

Installation Guide: Leather Gauge Cluster Hood Cover

Required Materials & Tools

- Contact adhesive
- X-Acto knife with fresh blades
- Phillips head screwdriver
- Latex gloves

Step 1: Hood Disassembly

1. Carefully remove the hood cover from the dashboard by pulling it straight upward.
2. Unscrew the two Phillips screws (indicated by red arrows) to detach the bottom plastic section from the top of the hood.



3. Rest your thumbs on the edge of the bottom plastic part and use your fingers to pull the top section backward. *Note: This action may snap two plastic alignment pins (circled in blue); this is expected and will not compromise the hood's structural integrity or final appearance.*



4. The bottom component remains securely held by the primary latches and the two screws. Removing this section provides a much larger accessible area to apply the leather smoothly.



Step 2: Dry Fitting and Primary Alignment

5. Perform a dry fit of the leather cover over the hood to determine exact seam placement, ensuring there is an equal length of extra material left on both sides.

6. Put on latex gloves and apply a thin layer of contact adhesive strictly to the rim of the cover. Ensure the layer is not so thick that it bleeds through the leather or smears onto the visible edges.



7. Do not let the glue dry. Carefully slip the cover onto the hood, avoiding any adhesive contact with the exterior-facing leather.
8. Once the middle strip (the section facing the driver) makes contact with the rim, use your fingers to work back and forth along the edge to perfectly align the stitch lines. The wet adhesive will provide a generous window of time for these micro-adjustments.
9. Position the top stitch line so it sits slightly above the rim, direct the two middle stitches toward the driver's seat, and tuck the bottom stitch line onto the underbelly of the hood. Press the strip firmly against the plastic to eliminate any bubbles.



Step 3: Stretching and Bonding the Edges

10. Allow the glue a few minutes to set. This ensures the aligned stitches do not shift during the subsequent stretching phase.
11. Invert the hood and use a brush to apply an even, thin layer of adhesive to both the plastic underbelly edge and the inner edge of the leather flap.



12. Wait 3–5 minutes until the adhesive becomes tacky, then rotate the hood back to its upright position.
13. Using your thumbs, stretch the leather tightly toward the glued edge and fold it over. Work symmetrically: start exactly at the center, move to the left and right quarters, and finish with the remaining sections.



14. If wrinkles form, gently stretch the leather toward the edge again before folding it over. Ensure everything is tight over the side edges, but avoid using excessive force—cabin heat from the sun will naturally shrink and tighten the leather further over time.



15. Using an X-Acto knife, carefully trim the leather around the connection latches.

Step 4: Reassembly and Underside Finishing

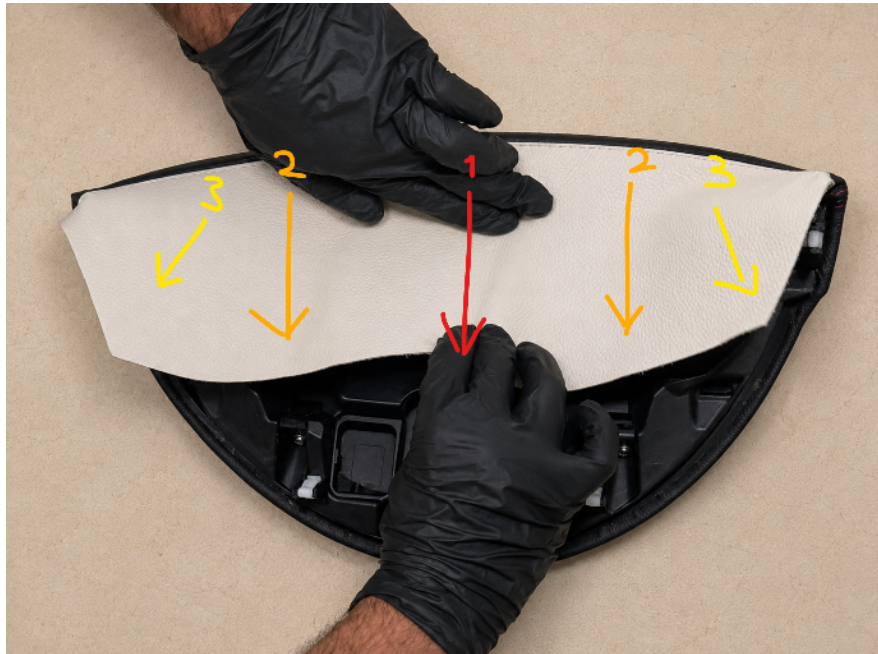
16. Reinstall the bottom plastic cover by positioning it below the indicated pin (circled in green). It should seat easily without force; once the latches click into place, secure it with the two screws removed in Step 1.



17. Brush an even layer of adhesive onto the remaining underside leather and the corresponding plastic surfaces, ensuring no thick clumps remain that could show through the finish.



18. After a brief wait, stretch the middle section of the leather toward the opposing edge, applying firm pressure to smooth it completely over the plastic.



19. Continue this smoothing process outward in quarters.

20. Fold and glue the edges of the middle strip inward. Be mindful that excessive material buildup here may interfere with how flush the hood sits on the dashboard.



21. Carefully cut the material away from the mounting pins required to snap the hood back into the dashboard.



22. **Final Trimming and Dashboard Fitment** To ensure the hood sits completely flush against the dashboard, you may need to carefully trim excess material from the areas highlighted in **green**. Proceed conservatively—over-trimming will expose uneven leather edges once the hood is reinstalled.

Crucial Note: Do **not** cut the material in the area highlighted in **yellow**. Allow this section to fold naturally over the gauge cluster; this will hide the inner workings and create a seamless, factory-quality finish.



Final result:

