

FOLDING TOP

OPERATION OF THE FOLDING TOP

1955 PONTIAC 2867DTX

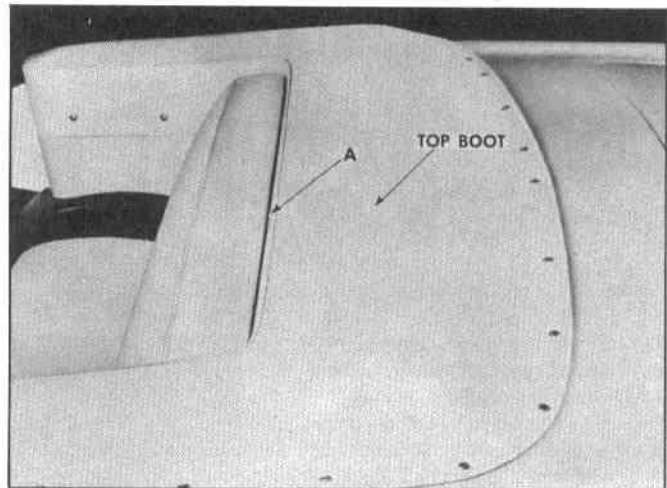
This Convertible Coupe incorporates a Hydro-Lectric Power System to raise and lower the folding top. After the top has been either unlatched and raised above the windshield by hand, or unfastened from the "hold-down" strap in the top compartment, it can be lowered or raised, respectively, by means of a push-pull control knob located at the instrument panel. Hydraulic fluid from an electrically driven pump is forced through tubing to double-acting, piston-type cylinders located at each rear quarter section of the car. Pressurized fluid entering the top of the hydraulic lift cylinders forces the pistons down -- thus lowering the top. Pressurized fluid entering the bottom of the hydraulic lift cylinders forces the pistons upward -- thus raising the top.

This Section, which explains and illustrates the method of operating the folding top, also contains information on the care and maintenance of the plastic back window.

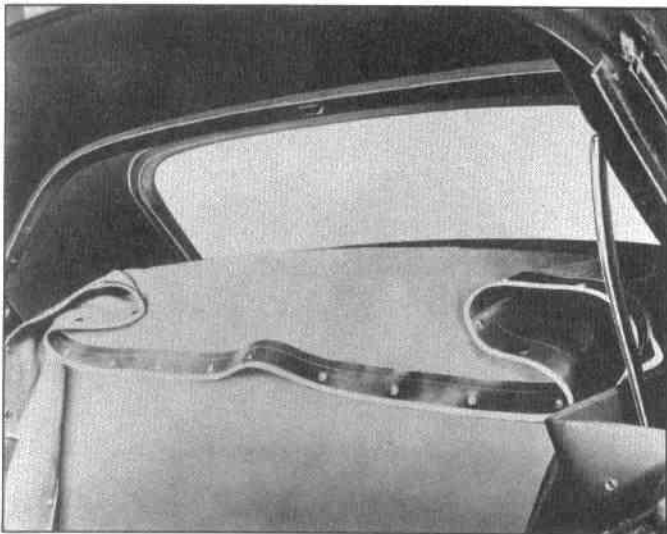
TOP BOOT

The top boot, which is illustrated opposite, is attached with snap fasteners along the outer edges and a "slide-in" retainer indicated at "A". The use of a retainer at this location provides two methods for storing the boot when the folding top is raised.

1. The boot may be stored in its protective case in the rear compartment of the car.
 2. The boot may be left attached in its retainer and folded neatly behind the rear seat back.
- The method followed for storing the boot is left to the discretion of the owner. Instructions for installing the top boot are covered on later pages of this Service News.



The top compartment behind the rear seat must only be used for storage of the top boot when the boot is left attached to the seat back. The storage of such items as golf clubs, luggage and miscellaneous objects in this compartment not only interferes with the proper operation of the top, but may damage or stain the top material or plastic back window.



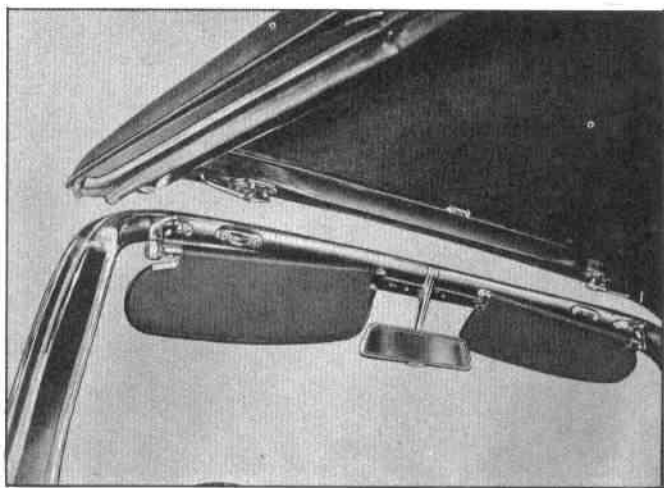
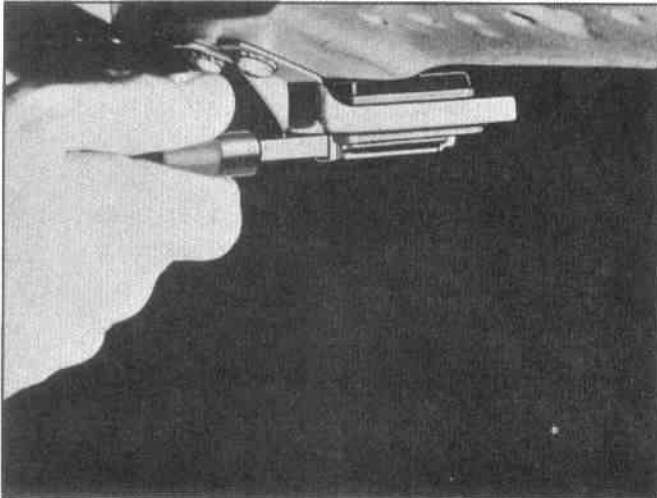
Turn down sun visors, rotate locking handle as shown in illustration opposite to disengage top header from windshield on left and right sides.

TO LOWER THE TOP

STOP THE CAR. If the top boot has been stored behind the rear seat, turn boot forward across the seat back and fold over the corners, as shown in the opposite picture. It is not necessary to lower the back curtain before lowering the top.

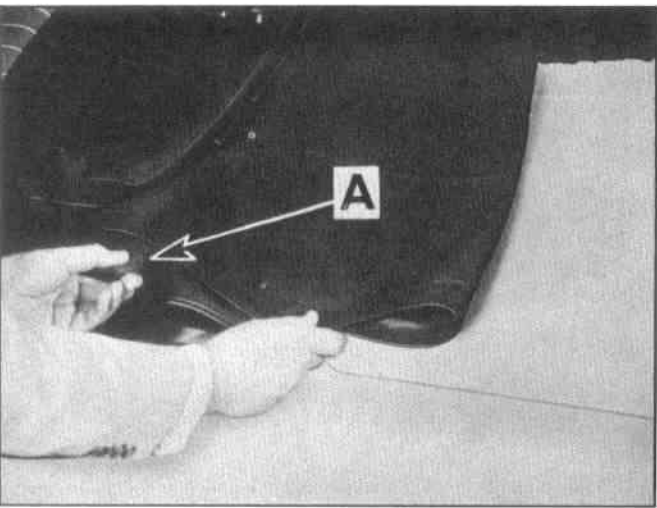
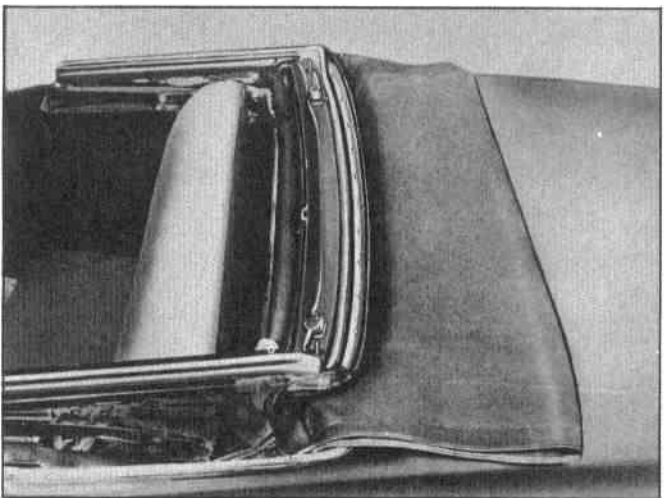


