

1970-1972 INSTRUMENT PANEL REPAIR OF RADIO KNOB CUPS

A typical problem on practically any vehicle ever fitted with an aftermarket radio is the damage inflicted to the instrument panel. Sometimes, to make the non-factory radio fit the instrument face, the opening for the radio is enlarged to accommodate the new sound system's dimensions. In other instances the recessed cups for the volume and channel selector are broken or altered to accept the configuration of the non-original radio's controls. If the latter situation has been the obstacle to salvaging an otherwise perfect 1970-1972 dash . . . well, these once worthless dashes have been redeemed by the efforts of Doctor Dash.

Andy Filkins (i.e. Doctor Dash) has solved the problem of busted radio "stand-offs" by reproducing exact duplicates to the originals, but stronger. These replacement radio control cups are sturdier, injected in a black plastic composition and are easy to install with a minimum investment.

This low-cost solution is simple and will salvage many expensive 1970-1972 Super Sport, Monte Carlo and Malibu instrument housings.

The repair job is made on the back side of the dash housing. Obviously, the entire instrument panel housing will have to be removed to obtain access to the restoration area. (Refer to the September 1998 edition of *The Chevelle Report* regarding 1970-1972 instrument panel removal.) With the dashboard out, remove the damaged radio control stand-off by grinding it flush to the backside of the dashboard. Take your time and be careful not to cut into the lip of the radio face plate.

The replacement stand-off cups from Doctor Dash have a flat side that serves as a guide for aligning and centering.



Stand-offs come as a pair for volume and station controls. They're identical to original design with correct cutouts and contours. Short cup is for volume control and tall cup is for station selector.



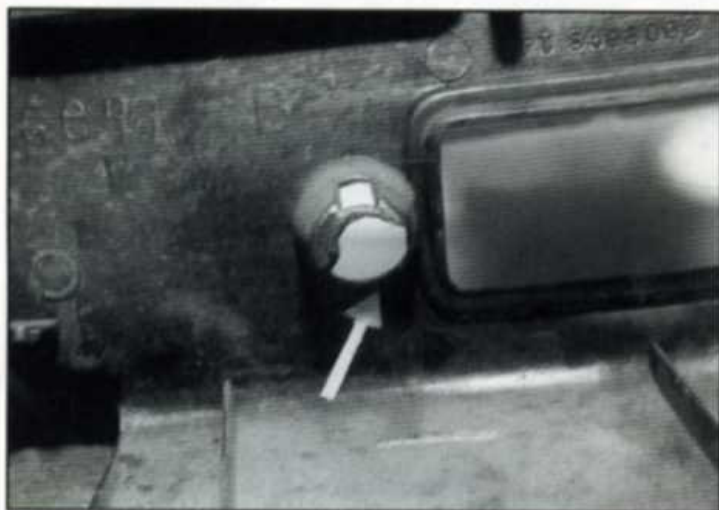
Materials to salvage dashboards are readily available from hardware store and specialty hobby businesses. Small grinder with shield, Dremel tool for close cavity work, Scotch Grip 4475 Plastic Adhesive, PC-7 Epoxy Paste, file, razor knives and paints.

Extra plastic was added to the flat side for damaged radio housing lips, so test fit the radio stand-offs and file only the flat side of the replacement to get correct fit. However, filing these new pieces is rarely necessary. Glue the stand-off in place and check alignment from the front of the dashboard. Scotch Grip #4475 Plastic Adhesive is recommended for ideal repair (Super Glue adhesives will not work). Let the glue cure for 24 hours.

When glued to the dash, the inside of the cups will have a seam that can be filled with PC-7 Epoxy Paste. This product adds strength to the new stand-offs and should be added to the base of the stand-offs to strengthen the repair. And, while on the back side of the dashboard, it's recommended that the epoxy covers the base of the cups. Finally, sand the inside of the cups and paint to match.

