



**Application:** 1970- 1975

**Part Includes**  
**2- Seat Covers**

## Reproduction Seat Cover Installation



### Tools Needed



While it is possible to reuse the original clips, wires and hog rings from your seats, it is highly recommended that you purchase a Seat Cover Installation Kit from Mid America Motorworks (Part # 602-173). This kit contains all of the wires, clips, and hogrings necessary for the installation of the seat covers. With this kit you won't have to worry about rust, loss, breakage, or metal fatigue of the original pieces, and you can be assured of the correct assortment of new pieces to properly install your seat covers.

### **PLEASE READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS IN THEIR ENTIRETY BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR NEW SEAT COVER INSTALLATION.**

Points covered in later steps may clarify questions you have early in the installation. Be especially attentive to those steps concerning additional items you may need to complete your seat cover installation, such as seat foam.

When working on a project such as removing seats, it is often impossible to determine the condition of the underlying parts like seat frames and foam until they are actually uncovered. We have often found that foam and or frames need additional work in order to obtain a top quality seat cover installation.

Before beginning your seat cover installation, please compare your new seat covers to the seats in your Corvette. From experience, we have found that it is not unusual for a vehicle to have incorrect seats. Many times seats are used from the previous or following model year, depending on when the vehicle was manufactured. Additionally, the seats are an aspect of the vehicle that easily lend themselves to owner customization.

Verify that your new covers are the correct year, color, and material, leather or vinyl, for your Corvette. Compare the overall size of each piece, back and bottom, the number of pleats, the length and width of each pleat, stitching pattern, etc. If you find any discrepancies, return the covers to Mid America Motorworks for replacement.

**SEAT COVERS CANNOT BE RETURNED FOR REPLACEMENT IF INCORRECT AFTER INSTALLATION HAS BEEN STARTED.**

These instructions are intended for use as general guidelines in the installation of your new seat covers. Differences between individual seats may necessitate slightly different procedures than those listed here.

Also, **IN RECOVERING SEATS YOU ARE PERFORMING A SKILLED CRAFT.**



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## Description (cont.)

### **DISASSEMBLY OF THE SEAT FOR NEW COVER INSTALLATION**

#### **STEP 1.**

Remove each seat from the car by using the appropriately sized socket and removing the 4 bolts on each seat that secure it to the floor pan of the vehicle. It may be necessary to slide the seat as far as possible to the rear and remove the front bolts and as far as possible to the front to remove the rear bolts. With all 4 bolts removed, the seat should be able to be lifted free and removed from the vehicle

#### **STEP 2.**

With the seat out of the vehicle, remove the slide tracks on the bottom of the seat by using the appropriately sized socket and removing the 4 bolts, 2 per track, that secure the tracks to the seat frame. With the tracks removed from the seat frame, now is the perfect time to refurbish them. They can be easily wirebrushed to remove rust and then painted before installing them back on the seat frames.

#### **STEP 3.**

With a Phillips screwdriver, remove the 2 screws in the bottom corners of the fiberglass seat. With these two screws removed, pull out gently on the bottom of the fiberglass seat back and then lift it up to free it from the seat.

If your fiberglass seats backs are cracked or damaged in some other way, replacement backs in the correct color are available from Mid America Motorworks. Be sure to specify year and color when ordering.

#### **STEP 4.**

With a Phillips screwdriver, remove the 2 screws that retain the chrome bezel around the seat back release button at the top of the seat and remove the bezel from the seat.

#### **STEP 5.**

If your vehicle is equipped with shoulder belts that go through the seat back, there will be a bezel on the back side of the seat back. Remove this bezel by taking out the 2 screws that hold it in place with a Phillips screwdriver.

#### **STEP 6.**

Remove the seat back locking mechanism from the set. This is accomplished by removing the 2 bolts that secure the bottom end of the mechanism to the seat cushion with a correctly sized socket. Then remove the 4 bolts that fasten the mechanism to the seat back frame and the 2 nuts at the top of the mechanism that secure it around the release button. With these 6 bolts and 2 nuts removed, the mechanism should come free from the seat.

#### **STEP 7.**

Separate the seat back from the cushion by removing the hinge bolts with a Phillips screwdriver.

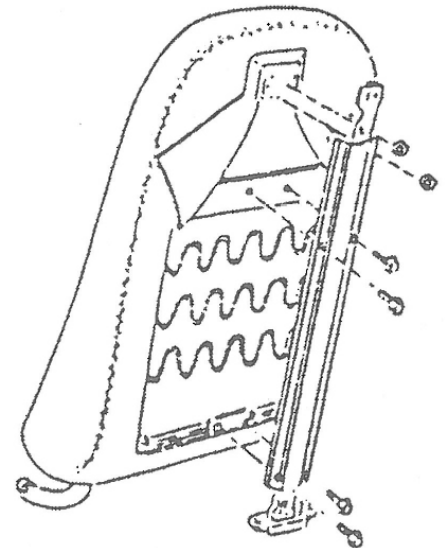
#### **STEP 8.**

Remove the two seat back stop screws from the bottom of the seat back with a Phillips screwdriver

#### **STEP 9.**

Remove the 2 seat back bumpers from the rear edge of the seat bottom with a Phillips screwdriver.

This completes the disassembly of the seat necessary to install the new covers.





## Description (cont.)

### REMOVAL OF ORIGINAL SEAT COVER FROM SEAT BACK AND ISNTALLATION OF NEW COVER

#### STEP 1.

Place the seat back face down on a padded work surface. With needlenose pliers, twist and remove the hog rings that secure the actual seat cover to the frame around the perimeter of the area covered by the fiberglass seat back. See Diagram.

#### STEP 2.

With these hog rings removed, turn the seat cover inside out by pulling all of the seat cover material to the front of the seat.

#### STEP 3.

With the seat cover inside out, remove the 3 nuts from the top rear of the seat back that hold the metal insert in place on the top front of the seat. With the nuts removed, the insert will come free from the front of the seat.

#### STEP 4.

With needle-nose pliers, twist and remove the hog rings that secure the 3 wires to the seat frame. See Diagram.

With these hog rings removed, the seat cover and foam cushion will come free from the seat frame, but the cover will still be secured to the cushion.

**NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO INSPECT THE SEAT FRAME AND MAKE ANY REPAIRS OR REPAINT IF SO DESIRED.**

#### STEP 5.

Place the seat cover and foam cushion face down on your work surface. With pliers, grasp one of the 3 retaining wires by its end and pull it straight out to free it from the clips. Repeat this procedure on the other 2 wires. With the wires removed, the seat cover will come free from the cushion by pulling the cover from the front of the cushion.

#### STEP 6.

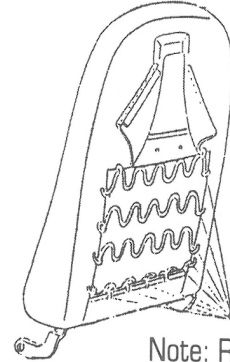
With the cover seperated from the cushion, note the length and location of the clips still attached to the seat cover. Once noted, unhook the clips from the wires in the listing on the seat cover.

#### STEP 7.

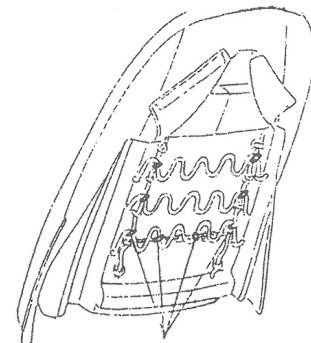
Remove the wires in the listing on the seat cover.

**This completes the removal of the seat cover from the seat back. Before beginning the installation of the new cover, inspect the seat foam. In order to obtain the best results, the foam must be in sufficient condition to properly fill out the new cover.**

If your seat foam is very soft, compressed, torn or damaged in some other way, it is highly reccomended it be replaced. Replacement sets of foam are available from Mid America Corvette.



Note: Remove hog rings around perimeter of opening



Note: Remove all hog rings that attach wires to frame



## Description (cont.)

### STEP 8.

Turn your new seat cover back inside-out and place it face down on your work surface. With a pair of scissors, razor blade, utility knife, or x-acto knife cut a small slit in the ends of each piece of listing. See Diagram.

### STEP 9.

Slide the correct size wire into each piece of listing of the seat cover by inserting it through the slit you have cut.

### STEP 10.

With the wires inserted in the listing, replace the clips removed in Step #6 by hooking them through the listing material and around the wires. Be sure to replace the clips in their proper location based upon their length.

### STEP 11.

With all the clips back in place in the listing, the next step is to align the seat cover on the foam, pull the clips through the foam and secure them to wires on the back of the foam. To make this easier a clip installation tool is easily fashioned from a piece of wire and dowel pin or similar object. See Diagram.