Then, push the front of the top up to release it from the windshield header. After pushing the top above the windshield header, make sure handles have snapped into flush unlocked position parallel with the header, otherwise, the protruding handles may damage the fabric when the top is in a lowered position. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.**



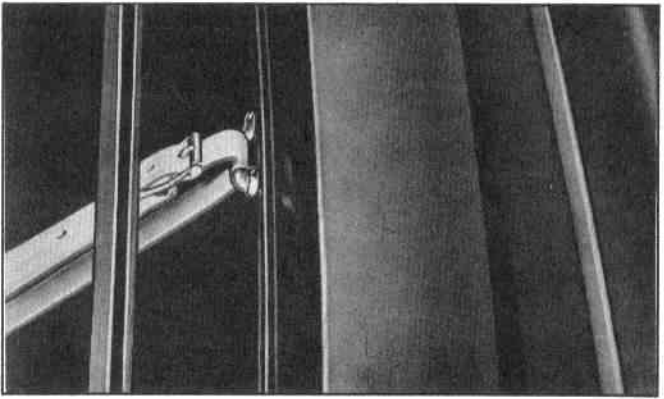
PULL OUT the top control knob located below the instrument panel and hold it **OUT** until the top is fully lowered. It is not necessary to lower the rear quarter windows. Top will automatically stop when control knob is released.

After the top is lowered, raise it slightly by hand and pull top material from under roof rail and arrange on rear body panel, as shown in this illustration.

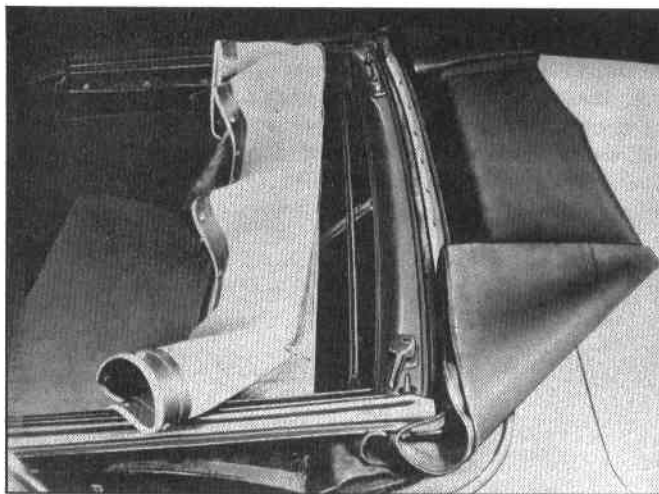
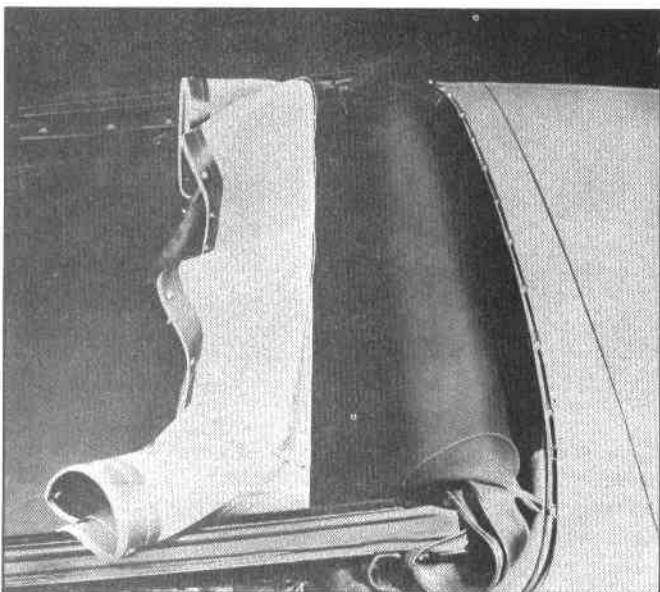


Then, on both left and right sides, pull the top padding "A" from between top rails, as indicated in this illustration. **NOTE:** Top material and padding must not be pinched by the operating arms of top.

Locate the leather hold-down strap in top boot kit and slip the end of the strap through the metal loops located in the top compartment and between the locking handles, then buckle securely. **THIS IS IMPORTANT.** When lowered, top must be securely strapped down to prevent chafing of top material. Locking handles must also be in the unlocked position, parallel with the header.



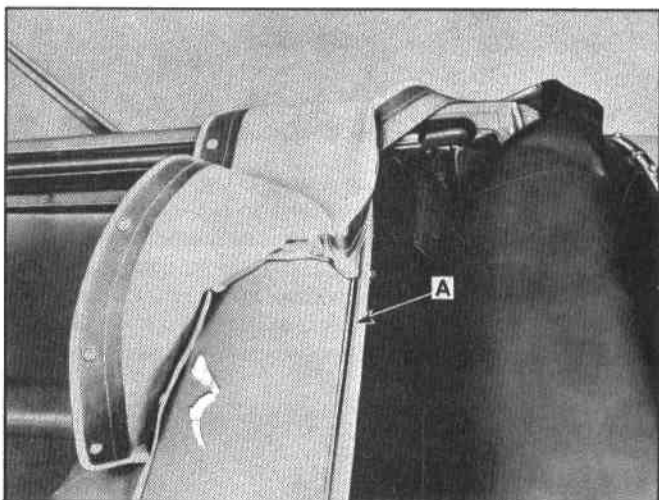
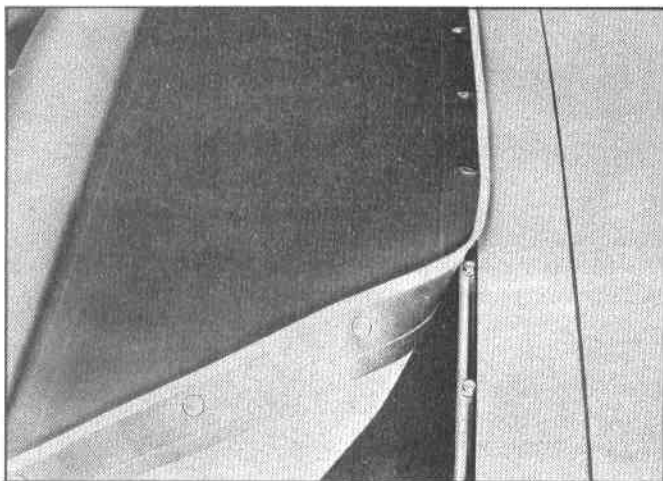
Next, fold over the corners of the top material like this.



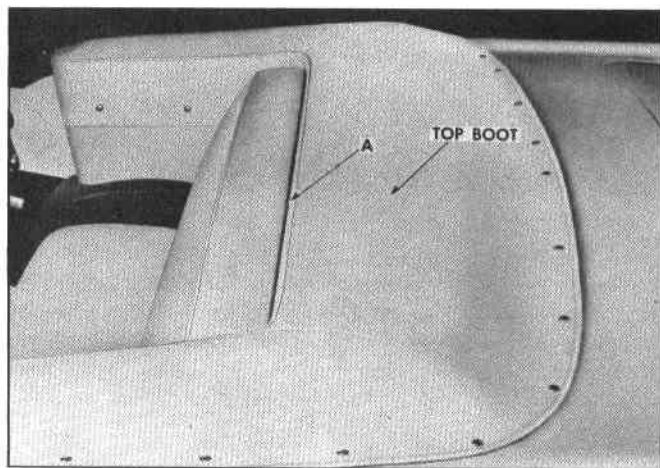
Then, lay top material across folding top so that it looks like this.

