

Modifry's Dash Bracket Installation Instructions

Tools Required

- Small paper clip (suitably modifry'd) to remove screw plugs in speedometer cowl
- Stubby #2 Philips Screwdriver for removing 2 screws under top of speedometer cowl
- Non-metal Pry tool for gently prying instrument cluster bezel away from dash
- Hobby knife (Exacto knife) to trim excess dash plastic
- Standard length #2 Philips Screwdriver to install the bracket

Right hand drive owners – These instructions work for you too, they're just reversed left and right. If you get confused try crossing your eyes. ☺

Procedure

Hint – You might think you could install this bracket without removing the screws under the speedometer cowl and just prying out the right edge of the dash bezel – and you'd be right. But it's nearly impossible to get the dash bezel snapped back into position if you don't have the extra "wiggle room" you get by removing the two cowl screws and pulling the center of the bezel out a little. Trust me on this – I tried it over and over again but every time I ended up removing the center screws in order to snap the bezel back in place. If you come up with an easier way to do this, let me know.

1. Photo 1 - Take a small paper clip, straighten one end of it, and bend a 1/8" hook on the end. Insert the hook up into the small cavity you will see on the screw plugs under the speedometer cowl with the hook facing away from the center of the speedometer. Slide the paper clip away from the center of the speedometer so the hook goes under the edge of the plug then pull down to remove it. It might take a few attempts to get the plug all the way out but be patient so you don't damage the plugs or the speedometer cowl. Some people use a pocket screwdriver to pry the plugs out but it's likely to damage the edge of the cowl.
2. Remove the two Philips screws under the plugs using the stubby #2 Philips screwdriver.
3. Using your non-metal pry tool, pry the right edge of the instrument cluster bezel away from the dash. The bezel is held on with spring-clips – 2 behind the heater controls and one below the heater controls. Once the right side is loose, go back to the center of the speedometer bezel and pull it out from the speedometer slightly – this relieves the tension on the right side of the bezel and makes it easier to mount the bracket.
4. Pull the right edge of the bezel away from the dash about an inch and you will see a gold-colored Philips screw holding the heater controls in place. Remove the screw using the regular #2 Philips screwdriver. The heater controls may tilt out of the bezel slightly on the right side but they won't fall out – there are other screws holding them in place. See photo 3 to identify the gold-colored screw.
5. Do a test fit of the dash bracket by inserting it behind the bezel so it lines up with the screw hole and observe the front edge of the dash that is behind the bracket and hidden by the bezel. Chances are there is some plastic or vinyl protruding from the dash that prevents the bracket from fitting flush with the dash surface. If so, you must trim it back using a sharp but strong knife (like an Exacto knife, photo 2). Be extremely careful trimming the dash – the vinyl and foam surface is soft and cuts easily but the plastic core of the dash is hard and this is where most of your trimming is likely to be needed. Cut slowly and carefully to avoid cutting any dash material that will be visible after the bezel is snapped back into position.
6. Once the edge of the dash has been trimmed flush you can mount the bracket. Put the screw through the hole in the dash bracket, and using the Philips screwdriver to hold the screw from falling, position the bracket so you can re-insert the screw into its original hole. Note – make sure the heater controls are flush with the front of the bezel before inserting the screw. If the controls have tilted out of the bezel the screw hole won't line up. When the screw is nearly tight, check that the dash bracket is flush against the back of the bezel, then tighten the screw.
7. Snap the dash bezel back into position, starting with the right side (leave the speedometer cowl loose for now). The spring clip that is under the heater controls is the tricky one and it needs to go in first, before the 2 clips on the right side of the bezel. I usually have to bend the right side of the bezel towards the dash while holding the center of the bezel slightly away from the dash in order for the "tricky" clip to line up. It's as if the "tricky" clip wants to go in "dead-straight", with the bezel parallel to the dash, not at an angle. That's why it helps to have the center of the bezel loose – you can bend the bezel so it's more parallel with the dash. Anyway, once the tricky clip is in it's a cinch to snap in the right side of the bezel, then the center cowl, then re-install the cowl screws and screw plugs.

Photo 1 – Modify'd paper clip to remove cowl plugs

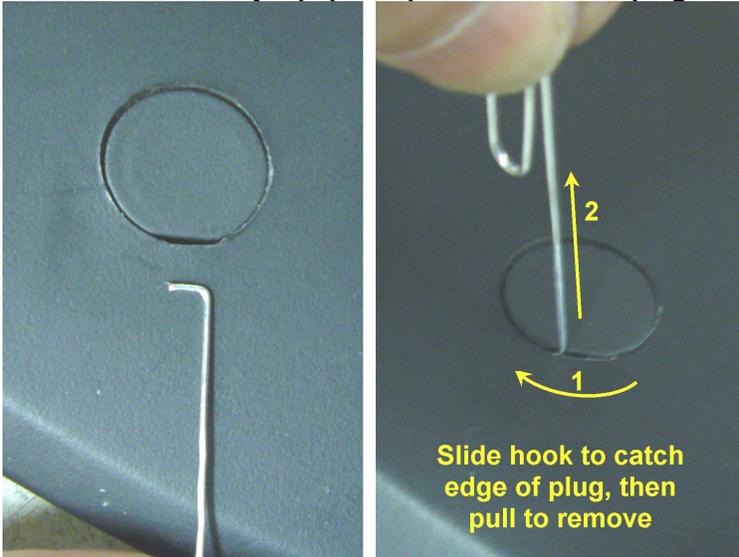


Photo 2 – Trimming excess plastic flush with dash



Photo 3 – Bezel pulled back showing mounting screw and result of trimming excess plastic

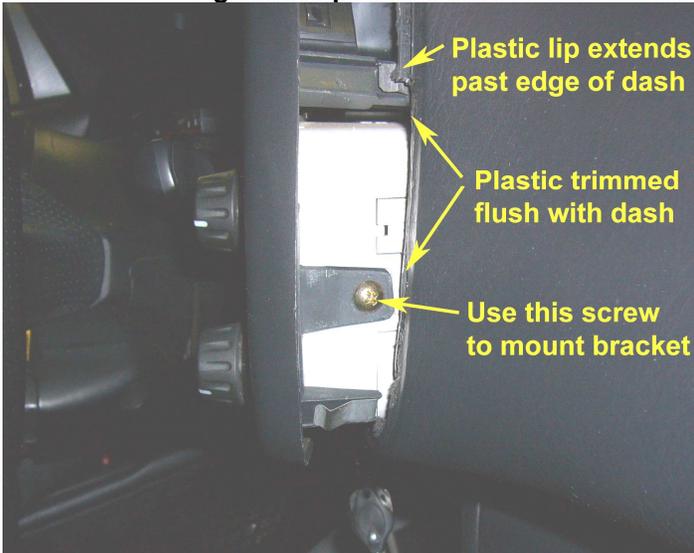


Photo 4. Bracket mounted using heater control screw



Photo 5 – Bezel back in place

