

TR6 Interior Panel Installation Tips:

If you don't follow these directions, you will not be able to get the proper fit.

- 1) The one fit area that some people have had trouble with is the Trunk & Wheel Arch Panels and that's because they don't read and/or follow the directions. I even put it in **BOLD RED** in steps # 10, 11 & 12 below. The panel dimensions are based on them sitting on the thin carpet & underlayment that is stock on these cars. People are now adding sound deadening material and thicker padding to reduce heat and noise in their cars and this throws those dimensions off by raising the panels. Read & follow those directions in **BOLD RED** in steps# 10, 11 & 12 and you should have no problems.
- 2) DO NOT store the panels stacked on each other without some kind of protection, like towels, between them or the foam may be dented to the point where it won't bounce back.
- 3) If you see any white marks on the vinyl or thread, it's just the chalk I use to mark what I need to do. I try to get it all off before shipping but may miss some. You can use a gentle household cleaner or even water with a paper towel or a toothbrush with soft bristles.
- 4) Go to <http://www.victoriabritish.com/interiors/t6/t6-guide.pdf> and download the instructions for re-doing your interior. This is an excellent step by step guide that covers: carpets, panels and seat upholstery.
- 5) Go to <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall1.htm> and you can see exactly how I did my panel installation which was extra difficult due to the thickness of the leather.
- 6) Your existing Panel Screws are too short so get some #6 @ 3/4" or 1"
- 7) If you have trouble with your existing/stock panel clips due to the thickness of the hardboard, NAPA carries a Chrysler clip # 665-2224 for the corners and a Ford clip # 665-2222 for the straight runs.
- 8) Getting the convertible top's bracket reinstalled at the top of the wheel arch panel may require longer screws due to the added thickness of the panel. I also have a bracket for the Wind Blocker that added to the fit problem. I was able to do it with the stock screws but it would have been a lot easier and less frustrating with longer screws. Because of the fit problem I encountered, I no longer cover the backboard with closed cell foam which added to the thickness. You can see how I got it to fit here <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall5.htm> If you decide to get longer screws the stock screw size is a Flat Head 1/4-28. An extra 3/8 - 1/2" would probably be perfect.
- 9) Door Panels
 - a) Use your old panels as a guide for which holes the clips (not supplied) go in to.
 - b) DO NOT cut the holes for the door & window handles until you've installed the panel and can see exactly where the door/window stems are located. Then just cut a small X for the stem to fit through
 - c) People expect the door panels to just pop in place with the clips automatically falling into the holes in the door.....well they don't. Not on the panels from Moss, TRF, VB or mine.....The door panel clips are a pain to line up and you need to position them based on the location of the holes in the door. You'll need needle nose pliers to get the clips on and positioned. I start at the top, worked my way down the sides and finish at the bottom, lying on the garage floor to see the holes/clips. The holes in the hardboard are 1/2" so that gives you plenty of room to move the clips to get them to line up with the holes in the door.
 - d) The plastic piece for the door & window cranks will need a slot cut in the lip for the pin to go through. Here's how I got mine to fit. <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall3.htm>
 - e) If you've never had an "opportunity" to remove and install the window and door handles you might want to practice on your existing panels. They can be very frustrating to do the first time. I show my technique at the link in bullet d. above.
 - f) The door pocket wrinkles can be removed by using finishing screws in the elastic area to pull the pocket tight. The car door is pre-drilled for the screws but the panel isn't.
 - g) **If you're going to install the TR4 door pulls**, the Moss part numbers at the time I ordered were: Handle #803-440 and screws #314-220. If you want to fit the metal spire nut to the door it's #317-025 I ordered the spire nuts but ended up re-using the existing plastic nuts that hold the center door pull in place. <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall3.htm>
- 10) Wheel Arch Covers & Pillar Cover <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall1.htm>
 - a) These are the most difficult to do as you're working with contact cement which is very unforgiving. If you have any doubts about doing the pieces that are glued (wheel hump covers, B pillar & door cap) a good upholstery shop can probably do them in an hour if you have the car prepped for them.
 - b) Position the trunk panel and mark on the wheel arch where the front of the trunk panel lies. **You DO NOT want any foam on the part of the wheel arch where the trunk panel hits the wheel arch. The trunk panel is made to fit between the wheel arches with no foam on the wheel arch. The vinyl for the wheel arch can extend behind the trunk panel as the vinyl is very thin.**
 - c) Follow the instructions in the guide from #1 above.
 - d) Cut the supplied foam to size. I did this in 3 steps: the top piece got cut to about 5-1/2" wide and glued in place. Then I cut the short "leg" off of the round piece and glued the round part in place. Lastly I fit the short leg.
 - e) Glue (3M #77 Spray Adhesive works good) the foam to the wheel arch first and then glue the covers to the foam. **MAKE SURE** you leave a gap for the trunk panel to fit into. The VB Guide says to only glue the vinyl to the foam at the edges. I covered the whole surface in glue and like the look better though it is more difficult to do.
 - f) There is a lot of excess material on the wheel arch covers that you will need to carefully trim to get a proper fit. Make sure you leave enough to go under the rear deck rug and under the wheel arch panel.