TOP BOOT INSTALLATION

If top boot has been stored in the rear compartment of the car, remove boot from kit and slide it into the retainer located along the rear seat back at "A". NOTE: When installed in retainer, boot must be centered for proper engagement of snap fasteners.



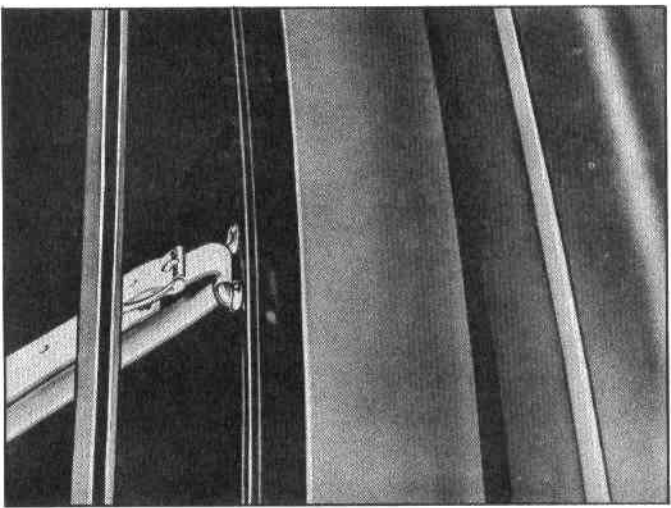
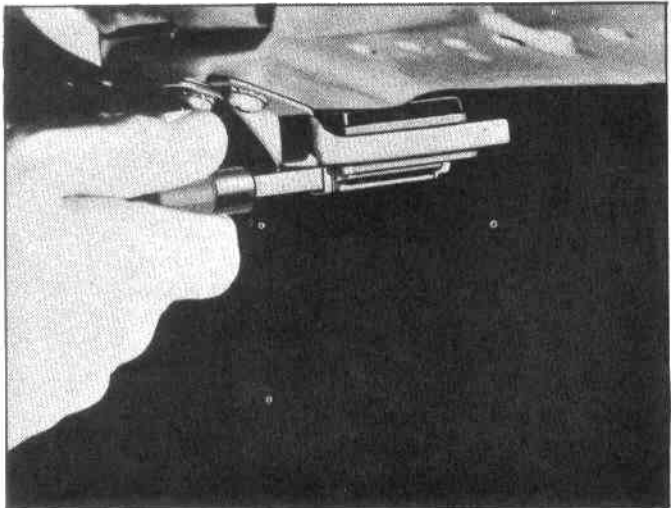
Place top boot in position over the folded top and snap several fasteners along the rear molding. Adjust the boot to remove wrinkles by sliding forward edge of boot to the right or left in the retainer, indicated at "A" in the illustration below.



To finish the installation, snap the remaining fasteners along the moldings and inside rear quarter, as shown opposite.

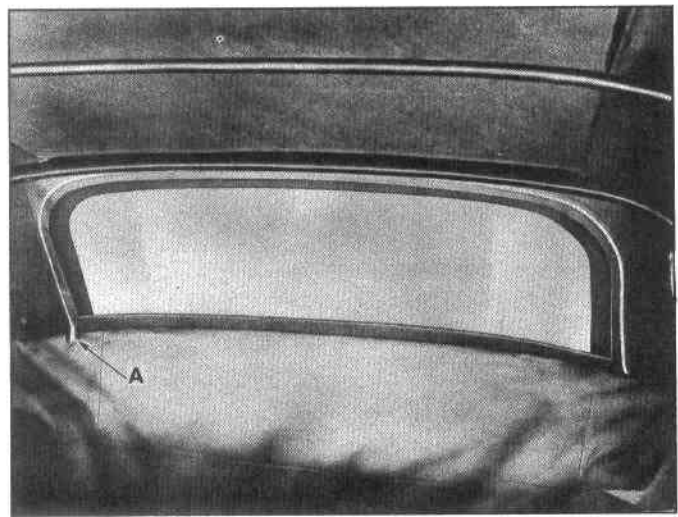
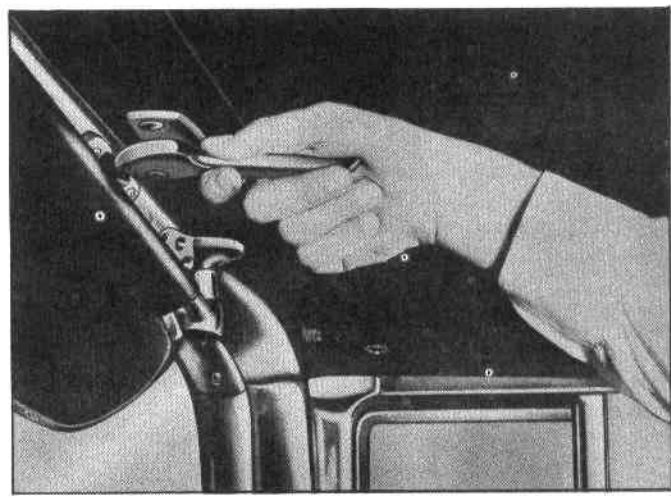
TO RAISE THE TOP

STOP THE CAR. Disengage top boot snap fasteners, turn boot forward across the seat back and fold corners of boot toward center. Unfasten "hold-down" strap as shown in this illustration. If thoroughly dry, top boot may be removed from retainer, folded and placed in storage bag provided for this purpose.



Turn down sun visors and **PUSH IN** on the top control knob; hold it **IN** until top is fully raised. If top control knob is released, the top will automatically stop in its upward travel.

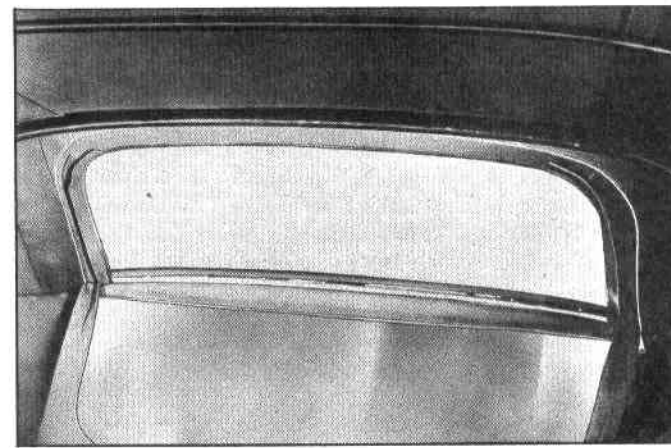
When top is raised, guide the folding top Guide Studs into the sun visor bracket holes to insure centering of top over windshield, then engage the folding top locking handles to strikers located above the windshield opening. Lock into position; locking handles will snap into place when handle is in the maximum locked position, parallel with the header.



TO LOWER BACK CURTAIN

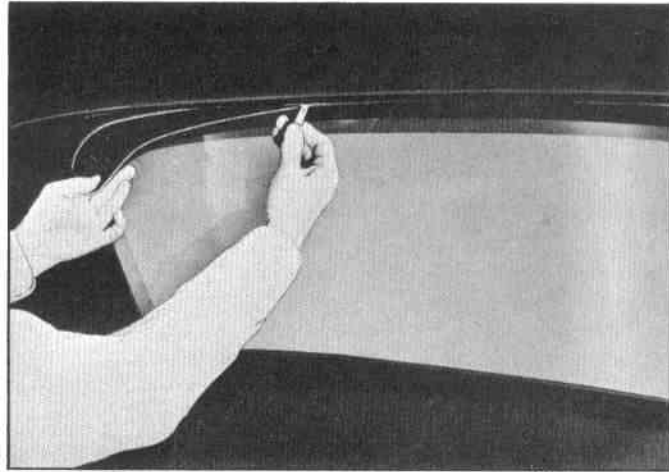
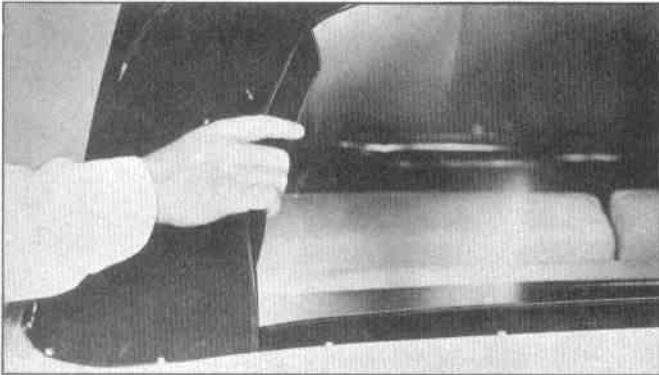
Slide zipper fastener indicated at "A" upward, across the top and down opposite side. Then carefully lower the curtain into the top compartment.

