

'67 & '68 Cougar

headliner replacement steps according to the

Quick Silver Cougar

<http://xcs.net/xr7.htm>



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A. Steps for removing the old headliner.

1. Remove the windshield. (optional but recommended)
2. Remove the backlite.
3. Remove your rear seat back, rear interior quarter panels and package tray - completely removing the interior is optional but recommended step.
4. If existing remove ceiling console and rear sail panel light lenses.
5. Remove your old windlace (the vinyl trim around the doors).
6. Remove the door-seal weather-strips (optional)
7. Remove the headliner at the doors (side window) openings until it is loose at the sides.
8. Pull the headliner loose at the front and rear windows.
9. At the rear sail panels pull the headliner away from the cat-claw hooks until free from the hooks and any glue holding it in place.
10. In the package tray area you will find the headliner being held down by strips of a hard cardboard strip material held down by 2 claw looking tabs (on each side of package tray area). Lift those tabs and remove the cardboard/fiberboard retaining strips and pull the headliner out. Save those fiberboard or cardboard strips or you can make new ones.
11. At this point we cut the remaining old headliner out leaving the ceiling bows in place. Optionally you may wish to remove these bows - one at a time sliding the old headliner off of the bow and immediately replacing the bow in its proper mounting hole. Order and location is important with the bows. The bottom line is to keep track of where you removed each bow so you will return it to the proper spot when installing the new headliner.



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Bow Notes

- i. To remove the bow just pull down on it near the center and rotate it until it is upside down from its installed location - in this position it will come out easily from the mounting holes in the roof rail.
- ii. On the last bow - the one nearest the rear window there are two wire hooks -



remove them but do not lose them. We left the rear bow hooks installed at the rear window opening for now since we cut the headliner out instead of removing the bows.

- iii. We recommend putting each bow back in its proper spot prior to proceeding to the next bow, repeating this process until the headliner has been completely removed. Bottom line here is that you know which bow goes in which position on the ceiling and in which holes.

1964 1/2 through 1970 Moonskin Grain Vinyls



1971 through 1973 Tier Grain Vinyls



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B. Steps to install your new Cougar headliner

1. Hopefully you purchased a new '67 or '68 Cougar headliner and not a Mustang headliner. The difference, I've been told, is the Mustang headliner is shorter than the Cougars and you will have difficulty making it fit properly at the front and rear glass on a Cougar.
2. Your windshield and backlite are still out - right? If not...
 - i. Remove the windshield. (The windshield removal is considered by some to be optional but that method is not covered here - we recommend removal of the windshield for proper installation of the headliner).
 - ii. Remove the backlite.
3. If you have the opportunity, open your new headliner out in the sun on a nice warm day and let it sit there until it is nice and warm - this will help to make it easier to work with and will also help to eliminate the wrinkles from being folded in the box.



Headliner out of box, backing showing

4. Install your headliner onto each of the bows. Recall that we left the bows installed on the roof rail when we removed the old headliner. Now, removing each single bow one at a time we slide the headliner onto a single bow; reinstalling that single bow now covered by the new headliner then moving on to the next bow and repeating. We chose to work from the front windshield working one bow at a time on our way back to the backlite but I doubt it makes much difference if you chose to work in some other order.
5. Be sure to center the headliner on the bows. Some headliners come with a center line marked on the backside making it easier to line up. Our version of headliner did not have this center line but you can do a pretty good job of lining it up with your good eye.
6. When you have that last bow near the rear window installed then reinstall those two hooks (called headliner support retainers I think). Be careful not to poke the hooks through your headliner - don't push up on the headliner with your hand when smoothing it out where those hooks are located. Be aware they are there. You'll likely need to cut that sleeve again where the bows slide through the headliner to hook these clips. Once hooked and all bows in place you can pull on the headliner from front to back to tighten things up a little.

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7. Check the centering of your headliner at this time and using binder clips or some other type of clamps, clamp the headliner center at the backlite and windshield.



8. Now you can stretch your headliner from the center to the sides carefully with the goal of removing the wrinkles and sags and making it tight and smooth. You may have to trim the material tubes you ran the bows through back a little bit to enable you to make the headliner fit. Do not over cut however - be patient, cut a little (we used an exacto knife to slit the tube of material back) at a time until the necessary amount had been cut so the headliner was able to be pulled smooth and stretched. Clip the stretched headliner with those binding clips (or you can use small 1" to 2" sections of old windlace) to hold the headliner in place.

9. At this point we took our time - It took us a week of stretching the headliner and clipping it back down. Each time we had a little better result, especially in those rear window corners. If you don't have to don't rush it during this stage then take your time. Work on something else a while and come back later and work on any remaining headliner wrinkles - it changes as it relaxes. You'll know when it is ready to start the glue process as it will look tight like you want it to with only those binder clips holding it in place. Use a lamp or hair drier to help get the more stubborn wrinkles out. Be careful not to overheat the material or you will damage your headliner.