A pair of these radio repair stand-offs is only \$29.50 plus \$2 shipping and handling. For additional information, contact Doctor Dash at 1138 Barker Rd, Pittsfield, MA 01201, phone 413-447-8831 after 5pm EST, fax 413-443-7311 or web site www.doctordash.com.

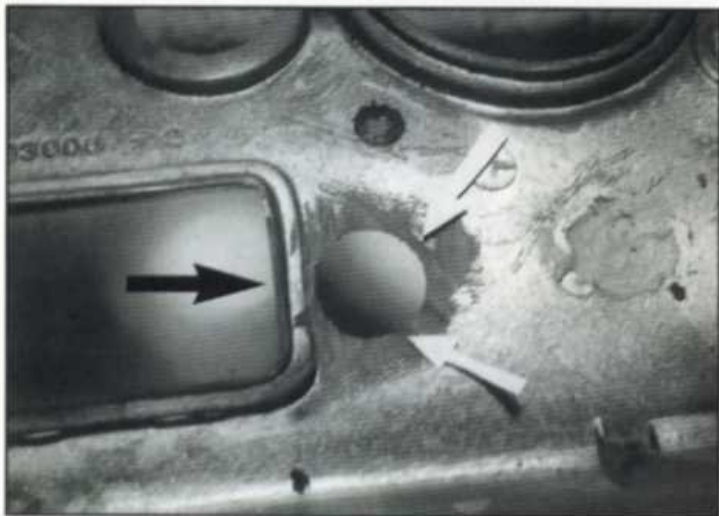
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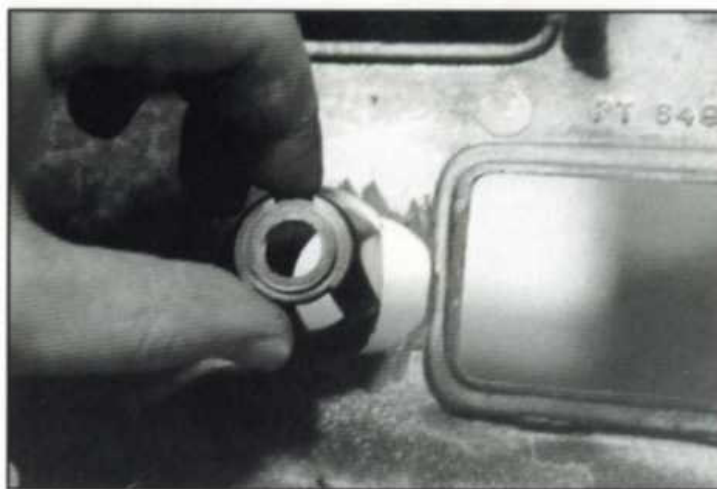
From backside of dash, damage to station selector cup is obvious. A big chunk is missing.



Volume control stand-off has similar damage. It's carefully eliminated with small grinder.



Damaged cup is removed flush to backside of dashboard. Care is taken not to grind lip of radio housing (black arrow).



Dashboard has been ground flush for exact fit. Straight edge of cup is positioned against edge of radio housing lip. In some instances 1/8" may have to be filed from flat area of stand-off.



Both replacement cups are glued into place with Scotch-Grip 4475 Plastic Adhesive. Check alignment from front before glue sets. Allow adhesive to cure 24 hours.