The opposite illustration shows the back curtain after it is lowered. To avoid damage to the plastic window, do not place miscellaneous objects on this curtain.



TO RAISE BACK CURTAIN

Lift the curtain into its approximate position in the opening, as shown in this illustration, and reverse the operation of the zipper. NOTE: In some cases the rear curtain can be lowered and raised much easier if the top is released at the windshield to relieve the tension.



IMPORTANT: On the outside, after curtain has been raised, tuck the flaps into the valance along sides of back window opening.

CARE OF THE BACK WINDOW

The back curtain in this Convertible Coupe is provided with a pliable plastic window which is of large size to allow ample visibility at the rear of the Convertible Top. The plastic material at this location makes possible a larger window than could be utilized if glass were used. Due to the texture of the plastic window, it is susceptible to scratches and abrasions; caution must be used in its cleaning and care.

1. When removing road dust, do not use a dry cloth. Use a soft cotton cloth moistened with water and wipe cross-wise of the window to remove superficial dust.
2. To clean the back window, use cold or tepid (not hot) water and a mild, neutral soap suds. After washing, rinse with clear water and wipe with a slightly moistened clean soft cloth.

CAUTION: Never use solvents such as alcohol or volatile cleaning agents on the plastic window. These liquids may have a deteriorating effect on the plastic and, if spilled, may spot the painted finish on the rear body panels directly below the rear window.

3. In removing frost, snow, or ice from the plastic back window **DO NOT USE A SCRAPER**. In an emergency, warm water may be used. Use care that this warm water does not contact the actual glass windows or windshield.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. As a safety precaution, **DO NOT OPERATE THE TOP EITHER UP OR DOWN WHILE CAR IS IN MOTION**. After raising the top make sure it is securely locked in position above windshield before starting car.
2. When the top is folded, it **MUST** be securely strapped down to prevent chafing of top material. When the top is down the locking handles must also be turned to an unlocked position. Top boot can then be installed to keep fabric clean and dry.
3. In order to keep the mechanism in good working condition, the top should be operated a few times through its complete up and down cycles, at least once a month.
4. Interference with the mechanical operation of the top, such as holding or retarding its operation in any way, should be avoided.
5. The top compartment behind the rear seat must only be used for storage of the top, when it is in a folded position. Avoid placing miscellaneous objects in this compartment which might interfere with the proper operation of the top.
6. To insure a proper installation after the back curtain has been raised, be sure to engage the top flaps into the valance along the sides of the back window opening. This is done from outside of the car.
7. To avoid water stains, mildew, or possible shrinkage of the top material do not permanently keep the top folded if it is damp or water soaked. Raise the top, fasten it above the windshield and allow it to dry out.
8. Avoid pasting advertising stickers, gummed labels or masking tape on the plastic back window. In addition to being difficult to remove, the adhesive on these stickers may be injurious to the plastic composition of the window.
9. The folding top may also be lowered by hand in the event of emergency. Without touching the push-pull control knob, unlatch the top above the windshield, lift up, and lower the top by hand in the conventional manner. To raise the top manually, simply reverse this procedure. This manual operation of the top must be done slowly.
10. In some cases the rear curtain can be lowered and raised much easier if the top is raised slightly above the windshield to relieve the tension.

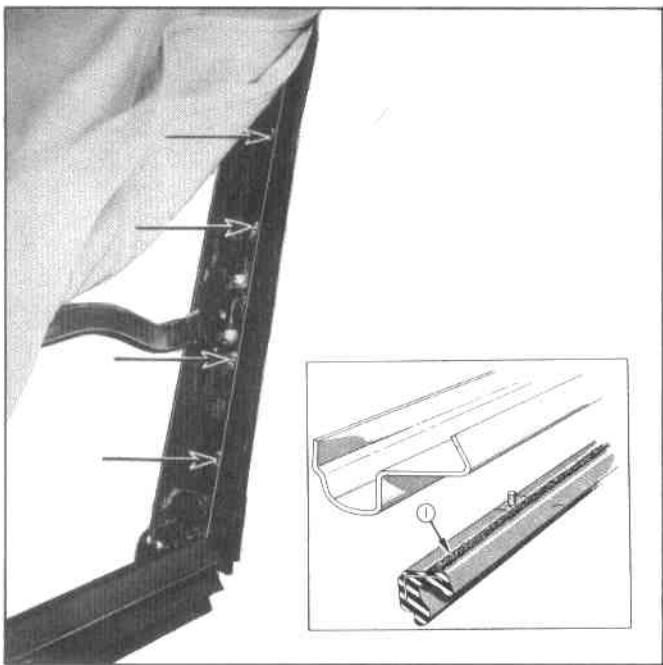
SIDE ROOF RAIL WEATHERSTRIPS

The sealing of each folding top side roof rail is performed by a front, center and rear section of weatherstrip. These weatherstrips are attached to the side roof rails with nuts on the integral studs of the weatherstrip sections. In addition to these integral studs, screws are used to attach the ends of the weatherstrip sections to the side rails.

The procedure below outlines the removal and installation of all three sections of weatherstrip. Each section may be removed and installed separately as desired.

REMOVAL

1. Lower top halfway.
2. Remove weatherstrip attaching screws at locations indicated by arrows in opposite illustration.
3. Remove weatherstrip attaching nuts and washers and remove weatherstrip. Several of the attaching nuts and washers are shown opposite. **NOTE:** It is necessary to loosen the front roof rail weatherstrip retainer when removing side roof rail weatherstrip front section.



INSTALLATION

1. To install reverse removal procedure. Apply a ribbon of body caulking compound to attaching surface of the front and center sections of the side roof rail weatherstrips as indicated at "1" in illustration opposite. Clean of excess sealer.

ADJUSTMENTS

1. The side roof rail weatherstrip sections may be adjusted inboard or outboard. To adjust, remove attaching screws, loosen attaching nuts and reposition as desired. Tighten nuts and reinstall attaching screws. **NOTE:** The side roof rail weatherstrip front section may also be adjusted fore or aft.

2. The side roof rail weatherstrips may also be adjusted downward. To perform this adjustment, loosen weatherstrip as required and insert waterproof shim if necessary, tighten weatherstrip attaching nuts and reinstall attaching screws.

FRONT ROOF RAIL WEATHERSTRIPS

The front roof rail is weathersealed using a front roof rail front weatherstrip and a front rail rear weatherstrip. These weatherstrips are secured in place with weatherstrip cement and a two piece metal retainer which is screwed to the front roof rail. To remove or install weatherstrips, remove the two piece metal retainer and follow cementing instructions outlined for door weatherstrip removal and installation.

