



CLASSIC GOLD®

AUTHENTIC REPRODUCTION

Dash Panel Cover

Installation Instructions

Read and understand these instructions in their entirety before attempting to install your dash panel cover. We cannot be held responsible for improper fitment due to installation error. There is no shame in having an experienced professional install your dash panel cover.

Tools required:

- Shop manual for your vehicle
- Utility knife or box cutter or sharp knife of any sort
- Scissors
- Drill motor
- 5/32" & 1/4" drill bits
- Pop Rivet tool (gun)
- Awl or sharp poker
- Chisel, putty knife, wire brush (foam and grit removal tools)
- 1.5" wide paint brush
- Shop vacuum or compressed air
- Dental pick
- Heat gun or blow drier
- Small rubber jaw wood clamps

Supplies:

- 80 grit sand paper
- Acetone
- Brush on upholstery glue - DAP Weldwood Contact Adhesive is recommended
- Rivets
- Various diameter flat washers, nuts, bolts and screws
- Large clean blanket or towel
- Sand bags
- Various blocks of wood (2x4, 4x4, ect)

Safety:

- Chemical resistant gloves
- Dust mask
- Eye protection

Optional:

- Wire wheel attachment for drill motor
- Paint (for dash frame)

Notes:

These instructions do not include the removal or installation of the dash assembly from your vehicle. See your shop manual.

Dash panel covers were not designed to be replaced like brake pads or suspension components. The tools the factory used to make and install a dash cover are no longer around and would not be accessible to most people if they were. This is a difficult process and we strongly encourage professional installation. For those brave enough proceed with caution and patience.

Use a digital camera or high quality cell phone to take lots of pictures as you remove the dash assembly from the vehicle and disassemble the dash cover from the frame. Many aspects of these assemblies are not documented in any book. Keep your hardware organized in labeled zip top bags and write notes as you disassemble parts.

Disassembly

- 1) Refer to a shop manual and remove the dash assembly from the car.
- 2) Remove all gauges and switches from the dash. Remove the glove box and vents.



Figure 2

Installation Instructions

- 3) Drill out the pop rivets that secure the fender washers to the bottom inside of the dash frame or remove the clips.



Figure 3

- 4) Peel, cut, scrape, chisel, brush and sand the original dash cover from the dash frame. A wire wheel attachment on a drill motor can be helpful here. **Caution:** There is structural foam that should not be removed from the metal dash frame. There is no replacement structural foam available so be careful not to damage it while removing the vinyl cover and other foam. See Fig. 4 for examples of structural foam that should not be removed.



Figure 4

Structural Foam



Frame and Dash Panel Cover Preparation

- 5) Once the bulk of the old glue and foam has been removed, thoroughly clean the dash frame with Acetone. It is critical the frame is free of anything that will keep the new dash cover from being securely adhered to it.
- 6) If any repairs or painting needs to be done to the dash frame, now is the time. Be sure to let the paint dry completely before attempting to install the dash cover. Make sure to test the adhesive you will use on a small inconspicuous painted area. If there is any reaction between the glue and paint, the paint may not be completely dry. If it has been several weeks there is still a reaction, you may need to switch paint, or glue.
- 7) Use coarse sandpaper to sand the back side of the dash cover, foam and vinyl. Sand any area that glue may be applied. You want to remove all the release agent used in the construction of the dash cover and give the glue a rough surface to bond to. Sand until the shine is gone from the vinyl and foam.

Once sanded blow off the dust with compressed air or use a shop vacuum. Wipe the sanded surfaces with Acetone on a clean rag.

Fitting the Dash Panel Cover

- 8) Before any glue is applied you need to test fit the dash cover onto the frame. In these next steps you will fully assemble the dash cover to the frame in preparation for gluing. Make sure to leave the dash cover in the sun or near a space heater for a while to help make it pliable.

Lay a clean towel or blanket down to work on so that the front side of the dash cover is not accidentally damaged. Lay the dash cover face down on the blanket. Install the frame into the dash cover. Make sure each end/corner of frame is tucked into the dash cover. Now you can evaluate the basic fit of the dash cover. You can see the areas that may be problematic when the gluing process begins.

