



Application: 1977 Corvette C3 Standard Interior Door Panel Felt



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Door Panels with Felt



Tools Needed



Every effort has been made to ensure the highest possible quality in regard to the color, fit, texture, appearance and longevity of this Door Panel. The construction of the panel incorporates many improvements over the original panel and will significantly add to the appearance of your Corvette for years to come.

Because Door Panels with Felts are designed to be used with all possible interior combinations, these installation instructions are divided into 4 sections:

- A. Removal of Your Original Panel From the Door
- B. Transferring Armrest U-trim and Lock Knob Insert
- C. Transferring Deluxe Door Panel Hardware
- D. Installation of New Panel on the Door

Sections A, B and D will apply to every 1969–1976 door panel. Section C applies only to 1970–1976 models with a deluxe interior and all 1977 Corvettes. A deluxe interior is distinguished by a metal insert in the top half of the door panel (with a wood grain plate in its center for 1970–1976, or a black vinyl insert for 1977) and a chrome strip and carpet along the bottom of the panel.

A. REMOVAL OF YOUR ORIGINAL PANEL FROM THE DOOR

STEP 1.

Inspect the door panel or panels you have received. Verify that they are the correct year, color and sides, LH and RH, for your Corvette. Door Panels for 1969 can be distinguished by a recessed area in the top half of the door panel for a comfortweave insert. 1970–1976 Door Panels have a double line of stitching running the length of the door panel at the top. 1977 Door Panels do not have this stitching.

STEP 2.

Open the door. Remove the two screws that go through the door panel at the top of the panel with a Phillips screwdriver. One is located in the top front corner and the other at the top rear corner of the panel.

STEP 3.

Remove the two screws that hold the door pull to the panel. One screw is located in each end of the pull.

STEP 4.

Remove the screw that holds the door opening handle to the door opening mechanism and pull the handle from the mechanism.

STEP 5.

Remove the lock knob from the armrest area. There is a clip in a groove in the back of the knob that holds the knob on to the lock post. This clip must be removed before the knob can be pulled from the lock post.



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Description (cont.)

STEP 6.

If your Corvette has crank windows, the window crank must be removed. There is a clip in a groove on the back side of the crank that holds the crank on to the window regulator post. This clip must be removed with a retaining clip removal tool, (Mid America Motorworks Part **602-063**), before the crank can be pulled from the regulator post.

STEP 7.

Remove the screws that hold the 2 door panel retaining clips to the door. One is located on the front lower edge of the door and the other is located on the rear lower edge of the door.

STEP 8.

If your Corvette has manual remote control mirrors, unfasten the control mechanism from the door panel.

STEP 9.

Pull on the bottom edge of the door panel until the fasteners on the panel and the door separate. When you have pulled the bottom of the panel far enough away for the panel to clear the window regulator post (if applicable), lift the panel so the top of the panel comes free from the door.

B. TRANSFERRING ARMREST U-TRIM AND LOCK KNOB INSERT

STEP 1.

Rest your original door panel face down on a clean, soft surface. Using a flat blade screwdriver, remove the staples securing the armrest u-trim mounting tabs to the back of the door panel.

STEP 2.

Using the flat blade screwdriver and long nose pliers, straighten the mounting tabs on the back of the armrest u-trim so they can be pulled through the door panel. Remove the armrest u-trim by pulling it out of the groove on the face of the panel.

STEP 3.

Rest the original panel face down on a clean, soft surface. Insert the tip of a flat blade screwdriver under each of the 5 retaining washers that hold the lock knob insert in place and twist the screwdriver. This will pop the washers from the mounting posts and free the lock knob insert plate for removal.

STEP 4.

Lay your new door panel with felt face up on a flat surface. Place your lock knob insert plate in position on the panel. Align the back edge of the lock knob insert plate with the front edge of the raised area in the center of the armrest. See illustration below.

Once the lock knob insert plate is properly positioned, press down on the plate with your hands. Press hard enough so the 5 mounting posts on the back of the lock knob insert plate leave indentations in the door panel.

STEP 5.