FOLDING TOP ADJUSTMENTS

1955 PONTIAC 2867DTX

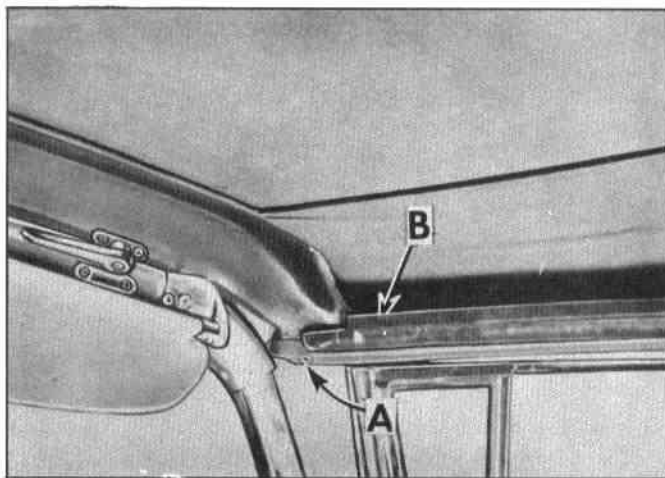
The folding top linkage consists of three sections of right and left side roof rails and a front roof rail connected together by bolts, hinges, and a series of connecting links and bows. The top linkage is attached to the body at the rear quarter area by a male hinge bolted to an adjustable support. The front roof rail is locked in place at the windshield header by two cam locks which are an integral part of the two locking handles.

The following information explains and illustrates procedures which may be used to correct a misaligned folding top linkage. To correct some top variations, only a single adjustment is required; other top variations require a combination of several adjustments. In conjunction with adjustment of the folding top, it may be necessary to adjust the door glass, rear quarter glass, or the sideroof rail weatherstrips. These adjustments are outlined elsewhere in this Service News.

ADJUSTMENT OF TOP AT FRONT ROOF RAIL CORNER BRACE

If the top when in a raised position is too far forward or does not move forward enough to allow the guide studs on the front roof rail to enter the holes in the sunshade supports, proceed as follows:

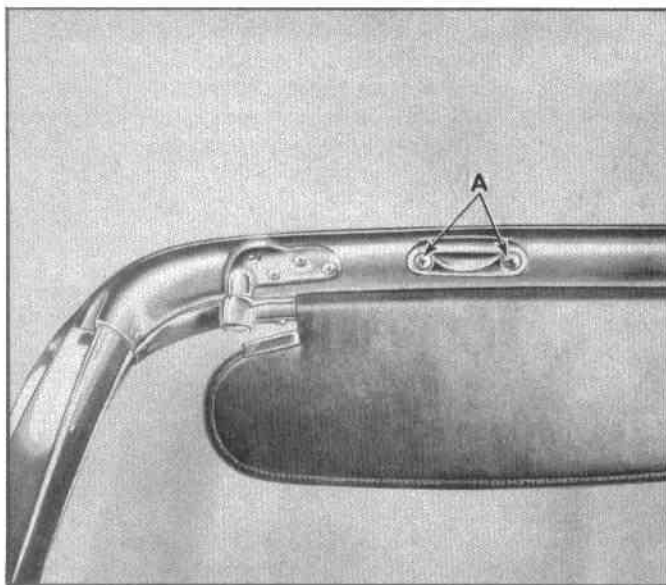
1. Unlatch top and raise it above windshield header.
2. Loosen corner brace attaching screw "A" and bolt "B" and adjust front roof rail fore or aft as required indicated opposite. Repeat on opposite side if necessary. NOTE: This adjustment is limited. If additional adjustment is required, it can be made at folding top male hinge.



ADJUSTMENT OF TOP AT SUNSHADE SUPPORTS AND LOCK HANDLE STRIKERS

If a difficult locking section, caused by misalignment of the front roof rail lock handle strikers or sunshade supports, is encountered at the front roof rail or if a closer fit of the front roof rail to the windshield header is desired, proceed as follows:

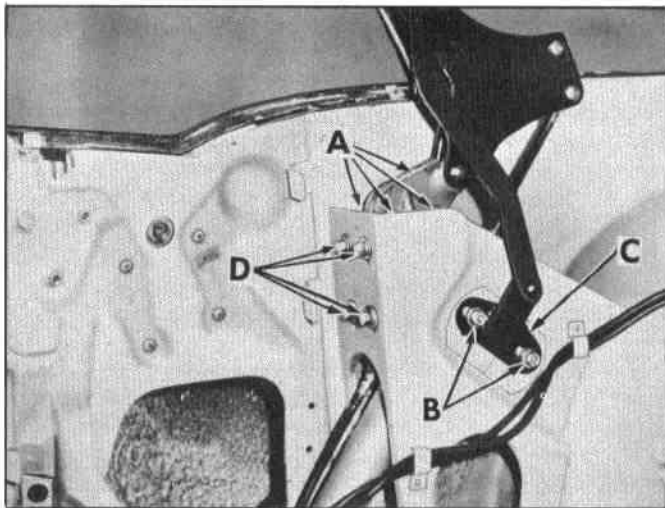
1. Unlatch top and raise it above windshield header.
2. Loosen screws "A" and adjust the strikers up or down or from side to side as required.
3. If an additional down adjustment is desired, obtain and install an emergency sunshade.
4. Align the sunshade supports with front roof rail guide studs and tighten attaching screws.
5. If lock handle adjustment is required, add shims.



ADJUSTMENT OF TOP AT MALE HINGE

If there is an excessive opening between the side roof rail rear weatherstrip and the rear quarter window, or if the front roof rail is too far forward or rearward, proceed as follows:

1. Loosen the four male hinge attaching bolts "A".
2. Move hinge fore or aft, as required, then tighten bolts.
3. Check side roof rail alignment and stack position of top, and readjust if necessary.



ADJUSTMENT OF TOP AT CONTROL LINK ADJUSTING PLATE

Slotted holes are provided in the adjusting plate and support for an up or down and forward and rearward movement of the plate. When performing adjustments, keep adjusting plate at installed angle so that serrations mesh on adjusting plate and support.

A. If the side roof rail is too high or too low at the top of the door glass, proceed as follows:

1. Lower the top approximately halfway.
2. Loosen two nuts indicated at "B", in illustration at bottom of preceding page.
3. Without any change in the fore or aft location of the adjusting plate "C", skip over serrations on the support and move adjusting plate up or down (vertically) as required. To lower side roof rail, move adjusting plate up; to raise side roof rail, move adjusting plate down.

B. If the top linkage does not stack properly, proceed

as follows:

1. Lower top to stack position.
2. Loosen nuts "B" and skipping over serrations on support, move adjusting plate forward or (horizontally) as required. To lower the stack, move the adjusting plate rearward. To raise the stack, move the adjusting plate forward.

ADJUSTMENT OF TOP AT MALE HINGE SUPPORT

If the side roof rail is too high or too low at the rear quarter window area, proceed as follows:

1. Loosen attaching bolts "D", in illustration at bottom of preceding page. In addition to the bolts, the support is secured firmly in place by serrations on the contacting surfaces of support and brace.
2. Adjust support up or down as required, then tighten bolts.
3. Check side roof rail alignment and readjust if necessary.

FOLDING TOP TRIM ASSEMBLY

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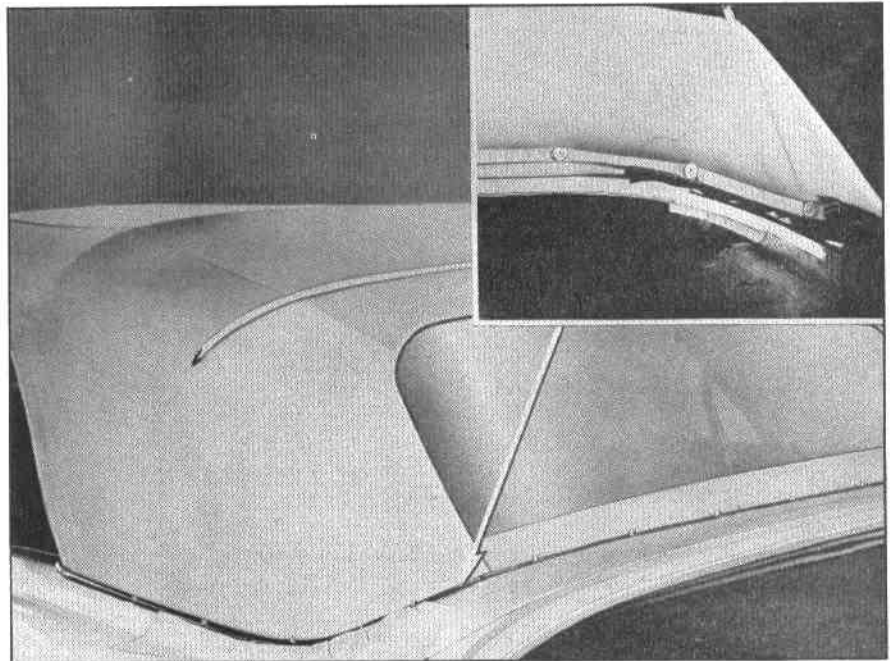
The folding top trim on 1955 model convertible styles is attached in a different manner from that found on past models. Although the trim assembly is built up with pads, back curtain and external fabric as in the past, the factory installation method is new. This new method requires an entirely different service replacement procedure. The major points of difference between 1955 installations and past models are at the front roof rail and around the belt rail in the rear of the body. At the front roof rail the outer fabric is drawn around the leading edge of the rail and cemented and tacked to the lower surface of the rail. At the rear of the body the top compartment bag, quarter stay pads, back curtain and top material are tacked to removable trim sticks.

