

These instructions are aimed at the do-it-yourself installer. Read them in their entirety before you begin installing the dash kit. The installation procedure is not difficult, but does require patience and attention to detail. If after reading these instructions you doubt your ability to install this kit, we recommend that you engage the services of a professional installer.


These instructions cover both "Flat Overlay Components," so called 2D kits, and 3D Molded "Dash-Cap System" components. 2D kits and components are flat and fit flat surfaces and areas that are curved in one direction only. If the surface to be covered is bent in more than one direction, i.e. it is curved in three dimensions, then a 3D component is needed. Some kits include both 2D and 3D parts.

The 2D components are precision cut out of a flat sheet of material. The 3D components are molded in hard plastic to fit precisely on the designated area as a cap. There is no difference in the surface finish between 2D and 3D components. The pieces in kits comprised of both 2D and 3D parts are a perfect match. 3D components are not available in real wood and real carbon fiber as these materials cannot be shaped in a molding process.

BEFORE YOU START

Again, we recommend that you read the instructions completely to ensure you are familiar with all steps in the installation procedure. On applications requiring adhesive promoter, you will have limited time to install the dash pieces once the adhesive promoter is opened, so you must be acquainted with the process.

Check the kit to make sure it is the correct one for your vehicle, and this involves more than just verifying year, make and model. For example, if your vehicle has automatic temperature control and manual transmission, make sure you did not receive a kit for a vehicle with manual temperature control and automatic transmission. Each kit has a schematic of the pieces that are included in the kit, indicating where they are installed. Check the contents of the box before you begin to make sure you that what you received matches the schematic.



Most kits include alcohol wipes, however if your kit does not or you have a large dash area with a lot of pieces to install, we recommend you have a bottle of isopropyl alcohol and several clean cotton cloths on hand. The dash must be perfectly clean and free of dirt and lint for the dash pieces to adhere properly. Isopropyl alcohol can be purchased at any drug store.

Most kits also include adhesive promoter, which must be used to install some dash pieces, particularly those on curved, vertical and down facing surfaces. However, some kit manufacturers rely solely on the adhesive applied during manufacturing and no adhesive promoter is supplied. In kits where it is included, the adhesive promoter may be supplied in a tube, which includes a brush for application, or on a pad enclosed in a package. For the latter we recommend only opening a corner of the package and using a Q-tip to apply the adhesive promoter.

WARNING: Adhesive promoter is corrosive; always wear rubber gloves when using it. Do not allow the promoter to contact any area that will not be covered by dash trim as it will permanently discolor whatever it touches.

Some 3D kits include a “dash spray”, which is used when installing the 3D trim pieces.

Finally, for proper part adhesion, the dash surfaces and the dash kit pieces must be at least 70°F (21°C). If necessary, run the vehicle with the heater on and use a hair dryer to warm the dash and dash pieces.

STEP 1: SURFACE CLEANING & PREPARATION

If your vehicle has had Armor All® or a similar vinyl treatment product containing silicone applied, all surfaces where dash kit pieces will be installed must be cleaned until all silicone residue is removed. This cannot be emphasized enough: **ANY SILICONE THAT REMAINS ON THE SURFACE WILL GREATLY REDUCE ADHESION AND RUIN YOUR WORK.** Treat all used vehicles as if vinyl treatment has been applied. To clean the surface, apply a wax and grease remover to a clean cotton cloth and thoroughly wipe the area. We recommend Prep-All Wax & Grease Remover as it is safe for plastic. It can be purchased at most auto parts stores and auto body shop supply stores. **CAUTION: Do not use lacquer thinner, as it will destroy the surface.**

Repeat the cleaning process several times to ensure that all silicone residue is removed. This is critical to make sure all dash kit pieces adhere to the surfaces properly. To test whether the surface is free of silicone, apply a strip of masking tape. If the tape peels off without resistance, repeat the cleaning procedure. If the tape sticks aggressively and makes a “ripping” sound when pulled off, you can proceed to the next step.



Thoroughly clean the dash surfaces where the dash trim pieces will be installed with isopropyl alcohol. These surfaces must be free of dirt and lint. Do not let the alcohol come in contact with any clear plastic surfaces covering gauges, clocks, radios or warning lights.

As a final step, again test the surfaces with masking tape. If you have any doubts that surfaces are clean and silicone free, repeat the cleaning and testing process. It cannot be stressed enough: If the surfaces where dash pieces will be installed are not completely clean and free of wax, silicone, dirt, grease or other contaminants, the dash kit pieces may not adhere.

STEP 2: TEST FITTING THE DASH TRIM

Refer to the detailed schematic supplied with the kit when performing this step to make sure all trim pieces are installed in the right place. Without removing the backing from the part and exposing the adhesive, make sure each part fits in its designated place. This is called “dry fitting”. Hold the component in place and make sure that adjacent buttons, switches, and vents move freely. If your kit has all parts installed on a single large sheet of clear plastic, carefully cut the plastic backing around the part without exposing the adhesive, so the part can be dry fit.



If any part looks damaged or doesn't fit properly, please contact CARiD right away. If you are installing a 2D kit, the test fitting process will also help you establish the areas where adhesive promoter must be used.