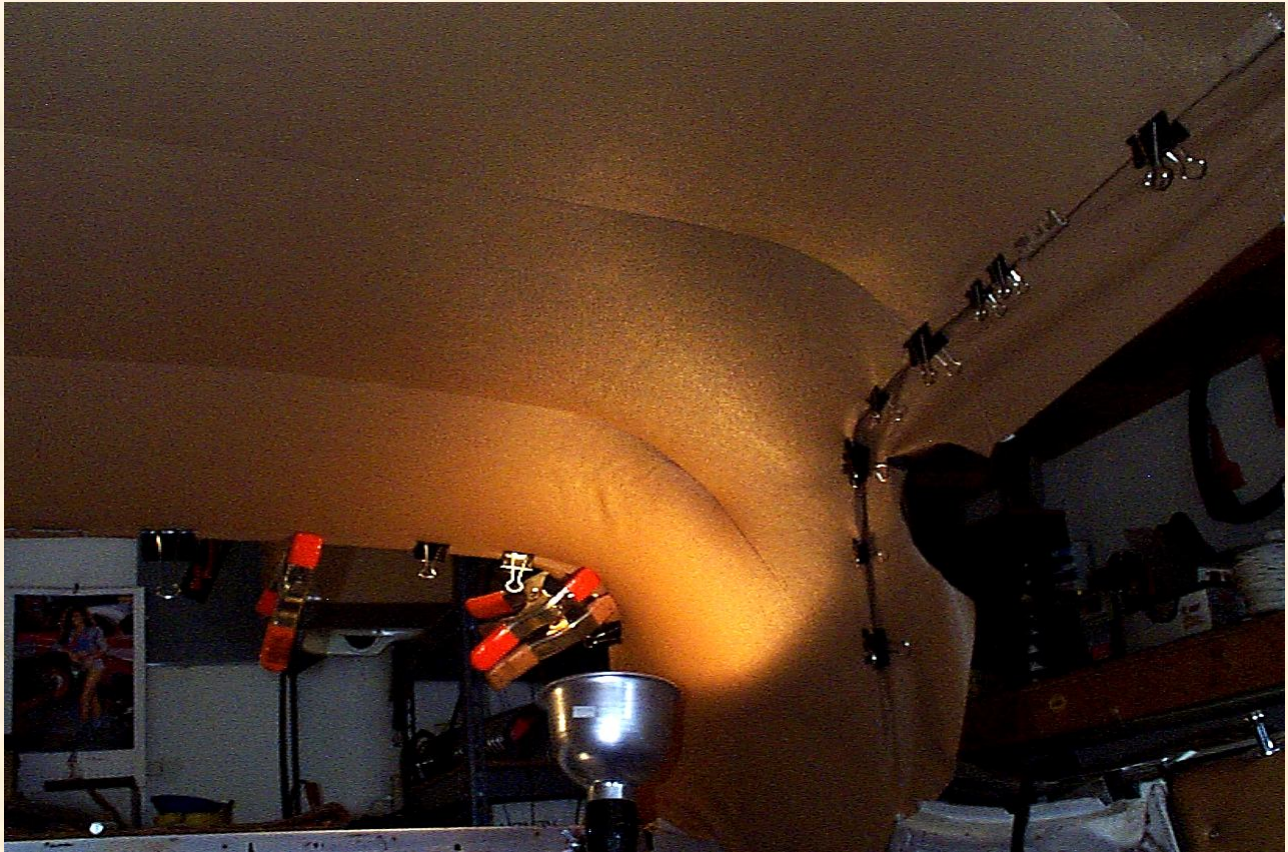


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10. Gluing - during our install we worked from the center of the windshield to the outer edges gluing approx. 1/2 foot at a time. Using 3M super weather-strip adhesive we would lightly apply glue to the headliner and the metal where it was to be glued. Once it had the glue applied we would pull the headliner tight and clamp it in place with the binder clips. We gave each 1/2 foot section at least 30 minutes to set-up prior to moving to the next section. (Yes, this does take a little time). Over the course of 3 days working only in the evenings we had the entire headliner glued in place. We were being extra careful on this our first headliner install - you may be able to get this accomplished much quicker.

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11. Backlite Window Corners.

- Nobody as far as we know tells you how to do these backlite corners so here is what we did to make the turns on the corner - keep in mind there may be a better way, but we didn't know what it was. Install and clamp the headliner about 3 inches from the corner on the window top and on the window side. There will be a sizable cavity in the corner now under that headliner but that is normal. Using a large clamp apply glue to the underside of the headliner (you're not going to wrap the headliner at this time) and clamp it right in that corner.
- Once the glue is completely dry and holding the headliner in the corner on its own without a clamp then cut the headliner at that corner so you can wrap it around and glue it on the other side of the windshield lip. DO NOT cut beyond the edge of the window lip. Now glue the other side. I wish I had taken photos of this process but I didn't think of it at the time. Practice this procedure without using glue until you are sure of what you're doing and that it is going to work.

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12. Once you have all the edges glued and the front and back window openings you'll want to tighten the sail panels up by attaching the headliner to those pointed tabs (cat claws) on the sail panel - as well as the fiber board strips on the package tray area. See step 10 in "removing the headliner". Use glue on the cat claws to hold everything permanently in place when you are satisfied with the look and tightness of the headliner. The package tray fiberboard pieces do not require glue.



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13. Once everything is glued and secured, trim all the excess headliner material and replace your windlace. Install your windshield and backlite and pat yourself on the back for doing all of this yourself.



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Definitions

Backlite	The rear windshield.
Bow	Metal rods that hold the headliner against the roof of the car.
Moonskin	The headliner texture in '67 and '68
Package Tray	Hardboard or cardboard cover that is mounted behind the rear seat horizontal to the base of the backlite.
Roof Rail	The section of the roof frame that the headliner bows insert into when installed.
Sail Panel	The wide section at the rear of the roof that connects the roof to the car body. It is also known as the "C" pillar.
Windlace	The long plastic trim cap that runs alongside the door glass seal on the body. XR7 models the windlace is also padded.

6/20/2002

We provide this information only as a representation of our experience changing out a 1967 Cougar headliner. It is not intended to be used as the definitive guide for a headliner install. Use at your own risk. We make no guarantee that your results will be the same as ours. If you have additional steps you would like to see in this guide send us an email at

C7XR7@xcs.net.