There are three trim sticks in the rear of the body. The largest stick extends beneath the back window and well into the rear quarter area. The two smaller trim sticks are located below the belt line in the rear quarter area opposite the sides of the rear seat back. The trim sticks and their attaching screws are concealed by the folding top compartment bag.

SERVICE INSTALLATION OF THE FOLDING TOP

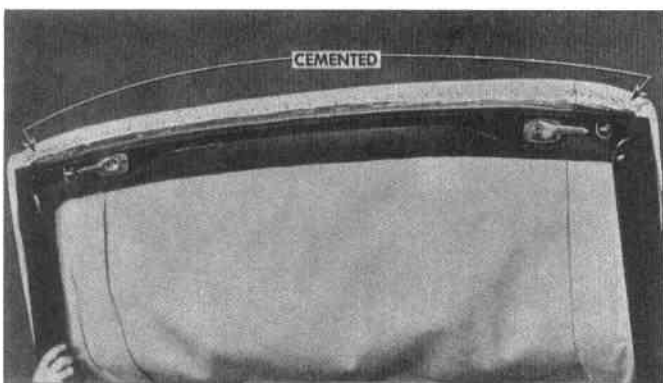
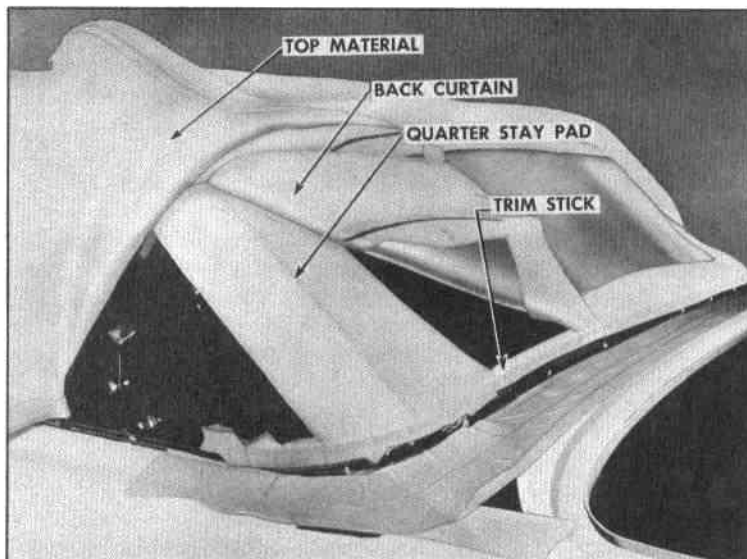
REMOVAL

1. Place protective covers on all exposed panels which may be contacted during procedure.
2. Remove the following trim and hardware items:
 - a. Rear seat cushion and back.
 - b. Folding top compartment side trim (arm rests).
 - c. Side roof rail rear weather-strip.
 - d. Rear compartment lid (optional).
3. Detach the folding top compartment bag from the rear seat back panel and pin it to the top thus exposing the trim stick attaching screws, as shown in inset in opposite illustration.



4. Remove the trim stick screws and sealing tape, detach top material from short sticks and lift the assembly up from the body opening.

5. Remove the wire-on-binding from the rear roof bow and detach the top material, back curtain and quarter stay pads from the center trim stick and rear bow. From under the left rear quarter stay pad, disconnect dome light wires at connectors and pull wire harness through stay pad pocket. The trim sticks, with attached top compartment bag, can now be removed from the body and placed on a clean bench.



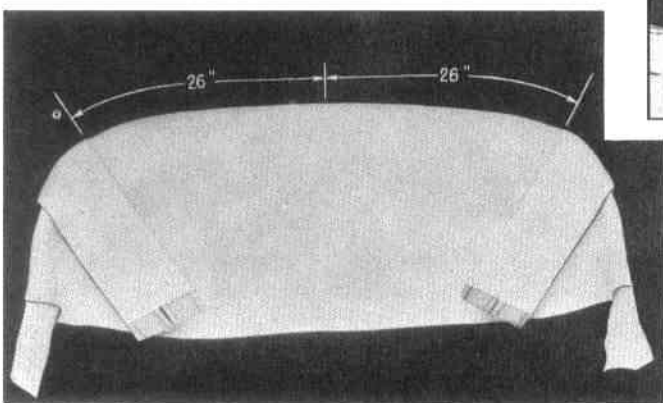
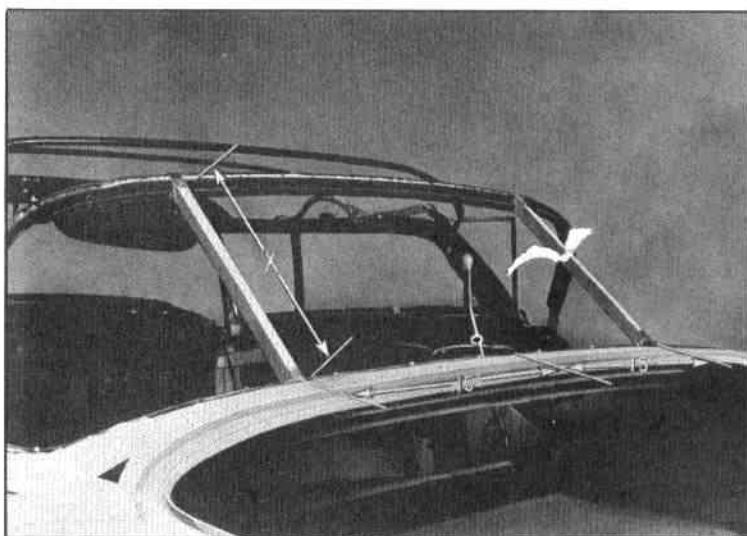
6. At the front of the body, raise the front roof rail, remove the retainers and weatherstrip, and detach the top material from the rail.

7. Loosen the front end of the side roof rail front weatherstrip sufficiently to detach the top material flap which is cemented to the rail.

8. Detach the top material flap which is cemented to the side roof rail at the quarter window and remove the top material and back curtain.

9. Remove the side stay pads which are attached to the front roof rail and rear bow with tacks and to the front and center bows with screws.

10. Lock front roof rail to windshield header and position the rear roof bow for proper installation by installing spacer sticks as shown in the illustration. Note that sticks are placed 30 inches apart, each being 15 inches from the centerline of the body. The stick length "X" is approximately 20-1/2 inches, measured from the chrome belt molding to the rear rolled edge on the tacking stick.