### STEP 12.

Starting with the horizontal section of listing, push your clip installation tool through the seat foam from the back side of the foam, hook a clip and pull it back through the frame. Be sure the listing on the seat cover fits into the channel in the seat foam. Once you have the clip pulled through the foam place the appropriate size wire in position on the seat foam back and hook the clip over the wire. Repeat this procedure and hook the remaining clips for the horizontal section of listing over the wire.

### STEP 13.

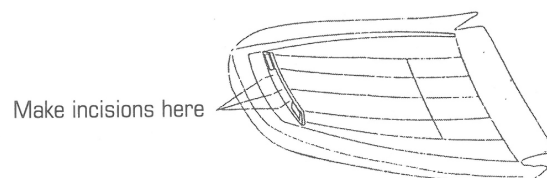
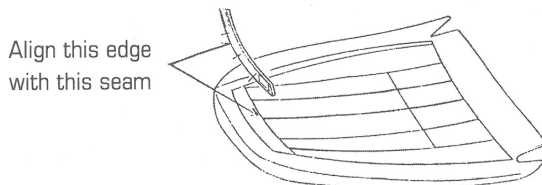
Repeat Step #12 with each of the 2 vertical sections of listing.

### STEP 14.

Turn the cover right-side out so that, in effect, the seat foam is inside the cover and place it face up on your work surface.

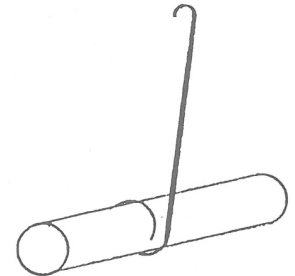
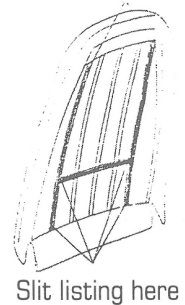
### STEP 15.

Line up the bottom of the metal insert for the top of the seat, if applicable, (removed in Step #3 this section), with the seam across the top of the seat, centering it from left to right. Once properly aligned, tilt the metal insert so the 3 mounting prongs on the back of the insert touch the seat cover. Where each prong touches the material, make a small, cross shaped incision with a razor blade. See Diagrams below.



### STEP 16.

Place the seat cover and foam in position on the seat frame. Be sure the frame is sandwiched between the 2 sections of foam at the top of the seat.





## **Description (cont.)**

### **STEP 17.**

Install the metal insert on top front of the seat by inserting the 3 prongs on the insert through the slits cut in the seat cover in Step #15 and through the corresponding holes in the seat frame. Secure it in position by replacing the 3 speed nuts on the back of the seat frame.

### **STEP 18.**

Place the appropriate wire in the listing across the very bottom of the seat cover. Pull the bottom of the seat cover down and around the bottom of the seat foam and frame and secure it in place by fastening it to the seat frame with hog rings and hog ring pliers. The hog rings should go through the listing, around the wire, and hook to the metal seat frame in the slots provided for this purpose.

### **STEP 19.**

Replace the seat back locking mechanism in the seat back frame by placing it in position of the frame and installing the 2 nuts at the top by the release button and the 4 screws, 2 in the middle and 2 at the bottom of the mechanism.

### **STEP 20.**

Place the 2 small wires in the listing at the top of the opening covered by the fiberglass seat back.

### **STEP 21.**

Pull the top section of the seat cover into position. Be sure that the cover is straight and the velcro fastener down the middle of the back of the top section of the seat cover is straight and in the center of the seat.

### **STEP 22.**

With the seat cover in proper position, you will be able to feel the brackets from mounting the fiberglass seat back through the seat cover material. Cut a slit in the seat cover at the base of each of these 2 brackets with a razor blade. Once the slits are cut, lift up the seat cover and slide it down over the brackets so the brackets protrude through the slits.

### **STEP 23.**

With seat cover in proper position and the fiberglass seat back brackets protruding through the slits, fasten the wires in the listing to the seat frame with hog rings and hog ring pliers. The hog rings should go through the listing around the wire and hook to the metal seat frame in the slots provided for this purpose.

### **STEP 24.**

Fasten the velcro closure in the top of the seat back, it should be smooth and straight.

### **STEP 25.**

Place the appropriate wires in the listing on the sides of the opening covered by the fiberglass seat back.

