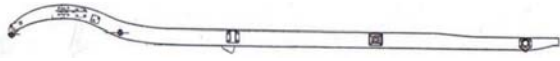


From the Frame Up, LLC



Tech Tips:

TR120 - Fitting the TC Hood and Side Curtains

It would be a gross miscalculation that the side curtains will fit AFTER the hood is installed. The side curtains need to be fitting during the hood placement and fit. If the hood has been installed then you have eliminated any variations to its fit to help improve the fit of the side curtains. This is critically important for a car that has been totally taken apart and maybe even had the tub rebuilt. As when building a house, you need a good foundation, so does the hood and the side curtains. The frames of each are the starting point.

Before any fabric is placed on the hood or side curtains, fit each to the car AND to each other.

Hood frame: Although there is a reference photo of the hood bracket placement in TC's Forever, pg 221, this is not absolute and serves only as a starting reference. Windscreen placement and rake will cause variation as well as tub dimensions and geometry. Some tubs are out of square and distance from door hinge pillar to windshield may vary 1/4" to 1/2" or more. As proven repeatedly there are no absolutes with these cars particularly if the car frame is out of square, previous accident, or having been "molested" by a previous owner. So arbitrarily, sighting the hood bracket according to a photo from another car may not work. Clamp the bare frame initially to the likely position. Next check the physical dimensions between the bows and make sure they are symmetric to the tub. The TC frame has 3 bows. In order to stabilize during install, take a long piece of cloth. (Tear a strip off an old bed sheet.) Tack one end of strip to front bow, take strip to mid bow and wrap it 1 revolution and then continue to back bow, wrap 1 time, and then finally tack the cloth strip to the back of the tub. Do not make any knots. This simple wrap will hold the bows in a fixed position and allow fine tuning adjustment to get spacing proper. Again, check the physical dimensions.

Side curtains: Now install the SC frames and take a look. Most important fit is that they have a parallel fit between front and rear SC frames. There is no adjustment on the car as the SC mount brackets are fixed on the tub and door. Therefore any adjustment will have to be made with the frames. I had to cut & re-weld 1 rear frame to get it right. I also had to elongate the slot in the bottom frame tab to allow the frame to sit lower to look proper with the front frame. Bend frames as necessary to get an initial contour and fit to the car.

Hood and side curtain: Now finalize the fit of both together. It is time to finalize the location of the hood support bracket on the inside of the tub. You can move up or down or maybe you need 1 side further back than the other. Remember vertical placement will also affect the end gap between SC top and the hood. Maybe, visually sight the side curtain panel in place to gain confidence your fit is correct. Be patient with the trial and error placement, each time taking careful measurements on each side and adjusting to maintain symmetry. Also, note that the rear bow of the hood frame should intersect the exact top rear corner of the rear frame. So you can adjust/slide the bow as necessary within the cloth strip.

Only when you are satisfied you have done your best fitting these 2 items, are you ready to install the fabric. The rest will seem obvious or has been discussed. Finish the hood top install and then complete the final fit of the side curtains onto the frame.

To put things in perspective: I worked with my upholsterer for about 5 hours to accomplish the above. It takes time but is well worth getting it right.

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