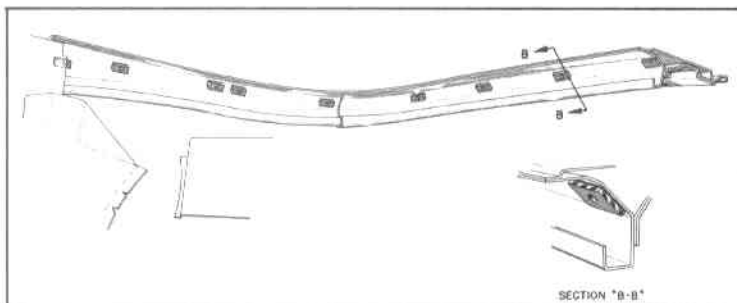
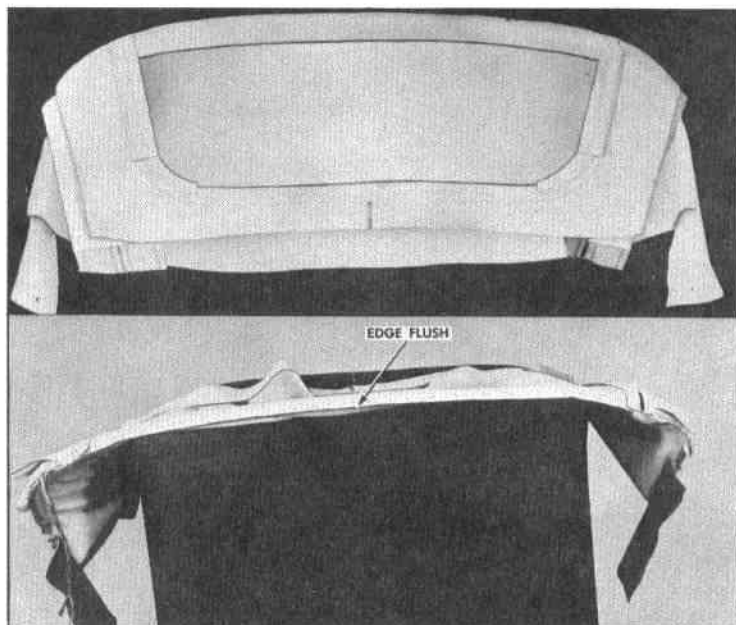


INSTALLATION

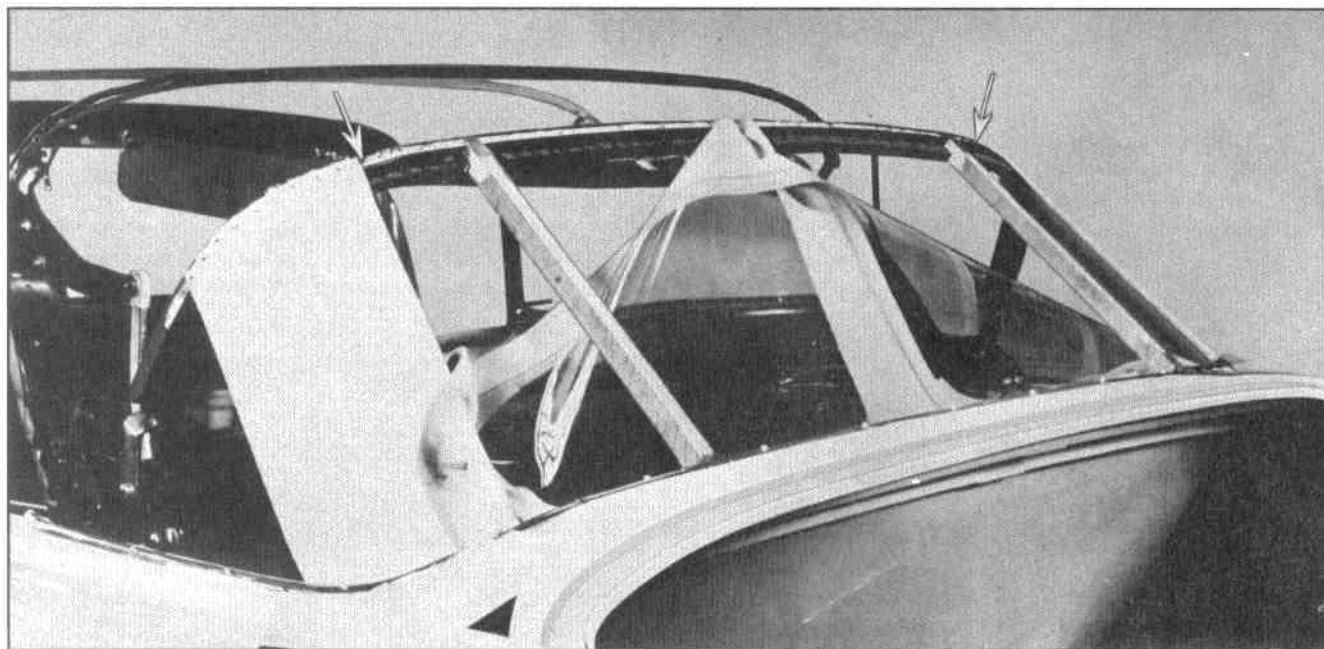
1. As a bench operation, tack the rear quarter stay pads to the large trim stick, as shown opposite. Note that inner edges of pads are 26 inches from the center of the trim stick. The lower edges of the pads are set flush with the lower edge of the trim stick for positive location.

NOTE: On left pad leave wire harness pocket free of tacks for installation of dome light wire.

2. Next, center and tack the back curtain to the trim stick as shown in the upper portion of the illustration opposite. Lower edge of curtain should be set flush with lower edge of trim stick as shown in lower portion of illustration opposite. Tack curtain to a point opposite outer edges of window and leave outer ends of curtain loose. Tacks should be placed close to each side of every screw hole in trim stick. Then pierce back curtain for each screw.



3. Inspect rubber trim stick fillers which are cemented to the body in the locations shown. Re-cement if necessary.

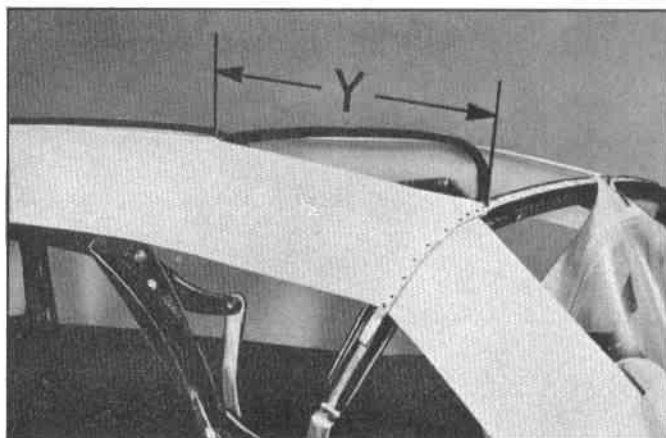
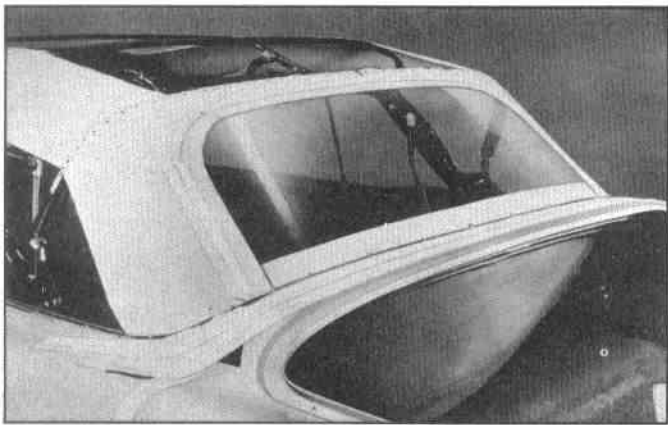


4. Next, install the center trim stick, with pads and curtain attached, in the body, and slip dome light wire through left stay pad pocket. Secure the back curtain with one tack in the rear bow to prevent damage to the plastic sheet. Attach the trim stick with screws at each end, at the sharp bends and at the center. Make sure that each screw is driven completely in to represent finished conditions.

5. Tack the quarter stay pads to the rear bow with the inner edges located at the offset in the rear bow as shown in the illustration. Trim off excess material at rear bow.

