



**Application:** 1965-1966

**Part Includes**

## Panel Installation



### Tools Needed



### A. REMOVAL OF YOUR ORIGINAL PANEL FROM DOOR

#### STEP 1.

Inspect the door panel or panels you have received. Verify that they are the right year, color, side, and style, coupe or convertible, for your Corvette. 1965-66 door panels can be distinguished from 1967 by the location of the hole for the lock knob. In 1965-66, it was located in the top rear corner of the of the panel, just inside the upper rear corner of the metal trim. In 1967, the lock knob was more than centrally located, about 5" to the rear of the door opening knob.

A coupe panel has a notch, measuring approximately 3", incorporated into the top front edge of the panel by the vent window, to provide clearance for the door post. A convertible panel is straight across the top.

#### STEP 2.

Open the door. Remove the screws that attach the five door panel retaining clips to the door. Two of these clips are located in the front edge of the panel by the hinges, and three others are along the bottom of the panel.

#### STEP 3.

Remove the window crank (if applicable), vent window crank and lock knob. There is a clip in a groove on the back side of each of these items that holds them in place on the panel. These clips must be removed with a window crank removal tool before the cranks or knob can be pulled from the regular posts or lock knob posts.

#### STEP 4.

Unscrew the door opening knob from the door opening mechanism.

#### STEP 5.

Remove the screw from each end of the door pull handle with a Phillips screwdriver and pull the handle free from the panel.

#### STEP 6.

Remove the two screws on the underside of the armrest with a Phillips screwdriver.

#### STEP 7.

Pull the bottom of the panel away from the door until the panel clears with the window crank and then lift the panel and pull it free from the door.

#### STEP 8.

Remove the five door panel retaining clips from the panel by pushing them toward the center of the panel until they release from the cardboard door panel back.



Mamotorworks



@CorvettePassion



MidAmericaMotorworks

**2900 North Third Street, Effingham, IL 62401**

**800.500.1500 • Worldwide: 217.540.4200 • FAX: 217.540.4800**

**www.mamotorworks.com • generalmail@mamotorworks.com**

©Mid America Motorworks, Inc. All rights reserved.



608-527

## Description (cont.)

### B. TRANSFERRING YOUR DOOR PANEL TRIM

#### STEP 1.

Place your original panel face down on a large, flat clean work surface.

#### STEP 2.

Remove the staples from the back of the panel that secure the metal prongs holding the metal trim to the panel. Use a flat blade screwdriver. Work only on the "race track" section above the armrest at this time.

#### STEP 3.

Carefully straighten the metal prongs on the "race track" section with needle nose pliers. Avoid repeated bending of these tabs as they are soft and will break.

#### STEP 4.

Remove the "race track" trim from the front of the panel. It may be necessary to use a flat blade screwdriver to gently pry the trim loose until you get it started.

#### STEP 5.

Place your original panel face down again. Straighten the four metal prongs that retain the bezel surrounding the opening for the door opening knob and then remove the bezel from the front of the panel.

#### STEP 6.

Remove the staples from the back of the panel that secure the metal prongs holding the armrest trim to the panel. Use a flat blade screwdriver.

#### STEP 7.

Carefully straighten the metal prongs on the armrest trim with the needle-nose pliers. Some of the prongs securing this piece of trim are located inside the actual armrest of the door panel. These prongs can be reached with the needle-nose pliers through the access holes in the cardboard back of the door panel.

#### STEP 8.

Once all the metal prongs are straightened, work the armrest trim free from the front of the panel, being very careful not to bend the trim.

#### STEP 9.

If your door panel has an escutcheon around the window crank, remove it by straightening the three metal prongs that go through the panel and then pull the escutcheon free from the front of the panel.

#### STEP 10.

With all of the metal trim off of the panel, straighten all of the metal prongs to prepare them for installation on your new Corvette door panel.

At this point, it is also the perfect time to go over all the trim with a metal polish and really make it shine. The recessed center of the "race track" trim and the armrest trim can be easily touched up with flat black paint. These two steps will bring back the original luster to your door panel trim. If your trim is missing the metal prongs or in some other way unusable, replacement sets are available.

#### STEP 11.

Place your door panel on a clean flat work surface.

#### STEP 12.

Note that there is a slip joint where each of the two horizontal pieces of "race track" trim fit into the end pieces. These joints give you a certain amount of adjustability in sizing the trim to your new panel. Place the "race track" trim in position over the new panel and adjust the length by pushing or pulling on the slip joints as needed.

Due to the nature of the construction of the door panel, with all abs and foam on one side of a flexible cardboard track, they are susceptible to a very small amount of bowing during storage and transit. This is normal and does not affect the fit or the quality of the panel and is eliminated once the panel is installed on the door.



