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FZJ80 - FJ80 TAILGATE STORAGE PANEL

INSTALL DIRECTIONS

Thanks for choosing our Tailgate Storage Panel! You will need a few tools and skills to be able to measure and the cut sheet metal and install this panel successfully. Please read these directions before starting to make sure you understand how it goes together. If you or your installer have *any* questions please call or e-mail Back Bay Customs for assistance.

Suggested Tools & Supplies

You'll need something to cut the tailgate sheetmetal. You will need to cut through the inside layer as well as a couple short braces near the middle. A thin, 3" or 4.5" air-powered or electric cut off wheel or a body saw will make quick work of this. A jig saw with a fine tooth metal cutting blade will work also.

- Safety glasses and gloves.
- 7/16" open end wrench and/or 7/16" socket on a 1/4" drive ratchet.
- 5/32" or 4mm Allen wrench for mounting bolts.
- 5mm Allen wrench for latch brace bolts.
- Large Philips screwdriver to remove factory latch.
- Small Phillips screwdriver to remove factory covers on tailgate.
- 10mm wrench to adjust compression latches on lid if needed.
- 13mm socket with extension and ratchet to tighten the center brace.
- A fine tip marker or pencil and/or a scribe.
- Masking tape.
- A ruler or caliper to measure with.
- A straight edge to scribe or draw your cut line against.
- Metal files, sandpaper or deburring tool to clean up the cut sheet metal edges.
- Paint pen or other paint to touch up cut edge.
- Gorilla tape to hold down wiring.
- Cold beverage and music.

Step 1

-Remove the factory carpeted panel and the 3 silver covers under the panel. Unclip the two wiring clips near the middle of the panel (one is under the center cover). Remove any clips that may have broken off in the tailgate.