STEP 3. INSTALLING THE FIRST COMPONENTS

Begin the installation procedure by qualifying which parts can be installed solely with the adhesive already on the trim piece, and which components must be installed using adhesive promoter. Parts that install on flat or horizontal surfaces can generally be installed with just the adhesive applied to the part at the manufacturer. However, corners, narrow strips of trim, trim that goes around air vents, pieces that must be bent to fit, and pieces that are installed on vertical surfaces, or surfaces that face downward, must be installed with adhesive promoter to ensure they adhere properly. Be aware that some manufacturers specify that the adhesive they apply during manufacturing is adequate for adhesion, and these kits will not include adhesion promoter.

Begin by installing small parts that fit on flat and horizontal surfaces, which do not need adhesive promoter. This will also help you become familiar with the process and build your confidence. This will be necessary in the next step when the adhesive promoter is used and working in a timely fashion will be required. Starting at a corner of the piece to be installed, carefully peel off the backing using your fingernail or a knife, to expose the adhesive. Place the trim piece in position and press down lightly with your fingers. If you are satisfied with the fit, apply pressure to the entire part surface using a soft cloth.

Continue installation, proceeding with larger parts that can be installed without using adhesive promoter. Big pieces are easier to install if you start by only peeling off part of the backing. This way you can attach just an edge while making sure the trim piece is positioned perfectly, and avoid having other areas of the piece accidentally stick in the wrong place.

When you are satisfied that the piece is positioned properly, continue peeling off the backing as you press the piece into place. Try to make sure you don't end up with any air bubbles in the middle. Big pieces should be installed from side-to-side or top-to-bottom. Do not start from the center of the

NOTE: This side-to-side installation method applies to 2D components only.

Finally, to maximize bond, carefully warm each part with a hair dryer and re-apply pressure.

STEP 4: INSTALLING 2D COMPONENTS WITH ADHESIVE PROMOTER

The only 2D trim pieces remaining to be installed should be those requiring adhesive promoter. This step must be planned carefully, since once the adhesive promoter is opened you will have limited time to install the pieces, and after the backing is peeled away from the trim piece it will take only slight contact between the adhesive on the piece and the adhesive promoter to create a solid bond, and no adjustment will be possible. So it is essential that you practice how to align each piece in its location for a perfect fit, and get the placement right on the first attempt.



Before you begin applying adhesive promoter, determine the order of installation for the remaining trim pieces and lay them out in that order so they are in easy reach. If your adhesive promoter is supplied in a tube, press the black dot on the outer tube to break the inner tube, then very gently squeeze the tube to start flow to the brush. When you see the brush start to wet, stop squeezing. If your adhesive promoter is supplied on a pad enclosed in a package, open only a corner of the package, leaving the pad inside, and use a Q-tip to apply the adhesive promoter.

WARNING: Adhesive promoter is corrosive; always wear rubber gloves when using it. Do not allow the promoter to contact any area that will not be covered by dash trim as it will permanently discolor whatever it touches.

Begin applying the adhesive promoter to critical areas, including:

- Corners
- Narrow strips of trim
- Around air vents
- Around the edges of areas where the dash trim piece must be bent to fit
- Around the edges of vertical and down facing surfaces

It is absolutely essential that the adhesive promoter be applied to these areas, as otherwise the trim pieces may not adhere to the surface properly. Apply the promoter to surfaces in the same order as the previously determined order of trim piece installation. After 5 minutes, the area where promoter was first applied will have dried sufficiently to install the first piece. Install the rest of the pieces in the order in which they are laid out and the order in which you applied adhesive promoter. Try to complete installation within 20 minutes.

Large pieces are easier to install if you start by only peeling off part of the backing. This way you can attach just an edge while making sure the trim piece is positioned perfectly, and avoid having other areas of the piece accidentally stick in the wrong place. When you are satisfied that the piece is positioned properly, continue peeling off the backing as you press the piece into place. Try to make sure you don't end up with any air bubbles in the middle. Big pieces should be installed from side-to-side or top-to-bottom. Do not start from the center of the part and try to work outward. (This applies only to 2D components).

Once you are satisfied with the placement of a component, apply pressure to the entire part surface using a soft cloth.

STEP 5: INSTALLING 3D COMPONENTS WITH ADHESIVE PROMOTER

NOTE: This step applies only to kits with 3D components.

As was detailed in Step 2, perform a "dry fitting" procedure to make sure that the 3D pieces are undamaged, fit properly, and don't interfere with any buttons, switches, or vents. Practice installing each part until you are satisfied that you can easily place it into its proper position.



Starting at a corner of the 3D trim piece, carefully peel off the backing using your fingernail or a knife, to expose the adhesive. Do this on all 3D pieces and place them face down on a soft surface. Mist the trim piece adhesive surfaces lightly with the “dash spray” supplied with the kit. This will reduce the tape tack upon initial contact, to avoid premature tacking which could prevent the component from fully installing.

Directly place each 3D part in position, straight and even, not working left to right or right to left. Press down, applying gentle to moderate pressure until the part is fully in place. Once the part is in position, inspect for adhesion and gently press down on any areas required.



STEP 6: FINISHING TOUCHES

Once all trim pieces are in place, give each one a final press using your fingers. Inspect each piece to make sure it is properly installed. If an edge has lifted, simply press it back down. Although adhesive bonding begins immediately, it takes 72 hours (3 days) for the adhesive to fully cure, during which time the dash trim pieces should not be tampered with. When completely dry, use a clean, lint-free cloth to remove finger prints and smudges left during the installation process.



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STEP 7: LEAN BACK! ADMIRE YOUR WORK!

To get the most enjoyment from your new dash now and for years to come, keep it clean and shiny with household window cleaner and clean towels. Avoid all use of vinyl treatment products!

