

Headliner Repair

This is an example of how to replace your drooping foam backed felt headliner. Modern cars use a cardboard-like panel with a foam backed felt glued to it. Over time, the felt disintegrates and the foam crumbles away, leaving you with a sagging, flapping, ugly headliner.

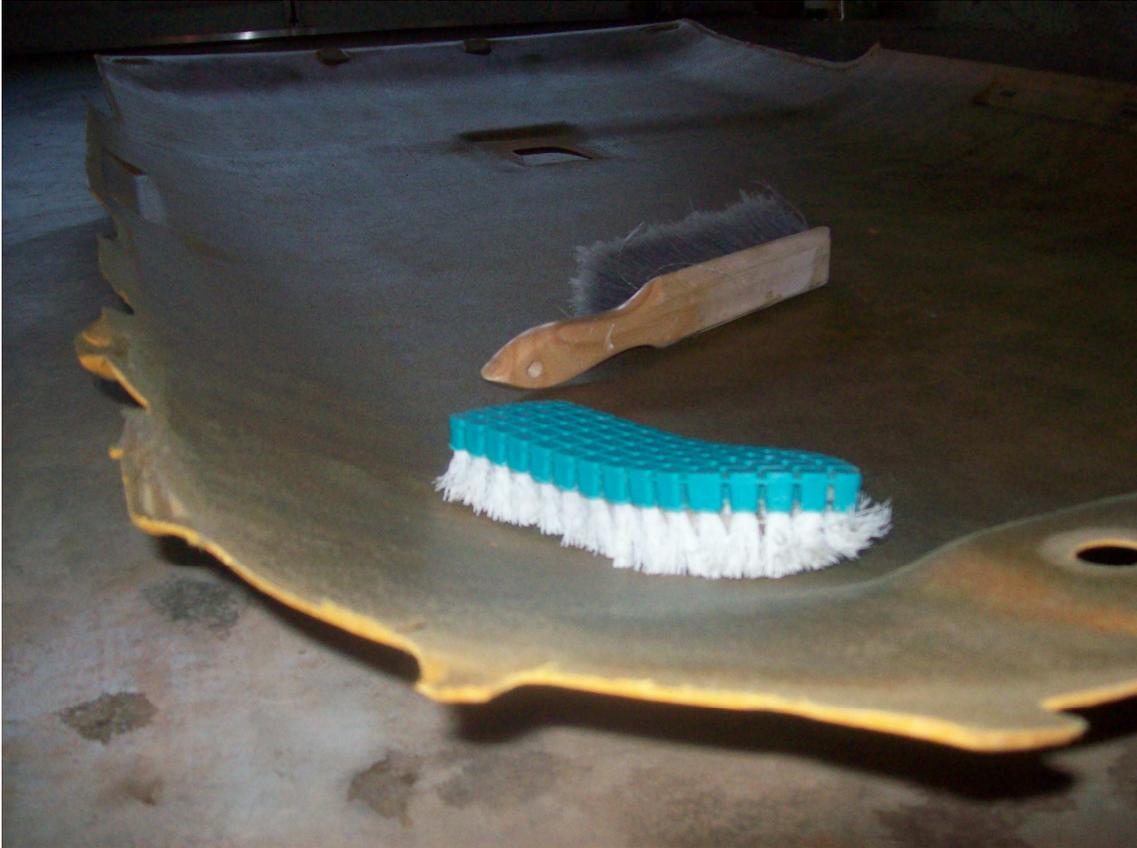
1. Remove the trim, dome light, and sun visors as necessary to get the headliner loose. It may be stuck to the roof of the car with glue. Be careful not to damage the headliner board.



2. Remove the headliner from the car. Depending on your car this could be a challenge. This example was an Escort wagon which proved easy to slide the headliner out the back door. Coupes will probably be harder to work it out the side door.



3. Scrape the old foam and fabric off the headliner backer board. This board is fragile, so be careful not to break or poke through it.



4. Make sure to get all the loose glue and foam off. I used a scrub brush to gently remove all the foam and glue.



5. Head down to your favorite fabric store and purchase headliner material. I found this at Hancock's. Then stop by the auto parts store for some spray-on headliner glue. I used 2 cans on the wagon and it was plenty.
6. Lay out the headliner material and trim it back so that there is some excess, but not tons. Make sure it's going to fill in all the contours.
7. Follow your glue directions and spray the glue on the backer board and on the headliner (foam side). I did half the roof at a time to keep the amount of glued area manageable. This is a good time for a helper. One person holds the fabric up while the other lays it in place. This is contact glue, so once the glue on the fabric touches the glue on the board, it's stuck. You have one shot to get it right.
 Lesson Learned: Don't press down on the fabric. If you do, you'll leave hand prints. Use very light pressure and mold it into the contours and leave it.
8. Once it's glued to the backer board, let it dry and trim off the excess. Trim out the dome light and sun visor holes.
9. Install back into the car.
10. Reinstall trim, lights, and sun visors.