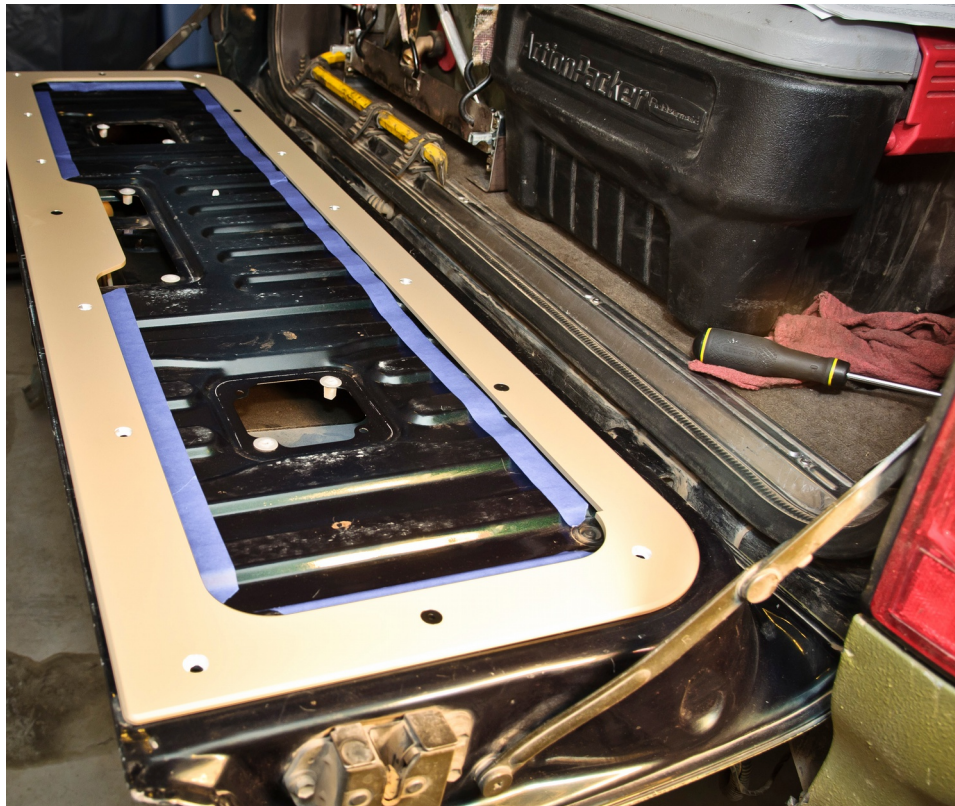
Step 2

-Using the smaller allen wrench and 7/16" wrench, carefully unbolt the cover lid from the cover frame and set aside the lid. Place the frame on the tailgate and drop the black bolts into all the holes to help find a good neutral position over the holes. Reaching through the holes in the tailgate, install as many of the nuts as you can and snug them up so the panel doesn't move.



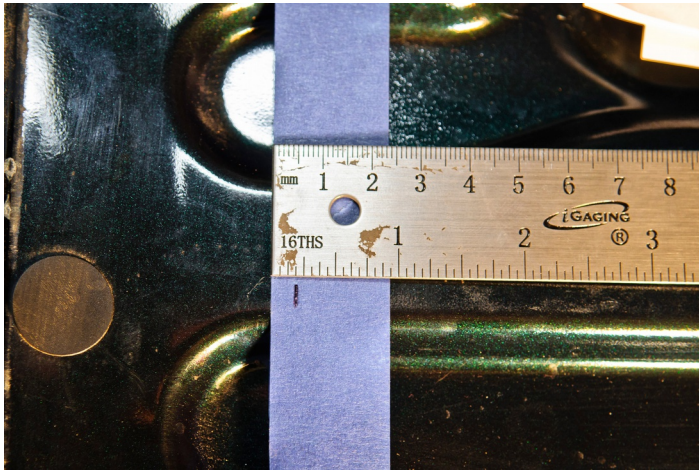
Step 3

-Next you are going to mark the location the inside edge of the frame onto the tailgate. It's not necessary to trace the rounded corners, latch protector or down in the low spots of the stamped ribs. Take your masking tape and align it with the edge of the panel on all 4 sides. You can use small pieces of tape or 4 long ones, just make sure they are lined up with the inside edge of the frame and the frame is positioned where it will bolt up easily and look straight.



