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# INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR

**DR PANELSTEINS CHOPPED-TOP HEADLINER ADAPTER KIT**

Dr Panelsteins Chopped-Top Headliner Adapter Kit is designed to take a very long and difficult process and reduce the time, labor and skill required to complete this important task.

**APPLICATIONS:** This Kit would apply if your working on getting a readily available Molded and Formed ABS Plastic Headliner Kit to adapt to a vehicle that has no direct application.

* `31-34 Chevrolet Coupes-- With the adapter Kit and RD3712-Ford 30-34 Molded Headliner can be adapted to fit

Or there is an application but you have changed the sheet metal for a true custom look.

* `31-34 Ford Coupes and Trucks would require an Adapter kit for a chopped top **ONLY**if the cab is being extended. Chopping the top on these models only brings down the roof and does not enlarge the interior sheet metal/wood.
* `37-46 Chevrolet Trucks-- Chopping the top and the Adapter Kit
* `47-55early Chevrolet Trucks-- Chopping the top and the Adapter Kit
* `38-47 Ford Trucks-- Chopping the Top and The Adapter Kit
* `48-52 Ford Trucks-- Chopping the Top and The Adapter Kit
* `53-56 Ford Trucks-- Chopping the Top and The Adapter Kit
* `61-66 Ford Truck-- Chopping the Top and The Adapter Kit
* Any of the above on an extended cab application would require the purchase of (2) headliners and an Adapter Kit. (please call first, “Our motto, Call Twice, Cut once.

This kit will enlarge a ABS Molded Headliner up to 2-1/2” in both length and width.

Note: Length= distance from the front windshield to rear window.

Width= distance from door to door

Note: This is more than needed on 90% of the Chopped-Top or adapted Applications. Should you need more remember the above motto and “CALL US”. There is nothing more important to us than helping others get through what was once thought to be “Black Magic”.

**HOW’S THIS KIT GOING TO WORK:**

**“The Traditional Method”** was to heavily wax the roof outside of the vehicle, then lay down sheets of fiberglass mat and resin, build that up to 1/4”+, once cured pop it off the roof, die grind it into four pieces, fit it up inside the vehicle mark the overlap. Take it out of the car and grind the pieces till it fits, then re-fiberglass this mess back together, grind smooth, cover in foam and fabric and reinstall back into the vehicle somehow. This is a 28 hour process “if your good” spread over a 5 day period. This is on top of all the hard, hard work you have already put in cutting, welding, grinding and sanding sheet metal for that “One of a Kind Look”.

**“The New Method”** is to take a Molded ABS Headliner designed and trimmed to fit the original vehicle and use ABS strips (that are molded to the same radius as the original headliner) in the Adapter Kit to give this new custom headliner that extra little width or length needed for a perfect fit.

**Tools required: (Not included)**

* Utility Knife
* Sanding Block (40 grit)
* 1 Can Spray Cement Adhesive
* ABS Cement

**Lay out all pieces: (Included in ADAPTER KIT)**

* 3 Large radius ABS plastic Length pieces
* 3 Small radius ABS plastic Width pieces
* 2 Flat long ABS plastic Fill strips
* 2 ABS plastic Quarter Panel repair strips 16”x 12”
* 1 Bag Dualloc Tabs
* 1 Headliner Kit (Sold Separately)

**INSTALLATION:**

There are many different ways to approach this project. I find that the best way is to tackle it just like you did when you cut the sheet metal originally. Some Chopped-Top applications only require additional length. most require an increase in both length and width.

1) Put the Molded ABS Headliner into the vehicle. We know its too small but this gives us a little idea as to how much we’re going to have to add to the headliner to get it to fit.

**Only need to add width:** this would be for adapting a Untrimmed Ford `30-34 Headliner (RD3712) to fit a `31-34 Chevrolet Coupe.

1. On the backside of the cover glue the corners to the center section with ABS pipe glue (not included) using the 4” glue strips in the kit. When gluing the strips to the back don’t run the strip to the top of the panel. Let the strip end ½” from the top on the backside of the panel. This will allow you to run the Foam Edge Tape all the way around the top of the Cover. Be sure to properly support the panels on a flat surface while the glue dries. Use lots of weights to keep the pieces flat until the glue dries, 1-24 hours (the longer the better).
2. After the glue has set, remove the weights and block sand the glue joint until it is smooth and level. Sometimes we’ll apply an additional coat of glue to fill in any holes. Let dry and sand smooth. (Another case of “More is better”).
3. Apply the Foam Edge Tape to the backside of the cover (if necessary), at the top edge and down the sides on the back edge only.,
4. Using additional Dualloc Tabs every 6-8” test for fit and install the cover into the car. If any gaps are present use additional Foam Edge Tape to fill in those gaps. Protrusions can be handled by carving away the foam in that area.
5. Once you’re happy with the fit, you're ready to upholster the cover with fabric. To insure the entire panel is covered, allow 2 extra inches around the entire panel. Use only a high temp contact spray adhesive (3M Super 90). Start in the center: spray both the back of the fabric and the panel—2 square feet at a time. Take your time. If the fabric has a grain or a pattern keep it straight on the center of the panel.
6. On the back of the panel, glue the fabric over the edge tape and trim to within ½” - ¾” of the edge.
7. Re-install the panel in the car and press in place.

**Troubleshooting:**

**Sides not flat or extras (like gas hose) in the way of cover---** ABS is very flexible. Sometimes we’ll trim away the panel for the problem and glue extra stock material to the panel to deal with the issue. We've even used ABS sewer pipe cut up into sections to make the necessary angles to get the panel to work right.

**Nothing to attach or support the panels to--** Use the extra stock that has been trimmed off the Rear Cover and bend into 90 degree angled brackets. Attach the brackets and panel with more dualloc Tabs in the areas that need it.

**Thank you for choosing RodDoors**

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