



RKSport Hood Installation

The RK-5 hood is of two-piece, hand-laid construction with the inner and outer shells bonded together. The hinge and latch mounting plates are bonded into the hood and the holes for them are pre-drilled and tapped. Other hole locations, such as for the under hood light and the insulation, are dimpled into the finish on the underside of the hood so there's no guesswork as to where to drill your holes. The whole thing is topped off with a sandable gel coat finish which can be readied for paint matching by scuffing with 400-grit sandpaper, applying a sandable primer and then block sanding.

The most critical thing about aftermarket body panels is they have to be fitted into position to make sure there are no dimensional problems. RKSport strongly suggests this be done prior to painting.



Disconnect the hood struts by prying out the retaining clips with a small screwdriver or other suitable tool and swinging them out of the way.



Then unplug the under hood light from its harness.



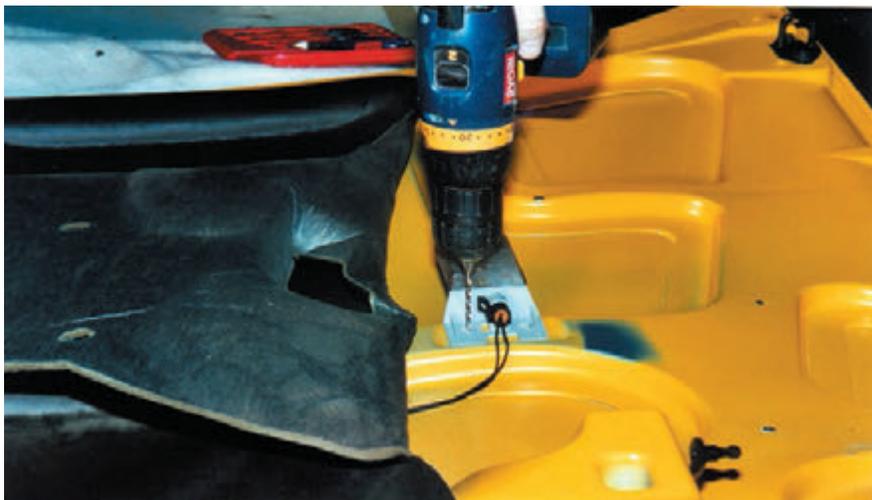
Remove the 13mm nuts holding the hinges to the mounting studs. Leave the hinges attached and lift off the stock hood.



Transfer the hinges to the new hood using the existing bolts. Leave them a little loose because they'll provide some adjustment later. **DO NOT TRANSFER THE HOOD-MOUNTED LATCHES AT THIS TIME.**



Unfasten the retainers holding the under hood insulation from the stock hood and remove it.



The under hood light and bracket is riveted in place drill them out using the proper bit and then unclip the wiring retainer.



Drill out the pre-dimpled holes for the under hood light and attach it using appropriate 5/32" self-tapping screws provided with the hood.



There's also a pre-dimpled hole that must be opened up using a 1/4" bit so the light's wiring retaining clip can be pressed into place. Locations for the holes that retain the underhood insulation are pre-dimpled. Use the appropriate bit to open these holes and reinstall the insulation, if desired.



Drop the new hood into position on the car by locating the hinges back down onto the mounting studs and loosely reattaching the nuts.

ADJUSTMENT

Basic installation of your RKSport hood is very straightforward. The most challenging part of the job is exercising the patience to properly align the hood in its opening. Your RK5 hood will be very close right out of the box but fine-tuning the fitment using several adjustment points in the engine bay will be necessary. PATIENCE IS KEY.

Leave the latches off the new hood until the hinges are bolted back into the car. Not only will they provide some additional adjustment, they'll latch as you're aligning the hood so you will forever be reaching into the cockpit to pop the hood open during the alignment process.

Reattach the struts and lower the hood to see how it fits. Adjust the hood's fore-and-aft location first by moving the hinges on their studs.



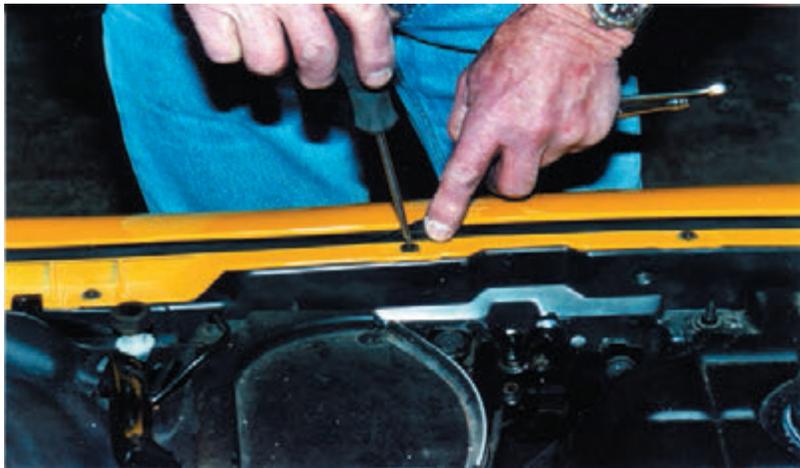
Once that's set, further adjustments can be made by raising or lowering the front and rear bump-stops in the engine bay.



The headlight housings can also be raised, lowered or moved fore-and-aft—if necessary-- using these adjustment points.



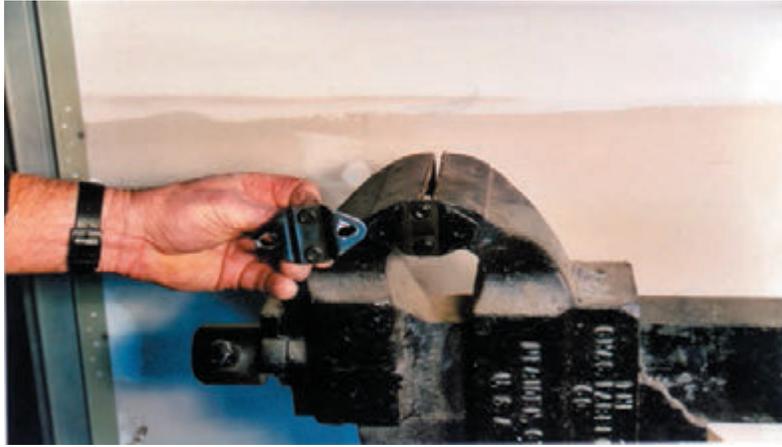
Further adjustment can be accomplished by loosening and moving the three bolts holding the latch mechanisms to the car.



Even more alignment possibilities are available by loosening the screws at the top ridge of the fenders and moving them in, out, or shimming under them.



Once you're very close to proper alignment, attach the latches to the hood, again leaving the bolts somewhat loose for alignment purposes.



The bolt holes in the hood latches may need to be elongated with a die grinder in order to facilitate additional adjustment if necessary.



Continue adjusting, fitting and tweaking until the fit is perfect.

Use a scribe to mark everything when you're satisfied with the alignment of your new RKSport hood, because now it's time to remove it for prep work and paint matching.