Step 4

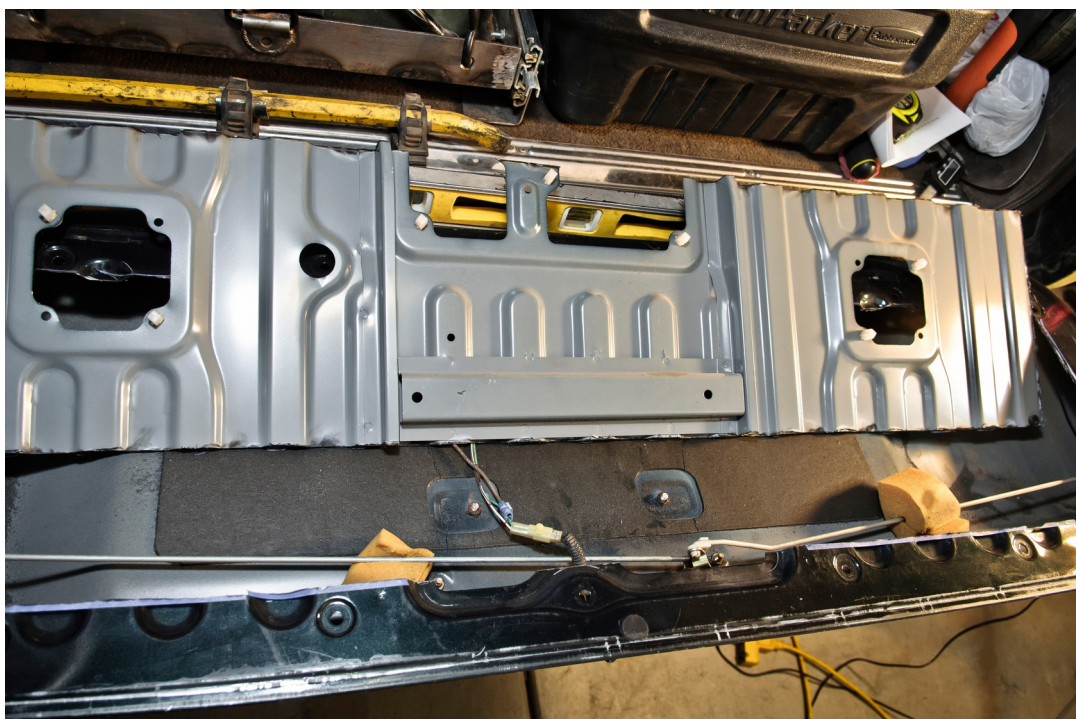
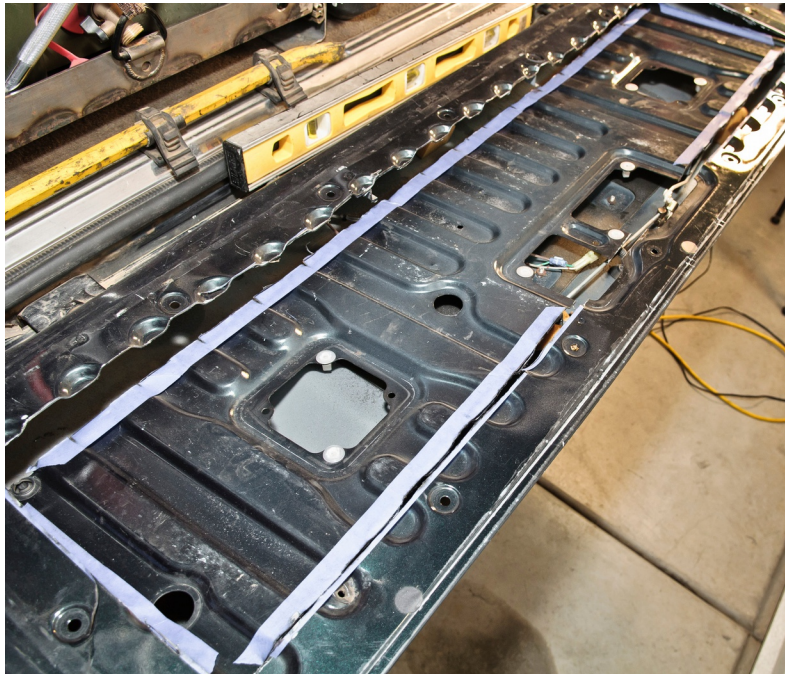
-Once the tape is in place unbolt the frame and set it aside. Now the outside edge of the tape marks need to be transferred inward to make your cut lines. Using a caliper or ruler transfer the two sides and the rearmost (latch side) lines in by $\frac{3}{16}$ ". The hinge side line gets transferred in by $\frac{1}{6}$ ". The lines will all be drawn or scribed against your straightedge to meet at 90 degrees in the corners, making a rectangle measuring $48 \frac{15}{16}$ " X $10 \frac{9}{16}$ ". If it is slightly larger the panel will still fit just fine. If it's too small you will need sand or trim it until it measures correctly.



Step 5

-Set up whatever you are going to use to cut with and put on your eye protection and gloves. Make sure that your wheel or blade won't stick through too far and damage the outer layer of the tailgate, wires, or the latch parts. Begin cutting and be aware that you will need to cut through a couple thin braces (possibly only on the FZJ80 models) near the middle.

-Remove the cut panel and cut ends of the two braces back so that the rear edge trim can clear them as well as to give yourself a little more room for cargo. If you cut the braces back $3/8"$ to $1/2"$ that will give you enough room for the trim. You can put a 45 degree cut on the end of each brace to eliminate a sharp corner if you like. This is the only cut sheetmetal that will be exposed once installed.