### **STEP 26.**

Working on one side at a time, pull the listing toward the center of the seat and fasten it to the metal seat frame with hog rings and hog ring pliers. The hog rings should go through the listing, around the wire, and hook to the seat frame in the slots provided.

### **STEP 27.**

Fasten the wires that hold the seat cover to the foam to the springs of the seat frame with hog rings and hog ring pliers.

THIS COMPLETES THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION AND ATTACHMENT OF THE SEAT COVER BACK TO THE SEAT FRAME. THE SEAT COVER SHOULD BE SMOOTH, STRAIGHT, AND WRINKLE FREE ON THE SEAT FRAME.

**SMALL WRINKLES CAN BE LESSENERED OR ELIMINATED BY ALTERNATELY HEATING THE AREA WITH A BLOW DRYER OR HEAT GUN AND ALLOWING IT TO COOL. AN UPHOLSTERY STEAMER, IF AVAILABLE, WOULD WORK EVEN BETTER.**



## Description (cont.)

### STEP 28.

The button for the releases of the seat back locking mechanism can be felt through the seat cover material at the top of the velcro closure. With a razor blade, cut away the seat cover material covering this button. **START WITH A SMALL HOLE AND GRADUALLY ENLARGE IT TO THE PROPER SIZE.**

### STEP 29.

If your car is equipped with shoulder belts that go through the seat back, use the razor blade to trim away the seat cover material covering the holes in the seat frame. Start small in the center of the openings and gradually enlarge the holes to the proper size. Once the holes are trimmed out, replace the bezel and 2 screws on the back side of the seat back. It may be necessary to make small x-shaped incisions for the screws.

### STEP 30.

With the razor blade, make a small x-shaped incision over the 2 holes in the bottom edge of the seat frame for the seat back stop screws. Replace the 2 seat back stop screws.

### STEP 31.

Replace the fiberglass seat back by hooking the top of the seat back over the brackets on the seat and lowering it into position. Replace the 2 screws in the bottom corners of the seat back.

**THIS COMPLETES THE INSTALLATION OF THE SEAT COVER BACK ON YOUR SEAT. THE NEXT SECTION DEALS WITH INSTALING THE SEAT COVER ON THE SEAT CUSHION.**

## **REMOVAL OF ORIGINAL SEAT COVER FROM SEAT BOTTOM AND INSTALLATION OF NEW COVER**

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### STEP 1.

Place the seat cushion face down on a padded work surface. With needle-nose pliers and a screwdriver, pull up the seat cover retainer clips that fasten the lower edge of the seat cover bottom to the metal seat frame. It may be necessary to push down on the seat to compress the seat foam in order to have enough slack in the seat cover material to remove the seat cover retaining clips.

### STEP 2.

Once all the seat cover retaining clips are removed from the perimeter of the seat cover bottom, use needle-nose pliers to twist and remove the hog rings that fasten the seat cover retaining wires to the seat frame springs.

### STEP 3.

With pliers, grasp one of the 3 retaining wires by its end and pull it straight out to free it from the clips. Free the other 2 wires in the same manner.

With the wires removed, the seat cover will come free from the seat foam by pulling the cover from the top of the foam.

### STEP 4.

With the cover seperated from the foam, note the length and location of the clips still attached to the listing on the seat cover. Once noted, unhook the clips from the wires in the listing.

### STEP 5.

Remove the wires in the listing of the seat cover.

**THIS COMPLETES THE REMOVAL OF THE SEAT COVER FROM THE SEAT BOTTOM. BEFORE BEGINNING THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW COVER, INSPECT THE SEAT FOAM. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE BEST RESULTS, THE FOAM MUST BE IN SUFFICIENT CONDITION TO PROPERLY FILL OUT THE NEW COVER.**

**IF YOUR SEAT FOAM IS VERY SOFT, COMPRESSED, TORN, OR DAMGED IN SOME OTHER WAY, IT IS HIGHLY RECCOMENDED THAT IT BE REPLACED.**

### STEP 6.

Turn your new seat cover bottom inside-out and place it face down on your work surface. With a pair of scissors, or a razor blade cut a small slit in the ends of each piece of listing.

### STEP 7.

Slide the correct size wire into each piece of listing on the seat cover by inserting it through the the slit you have cut.



## Description (cont.)

### STEP 8.

With the wires inserted in the listing, replace the clips removed in Step #4 by hooking them through the the listing material and around the wires. Be sure to replace the clips in their proper location based upon their length.

