

LEFT HAND TO RIGHT HAND DASH CONVERSION

By Rob Noonan.

Step 1. Start with the glove box side. Mark and cut along the dotted line shown in diagram 1. This cut should be on the face just where the metal begins to turn in. Use a good pair of tin snips. It's best to have a variety of types, ie straight, curved, left hand, right hand and use work gloves.

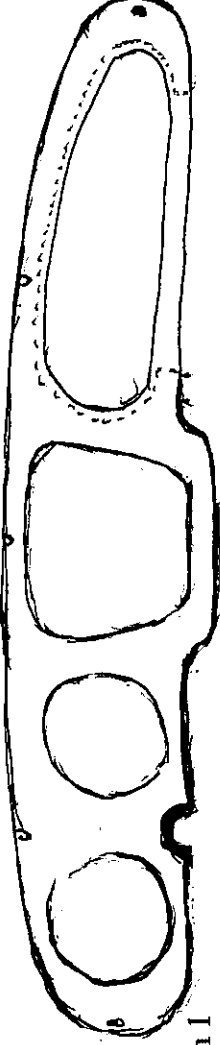


Diagram 1

Step 2. Turn the cut out piece of metal over and using your hands reshape it to fit back into the place where it came from, making a RHD glove box opening.

Step 3. Make two thick paper templates, one of the hole that you have just cut out and mark the mounting holes for reference. It should look like diagram 2. The other template being the tachometer / speedometer side, it should look like diagram 3.

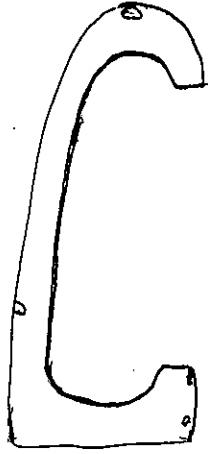


Diagram 2

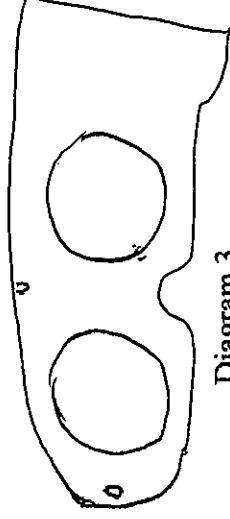


Diagram 3

Step 4. Turning the glove box template over. Place it on the left hand side and locate its position by using the mounting holes. Mark and cut out the glove box hole.

Step 5. Weld or braze on the backside, the reshaped glove box opening from step 2 into the left side.

Step 6. Using the glove box hole template (diagram 2) again mark and cut out a new piece of sheet metal (body sheet metal 1mm thick is best) Weld this in to fill in the RH side of the dash. The bottom edge will need to be rolled using a piece of pipe and a hammer.

Step 7. Use the template shown in diagram 3 but turned over, mark and cut the holes for the tachometer and speedometer. Also the hump for the steering column which will need to be cut out of the remains from step 4. and welded into its correct position.

Step 8. Remove the ply board from the glove box door and drill out the rivets to remove the hinge. Turn the door around and refit the hinge using small nuts and bolts. Refit the ply board backwards after it has been recovered.

Some useful tips: 1. Weld by tacking many spots diagonally around the work and then further welding in later. This will greatly reduce distortion. 2. If welding joints are good only a small amount of spray putty will be required. 3. Recover using contact adhesive and use a hair drier to soften the vinyl if necessary.