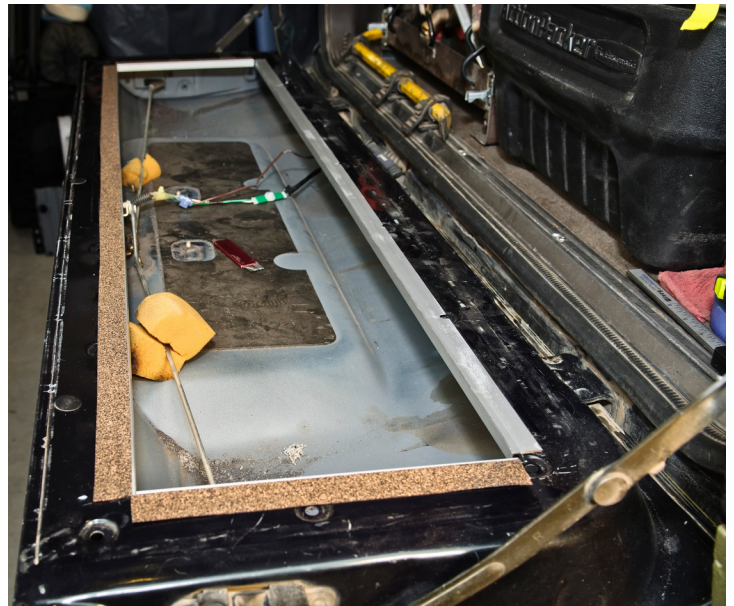
Step 6

-Remove all the burrs from your cut edges with files or sandpaper. Paint them with a paint pen or touchup paint if desired. The two braces that you trimmed under the hinge side of the panel should be carefully sanded so the edges won't cut your belongings.



Step 7

-Install the 4 aluminum edge trim piece onto the cut edges. The one without rubber goes on the front, hinge side. Getting them over the corrugations may require hooking the lower edge under the corrugations and rolling the top into place or squeezing the panel up while you slide the trim on. Position these trim pieces so they touch at all 4 corners and hold the two short ones in place with masking tape so they don't move around.



Step 8

-Place the frame on the tailgate and drop all the black bolts into the holes. Get all the nuts started and center the frame again. Tighten them all up until the sheetmetal on the tailgate stops compressing (there is a small dimple the nut will have to push in while you tighten them). Use the allen wrench to hold the bolt still and tighten the nuts, this will help prevent the bolt from damaging the finish on the panel.



Step 9

-Remove the two nuts that will hold the lift strut bracket in place. Loosen the rear row of nuts a couple turns so you can slide the hinge and lid assembly in place. Carefully start inserting one corner of the hinge under the frame and push it in place, being careful not to hit the corner of the lid on the frame. Open the latches and hold on to them as you slowly close the lid and check that the door is centered in the opening. Adjust as needed and final tighten the nuts on the hinge side.

Step 10

-Install the lift strut bracket and tighten the two nuts you removed earlier. Snap the lift strut onto the studs. It can go whichever way you think looks cooler.



Step 11

-Loosen and remove the two screws holding the latch striker to the tailgate. Reinstall with the provided M8 x 1.25 cap screws. From inside the tailgate, slide the latch support bracket onto the exposed ends of the striker screws and thread on the provided nuts until almost seated. Push the latch support bracket up against the bottom of the frame and tighten the nuts.

Step 12

-Clean the inside of the tailgate to remove any metal chips and to degrease the area under the wiring. Remove the wiring clips from the wiring harness in the tailgate and tape the entire length down to help protect it from damage.



Ok, that's it! Now see how much stuff you can fit in there and hit the trails!

NOTES -

-There are extra fasteners included for the frame in case you kick one into the drain or your dog eats it.

-If the latches are hard to close, loosen the jamb nut and thread the adjuster bolt in slightly. Adjust until it doesn't take too much force to latch the latches and they open easily.

Please let me or one of the guys here at Back Bay Customs know if you have any questions or comments on this product, the install or the directions. We want to give you a high quality product with great service so please give us any feedback you think will help us do that.

Thanks! Adam

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