



Making up a door trim

Following the article that appeared in last Front Drive, we thought that if you're going to tackle the headlining, you would be sure to have a go at the door trims. The obvious place to seek advice for this is Rex Gercovich and Bob Gilbert, who we thank for the following article. The principal details of this article apply to English vehicles, but can be applied in theory to the French models. Naturally, the vinyl will be replaced by cloth, and no side pocket will be fitted.

Materials and tools required:

Vinyl — preferably light weight (sample available from author),

Packing — Bob suggests saving the original if possible; if not, ¼" plastic foam.

Carpet — to match that of the floor — 'Carvel' is available from Eliza Tinsley's.

Bituminous board — at least two 6x4 ft. sheets required for four doors, again from Eliza Tinsley's.

General trim adhesive — this is generally available from motor trimmers.

½" Shoe Tingles or Hand staple gun — Blue tacks are **NOT** satisfactory.

Sharp scissors, hammer, chalk, sewing machine (fitted with heavy duty needle) Stanley knife, or blade.

Procedure:

Step One. Remove door trim from car — the door we are about to start on is the driver's door, complete with pocket.

Step 2. Carefully disassemble the old door trim, saving all the old pieces for patterns. Undo the edges first and save the trim clips. Cut the carpet trim away — cutting through the stitches. Remove the back board behind the pocket and then the vinyl trim. You should be left with the board and packing.

Step 3. Making the new pocket.

a. Continue to disassemble this **VERY CAREFULLY** — mark the face with the chalk.

b. Using the old backing board as a pattern, cut a new backing board — mark the face.

c. Cut new vinyl piece the same size as the backing board. Glue this to the backing board, matching the edges closely.

d. Using the original padding as a pattern, cut a piece of packing material the same size. Use the original padding if possible, if not use ⅛" foam cut to size. Tack-glue the backing and the padding together.

e. Cut the required material for the front face of the the pocket at least ¾" larger than the padding all round. Lay this over the padding and mark the two stitching lines. Sew these lines — through the top material, padding and backing.

f. Fold over the top edge and sew one row of stitching through all layers of material ½" from the top edge.

g. Sew 1½" x 3" elastic tabs to the side edges ⅛" from the top edge.

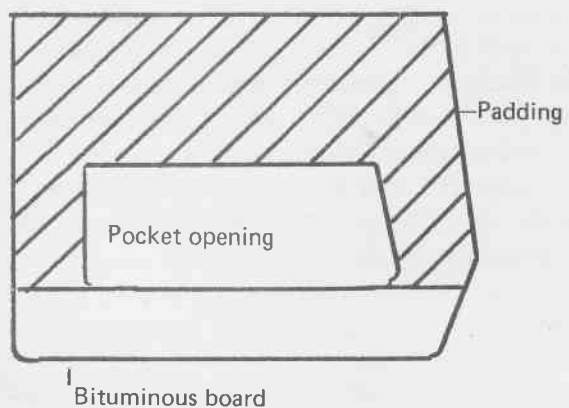
h. Lay pocket onto the pocket backing, flush with the bottom edge. Using a staple gun, or ½" shoe tingles, staple or tack around the side and bottom edges leaving a ½" margin all round. Nail or staple onto a metal support to turn the staples or tingles. Now put this section aside.

Step 4. Making the door trim:

a. Use the original backing as a pattern to cut the new door trim board. Cut the holes for the window and door handle shafts after checking their positions carefully to ensure that they match. Also cut the slots for the door trim clips.

b. Use the original padding if possible, cut foam padding to fit as per Diagram 1. Tack glue the padding to the backing board.

DIAGRAM 1.



c. Cut required material for the face trim with a 1" margin.

d. Place the material face down on the work bench and position the backing board on the material **FACE DOWN** with the material in line with the bottom edge of the pocket opening.

e. Cut the pocket opening leaving a 1" margin. Now 'V'-cut the corners — see Diagram 2.

