

Thank you for purchasing the folding top rear tack strip retainer. This kit provides a solid place to install the tack strip and also helps strengthen the joint between the rear frame castings. If you have any questions or comments on either this kit's function or installation please call our Tech-help line at 740/622-9700

Tools:

Pop-Rivet gun
Several C-clamp type vise grips
Electric drill
#30 or 1/8" drill bit
1/2" steel dowel
Rubber mallet
Marker
Band or hack saw

Note: All rivets are installed from the aluminum channel or tack strip side of assembly.

Preparing for installation:

Since the installation of this kit requires drilling (and making chips) it is recommended that the retainer be installed while the soft top is on a bench. Weatherstrips should be removed. All the original rear tack strip and rivets should be removed. The rear handle plates (50608 & 50609) should be installed including all screws. The short rivets will be used to rivet the aluminum channel to the soft top casting. The long rivets will be used to rivet the tack strip and aluminum channel to the soft top casting.

Installing side channels:

Take note that this kit contains three preformed channels: left, right and center. The end of the side channel that is cut at an angle goes on the side of the frame and faces toward the front of the car. Lay one of the side channels into place and temporarily secure with C-clamp vise grips. Starting at the end with the angled cut, skip the first hole and drill through second original rivet hole and through the channel. Install a short rivet from **inside the channel**. Skipping a hole each time, repeat until you reach the end of the side channel. The last hole on both ends of the side channels will use a long rivet. Do the same procedure on the other side starting at the second original rivet hole from the end.

Installing the center channel:

Hold the center aluminum channel into place. It may be necessary to shorten this piece. If so, mark both ends and use a hack saw or band saw removing the same amount of material from both ends.

Temporarily hold the center channel in place with C-clamp vise grips.

Starting at each end of the center channel install a short rivet. From each end, skip a hole and install another short rivet. The center channel should now have six short rivets installed. The center two rivets in the center channel will be long rivets.

Checking the opening of the aluminum channel:

Using a 1/2" steel dowel or a similar object that measures 1/2" diameter, like a deep well socket, insert it into the opening of the aluminum channel and tap it along the length of the channel. This will make sure that the opening is large enough to accept the tack strip material.

Install tack strip material:

By hand start the tack strip material into the channel at one of the sides. Carefully tap the tack strip material into place with a rubber mallet. Work slowly and make sure the tack strip material is firmly seated into place before moving on to insert more material. Note: The tack strip material will have small rises where it goes over the head of the short rivets. This is not a problem. If the tack strip material gets pinched and the aluminum channel becomes bent, stop and remove enough of the tack strip material so you can grasp the lip of the channel with pliers and bend it back out. This should not be a problem if you did not skip the procedure using a 1/2" dowel above.

Install the long rivets:

Once the tack strip material is installed in the aluminum channels, drill through the aluminum channel and the tack strip material at each of the remaining original rivet holes. Try to make sure the angle of the drill bit is such that the rivet will be installed close to the center of the tack strip material.

Install a long rivet in each hole making sure that the rivet passes through the tack strip, the channel and then the frame casting.