

Midyear Hardtop assembly pics.

Dave Hitchens ("Hitch")

Corvette Forum thread started Aug. 7 2007

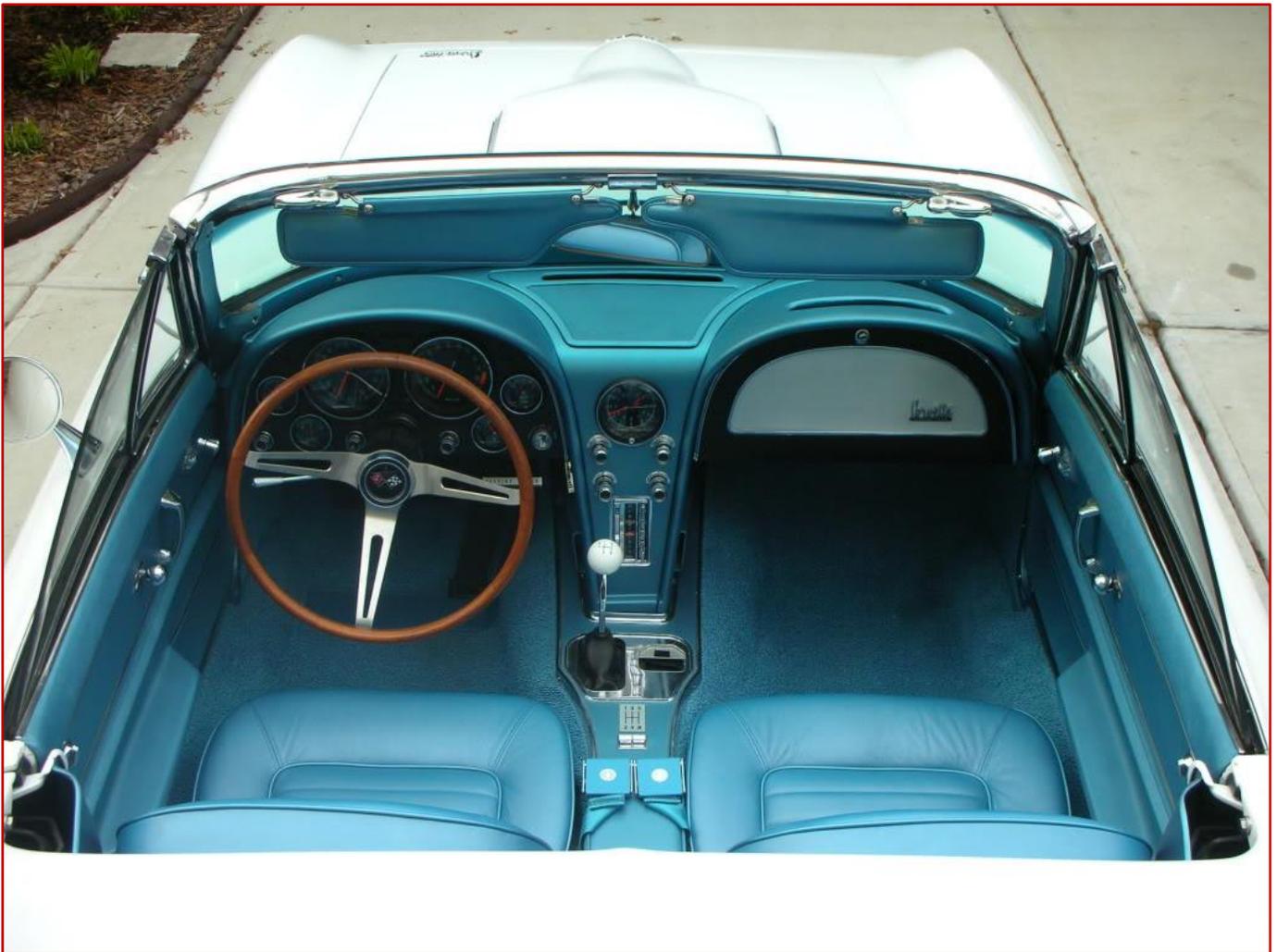
[Link to original CF thread](#)

Hitch

8-07-2007, 04:54 PM

Okay well I don't have the pics downloaded yet but I'm in the middle of redoing my hardtop. I hope to post the pics tonight. Currently though I'm working on the rear stainless as I've completed the front. It looks good and I hope that I have put enough 3M sealant in the low spots so I don't have a bunch of leaks. 🤔

My question this afternoon though is on the rear upper surround clips I removed 8 and the Hardtop shop kit came with 12.. 🤔 Where do the other 4 go? 😊 I talked to the Hardtop shop and they said the number varied but I just want confirmation from the forum. Also, how much of the 3M gumball sealant did you guys use in the past around the rear window. The stuff I bought came in 1ft long pencil lengths. I laid a run in the weatherstrip channel to the hardtop, but I was curious about the bottom weatherstrip as I think I remember a bunch of it there. Thanks.



