

Repairing a "Cubbie" Bracket

By: Joe Pawlak

I've written many a segment on major restorations but sometimes it's the little things that matter just as much as a frame rebuild or differential renewal. More often than not we are coming across small parts that have broken or worn and are made out of the rare material called "unobtainium". Sometimes you can get lucky and find a good used part, but many times they are broken or are in the process of failing in the same way. While it may be insignificant, the glove box or "cubbie" bracket is one of those items that can not be acquired and all of the used ones are broken in a similar way. While this bracket is specific to the Stag, I have seen similar items in other TR's.

This plastic bracket seems to always break at the mounting point that attaches inside the glove box area. I do not have the ability to cast plastic, but I do have a collection of tools to fabricate a similar piece using some common scrap sheet metal.

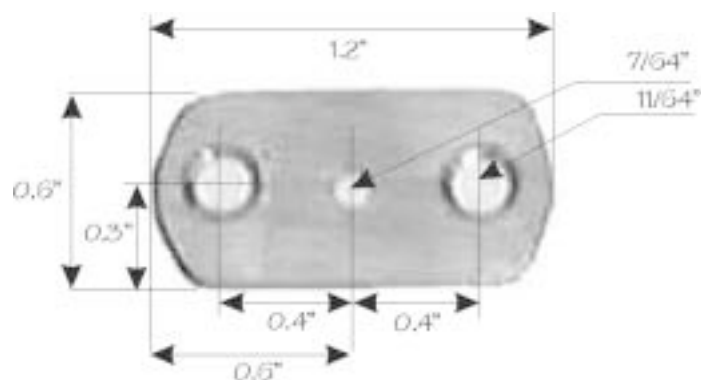


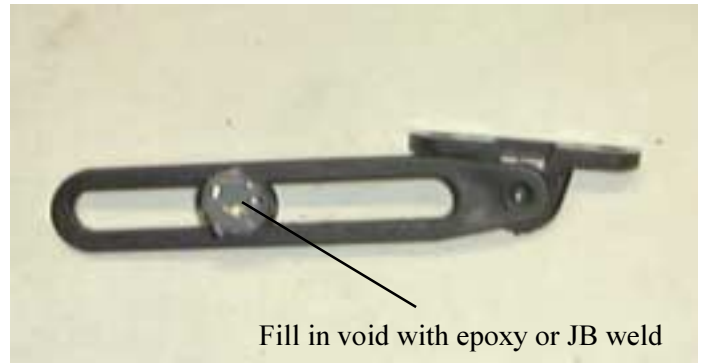
In the scrap box I had some stock that was about 0.07" thick which is around 15-16 gauge. I traced out the rough shape of the bracket mount and cut the stock. Since I don't have anything to "precisely" cut that thickness, I used a flat file to shape the mounting plate to the size I needed. From there I measured the two center points of the original mounting holes and marked those on the plate. A third center hole was placed exactly in the center of this plate.

For the two mounting holes I used a 11/64" bit. I then followed up with a larger bit to slightly counter sink the holes. This makes for a nicer look when using the original countersunk mounting screws. The center hole was drilled out using a 7/64" bit. The plate was then flipped and this hole was countersunk on the opposite side of the two mounting holes. Finally the plate was cleaned up, degreased, primed and painted with a semi-gloss black paint that matched the original bracket.



The next step was to trim off what was left of the mounting plate from the guide stud on the bracket itself. A little carving and some finish work with a fine file did the job. On a couple of the brackets, a portion of the inside of the stud is hollow. I mixed up some epoxy (or JB weld) and filled the void. This was allowed to dry and then was drilled to hold a small screw. Drill through the filler and into the plastic of the stud. Be careful not to come out the top! Look in your screw parts bin for a small countersunk screw that is not too long or too short. Enough that it will bite into the epoxy and up into a portion of the plastic of the stud. The size is of your choice, so use your better judgement. There is no need to spend money on the components for this little project.





Fill in void with epoxy or JB weld

All that is left is to fit the painted plate to the bottom of the stud. The countersunk center hole of the plate will allow the screw to fit flush with the plate and fit nicely when attached to the glove box. Use the two original screws to mount the bracket and that's it. Looks pretty nice and is better than a piece of wire holding the glove box door from flipping down.



Plate screwed onto bracket.



Finished mounting plate



Installed and ready to do the job.