### STEP 9.

With all the clips back in place in the listing, the next step is to align the seat cover on the foam, pull the slips through the foam and secure them to the wires on the back of the foam. To make this easier, use the clip installation tool described in Step #11 of the preceding section.

### STEP 10.

Starting with the section of listing that goes across the width of the seat cushion, push your clip installation toll through the seat foam cushion from the bottom of the foam, hook a clip and pull it back through the foam. Be sure the listing on the seat cover fits into the channel in the foam. Once you have the lip pulled through the foam, place the appropriate size wire in position on the seat foam cushion and hook the clip over the wire. Repeat this procedure and hook the remaining clips for this section of listing over the wire.

### STEP 11.

Repeat Step #10 with each of the 2 sections of listing that run the length of the seat cushion.

### STEP 12.

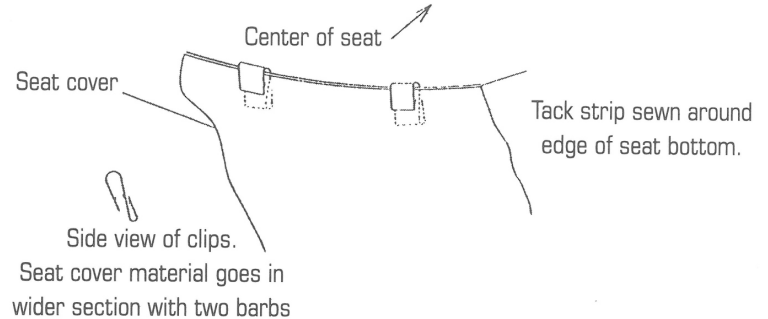
Turn the seat cover right-side out so that, in effect, the set foam is inside the seat cover.

### STEP 13.

Place the foam with the seat cover attached in position on the seat frame and then turn everything upside down on your work surface.

### STEP 14.

Place the "S" shaped seat cover retaining clips in position around the perimeter of the seat cover. The clips must be installed so that the open slots on the clips are all facing up and the clips are all inside the seat cover, toward the center of the seat. See Diagram.



### STEP 15.

Starting in the middle of the front of the seat, fold the edge of the seat cover over so the open slot on the "S" shaped seat cover retaining clip can be fastened over the edge of the metal seat frame.

### STEP 16.

Fasten the "S" shaped seat cover retaining clips along the rear edge of the seat bottom.

### STEP 17.

Fasten the wires that hold the seat cover to the seat foam to the springs of the seat frame with hog rings and hog ring pliers.

THIS COMPLETES THE ACTUAL INSTALLATION AND ATTACHMENT OF THE SEAT COVER BOTTOM TO THE SEAT FRAME. THE SEAT COVER SHOULD BE SMOOTH, STRAIGHT, AND WRINKLE-FREE ON THE SEAT FRAME.

**SMALL WRINKLES CAN BE LESSENERED OR ELIMINATED BY ALTERNATELY HEATING THE WRINKLED AREA WITH A BLOW DRYER OR HEAT GUN AND ALLOWING IT TO COOL. AN UPHOLSTERY STEAMER, IF AVAILABLE, WILL WORK EVEN BETTER.**



## **Description (cont.)**

### **STEP 18.**

With a razor blade, make a small "X" shaped incision over the 2 holes in the rear top edge of the seat cushion for the seat back bumpers. Replace the 2 seat back bumpers.

### **STEP 19.**

With a razor blade, make a small "X" shaped incision over the hole for the set hinge bolt on each side of the seat bottom.

### **STEP 20.**

Place your recovered seat back in position on the seat bottom. Align the holes in the seat hinges with those on the seat bottom and replace the seat hinge bolts.

### **STEP 21.**

With a razor blade, make a small "X" shaped incision over each of the 2 holes in the top rear edge of the seat bottom for the 2 bolts that secure the seat back locking mechanism. Place the lower end of the mechanism in position on the seat bottom and replace the 2 bolts.

### **STEP 22.**

Carefully lay the seat on its side and replace the slide tracks on the bottom of the seat.

THIS COMPLETES THE RECOVERING OF YOUR SEAT AND ITS REASSEMBLY . THIS SEAT IS NOW READY TO BE INSTALLED IN THE VEHICLE BY PLACING IT IN THE CAR AND REPLACING THE 4 BOLTS THAT SECURE IT TO THE FLOOR PAN.