

PONY 101

DIY QUARTER-WINDOW REPLACEMENT

THOSE SCRUNGY LOOKING MID-SHIP PORTALS ARE AN EASY FIX



WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE RATTY LOOKING QUARTER-WINDOWS?

It's a question many (dare we say, most?) Fox-body owners end up facing at some point. Sure, you may have tried everything from shoe polish to paint, and perhaps even those stick-on cover-up strips, to take the gnarly out of the quarter-window molding, but unfortunately nothing seems to really work, does it? If your efforts have taken you this far, you've likely come to the same conclusion as many of your fellow enthusiasts. That is, quarter-window replacement is the best means of restoring your pony's rear quarter-windows to show room condition.

Thanks to Ford's ever so clever quarter-window design, the exterior moldings are a non-removable, non-replaceable part of the rear quarter glass. The moldings are actually permanently attached to the glass. To replace the exterior quarter-

window moldings you have to replace the entire unit, including the glass.

Luckily for those of us with a passion for perfection, rear quarter-window replacements are available through Mustang restoration parts suppliers like Late Model Restoration, better known to many of us as 50Resto.com. Considering the entire unit, including glass, must be replaced, the price is not only reasonable, but well worth the cost.

For those of us interested in keeping costs to a minimum, tackling the installation work ourselves is definitely an option to consider. While this task may seem somewhat daunting to some, armed with proper instructions and a few basic tools, this project is well within the reach of the average do-it-yourselfer.

To see what is really involved to complete this job, we turn once again

to the professional restoration experts at Mustang Country International to show us step-by-step how to replace those aging rear quarter-windows. These guys have years of experience producing high quality work on all generations of Mustangs, from classics to late models.

For the actual replacement windows, the team at Late Model Restoration supplied us with new factory replacement rear quarter-windows. Late Model Restoration offers a complete line of replacement parts and accessories for all 1979-up Mustangs.

Now let's follow along as our friends Allen Cohn, owner of Mustang Country in Paramount, California, and his restoration expert Freddy Jimenez show us how to turn those nasty rear peepholes into something to be proud of.



1 These new windows from Late Model Restoration will replace our quarter-windows with the badly faded, weatherworn molding. Before starting the job, Freddy recommended the following tools to perform the installation: Phillips screwdriver, flathead screwdriver or door panel remover, ratchet with extension, T-50 bit driver and appropriate-sized socket, knife.

2 Begin by removing the seatbelt mount interior door pillar molding. First use an interior door panel remover or flathead screwdriver to gently pop off the plastic cover. Use a T-50 bit drive to remove the screw securing the upper seatbelt mount in place, then a Phillips screwdriver to remove the door pillar molding.

3 Use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the rear speaker panel covers.

4 Use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the rear overhead hatch trim panel.

5 Now use the Phillips screwdriver to remove all of the inner quarter-panel screws.

6 Be sure to pull back the rear carpet and remove the screws securing the inner quarter-panels to the floor, then remove the inner panel from the car.

7 With the inner panel removed, use a ratchet and socket to remove the nuts securing the rear quarter-window in place.

8 There are two nuts in the lower rear of the window that must be accessed through holes in the inner panel in order to remove.

9 This picture clearly shows the location to access both of these nuts.

10 Use a knife to cut through the caulk sealant in order to separate the rear window from the car.

11 Insert a door panel remover or large flathead screwdriver between the window and door post, then gently pry the window from the window frame and remove from the car.

12 Before installing the new window, take time to clean up and remove the old caulk from the window frame.

13 To reseal the window we used black 3M strip caulk (Part Number 051135-08578).

14 Apply new caulk to the outer edge of the window frame. The 3M caulk strip allows us to make fast work of this since it is easily applied, one strip at a time.

15 With caulk in place, install the new window, taking care to insert the tabbed lip on the upper front of the window inside the upper door molding.



16 Work your way around the outer edge of the window, pressing firmly to bond the window with the caulking and ensure a proper fit and seal.

17 With the window in place, refasten the nuts to the window studs, taking care not to over tighten them.

18 Reposition the inner quarter-panel and reinstall the attachment screws.

19 Don't forget to reinstall those screws that secure the panel to the floor. This is something easily overlooked.

20 Reinstall the interior door pillar molding, then the seatbelt harness and cover.

21 Reinstall the speaker covers and rear overhead hatch trim panel.

22 Project complete! ■

SOURCES

Latemodel Restoration Supply
(866) 50-RESTO
www.50resto.com

Mustang Country International
(562) 633-2393
www.mustangcountryintl.com

