



Repairing Vehicle Headliner

Steps to replace a car's headliner (solid backing board style)

Written By: HemiBill



INTRODUCTION

This guide will show the basic steps to remove you old headliner, replace the loose material, and re-install the headliner into the vehicle. This type of headliner has been used since the early 1980s through today.



TOOLS:

- [General hand tools](#) (1)
- [Vacuum Cleaner](#) (1)



PARTS:

- [Headliner material](#) (1)
- [Spray headliner adhesive](#) (1)

Step 1 — Repairing Vehicle Headliner



- Prep the car for work.
- Disconnect the negative battery terminal.
- Removal of the right passenger seat may be necessary to help remove the headliner from the car.

Step 2



- Remove the trim.
 - Unbolt the sun visors, dome lamp, grab handles and any other accessories that are attached to the ceiling.
 - Remove the upper seat belt mounting loops.
 - Remove and/or pull back just enough of the side interior trim panels to gain access to the edge of the headliner. Complete removal of these panels is usually not needed.
 - Lower one side of the headliner panel and slide it over to clear the trim panels.
 - Turn the panel and remove it from the vehicle.

Step 3



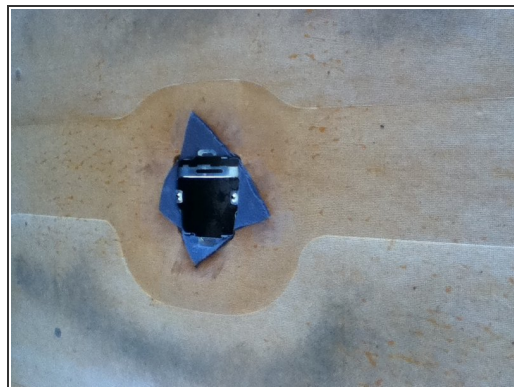
- Remove the old fabric from the board.
 - Place the headliner panel on a clean work table.
 - Carefully pull the old fabric material off the board. Usually the foam backing will remain stuck to the headliner board. Use a piece of the old material to rub the old foam loose from the board.
 - Vacuum the foam bits from the backing board.

Step 4



- Install new fabric:
 - If the board is damaged, repair it using aluminum tape. Any rough areas might show after the new fabric is applied.
 - Lay out the new fabric over the board. Pull 1/2 of it back over itself.
 - Spray headliner adhesive glue on 1/2 of the board and the back side of the fabric.
 - Carefully place the fabric onto the board starting from the center point and smooth it outward with your hand as you lay it down.
 - Pull up the other 1/2 of the fabric over the side you just glued down. Repeat the above steps to lay down this side of the fabric.

Step 5



- Trim up the fabric edges
 - Fold over the front & rear edges and glue them to the back side of the board about 1 inch from the edge.
 - Cut the side edges flush with the board. Also cut any access holes for the sun visors and other accessories that were previously removed.

Step 6



- Reinstall the headliner to the car:
 - Reverse the removal steps to re-install the headliner into the car.
 - Start one edge over the side trim panels and then raise the headliner into position over the other side trim panels.
 - Re-install the sun visors, dome lamp, seat belt upper loops and any other items that were previously removed
 - Lightly brush the headliner to remove marks & fingerprints.
 - If any of the trim clips break off of the interior trim panels, you can reattach them to the panel with 2-part epoxy glue.

To reassemble your device, follow these instructions in reverse order.