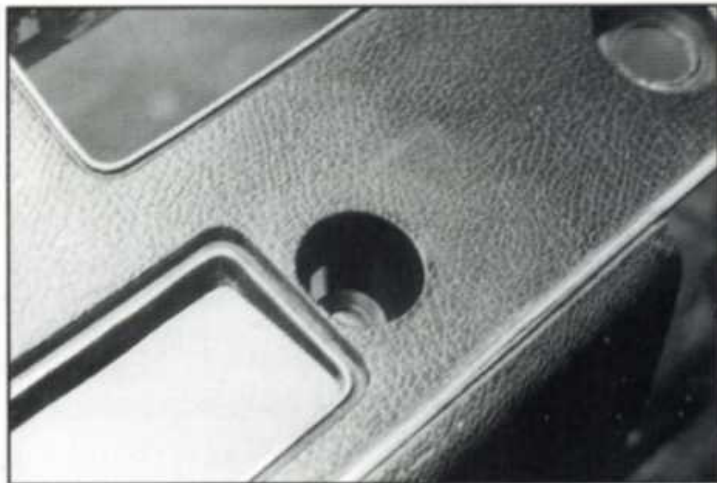


Mix PC-7 Epoxy Paste and conservatively fill connecting seam from front side of dashboard. After curing 24 hours, the excess can be sanded to factory-like appearance.

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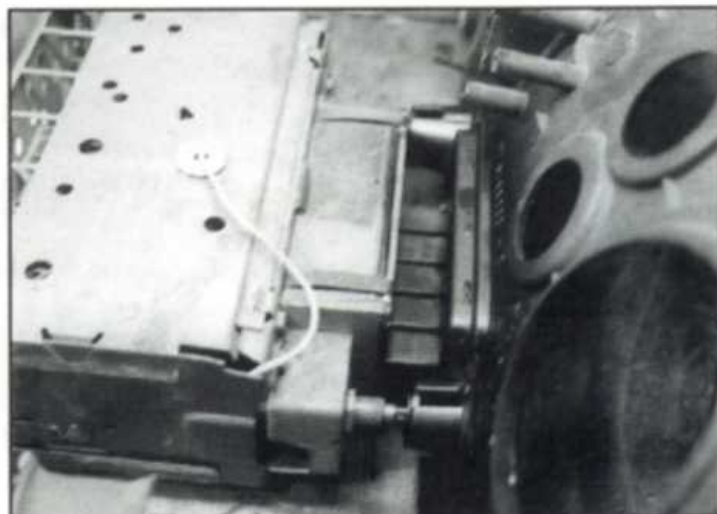
Volume control stand-off replacement after seam has been strengthened, sanded and entire dash area has been repainted.



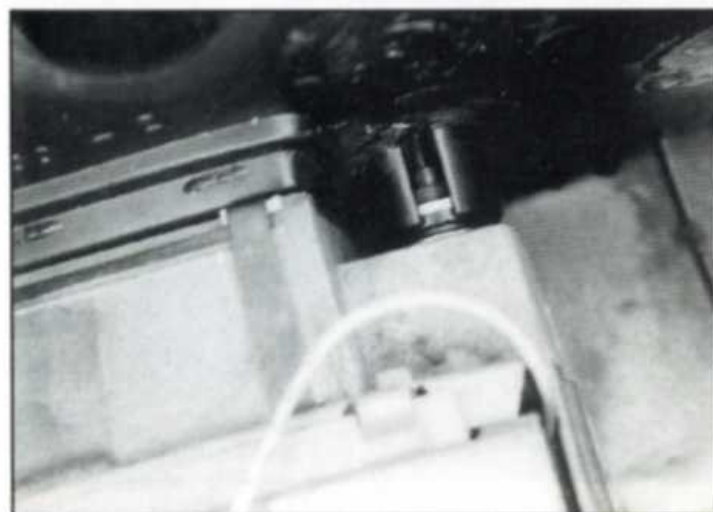
Doctor Dash's station selector control cup after installation with glue, epoxy filler, sanding and painting.



PC-7 Epoxy Paste is added to base of each cup to strengthen adherence of stand-off to dashboard. Cover lip of base and slope to dashboard. Finished product on back side can be painted, too.



Even though radio is supported by a bracket, control arms of radio still exerts tension to stand-off cups.



New replacement cups are an exact fit and allows radio to be properly secured with original installation hex nuts.



Another dash has been salvaged and made new with Doctor Dash's radio cup stand-offs. With proper installation, there's no evidence that these delicate areas of dash have been repaired.