**Application:** 1968

**Part Includes**
**1– Door Panel (RH or LH)**

# Door Panel Installation

**SKILL LEVEL**

**1**

**Tools Needed**

Because Mid America Door Panels are available in 2 styles, without trim and complete with all trim, these instructions are divided into 3 sections, **Removal of your original panel from the door, Transferring original door panel trim to new panel, and installation of new panel on the door.**

**SECTIONS A AND C WILL APPLY TO EVERY DOOR PANEL. SECTION B APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE PURCHASED BARE PANELS AND MUST TRANSFER THEIR ORIGINAL DOOR PANEL TRIM**

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

**STEP 1.**

Inspect the door panel or panels you have recieved. Verify that they are the correct color, year, sides, LH and RH for your Corvette.

**STEP 2.**

Open your car door and remove the 2 screws that go through the door panel at the top of the panel with a Phillips screwdriver. One is located in the top front corner and the other at the top rear corner of the panel.

On some of the early production cars, it is possible that a metal bracket that attached to the back of the door panel was used instead of these screws. If your car is equipped, the brackets will be visible on the edge of the door itsself in the same locations described above. Remove the screws that attach the brackets to the door.

**STEP 3.**

Remove the 2 screws that are located inside the reccessed door pull area.

**STEP 4.**

Remove the screw that holds the door opening handle to the door opening mechanism and pull the handle from the mechanism.

**STEP 5.**

Remove the lock knob from the armrest area. There is a clip in a groove in the back of the knob that holds the kob on to the lock post. This clip must be removed before the knob can be pulled from the lock post.

**STEP 6.**

If your Corvette has crank windows, the window crank must be re–moved. There is a clip in a groove on the back side of the crank that holds the crank on to the window regulator post. This clip must be removed with a retaining clip removal toll before the crank can be pulled from the regulator post.

## Description (cont.)

**STEP 7.**

Remove the screws that secure the 2 lower door panel retaining clips to the door. One is located on the front lower edge of the door and the other is on the rear lower edge.

**STEP 8.**

Pull on the bottom edge of the door panel until the fasteners on the back of the panel seperate from those on the door. When you have pulled the bottom of the panel far enough away for the panel to clear the window regulator post (if applicable), lift the panel so the top of the panel comes free from the door.

**B. TRANSFERRING ORIGINAL DOOR PANEL TRIM**

There are 4 pieces of trim that may have to be transferred from your original door panel. These are the **Upper Door Panel Trim Strip (above the armrest), Armrest U-Trim, Lock Knob Insert, and Door Pull Strap (may not be on all models.)**

**STEP 1.**

Rest your original door panel face down on a clean, soft surface. Using a flat blade screwdriver, remove the staples securing the armrest u-trim abd upper door panel trim strip mounting tabs to the back of the door panel.

**STEP 2.**

Using the flat blade screwdriver and long nose pliers, straighten the mounting tabs on the back of the armrest u-trim and the upper trim strip so they can be ulled through the door panel. Remove the armrest u-trim and upper trim strip by pulling the out of their groove on the face of the panel.

**STEP 3.**

Remove the 2 screws from the back of the door panel, one at each end, that secure the door pull to the door panel. Not all panels will be equipped with this auxilary pull as it was a mid-year production change. Remove the pull from the front of the panel.
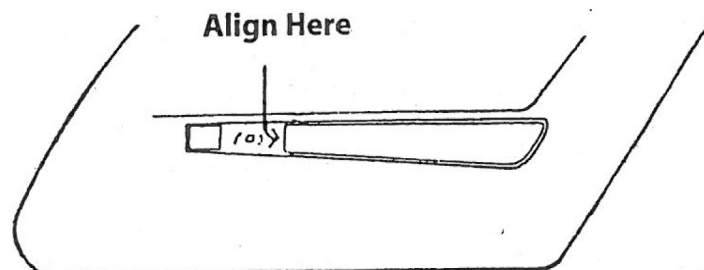
**STEP 4.**

Rest the original panel, face down, on a clean, soft surface. Insert the tip of a flat blade screwdriver under each of the 5 retaining washers that hold the lock knob insert in place and twist the screwdriver. This will pop the washers from the mounting posts and free the lock knob insert plate for removal.

