

1987 Spider

Gear Shift Bezel repair & strengthening

Over the years the bezel becomes brittle and breaks.

This bezel is very thin and tends to warp badly.

I tried to glue the bezel with several different glues and epoxies but I did not have any luck until...

REMOVAL of BEZEL

- ❖ remove the two knobs from the temperature sliders. (they pry off)
- ❖ remove the inner and outer knob from the AC fan control (they pry off)
- ❖ unscrew the nut from the AC fan control
- ❖ using a plastic knife or screwdriver CAREFULLY pry out the bezel, the bezel is fixated to the console with plastic tabs
- ❖ slide out both back lights
- ❖ disconnect the cable from the fan-switch
- ❖ disconnect the cable from the clock
- ❖ separate carefully the top thin sheet (with the lettering) from the bezel (this thin sheet is affixed by some sticky stuff)

Repair & strengthening

A) clean the backside of the bezel with paint thinner or grease remover

B) roughen the back surface with 80 grid sand paper or Dremel tool

C) lay the bezel upside down on a flat surface (glass)

put a sheet of computer paper in-between the bezel and the glass. (it's easier the sand of the paper than to pry of the glass)

If the bezel is warped you might have to clamp the bezel or put weights on it

D)glue the broken pieces together with Superglue gel

This will not hold but it is good enough for a temporary fix and it allows us to align the parts for the next steps (if you glued your fingers to the bezel, use your other hand to dial 911)

E) Take a soldering iron (25W ~ 60W) and in a back and forth movement blend the crack together. ONLY ON THE BACK SIDE!

blending should exceed at least 1/4" on each side of the crack or joint

F) if you have some pieces missing, see *notes* below

F) take some finishing nails and cut of the head. (Make sure the nails are not thicker than the bezel rim height)(mine wire about 1.5" long)

G) prepare enough nails to cover the rim

H) mix some JB Weld and fill the rim

I) push immediately the finishing nails into place (against the rim)(this will strengthen the bezel)

K) put another layer of JB Weld on top of the nails

Let the JB Weld sit for at least 24 Hours !!!!

L) sand if necessary (I used a flat file) and make sure the JB weld does not stick out above the rim

M) paint the sides and the back of the bezel with Dupli-Color trim paint

N) when dry and hardened affix the thin sheet (with the lettering) to the bezel with very thin double sided tape (I used 3M Scotch permanent double sided tape 021200171031)

O) use an xacto knife to trim off the excess tape

Notes:

My bezel was missing 3 of the plastic tabs so I used tiny pieces of double sided tape to affix the bezel to the console (do not use large pieces or you'll have a hard time getting the bezel off again if needed) (I used Loctite double sided power grab 075353041789)

If the bezel has pieces or sections missing ...

Buy some aluminum foil tape (the stuff that is used for home AC units)

Bridge the "missing piece" area with the tape and form a little tub (mold)

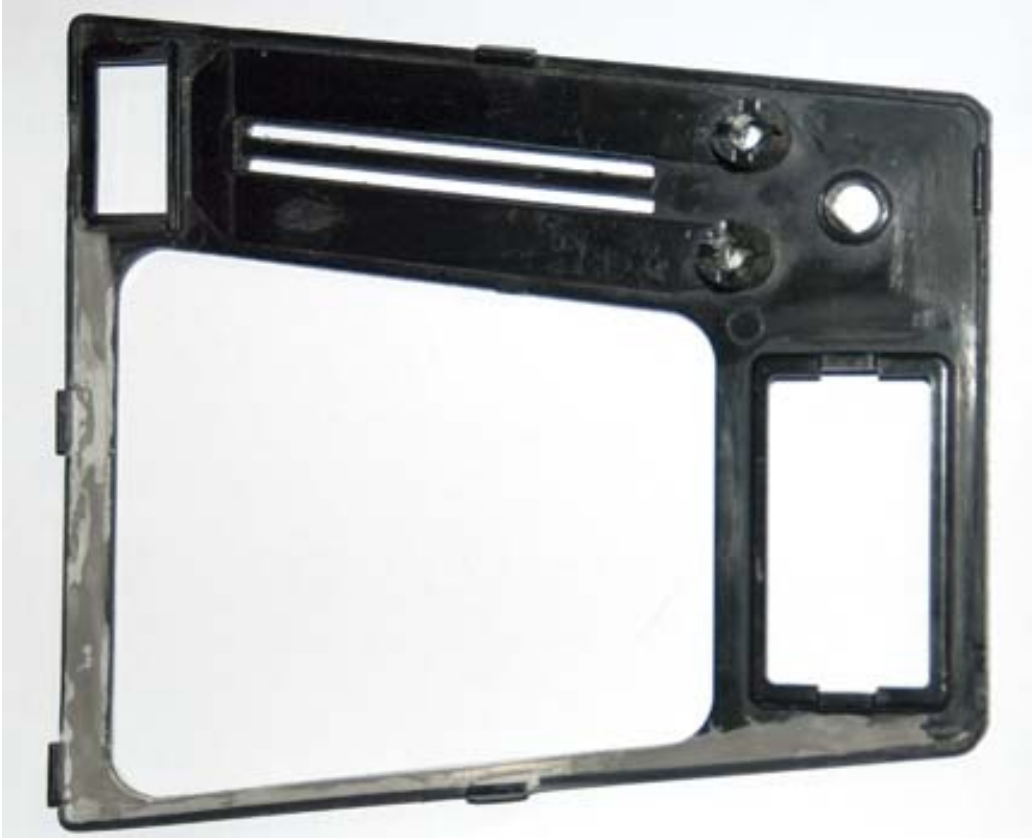
Fill the area with JB Weld and let sit for at least 24 Hours!!!

Proceed to step L

Pictures:



Nails are embedded with JB Weld



Sanded bezel



Repaired side



Finished bezel