

## Technical Tips

### No1 Restoring Seats and fitting new covers

Seats are now on the whole starting to look a little tired after 22 plus years so need a bit of a spruce up this article shows you how.

(1) Remove the seat from the car and then remove the sliding mechanism from the seat and so it looks as below.



*"The clips are very springy and may fly into your face"*

(2) Remove the fasteners by gently knocking them away from the side. Be careful as the clips are very springy and may fly into your face.





(3) Once you have removed the fasteners you will be able to peel the old seat cover away from the frame. You will also be able with the aid of some pliers, to remove the large rubber diaphragm that supports the base cushion. Tip on this one is to cut the rubber in half and it will almost fall out as you will be using a new one when we put it back together.

*“Tip on this one is to cut the rubber in half and it will almost fall out”*





(4) After you have removed the seat base cover you will be able to pull the seat back up (may be glued down in which case you need to peel off the vinyl) to reveal the clips holding the back part together - these can be removed with the aid of a screwdriver.

*"The seatback may be glued down in which case you need to peel off the vinyl"*



(5) Once you have the vinyl out of the way the ribbons holding the middle of the back in place are visible— simply remove using a screw driver or blunt edged tool.

(6) Remove the fasteners on the vinyl once you have the ribbons out of the way.



*"The seat back foams are normally ok so try not to damage them when you pull the back off"*

(7) Make sure you have removed all the fasteners and then peel the back sides away from the foam boards. The seat cover will then lift off the frame. The seat back foams are normally ok so try not to damage them when you pull the back off.





(8) Once you have everything off now is a good time to repaint the frame. As you can see here rust does form on the underside so it's well worth sanding it down and repairing the seat if any of the welds are broken.

Tip—In RHD countries there is always a shortage of drivers seats because they take the most wear surprisingly enough the same is true in LHD countries so when you can't find a drivers seat in your country try another!

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(9) A good rust proof at this stage will help to ensure the seats last another 20 years. I followed this with a thick coat of black paint.

(10) Most back foams are in a reasonable state as this one is so all I did here is to reinforce the edges with a black duck tape especially on the edges as the frame often comes through.



*"all I did here is to reinforce the edges with a black duck tape especially on the edges as the frame often comes through"*

(11) Here you see the finished seat awaiting new foams for the base and seat covers



(12) First job is to place the foam base over the frame to check for fit.

*“time taken now  
will produce a  
much better end  
job”*



(13) Once you have the foam central take a marker pen and draw round the inner edge. This is and so when you glue the base on it's all lined up correctly—time taken now will produce a much better end job.



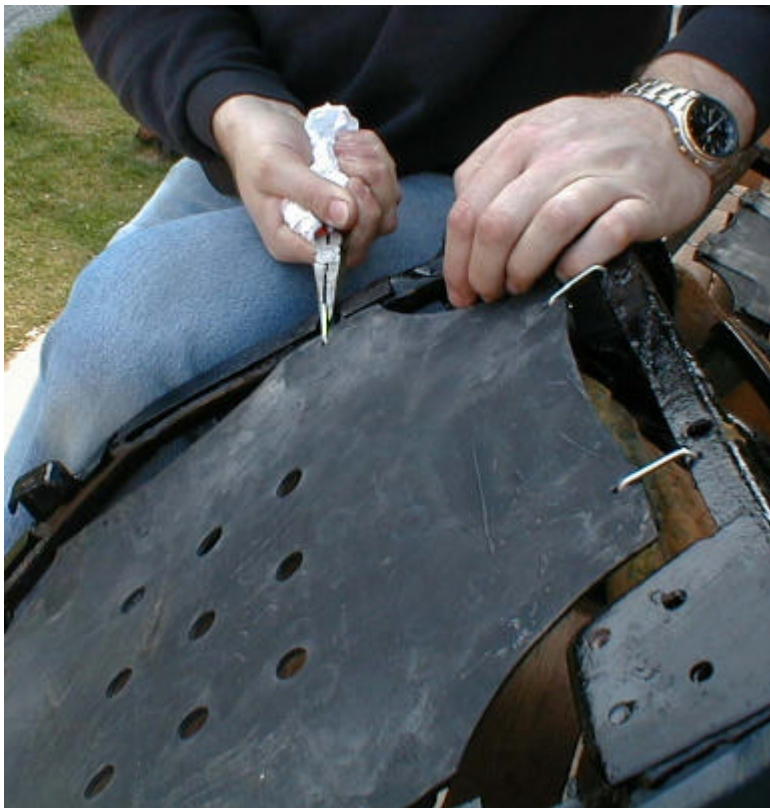
(14) Take the seat cover base turn it upside down and position the material tab on the underside of the foam as shown. Place a suitable glue on the foam and seat cover tab and position together, time taken in moving it a round to get the best result will result in a better end job and it's final position will depend very much on the foam set you are using. This is an aftermarket set sold by S&S Preparations in the UK.

*"This is an aftermarket foam set sold by S&S Preparations in the UK"*



(15) Take the base cover piece of foam and glue to the base making sure you line it up with the lines you drew earlier.





(16) While the glue on the foam base is drying fit the rubber diaphragm. This is best done by fitting the hooks into two sides first and then using some thin nosed pliers and some thing to grip them really well pull like mad until you can position the hook into it's relevant hole. Hard work but it can be done with perseverance.

*"Hard work but it can be done with perseverance"*

(17) Finished seat with diaphragm in place





(18) Make sure the glue on the foam base is now dry and position over the frame as shown. A smear of glue along the top of the frame will help to hold in place. Move the foam about until you get the exact position you require and then wait for the glue to dry.

*"I used a hammer to persuade one or two—beware of flying clips!"*



(19) Once the glue has dried the outer edges can be pulled over the edge of the foam and once in the right position the little spring clips we took off at the beginning can be pushed back on—I used a hammer to persuade one or two—beware of flying clips!

(20) Hope fully by now your seat should look like the one in the picture. You may have to remove clips if the position isn't right so don't push them too far home until you are sure as removal often causes rips!



"don't push them too far home until you are sure as removal often causes rips!"

- (21) The back goes on the reverse of the way we took it off. The slot you can see is where the ribbons go through. On new covers you may have to cut them into long strips. Once again care taken positioning will give a much better end result. Once the back cover is in position there is a section of vinyl that needs to be glued to the underside of the frame—it may also need some trimming and so the sliding seat assembly bolts can be refitted





*"Remember taking your time and trying the fit with out glue or clips, will save a lot of disappointment and ensure your seats turn out just like this one"*

(22) Finished seat looking good as new!