Fromt the front of the panel, pull the lock knob insert free. It may be necessary to use the tip of a flat blade screwdriver to gently pry the plate loose from the panel.

**STEP 5.**

Lay your new panel face up on a flat surface. Place your lock knob insert plate in position on the panel. Align the back edge of the lock knob insert plate with the front edge of the raised area in the center of the armrest. See illustration below.



**Align Here**

## Description (cont.)

Once the lock knob insert plate is properly positioned, press down on the plate with your hands. Press hard enough so that 5 mounting posts on the back of the lock knob insert plate leave indentations in the door panel. Remove the plate from the panel.

**STEP 6.**
With the awl, punch a small hole in the center of each indentation left by the posts. These will be used as pilot holes for drilling and will keep the bit from wandering.

**STEP 7.**
With an electric drill and 1/4″ drill bit, drill the holes you have marked with the awl. Drill completely through the panel.
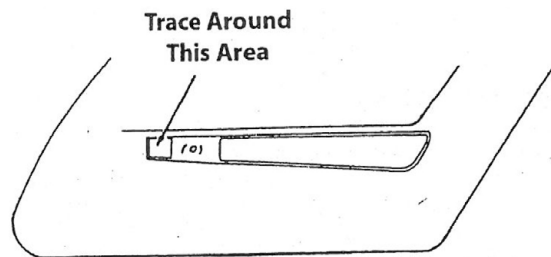
**STEP 8.**
Turn the door panel so it is face down. Using a razor blade or utility knife, cut out the small amount of foam and plastic that covers the hole for the door lock post. Cut from the back side of the panel using the hole in the black plastic door panel back as a guide.

**STEP 9.**
Turn the door panel so it is face up. Put the lock knob insert plate in place on the panel with the mounting posts on the back of the plate going into the holes you have drilled.
Using a pencil or marking pen, trace around the perimeter of the rectangular area on the lock knob insert plate where the door opening handle will come through the panel. See illustration below.



Trace Around This Area

When done tracing, remove the lock knob insert plate from the panel.

**STEP 10.**
Using the razor blade, cut out the foam and plastic from the area where the door opening handle will come through the panel. Use your tracing line as a guide. Be careful not to cut too high into the armrest or too low into the panel, but remove enough material so the door opening handle will have a good freedom of movement once the door panel is installed on the door.

**STEP 11.**
Put the lock knob inserrt plate in place on the panel and press into position, Be sure the 5 mounting posts align with the knobs you have drilled. The lock knob, armrest trim, and tension of the panel on the insert plate hold the plate in position. If you feel this it's mecessary, the lock knob insert can be more securely fastened to the panel by applying epoxy to the mounting posts where they come through the back of the panel.

**STEP 12.**
Place your new door panel face up on a flat surface. Align your armrest u-trim in the groove on the door panel ith your hands, push straight down on the trim just hard enough so the mounting tabs leave small indentations in the door panel. Remove the trim from the door panel.

**STEP 13.**
Using an awl, punch a small hole in the door panel where each mounting tab left an indentation. These will be used as pilot holes for drilling.

**STEP 14.**
Using an electric drill and a 1/4″ drill bit, drill the holes in the door panel you have marked with the awl.

**STEP 15.**
Align the mounting tabs on the armrest u-trim with the holes you have drilled in the door panel and press the armrest u-trim into place so the mounting tabs go through the panel.

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## Description (cont.)

**STEP 16.**
With the armrest u-trim in place, turn the door panel over and lay it face down on a clean, soft surface. Use clean rags to support the trim and hold it in place.