PDF assembled by Dave Zuberer

I have sized the pics now; however, I don't know how much help that they will be for those that need this after me so I'll do my best to describe my concerns.

I started by setting all of the stainless on one table and the weather stripping (WS) on another.



I put the hardtop right side up on a set of sawhorses with two 2x4s 5 feet long covered with the all mighty ARMY/NAVY Wool blanket. The blankets are by far my favorite item in the garage. (Need to protect something, need to cover something, need to get on the ground and not get nasty, etc. etc.)



I then put the weather stripping on the window. The one thing that I had to look at my old window was which way. Right, there is only one way. Well unless you don't know. **The square edge goes toward the inside.**



The next step is to install the window. I found that I could start the bottom edge. Then flip the top over so it's upside down. **Now don't do what I did and forget to put in the top SS clips.** The AIM shows 8 used but I have found out this a suggestion. Through my research, all have at least 8, some have 10 and some have 12. So it boils down to that "it depends". I'm going to increase mine to 10 but that means I have to back track again and pop the window out a little bit. No big deal just backing up.



This is the first piece of SS to go on, it the **front header**. Now the little clips are no big deal just it takes a few minutes to figure out how they work. The side with the hole in it goes towards you if you are working like I did with it upside down. Then you must bend the little tab that is facing away from you. This will hold the clip against the SS once you install the weather stripping. Okay, now you can install the **WS**. Just lift up on the clip and slide the long end of the **WS** under and work your way around. **Then adjust side to side to make sure you have equal lengths on each end.**



Next are the hockey stick SS pieces that also have the same clips in them. I would not recommend tightening any of these pieces yet. Then slide them into each side of the header.



Next you can move onto the corner piece and the back piece.



Then you can attach the **WS** for the top and backside of the window. The little piece that of **WS** that is between there and the back trim can be installed now or wait until the other back **WS** is in place. If you wait it will allow you to fit everything nicely.

Here is what I have so far, all the front trim and **WS** is installed. The rear is still in need of the rear SS but then I will be done for a few days. I still have to sand and prime all the internal trim.





Not bad for an afternoon's work. 🤖👍🍻🍻🍻 I hope this helps someone out as I know there have been quite a few questions about it in the past. Just like the rest of these cars, not hard just time consuming. See you on the road.

Last edited by Hitch; 08-08-2007 at 08:43 AM.

08-08-2007, 10:24 PM

Well I have completed the Stainless now it's on to the interior parts. Which I have not decided on the color yet so you guys can provide input.

First though let's finish with the pics.

I would have to say the one thing that worked out the best was using some long screws to get the rear lower molding aligned right. Instead of adjusting the 10 clips that are screwed in, I put long #10 screws in and it allowed me to adjust the clips installed and I didn't have to put the trim on, take it off, adjust, install... over and over.



Then I put the 2 extra clips in that I talked about above. I screwed up but I didn't realize until it was too late. Make sure that get the extra 2 clips further away from the corners than I did.





Hitch

08-08-2007, 10:55 PM

One question for the group though. What is the hole for in the rear window trim that is hidden behind the small corner piece? It would seem that there would be a screw, but I see no hole. Anyone know why? Okay two questions. I have a white car with saddle interior with a black dash. Yep it's not correct. However, with that being said I'm thinking doing the headliner tan (which I have) then paint the trim black vs saddle. What does CF think?

vettnut

65 Hardtop molding install Help

How did any of you install the rear window vertical molding? I am having difficulty getting the molding to engage the clips. I am referring to the 2 moldings for the rear window that runs along the side and around the top of the rear window; 4 clips per piece, according to my AIM. One man told me to get a body sanding rubber block (thin one) and lay on molding and using a piece of wood use a hammer and drive the molding into the clip (ouch). One slip and I'll be screwed. I have done almost all the work on this car but these 2 moldings are kicking my butt. Anyone? Thanks DG

Hitch

I never really like to use a hammer or dead-blow or a piece of rubber between the SS and the hammer. It's just like putting hubcaps; on yea you can do it with a hammer but you'll not like yourself after you get done. I used the palm of my hand and just hit it hard enough to get the clips to set. 🤔 Dave

Mizmaryann

Hardtop headliner

Dave,

The original headliner in my 65 has started to droop and stretch, so I just received a beautiful replacement from Full Throttle Corvettes. I haven't started to replace it yet, but it seems that all I would have to do is to unscrew the interior trim pieces; remove the old headliner and clean the roof; then install the new headliner. Did you use some type of spray adhesive when you installed your headliner? Any tips would be appreciated. Thanks in advance!
Phil

Hitch

Phil,

You are correct, all you need to do is remove the interior trim to install the new head liner. I did not use any spray adhesive as I don't think it was used originally however, I could be wrong on that. You will most likely have to trim your headliner be careful and go slow. It will take some persuasion to get the headliner to fit correctly don't get to crazy though as the vinyl backing and the headliner can get separated.