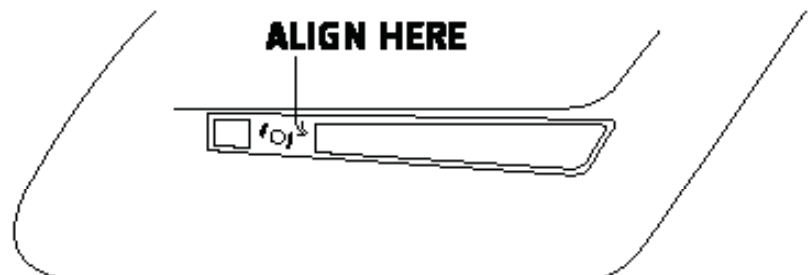
With the awl, punch a small hole in the center of each indentation left by the posts. These will be used as pilot holes for drilling and will keep the bit from wandering.

STEP 6.

With an electric drill and 1/4" drill bit, drill the holes you have marked with the awl.

STEP 7.

Turn the door panel over so it is face down. Using a razor blade or utility knife, cut out the small amount of foam and plastic that covers the hole for the door locking post. Cut from the back side of the panel using the hole in the back plastic door panel back as a guide.





Description (cont.)

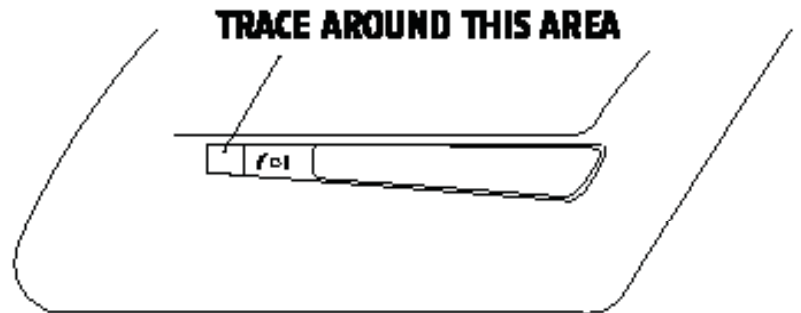
STEP 8.

Turn the door panel so it is face up. Put the lock knob insert plate in place on the panel with the mounting posts on the back of the plate going into the holes you have drilled. Using a pencil or marking pen trace around the perimeter of the rectangular area on the lock knob insert plate where the door opening handle will come through the panel. See illustration below.

When done tracing, remove the lock knob insert plate from the panel.

STEP 9.

Using a razor blade or utility knife, cut out the foam and plastic from the area where the door opening handle will come through the panel. Use your tracing line as a guide. Be careful not to cut too high into the armrest or too low into the panel, but remove enough material so the door opening handle will have good freedom of movement once the door panel is installed on the car.



STEP 10

Put the lock knob insert plate in place on the door panel and press into position. Being sure the 5 mounting posts align with the holes you have drilled. The lock knob, armrest trim and tension of the panel on the lock knob insert itself, hold it in position. If you feel it is necessary, the lock knob insert can be more securely fastened to the panel by applying epoxy to the mounting posts where they come through the back of the panel.

STEP 11.

Place your new door panel with felt face up on a flat surface. Align your armrest u-trim in the groove on the door panel. With your hands, push straight down on the armrest u-trim just hard enough so the mounting tabs leave small indentations in the door panel. Remove the armrest u-trim from the door panel.

STEP 12.

Using an awl, punch a small hole in the door panel where each mounting tab left an indentation. These will be used as pilot holes during the drilling operation.

STEP 13.

Using the electric drill with 1/4" drill bit, drill the holes in the door panel you have marked with the awl.

STEP 14.

Align the mounting tabs on the armrest u-trim with the holes you have drilled in the door panel and press the armrest u-trim into place on the door panel so the mounting tabs go through the panel.

STEP 15.

With the armrest u-trim in place, turn the door panel over and lay it face down on a clean, soft surface. Use the clean rags to support the u-trim and hold it in place.

STEP 16.