## Description (cont.)

### STEP 13.

With the "race track" trim properly sized as to length as described above, and with the assistant to help keep the door panel as flat as it will be once installed on the car, place the "race track" trim in position on the panel. With your hands, push down on the trim so the metal prongs leave indentations in the vinyl covering of the door panel. Be careful not to push so hard that you bend the prongs.

### STEP 14.

Remove the trim from the panel. Punch a small hole with an awl at each indentation left by a metal prong.

### STEP 15.

Place the "race track" trim in position on the panel and align the metal prongs on the trim with the holes you punched with the awl. Carefully push the prongs through the holes and seat trim in the groove on the face of the panel.

### STEP 16.

Be sure the trim is tight against the face of the panel and then bend each of the metal prongs over so it rests against the cardboard door panel back. Secure each prong by stapling it to the cardboard door panel back. Use a stapel gun with 1/4" staples. Straddle the staples over each metal prong so one leg of the staples is on each side of the prong.

### STEP 17.

Carefully cut away the vinyl and foam covering the hole for the door opening mechanism with a utility knife, x-acto knife, or a single edge razor blade. Cut from the front of the panel so you can see the edges of the opening. Only cut away enough material to allow the bezel to fit snugly in the hole. Start with a small hole and gradually enlarge it to size. Once the hole is trimmed out, place the bezel in position and bend the four mounting prongs around to the back of the panel to hold it in place.

### STEP 18.

The armrest trim strip is the next piece to be installed on your new panel. These pieces are susceptible to a lot of abuse due to their location on the door panel and often are in poor condition. If this is the case with your armrest trim strip, replacements are available.

With all of the metal prongs on the armrest strip straightened according to Diagram A below, place it in position on the panel. Push gently on the trim strip so the prongs leave small indentations in the ABS covering of the door panel. Remove the trim piece from the panel.

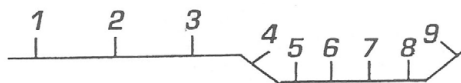
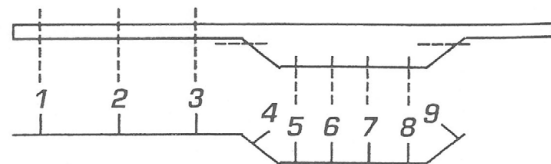


DIAGRAM A

DIAGRAM B

TOP VIEW



### STEP 19.

Starting at the rear of the panel, insert prong #9 on the trim piece, through the hole you punched. Then work toward the front of the panel, inserting the prongs into the corresponding holes as you go. It may be necessary to bend the armrest trim piece slightly at the three corners around the perimeter of the armrest in order for it to fit tightly in the groove on the panel.

### STEP 20.

Once the trim piece is in place on the panel, bend over all of the metal retaining prongs. Secure the front three prongs to the panel by stapling them to the door panel back.



## Description (cont.)

### C. INSTALLATION OF THE DOOR PANEL ON THE CAR

#### STEP 1.

Using a razor blade or utility knife, trim away the vinyl and foam covering the door lock knob hole. Cut from the front of the panel. Start with a small hole and gradually enlarge it to the proper size.

#### STEP 2.

Trim away enough vinyl and foam at each of the holes for the door pull so that when the pull is installed on the panel it rests tightly against the face of the panel.

#### STEP 3.

If your corvette is equipped with electric windows you don't need to create a hole in the panel for the window regulator post. If you have manual windows, punch a hole through the door panel with an awl at the location indicated on the cardboard door panel back for the window regulator post. From the front of the panel, enlarge this hole with a razor blade. ONLY MAKE THE HOLE LARGE ENOUGH TO SLIP OVER THE POST. IT CAN BE MADE LARGER ONCE THE PANEL IS ON THE CAR.

#### STEP 4.

If your corvette is equipped with manual windows and has an escutcheon around the window crank, the escutcheon should be installed next.

The three holes for the metal prongs on the escutcheon are indicated on the cardboard door panel back surrounding the hole for the window crank. Punch a small hole with an awl at each of these three locations.

Insert the metal prongs on the escutcheon through the holes you have created and bend them over till they are flat against the door panel back. Secure them with staples.

#### STEP 5.

Punch a small hole with an awl at the two locations under the armrest for the retaining bolts.

#### STEP 6.

Install the five door panel clips on the door panel at the five locations indicated on the door panel back.

#### STEP 7.

Hook the upper door panel support over the top edge of the door and then lower the bottom edge of the panel into position. If necessary, enlarge the holes for the window crank posts to ensure adequate clearance.

#### STEP 8.

Replace the screws that go through the five door panel clips around the front and bottom edges of the door.

#### STEP 9.

Place the door pull into position on the panel and replace the screw at each end that secures it to the door.

#### STEP 10.

Replace the two screws under the armrest.

#### STEP 11.

Install the lock knob and window cranks. Be sure the retaining springs are in place in the slot on the back of each crank and the knob before pushing them straight on to their respective posts.

#### STEP 12.

Screw the door opening ball back on the door opening mechanism and your installation is complete.