

Door panel backer board replacement

Please read all instructions before working on panels:

- 1) If you have an XR7, start removing the staples that hold the map pocket in place and then remove the map pocket.
- 2) Next remove the staples from the back of the old panel that holds the vinyl in place.
- 3) Carefully remove the vinyl from the old backer board and lift it up and over the top metal part of the door panel so that it is out of the way. Be careful if you have the standard Cougar panels, there is a plastic trim that can be damaged if bent.
- 4) To remove the old backer board from the top metal strip, use a putty knife and tap it under the metal at each spot where the metal is embedded into the board
- 5) Now that the board and metal have been separated, you will see that there are four metal points at each hole that need to be straightened out so they will go into the new backer board without folding over. I used a small pair of needle nose vise grips to do this job. This is also a good time to take out any dings and clean up any rust that may have developed over the years.
- 6) Installation of the new backer board starts with having two flat 2x4's the length of the door panel and nine to ten clamps for clamping the two parts together. You will need a hammer and two smaller pieces of 2x4' to fit between the nut bolt locating holes in step 8. You will also have to get a tube of panel adhesive. The adhesive that I found to work well for this job was (Lepage PL 400 Subfloor & deck adhesive) that can be found at any Home Depot.
- 7) Start with running a bead of adhesive in a zig zag pattern the length of the metal strip along where the perforated holes are stamped in the metal strip that you have already straightened out. There will be four nuts and bolts that are supplied for you to help align the two parts. There are four predrilled holes at the top of the new backer board, Align the four holes in the board with the four holes in the top metal strip and

bolt them together. Snug up the nuts and bolts but don't bend the metal strip while doing so. Remember the nuts and bolts are only to help line up the parts, not to bolt them together.

- 8) With the hammer and two smaller blocks of wood, put one on the back side of the backer board and one on top. With your hammer hit the top board to sandwich them together and continue to work your way from left to right. The metal and backer board don't have to be totally flush with each other at this point. The backer board and metal will be secure enough to carefully take the nuts and bolts out but be careful they can still separate at this point. It will also be a good idea to support the panel with the other full length 2x4s while doing this step so that the whole panel is at one level and flat.
- 9) Now take the two full length 2x4s and put one on the back side of the board and one on top like you did before and clamp everything together. Also it would be a good idea to support the whole panel with the smaller 2x4s to have everything flat in this step like you did before. Let it sit over night before taking the clamps off, but don't reinstall the vinyl for 48 hours. This will let the adhesive cure fully to handle.
- 10) Now that your panel is together with the top metal part of the door, you can reinstall the vinyl with contact cement. If you don't feel confident to do this step you can bring it to an upholstery shop to finish the job.

Although, the material that these panels are made of is better than the OEM panels of 40 years ago, you may still want to seal the bottom edge of the panel. You can use the "Varathane brand" Diamond wood finish for outdoor use that works well and it won't swell the wood.

There are also pictures to follow along to help you with this job at,
West Coast Classic Cougars.

www.classic-cougar.com/index.php