Using the long nose pliers, bend the mounting tabs of the armrest u-trim over so they rest flush against the black plastic door panel back. Secure the mounting tabs by stapling them to the door panel back with 1/4" staples. When stapling, straddle the staple over the mounting tab so one leg of the staple is on each side of the mounting tab. This completes the transfer of hardware necessary for a standard door panel. The next section deals with the transfer of deluxe door panel hardware. If you have a standard interior, you may skip the next section and refer directly to the section regarding installation of the panel back on the car.



Description (cont.)

C. TRANSFERRING DELUXE DOOR PANEL HARDWARE

STEP 1.

Remove Your original deluxe door panel insert plate above the armrest by removing the 5 Phillips head screws and washers from the back of your original door panel, and pull the plate free from the front of the panel.

STEP 2.

Lay your new door panel face up on a flat surface. Align the edges of your deluxe door panel insert plate with the inner border of the textured area above the armrest. See Illustration below.

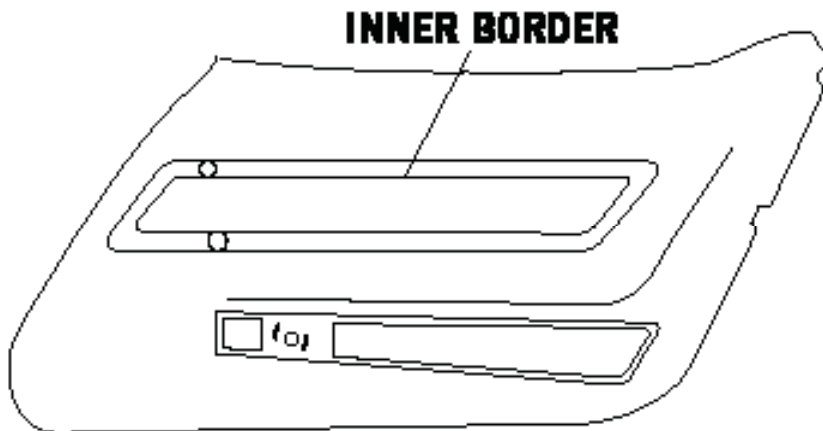
Once aligned, press down on the insert plate with your hands. Press hard enough so the 5 mounting posts on the back of the plate leave indentations in the textured area on the face of the panel. Remove the insert plate from the panel.

STEP 3.

Using the electric drill with 5/16" drill bit, drill a hole at each indentation left by the mounting posts. Drill completely through the door panel. Move the drill bit in and out of the holes several times to clean them of debris.

STEP 4.

Place your deluxe door panel insert plate on the door panel. Align the 5 mounting posts with the holes you have drilled. Turn the door panel face down and rest the insert plate on a support to hold it in place while you replace the screws and washers on the back of the panel. Be sure to orient the washers so that the screw heads will be countersunk into the back of the panel when completely tightened.



STEP 5.

Remove the deluxe door panel lower chrome trim strip from the bottom of your original panel by removing the 6 screws from the back of the panel. Then pull the chrome strip free from the front of the panel. The rear screw may be covered by the vinyl skirt of the carpet/vinyl strip.

STEP 6.

With a flat bed screwdriver, remove the staples from the back bottom edge of your original panel that hold the vinyl skirt of the carpet/vinyl strip to the panel. With all the staples removed, the carpet/vinyl strip should come free from the panel.

STEP 7.

Notice the carpet section of the carpet/vinyl strip removed from your original panel has a cardboard backing. This cardboard backing is used as a template for positioning the lower chrome trim strip on your new panel. Align the edges of the cardboard backing with the front and bottom edge of your new door panel. When the cardboard backing is in the correct position, note that there are v-shaped notches cut into the upper edge of the cardboard backing that correspond to the locations of the mounting posts on the chrome trim strip. Place the lower chrome trim strip on your new panel with the mounting posts aligned in the notches in the cardboard backing of the carpet/vinyl strip. Only the front and rear mounting posts will contact the door panel at this time. Press down with your hands on the lower chrome trim so the front and rear mounting posts leave indentations in the panel.

STEP 8.