Hitch

10-30-2007, 08:39 PM

It's done, how do you add it to the FAQ thread? The interior is really easy to put together, so I didn't do a write up on it. Here are my pics of the final interior shots.



I hope this thread helps some guys out because this isn't a difficult job just a tedious one. 🍺🍺🍺

macs65

Quote:

Originally Posted by [youwish2bme](#) 

One question for the group though. What is the hole for in the rear window trim that is hidden behind the small corner piece? It would seem that there would be a screw but I see no hole. Anyone know why. Okay two questions.. I have a white car with saddle interior with a black dash. Yep it's not correct. However with that being said I'm thinking doing the headliner tan (which I have) then paint the trim black vs saddle. What does CF think?

When I rebuilt my 65 top, Ted at Entec said that there was to be a screw inserted and the hockey stick stainless should cover it. For mine it was only on one side. I tried to put a screw in without much luck; I did not want to force anything, so I left it out. No problems so far.

DONR

Rebuilding 67 hardtop

Boy the tips here that people shared when rebuilding the 67 hardtop helped tremendous. I helped a friend of mine rebuild his hardtop for his 67. Just installed the Plexiglas window this afternoon. Took a little while, but it went in OK. I am going to wait to install the last two SS trim pieces for the outer top and sides. See if the weatherstrip or Plexiglas shifts a little. I did install the lower SS trim before putting in the glass. This method works.

Just a little advice when ordering the Plexiglas. I have been waiting for 5 weeks for Paragon to get me the Plexiglas. I talked to them last Tuesday and they said it still could be 2 weeks before I could get it. They are in the process of changing vendors. I figured that I had given them long enough. I called Keen Corvette Parts Tuesday afternoon to see if they could get me the glass. They said yes. 4 days later which was today the glass was at my doorstep. What service. I suggest calling them next time you need a part.

Thanks for everyone's advice.

I am in the process of rebuilding my headlight buckets on my 66. We'll see how well they go back together in about a week when I start putting them back together. By the way I ordered rebuilt headlight motors from Keen for \$119 ea. with exchange. What a deal. These guys are great to work with. Give them a try.

keenparts.com

Don

gator56

I have a hardtop for a '63 Vette but don't have any molding or chrome pieces, just the top. I've checked with a couple of places to try to figure out what I need with no luck, and after reading this it looks like I need a lot! Any suggestions on where to purchase the additional pieces I need?

Thanks for any help!

JohnZ

Quote:

Originally Posted by **gator56** >

I have a hardtop for a '63 Vette but don't have any molding or chrome pieces, just the top. I've checked with a couple of places to try to figure out what I need with no luck, and after reading this it looks like I need a lot! Any suggestions on where to purchase the additional pieces I need?

Thanks for any help!

There are only two suppliers of correct hardtop parts - Glassworks (www.thehardtopshop.com), and Auto-Entec (www.autoentec.com). Hope you're not budget-constrained. 🤔

NOTE: The thread was revived on June 30, 2015 as below-

xoft

Today, 02:23 PM (6-30-2015)

3M weatherstrip adhesive Strips

Does anyone know the part number for the Weatherstrip adhesive strips shown in this Photo? I can find the 3M adhesive in a tube everywhere. But no luck on the strips, which looks like what they used to assemble my top. Any help would be appreciated!

T



JohnZ

Quote:

Originally Posted by **xoft** >

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T

That's 3M "Strip-Calk", available at any good auto parts store or at any automotive body & paint supply store.



xoft

Quote:

Originally Posted by **JohnZ**

That's 3M "Strip-Calk", available at any good auto parts store or at any automotive body & paint supply store.



Thanks John!

Did you use this throughout assembly? Is this the Weatherstrip adhesive mentioned in the post? Or would you use this under the stainless trim and the tube stuff to seal the weatherstrip? Thanks again for your response!

Cheers

T

JohnZ

Quote:

Originally Posted by **xoft**

Thanks John!

Did you use this throughout assembly? Is this the Weatherstrip adhesive mentioned in the post? Or would you use this under the stainless trim and the tube stuff to seal the weatherstrip? Thanks again for your response!



T

It's not an **adhesive** - it's a **sealant**, known back in the day in assembly plants as "dum-dum"; it was used everywhere there was a gap or a pinhole.

