



Restoration Ready-to-Install Auto Upholstery & Carpet Kits
DashCare Brand Dash Covers for all Vehicles

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Suspended Headliner Install Instructions

1953-1956 Ford Pickups

Congratulations on your purchase of this Ready-to-Install Upholstery Kit.

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Please read the entire instructions below before you start to assure a good installation experience.

A. Parts List - Included in this kit:

- 1 Sewn headliner
- 3 Steel Bow Rods - 3/16" diameter x 54" long
- 6 Steel Bow Rod End Brackets with 6 machine screws & nuts
- 5 Plastic clips for Bow rods
- 1 Extruded Black vinyl Tack Strip - 14 ft
- 1 Hidem Welt Yardage - 14 ft
- 2 Chrome Steel tips with screws (used to cover each end of Hidem Welt)
- 2 Wire Hooks, adjustable (big window only)
- 1 Razor Blade for trimming

B. What you will need to supply:

Upholstery stapler and very short staples, preferably 5/32" deep
Glue - Headliner Temperature rated contact cement to secure tack strip to channel around roof line (you may want to screw or pop rivet the tack strip as well, not supplied) and to glue material around rear window edges (with window removed) and/or
putty knife to push material under window weather strip rubber gasket
Screwdriver, wrenches or pliers to tighten machine screws
Contact cement to glue material around rear window edges (with window removed) and/or
putty knife to push material under window weather strip gasket
Extra person is recommended so you have help and 4 hands

C. Installation Instructions:

1. Removal of rear window is recommended (especially small window). If replacing the rubber, cut old rubber on the outside and remove the glass to the inside. If reusing the old rubber, work the rubber away from the metal lip on the outside towards the inside being careful with the paint. Remove the glass through the inside, working and wiggling it until it becomes free.
2. Remove the dome light, tape wire ends apart. Remove old headliner and clean metal surfaces as needed.
3. Install Tack Strip - The extruded Black Vinyl Tack Strip material is somewhat flexible to handle the curves of the recessed channel at the edges of the interior roof. The Tack strip can be cut into section if desired. Install the tack strips in the metal lip with a headliner temp rated contact glue. Pop rivets or screws (diagram 2) can also be used to help secure it. For small window only, install tack strips where the side wall metal brace travels rearward to make the tack strip flush with the door jam (diagram 1-3d). The tack strip will accept upholstery staples when you are stapling through the headliner material into the tack strip.
4. Install the first 2 bow rod brackets at rear corners (diagram 1-#4). Position them about half to one inch below the rear body seam in the upper rear door jam, drill holes and secure with machine screws and nuts provided (diagram 2). Make sure the bolt heads do not stick out above the tack strip surface.

5. Bow clips and Adjustable Wire Hooks

Small Window - You will be installing 4 bow clips as needed to prevent potential rattling of metal rod while driving. 2 clips for the rear rod on the body seam lip above the rear window as shown in diagram 1-#5 approximately 10" to either side of center and 1 clip for each of the middle and forward rod at the centerline.

Big Window - For the rear bow rod, install the 2 adjustable wire hooks by drilling holes in the body seam lip above the window approx. 10" either side of center (diagram 1 - #5). Test Install the bow rod and bend wire hooks as needed for symmetrical look. Note: if dome light bracket protrudes, slide in the rod and position rod behind the dome light bracket. Cut a section of the fabric sleeve as needed. Dome light will keep the rod in place.

6. Install Rear Bow When installing, bow rod should have slight pressure against the roof. The rod end brackets are adjustable. Hold the rear bow rod in position, mark and cut to size, if needed.

Mark on the back side of the headliner the position where the clips will go on the rod sleeve (small window) and cut out a section of the rod sleeve for the plastic clips. For Big Back window when using wire hooks, also cut out a section of rod sleeve on the back side where the hooks will be.

7. Install Middle Bow Cut out a 1" section of the middle section fabric sleeve for the rod and insert the bow rod. Stretch toward the front of the cab and mark the position for the plastic clip on the roof support. Drill hole and attach the clip. Cut Bow as needed and install. Bow should be long enough to maintain tension against the roof.

8. Install Front Bow Use the same procedure as #7 above.

9. Stapling Headliner Fabric - Start at the Front * Wait until glued in Tack Strip is secure. Adhesives may not reach full strength for several hours or a day or two.

Pull the front edge of the headline forward so that all bows are straight across and headliner is tight. Keep centerline of headliner aligned with the centerline of the cab. Staple the headliner edges to the tack strips.

Notes: Staples must be positioned so they will be covered by the Hidem Welt supplied in the kit. Upholstery quality staples are recommended - shoot at an angle if they are longer than the depth of the tack strips. Cut off excess headliner material only after final positioning and stapling of the entire job to prepare for Hidem Welt install.

10. Staple Headliner at Rear Corners and Rear At the rear corners, pull the headliner down to straighten the seam. Pull at a 45 degree angle and staple at the seam to the tack strip where it meets the corner of the door jam. Align the center of the headliner's rear edge to the center of the tack strip. Pull to a smooth finish, staple and straighten the headliner as you work. Start at the center and work outwards an equal amount per side.

11. Staple Headliner Sides At this point, the headliner is partially attached at the front and rear. Pull, smooth and staple small sections of one side and then the other side until the headliner is fully stapled. If you are satisfied with the look, it's time to trim the excess material in preparation for the Hidem Welt.

12. Install Headliner to the Rear Window Opening (small window) With the window removed, fit and glue (use contact cement, not included) the headliner over the metal edge of the window opening (where the rubber gasket goes). Small slits in the material can be made to relieve the stresses in the material for the created by the geometry. Be sure any cut will be covered by the rubber window gasket when reinstalled.

13. Install the Hidem Welt - Install Hidem Welt to provide a finished look by covering the staple work at the edge of the headliner. Start from the rear of the cab and work around the cab. Hidem Welt can be separated at the centerline to expose a flat surface (diagram 5). Pull back the welt and use staples or screws to install to the tack strips or through them to the metal. The welt will move back into place to cover the staples or screws. Use the chrome tips with screws as end caps for the finished look of the Hidem Welt.

Small Window: use a small section of Hidem Welt horizontally at the lowest point of the rear corners to connect trim to the door jam.

Big Window: a separate Hidem Welt piece is used across the top of the rear window (diagram 4 - #10). Cut the proper angles at the corners where the Hidem Welt ends meet for a finished look.

14. Re-install the Rear Window (small window only) This is a 2 person job! Coat the inner channel of the rubber with silicone and put a small rope string in the channel so that it hangs out at both ends. The window is installed from the inside of the cab. A person on the inside puts steady pressure on the glass, pushing it into the opening. The other person on the outside pulls on the rope ends to work the rubber gasket over the metal lip of the window opening. Steady pressure must be applied from the inside!. A non-marking tool can be used to help the rubber move over the lip. Note: It is possible to install the headliner without removing the window - tuck and glue the fabric into the rubber gasket or use your own trim around the window.