The structural foam was originally hand laid so it can vary dramatically. Pay special attention to the structural foam closest to the gauges. You need to make sure the dash cover lays flat on the dash frame in the between the gauges and the structural foam. A useful tool for sanding the structural foam is a "Stanley surform rasp/shaver".

9) Dry fit all the gauges and switches. Start with one of the larger gauges (tach or speedo). Put a small hole in the center of the vinyl where the gauge will go. Slowly trim out larger until you can fit the gauge in the whole, while making note of the other gauge locations. If the first gauge is off center, all the others will also be misaligned too. When you have the first gauge installed, move one by one through all the rest of the gauges and switches. You may need to remove foam from the dash cover in order to help fitment. Remember to work with a warm dash so the vinyl wants to move and stay where you put it. If the gauges do not fit well at this point, they will not fit any better once glue is applied. Take the time to get a good fit now.

10) Before moving on, make sure the glove box (or would be) side of the dash cover still fits the frame well. Loosen the hardware and adjust the cover if necessary. You may need to shape the structural foam to accept the new dash cover. Remember these parts are not made from the same tooling so "fitting" will be necessary.

11) If your dash has a glove box, now is a good time to fit it. You will need to cut an opening through the vinyl of the cover. Take your time here. You can always cut a little more but you cannot repair a cut that has gone too far. Again, you may need to sand down or shape the structural foam still on the dash frame.

Once you can insert the glove box, poke holes through the vinyl for the mounting hardware. You may need to remove foam from the dash cover. Again take your time and remove small pieces with a dental pick until the glove box can be fully installed.

12) Next fit the center vent. Just as you did with the gauges and glove box, slowly trim away vinyl and foam until the vent fits.

13) This is the last chance to make the dash cover fit the frame. If the dash cover doesn't fit dry, it won't fit well with glue. Make sure you are happy with the fitment of the dash cover to the frame. Shape the structural foam and dash cover foam until the fit is acceptable.

Gluing the Dash Pad

14) One last time, use compressed air to blow the entire frame and dash cover. Wipe everything down with acetone.

15) The dash cover will be glued in several separate sections. These small sections allow you to focus on one area at a time for the best fitment. There is no need to put glue on every square inch of the dash cover. Just a few key areas will do the job.

Apply glue to the gauge face and switch area only. Paint the glue around each hole about an inch. Read instructions on the container of glue for exact recommendations for glue application. Make sure to apply glue to both the frame and cover.

Once the glue has tacked up a bit, install the dash cover onto the frame. Immediately install the gauges to keep everything in place while the glue dries.

16) Next, move on to the center vent. Do not attempt to fold the dash cover back over the gauges as it will ruin it. Instead, gently peel back the edges around the vent and apply glue. Install the vent once the glue has tacked up.

17) Now the glove box. Same as in the last two steps, you need to get glue around the perimeter of the glove box. Install the box and door once the glue has tacked up.

18) Lastly you need to work around the entire perimeter of the dash frame. **DO NOT APPLY GLUE AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE FRAME YET!** Just as with the gauges, switches, vents and glove box, you need to trim the vinyl and remove a little foam. Work your way around the perimeter of the dash cover folding the vinyl over the frame. Use a heat gun to help the vinyl conform. Around the corners, you will need to make relief cuts. It is best to use a hole punch and the end of each relief cut to keep the cut from spreading into a visible area of vinyl.

19) Now that you have fit the outside perimeter, glue it down. Just as before, glue one section at a time. You should only glue an area equal to the amount of wood clamps you have. If you can only have enough clamps to hold $\frac{1}{4}$ of the perimeter down, only apply glue to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the pad and frame. Once dry, move to the next section until the entire perimeter is done.

20) The marriage of the dash cover to the frame is complete. You can spend a little time with a heat gun messaging trouble areas. Trim any excess vinyl if desired. Once you are happy, install the dash assembly into the chassis. Enjoy your new dash panel cover. See Mossmotors.com for all your classic British parts.