

Message:

In addition to the items provided, you'll need the following:

- *top seal wood tacks #4x7/16 (available from any hardware store)
- *good grade, professional quality preferred, contact cement (also available from hardware store)
- *new screws (optional) phillips pan head #6 x 1/2"
- *hot sunny day
- *lots of patience
- *plan on about 6 hours of your time
- *silicone caulk

Remove the old top. While everything is disassembled, clean the rain gutter and make necessary repairs to the wood. If the wood bow is too rotten, you may well be better off replacing it.

With the frame in the up position, measure the distance from the forward edge of the curved wood rail to the first screw hole where your tack rail attaches. Usually the distance is approximately 9" although it varies from side to side and from car to car. Subtract 1". This distance can now be marked on your top with a chalk --- start measuring from the outer edge of the "ear" of the top. This is the mark that will tell you where the edge of the tack rail is to be located when you start pinning the top to the rail

With the chalk now mark a line 1 1/2" from the bottom edge of the top. This is the second guide giving you the depth required when pinning the top to the tack rail.

Use the clips provided, pin the top to the tack rail, spreading the material evenly so as to avoid wrinkles. Distance between the edge of window and the edge of rail is about 2 1/2" depending on car. Now go to the front of the top frame, find the centerpoint and mark it. Also find the centerpoint of the top and mark it. Temporarily tack the front at the center using these marks.

You are now ready to secure the tack rail back to the car, working from the center and two edges and work your way around. When finished, the distance between the bottom edge of the rear window and the chrome ring should be about 1 1/2" Getting the rear positioned correctly is critical to the correct fitting of the top, so take your time and measure and pin accurately. Re-pin if you need to.

Remove the tension from the top, by dropping the intermediate bow to the rear. Pull tightly, so the curved edge of the top lines up with the curved wood rail. Tack it in place on both sides. Now tack down the two outer corners to the front wood bow. Stretch the top to fit in such a way so that it fits snug. This takes time, and it is a good idea not to drive the tacks all the way in until you are satisfied with the overall look of the top.

Cover the aluminum bow with the vinyl provided using contact cement. Do not get contact cement on either the vinyl or the aluminum bow or the edge that shows. Fasten the aluminum bow to the wood bow. Caulk the gap between the top with clear silicon caulk. Glue down the top seal.

The final step is installing the "hide-em" strip. You might well have to drill the shiny finishing clips to enlarge the hole, depending on the hardware you are using to hold it in place. Put your aluminum pieces and windlacing back on.

It is always a good idea to leave the top in the up position for as long as possible after fitting a new top ... at least through some good hot summer days so it'll have a chance to stretch and form the proper shape for the year to come.