Hardtop restoration Part II

Well for all of you that have been around for a while you may remember when I created this thread for all the Midyear hardtop restoration questions. Pics galore.

<http://forums.corvetteforum.com/c1-a..mbly-pics.html>

Well then last winter I made the decision while redoing the interior to throw all caution into the wind when in the middle of the teardown I decided to do a color change. Crazy right after I already had all of the saddle parts. Am I crazy? Okay don't answer that..🤪

Now it's time to make the hardtop go from Saddle to Bright Blue..

So from this



To this.





I let it dry overnight so I can put the headliner and trim back in tomorrow. Then I can pull the soft top so I can strip it and paint the frame. The next step is to get the Canvas top installed. Oh the joys.

Needless to say I had to move the Vette out of the garage today with no seats in it. That was fun. I felt like a Munchkin sitting on the floor and driving a stick is not fun. LOL



nassau66427

Since you're changing the color, don't forget to paint this section Brite Blue. 🤖👍



Quote:

Originally Posted by **nassau66427** ▶

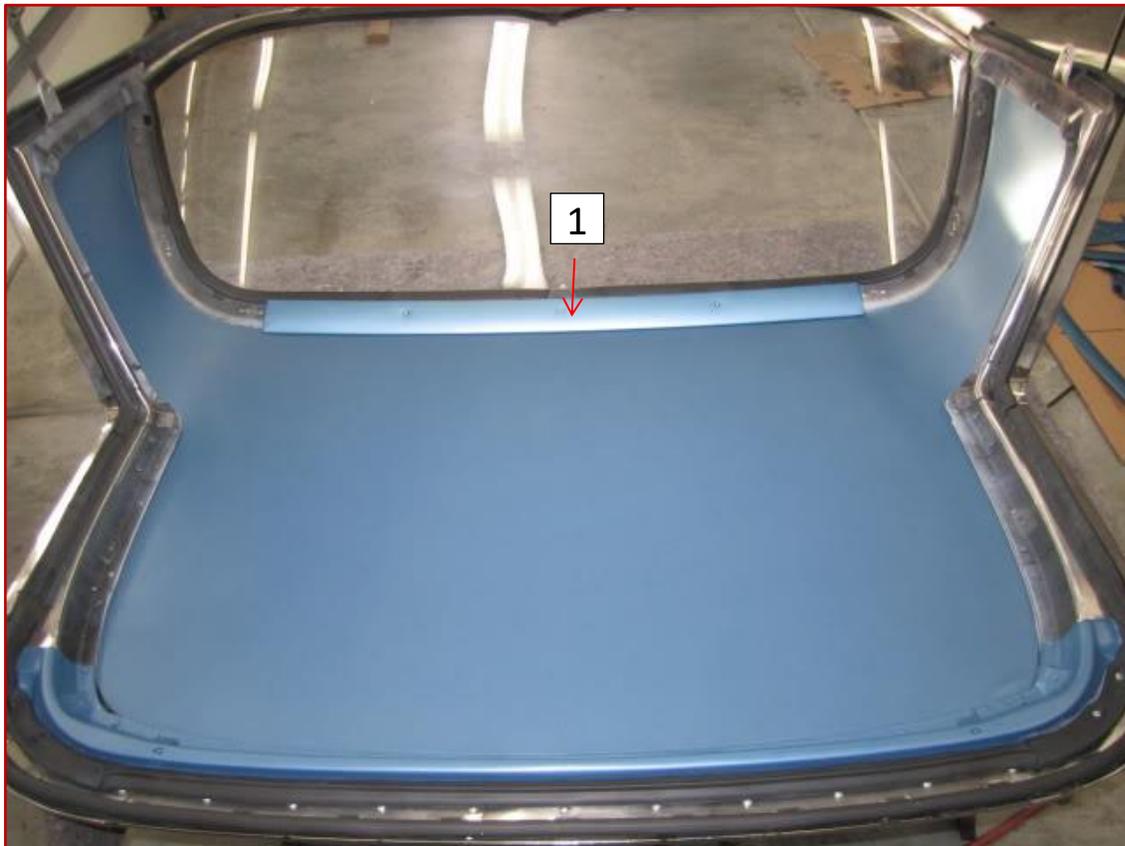
Since you're changing the color, don't forget to paint this section Brite Blue. 🤖👍

Hitch

Actually had enough paint left. Woot..



One thing that I didn't document last time I worked on the hardtop was the interior trim installation steps. The order of installation is numbered below:







I also removed the soft top assembly so that I can refurb it. It's amazing how small it looks outside of the car. I also failed to paint the strip on the interior of the car that was white. Man did I have to cover a lot stuff to do that.