11) Trunk Panel

- a) **The vinyl will most likely wrinkle where the backboard has to bend to the curve of the car.** The only way that I know to prevent this would be to un-staple and pull back the vinyl & foam for about a foot. Then wet that short section of backboard and screw it into place. Once it dries, the backboard should retain the curve of the car. Then glue and staple the foam back in place.
- b) **Install the wheel Arch covers before installing the trunk panel, but pay attention to the instructions for the foam in step #4.**
- c) **Anything on the floor (FatMat/DynaMat, carpet underlayment etc) will raise the Trunk Panel and affect the fit. Cut away any of these under the panel so that the panel is sitting on just the carpet**
- d) You will need longer than stock screws due to the added foam.
- e) If you have your old panel use it as a template for locating the panel screw holes
- f) **DO NOT drill through the vinyl!** If you do it will wrap around the drill bit and rip the vinyl. Drill from the panel side and then use an awl to poke through the foam and vinyl
- g) The trunk panel fit will vary depending on the thickness of your carpet, underlayment and sound deadening material. If the panel seems too tall, move the bottom out slightly and tilt the top edge back until it lines up.

12) Wheel Arch Panels

- a) **Install the wheel Arch covers before installing the trunk panel, but pay attention to the instructions for the foam in step #4.**
- b) **Anything on the floor (FatMat/DynaMat, carpet underlayment etc) will raise the Trunk Panel and affect the fit. Cut away any of these under the panel so that the panel is sitting on just the carpet**
- c) **The vinyl will most likely wrinkle where the backboard has to bend to the curve of the car.** The only way that I know to prevent this would be to un-staple and pull back the vinyl & foam for about a foot. Then wet that short section of backboard and screw it into place. Once it dries, the backboard should retain the curve of the car. Then glue and staple the foam back in place.
- d) You will need longer than stock screws due to the added foam.
- e) If you have your old panel use it as a template for locating the panel screw holes
- f) **DO NOT drill through the vinyl!** If you do it will wrap around the drill bit and rip the vinyl. Drill from the panel side and then use an awl to poke through the foam and vinyl
- g) Carefully cut out the holes for where your top frame attachment points are.

13) "B" Pillar Covers

- a) The 3/8" piece of triangular plywood should fit as long as the area that it goes into has been thoroughly cleaned out. If the fit is too tight, carefully cut or sand the plywood until you get the desired fit. You need to account for the vinyl thickness.
- b) Follow the directions in the VB Guide on my site for installing the vinyl on the pillar.

14) Door Cap Trim <http://tr6.danielsonfamily.org/InteriorPanelInstall2.htm>

- a) I supply two pieces of vinyl & 1/8" foam that can be used to cover the top of the door in lieu of the molded plastic piece that is normally used. It takes a bit of work to glue it down and mold it to fit but the end result looks better than the molded cover from Moss - part # 856-128.

Kidney Pads

- b) If you've never had Kidney Pads before you should order the fitting kit part # RFK512 from The Roadster Factory.
- c) If you have your old pads, use them as a template for confirming the panel screw holes already in the hardboard.
- d) **DO NOT drill through the vinyl!** If you do it will wrap around the drill bit and rip the vinyl. Drill from the panel side and then use an awl to poke through the foam and vinyl
- e) If you're going to mount speakers in the pads, the backboard has been cut out with a 4" hole but you'll need to cut the vinyl. The foam should already be cut (unless I forgot) and will pull out. Starting at the center of the hole carefully make 4 to 6 cuts as if you were cutting pizza. You can then cut the closed cell foam (grey color) away and pull the vinyl and pleating foam through the hole. Secure it with 1/4" staples. It won't look too pretty but the speaker grill will cover it all up nicely.