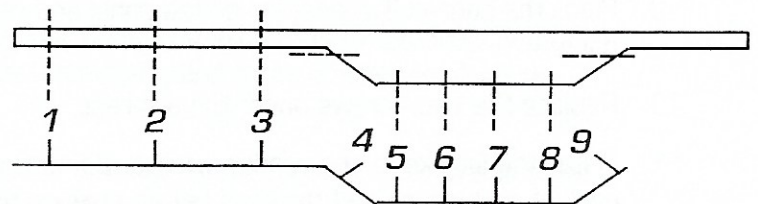
Remove the trim piece from the panel.



**DIAGRAM A**

**DIAGRAM B**

**TOP VIEW**



Only the front three prongs go completely through the panel. The remaining six go only through the hollow armrest support. Refer to Diagram B for correct placement of holes, especially for prongs #4 and #9.

DOTTED LINES INDICATE DIRECTIONS FOR HOLES TO BE PUNCHED FOR METAL PRONGS.

With an awl, punch the holes for the prongs at each indentation, as indicated in Diagram B.

19. Starting at the rear of the panel, insert prong #9 on the trim piece, through the hole you punched. Then work toward the front of the panel, inserting the prongs into the corresponding holes as you go. It may be necessary to bend the armrest trim piece slightly at the three corners around the perimeter of the armrest in order for it to fit tightly in the groove on the panel.
20. Once the trim piece is in place on the panel, bend over all of the metal retaining prongs. Secure the front three prongs to the panel by stapling them to the door panel back.