**STEP 17.**
Using long nose pliers, bend the mounting tabs of the armrest u-trim over so they rest flush against the black plastic door panel back. Secure the mounting tabs by stapling them to the door panel bak with 1/4″ staples. When stapling, straddle the staple over the mounting tab so one leg of the staple is on each side of the tab.

**STEP 18.**
Place the door panel face up on a flat surface. Align the upper door panel trim strip in the groove of the door panel. With your hands, push straight down on the trim, just hard enough so the mounting tabs leave small indentations in the door panel. Remove from the panel.

**STEP 19.**
Using an awl, punch ahole in the panel where each mounting tab left an indentation. These marks shoud align with the predrilled holes in the plastic door panel back.

**STEP 20.**
Align the mounting tabs on the trim with the holes you have punched and press the upper trim into position so the mounting tabs go through the door panel.

**STEP 21.**
Turn the panel over and lay it face down. Use clean rags to support the upper trim strip.

**STEP 22.**
Using long nose pliers, bend the mounting tabs of the upper trim strip so they rest flush against the black plastic door back. Secure the mounting tabs by stapling them to the door panel back with 1/4″ staples. Straddle the staples over the mounting tabs so that one leg of the staple is on each side of the tab.

**STEP 23.**
If your Corvettes door panels are equipped with the auxilary door pull, it will be necessary to mark the location of the mounting holes using your original panel as a guide. Poke a small hole with the awl to act as a pilot hole and then drill out the holes with a 1/4″ bit. When the holes are drilled, place the pull on the door panel and secure it by installing the screw in each end, from the back of the panel.

# Description (cont.)

**C. INSTALLATION OF NEW PANEL ON DOOR.**

**STEP 1.**
Hold the door panel in position in front of the door. Note that there is a triangular protrusion on the back of the panel near the top middle of the panel that fits into a reccess in the door. The panel must be positioned correctly to allow the panel to mount properly against the bottom of the door.

**STEP 2.**
With the panel properly positioned, push the panel toward the door so the back of the panel contacts the window regulator post (if applicable). Push hard enough so that the regulator post leaves an indentation in the foam on the back of the panel.

**STEP 3.**
Cut out the hole for the window regulator post (if so equipped) from the back of the panel using a razor blade or utility knife. Use the indentation left by the post as a guide

**TRIM AWAY ENOUGH MATERIAL SO THE REGULATOR POST AND WINDOW CRANK HAVE A GOOD FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BUT NOT SO MUCH THAT THE CRANK DOESN'T COMPLETLY COVER THE HOLE.**

**STEP 4.**
Place the panel in position on the door. Locate the 2 screw holes at the top of the door, one at the front corner and one at the rear corner. With the awl, poke a hole through the door panel in these 2 locations so that the screws will align with the hole when re-placed in the panel.

If your Corvette is an early model that utilizes retaining clips in these locations instead of screws, it will be necessary to cut 2 small slits in the plastic door panel back to install these brackets. Use your original panel as a guide.

**STEP 5.**
Remove the panel from the door. Put the 2 lower (and 2 upper, if applicable) retaining clips in position on the panel.

**STEP 6.**
Place the panel on the door and press firmly so the fasteners make contact.

**STEP 7.**
Install the 2 screws in the top of the panel, one at each top corner
If your Corvette is an early model that utilizes retaining clips in these locations, replace the screws that secure the retaining clips to the door.

**STEP 8.**
Push the bottom of the panel into position and replace the screws that secure the lower retaining clips the door.

**STEP 9.**
Replace the 2 screws in the recessed door pull area. You may have to use the awl to create a pathway for the screws.

**STEP 10.**
Be sure the retaining clips are in position in the grooves on the back of the window crank and lock knob and push these items into position on their respective posts.

**STEP 11.**
Replace the door opening handle and install the screw that holds it to the door opening mechanism.