

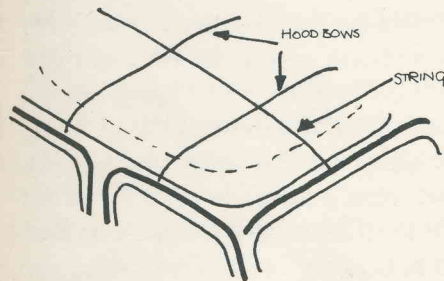


## Making up a hood lining Gerry Propsting

Restoring a car should be a hobby. Many people pay for work to be done to their cars. Perhaps this is because they either haven't the time, or maybe they just lack the confidence to tackle the work themselves. It is a far more rewarding experience to have "done it" oneself, and I hope this article will encourage people to tackle at least one part of their restoration themselves.

Firstly I must say, I am no motor trimmer. The following information was given to me by Robert Bonner, a member of the VDC. I tried it and it works. Anyone who has any further tips could also help by sending their comments to Front Drive. Or conversely, anyone who disagrees with these methods please write and correct me before everyone louses up their material. In any case, I wish you luck, and go to it!

The principal details of this article apply to Citroën Light Fifteens 1946-52, but can be adapted to other models.



1. Divide car front to rear with piece of string looped around the hood bows.

2. Use stiff brown paper to trace an exact pattern of each hood-bow to string segment on the left (or right) of the car. You only need to make one half of the hood sections as a pattern.

To make the pattern, place the paper behind the bows and string, and do each pattern separately.

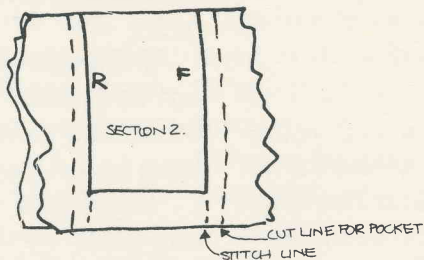
3. When you have cut each pattern segment, number it and chalk the corresponding number to the roof of the car (to keep the pattern in order). Also mark each piece with FRONT and REAR.

4. You now have to decide on your material. English cars to 1954 used cloth, and this is best reproduced in hoodlining felt. This material will stretch under tension, and allowances must be made now by reducing the hood bow edge of your pattern by 1/2 inch either side.

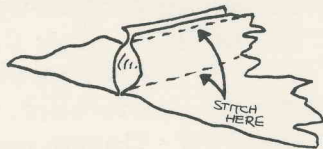


5. Lay your material out and double it end to end. Pin each pattern segment to the material so that the centre edge aligns with the fold of the material. Separate each pattern by approximately 3-4 inches. Mark the edge of the patterns corresponding with the hood bows exactly. This will be your stitching line. Now allow 1 1/2 inches outside the edge of the pattern, mark and cut along this line. This will become the pocket for the hood bow. Allow extra material to the edge of the pattern corresponding with

the outside of the car. This will be cut off later when the lining is in position.

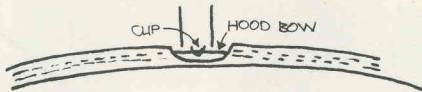


6. Carefully join each section to the next and sew. Your domestic sewing machine will cope if the stitch is set at 1/8" to 3/16", and button thread (available to match the felt) is used. Make the hood bow pocket as in the diagram below.



7. IMPORTANT. As the roof lining goes into a car after the draught excluder has been fitted to the door, make sure it fits well NOW. You can't adjust it later. Probably the seats are out (it will be easier if they are) so clean the car thoroughly and lay some old sheets to protect the lining from dirt.

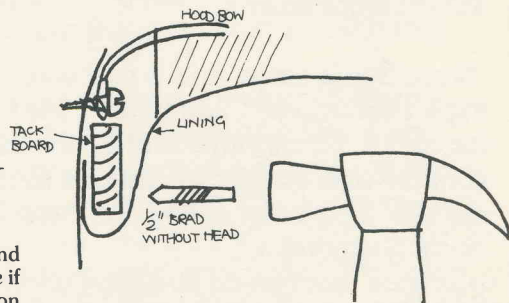
8. Starting at the back, take down each hood bow in turn, and insert it in the corresponding hood lining pocket. Now put it in position. (See where the centre clip for the bow will fit and cut the lining 2" either side of this and lock over the clip with a hammer. See diagram. Now proceed for each bow in turn.



9. Attach the hood lining to the centre of the rear nailing strip (staple gun or cut tacks) pulling the lining fairly tight. Do the same at the front nailing strip. Work out from the centre, front and rear, left and right alternately to even the tension. DO NOT CUT THE REAR WINDOW YET!!

10. Now, starting at the centre pillar on either side, work both to front and rear, pulling out the slack as you go. You may have to cut back each pocket as you go to prevent a square app-

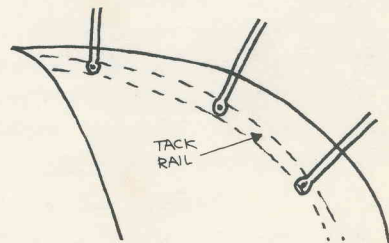
earance at the sides of the lining. On some cars the sides are attached using blind tacking. this can be done with 1/2" brads with the heads cut off. See diagram.



11. The corners of the car are done last as this allows wrinkles to be removed.

12. Put the rear window frame in, and tighten. Now cut out excess material. You will notice more wrinkles come out.

13. Make rear quarter panel boards as below. The board must extend past the tacking rail to put tension on hood lining when it is fixed.



14. Cover and attach quarter panel trim boards, and fit into place using blind tacking to the trim rail with 3/4" brads. The hood lining should now pull tight and have no wrinkles. Cover and attach front trim board.

15. Congratulations, you just saved yourself a fortune at the motor trimmers, and you have a job you can be proud of.