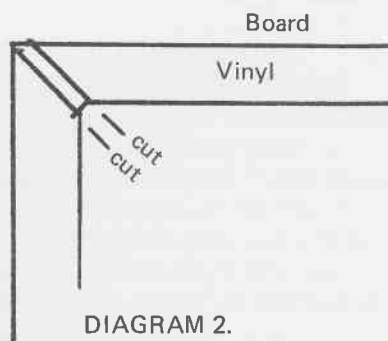


DIAGRAM 2.

f. Apply glue to the overlap material and 1" of board around the pocket opening. Allow to become touch-dry. Lay over the material onto the board — do not apply any pressure — just allow the material to lay over naturally.

g. Cut a strip of vinyl 1" wide x length of pocket opening. Apply glue to the strip of material and to both sides of the base of the pocket opening. Allow to become touch-dry and then fold evenly on either side of the edge.

Step 5. Joining the door trim and pocket:

a. Lay out the pocket **face up** on the bench. Position the door trim over the pocket, making sure the top edge of the pocket is clear of the door trim — there should be a gap of $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the top of the pocket and the lower edge of the door trim. (Diag. 3.)

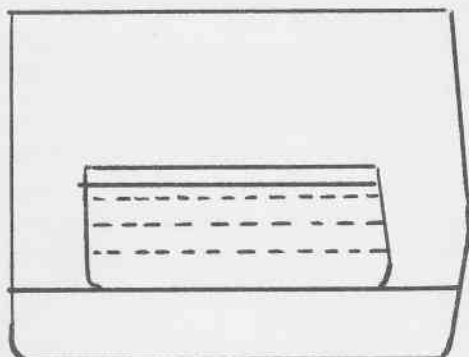


DIAGRAM 3.

b. Fold back the vinyl trim and staple or tack right through the boards within $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the side edges of the pocket opening.

c. Fold back the top vinyl trim and staple or tack across the top edge of the pocket opening within $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the edge.

d. Place the four trim clips in each side of the board and reinforce with a strip of backing board if considered necessary.

e. Place the door trim face down on the bench. Ensure the vinyl is flat and reasonably straight. Trim the vinyl to a 1" margin on all edges.

f. Apply glue to the side edges and the excess material. Allow to touch-dry, then pull around the edges with pressure to pull the vinyl tight — stick down.

g. Repeat this with the top edge, but **do not** pull too tight — just ensure that the vinyl is firm. Place this part aside.

Step 6. Making the carpet trim:

a. Using carpet that matches that to be used in the rest of the car, cut out a piece patterned on the piece removed from the car.

b. Cut a strip of vinyl $1\frac{1}{2}$ " wide x length of the bottom edge of the carpet. Back-sew this to the carpet. (The vinyl and the carpet should be placed face to face and stitched approx $\frac{1}{4}$ " from the edge.) Repeat the above procedure with the top edge.

c. Cut a $\frac{3}{4}$ " strip of bituminous board with a very straight edge, long enough to reach edge to edge of the door trim parallel to the bottom edge of the door pocket opening.

d. Lay the carpet face down on the door trim over the pocket opening — as if you had folded the carpet up from the base towards the top of the door.

e. Position the strip of bituminous board flush with the bottom edge of the door pocket opening with the vinyl edging of the carpet between the door trim and the bituminous strip. Leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ " strip gap between the carpet and the board, tack or staple through the strip and the trim.

f. Fold the carpet over the edge of the bituminous board strip.

g. Place the bottom door trim clips in place.

Step 7. Completing the final stages:

(Don't cheer yet, you can still make mistakes!)

a. Tack-glue the carpet to the door trim.

b. Position the door trim face down on the work-bench.

c. Apply glue to the vinyl overlap and board. Allow to become touch-dry and stick down — pull the vinyl over firmly. Be sure to cut around the door trim clips.

d. Fit the door trim back on the door and mark the positions of the door handle and window-winder shafts. Cut small holes for these and allow the shafts to poke through.

e. Fit the door trim carefully and refit the handles and window dressing. Now breathe a sigh of relief as that's one down, three to go!

To complete the other doors which do not have pockets, just follow the instructions, deleting the pocket.

To retrim French doors with the cloth, the procedure is similar. If you have been able to obtain the correct material with the stripe, you must mark the vertical line with a plumb-line and work carefully to ensure that you keep the stripe straight.

Again, my thanks to Rex and Bob, of Salvado Industries for their help and time. Bob never wants to see an English trim again. We hope to follow this with other articles dealing with re-trimming of seats, centre pillars, carpets, etc. I suggested to Bob that the seats were next — "Never!!!" he swore.

Robyn Couche.