Remove the carpet/vinyl strip and the lower chrome trim strip from the panel. With the electric drill and 5/16" drill bit, drill the holes for the front and rear mounting posts where the trim strip left indentations in the panel. Drill completely through the panel.

Description (cont.)

STEP 9.

Replace the chrome trim strip on the door panel, aligning the front and rear mounting posts with the holes you have drilled. The remaining 4 mounting posts will now contact the door panel. With your hands, press down on the chrome trim strip so the 4 mounting posts leave indentations on the face of the door panel.

STEP 10.

Again remove the chrome trim strip from the panel and with the electric drill and 5/16" drill bit, drill the holes for the remaining 4 mounting posts. Drill completely through the door panel. Once the holes are drilled, it may be necessary to use long nose pliers to remove the bits of foam or other debris from the holes.

STEP 11.

Place your carpet/vinyl strip on the door panel, aligning the edge of the cardboard backing with the front and bottom edge of the door panel. The top edge of the carpet/vinyl strip should align with the line of holes drilled for the chrome trim strip mounting posts.

STEP 12.

With a staple gun and 1/4" staples, staple the carpet/vinyl strip to the door panel, parallel and close to the top edge of the carpet/vinyl strip where the chrome trim strip will cover the staples when installed.

STEP 13.

Install the lower chrome trim strip on the panel by aligning the 6 mounting posts with the holes you have drilled and pushing it into place. Replace the screws and washers on the back of the door panel that hold the lower chrome trim strip in place. Be sure the washers are oriented so the screw heads are countersunk when fully tightened. On the face of the door panel, the lower chrome trim strip should cover the top edge of the carpet/vinyl strip and the staples you installed.

STEP 14.

Pull the vinyl skirt of the carpet/vinyl strip around the edge of the back door panel to the back of the door panel. Staple it in place along the edge of the door panel back. This completes the work necessary to transfer your deluxe door panel hardware to a door panel with felt. The following section deals with installing the door panel on the vehicle.

D. INSTALLATION OF THE DOOR PANEL ON THE CAR

STEP 1.

With a razor blade or utility knife, trim away the door skin material and foam covering the mounting holes for the door pull. These holes appear as circular indentations in the center of the two triangular shaped raised areas on the face of the panel. Remove enough foam to allow the door pull to fit flush against the panel.

STEP 2.

Hook the top of the panel over the door and position the panel, front to back. Note there is a triangular protrusion on the back of the panel near the top middle that fits into a recess in the door. The panel must be situated correctly front to back, in the recess area to allow the bottom of the panel to mount properly against the bottom of the door.

STEP 3.

Locate the two screw holes at the top of the door, one at the front corner and one at the rear corner. With an awl, poke a hole through the door panel in these two locations so that the screws will align with the holes when replaced in the panel.

STEP 4.

Push the bottom of the panel toward the door so the back of the panel contacts the window regulator post (if applicable). Push hard enough so the regulator post leaves an indentation in the foam on the back of the panel.

STEP 5.

Remove the panel from the door and cut out the hole for the window regulator post. Cut from the back of the panel using the indentation left by the post as a guide. Trim away enough material so the regulator post and window crank will have good freedom of movement but not so much that the crank doesn't completely cover the hole.



Description (cont.)

STEP 6.

Put the two door panel retaining clips on the panel, one in the front lower corner and one in the rear lower corner. These clips are necessary to hold the bottom of the panel tight against the door.

STEP 7.

Hook the top of the panel over the door and position is as before. Install the two screws in the top of the panel, one in the front corner and one in the rear corner.

STEP 8.

Push the bottom of the panel into position against the bottom of the door so the fasteners on the panel contact those on the door. Hold the panel in position and replace the screws in the door panel retaining clips at the front lower corner and rear lower corner of the door.

STEP 9.

Be sure the retaining clips are in the grooves on the back of the lock knob and window crank and replace these items in their respective locations.

STEP 10.

Replace the door opening handle and install the screw that holds it to the door opening mechanism.

STEP 11.

Place the door handle pull in position. With an awl, poke holes through the door panel back of the mounting screws and install these screws.