The glovebox
RADIO

BY ERIC SCHMID   PART IX IN A SERIES

In earlier articles I described the restoration of the interiors of my '65 Riviera with the veneer, the door panels, the console and the dashboard.

In the last issue, I described the installation of speakers and in this issue, I describe how I hid the audio system in a self-made glove box (the factory radio remains for an original look).

As soon as I start the restoration of my trunk, I will include the installation of a subwoofer and a power amplifier.

You sure all have your original glove box as shown in Fig. 01. Now it is important to recreate the box very exactly in 4mm birch wood and to make a suitable division for the new radio. First of all, you have to cut the respective parts (Fig. 02). For this you take the side of the original glove box as a model, put it on the wooden board and pulls with a pencil to the contour. Then cut along the lines with a jigsaw. Then, use the cut-out part as a template for the two other identical parts. Make sure that the edges are cut very straight, so that they can be glued well. Now stick two of these parts to the base plate as an outer wall. It can be glued with white glue, but I used thick superglue which is much faster. The third wall is used as a separator (do not stick together yet). Put a weight on it until completely dry (Fig. 03).

As soon as the side walls are tight, place the radio on the left wooden wall... The width of the radio front determines where the middle partition should be glued (Fig. 04). Draw a dividing line with a pencil and glue the dividing wall there. Then insert a 4mm thick board to the left and right of the radio, at least 10cm wide and the same height as the radio (Fig. 04). This forms the basis of the frame where the radio is
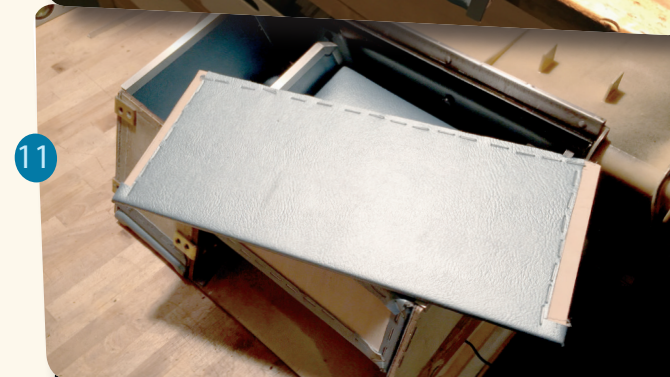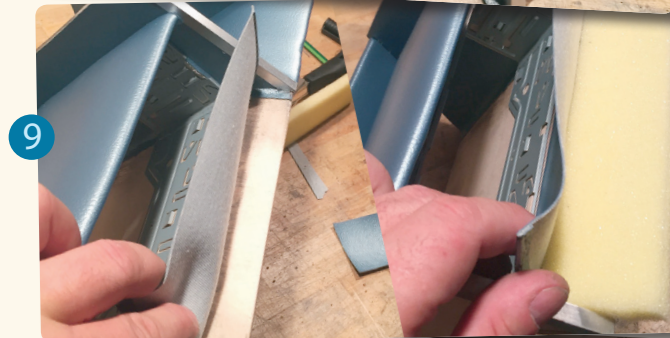
firmly anchored. Again, it makes sense to put some markers so that everything fits well together when gluing. First glue the bottom board to the floor, then glue the side walls of the frame and finally the top piece. Now the mounting frame for the radio is ready (Fig. 05). For the lining of the glove compartment, I used the same vinyl as my door panels. To the walls of the glove box, the vinyl can be glued directly on the wood with strong contact spray, which cut away overflows of the vinyl with a scalpel. For the bottoms of the glove box I used foam that I coated with vinyl. Simply cut a board that has the required mass of space, then glue the foam with contact spray on it. When dry, scrape the foam all around with the scissors, lay the vinyl over it and fasten it to the board sideways from the bottom with staples – do this step with a little tension on the vinyl to make it taut. Make sure that there is enough overlap at the front and back to secure it to the underside with staples later (Fig. 06). The same is done with a board that is attached to the top of the radio frame with white glue or superglue (Fig. 07). To finish the front edges of the wood, I used an aluminum profile in "U" shape, which I cut to size, glued in and then polished with steel wool (Fig. 08). Then trim a vinyl strip for the front of the radio so that you stick it over 1mm to the radio frame (with a hem, the finish of the vinyl looks cleaner). Then slide a piece of foam in the same width underneath. Carefully pull on the vinyl overlap and secure it to the underside of the glove compartment with staples (Fig. 09). Now mark the mounting holes and drill them. If you've done everything right, your box looks like Fig. 10.

Finally, cut the lid of the glove box and glue the underside with vinyl. On the underside, exactly where the lid is to be glued, no vinyl may be present, otherwise the lid can not be properly glued to the side walls (Fig. 11).

Install the recess for the light in the new glove box where it makes the most sense for you (I have attached it to the back of the right compartment). Now your glove box plus-minus looks like Fig. 12.

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