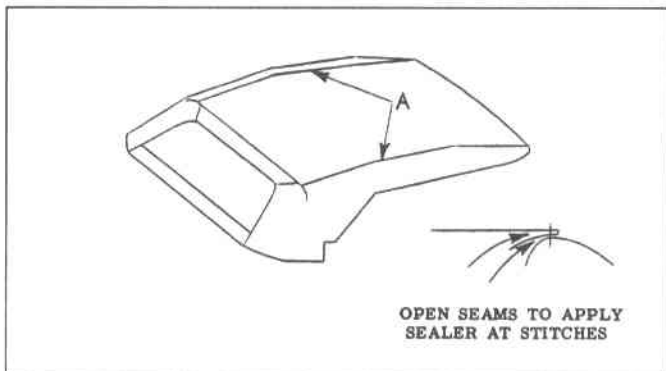
6. Install side stay pads in the conventional manner. Dimension "Y" is approximately 18-1/8 inches and is measured from the center of each bow at the inner edge of the pad.

7. Remove spacer sticks when side pads have been installed.



8. Then, tack back curtain to rear bow as shown here. Make sure all fullness has been drawn from curtain before trimming off excess at rear bow. NOTE: It may be necessary to install additional trim stick screws to check the fit of the curtain along the belt line.

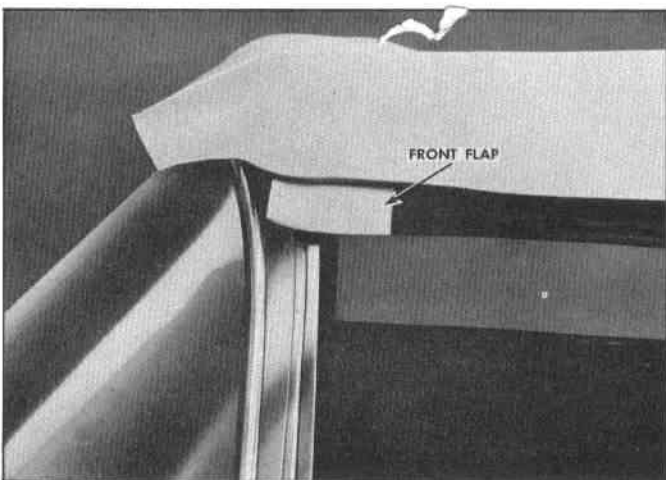
9. As a bench operation, open the top material seams "A", as indicated in the drawing opposite, and carefully apply an approved convertible top fabric sealer along the entire length of the seams with a small, pressure-type gun. Note that sealer is applied at two locations along each seam as indicated by the two arrows.



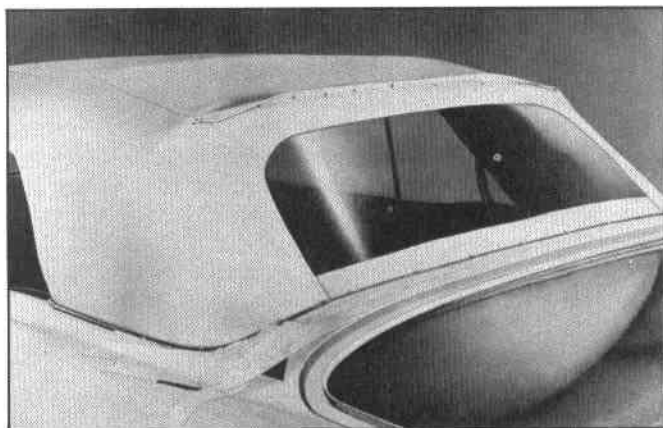
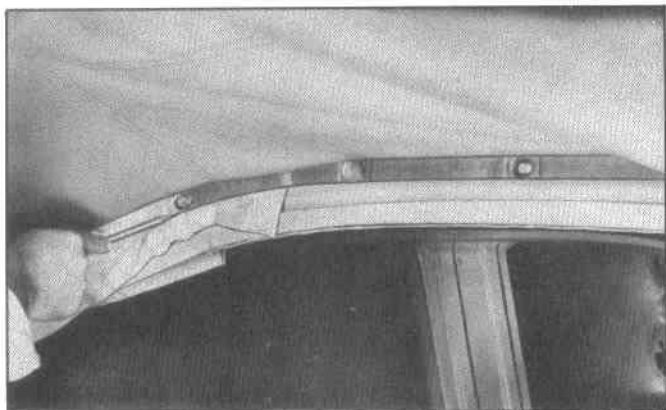
10. Position the top trim on the frame work and center the assembly both fore and aft and side to side. Positively locate top by engaging the weather flaps at the back curtain and by cementing the quarter flaps to the side roof rails.

11. Stay-tack the top to the rear bow, as shown in the illustration opposite, and align and stay-tack the seams on the outer ends of the rear bow.

12. At the front roof rail, pull top material forward (do not stretch excessively tight) and cement the front flaps to the side roof rail. Install side roof rail front weatherstrips.



13. In the rear quarter area, remove center trim stick screws and install the top material into the body. Trim stick screws beneath the back window must hold trim stick in position during the following operation.



14. Inside the body draw down the outer ends of the back curtain (see step 2) and the top material. When it has been determined that back curtain and top material are fitting properly together and to the chrome belt molding, mark the curtain and top, as shown in the illustration and install enough trim stick screws to maintain position.

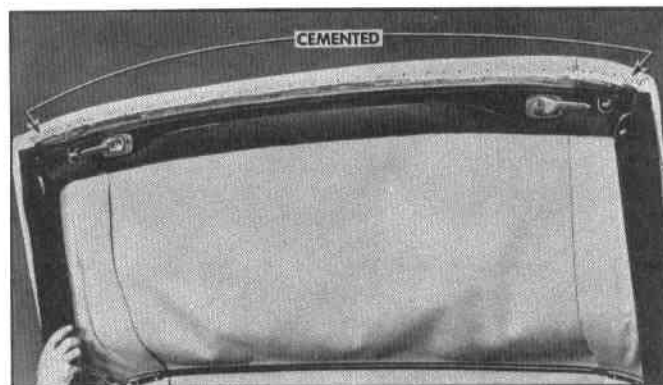
15. At the front of the body, draw the top material forward across the front roof rail which must be locked to the windshield header. When most of the fullness has been removed, mark the underside of the top material opposite the front edge of the rail.

16. Then, unlock the roof rail and apply a good trim cement to the lower side of the rail and to the top material which will contact this portion of the rail.

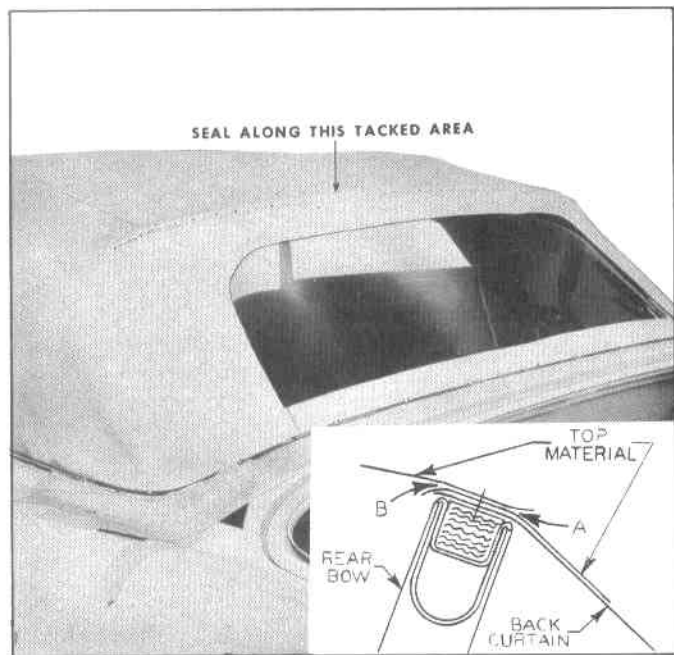
17. Align and cement the top material to the front roof rail, lock the top and check fit of top material. Make any necessary alterations to the position of the top material at this time.

18. Next unlock the top and tack the material to the rail. Note the mitered folds at the outer seams.

19. Install the front roof rail weatherstrip and retainers and lock front roof rail.



20. Recheck final marked position of back curtain outer ends and top material at trim stick (see step 14); draw top material to desired tension (not "drum" tight) and tack material to rear bow. Trim off excess material.



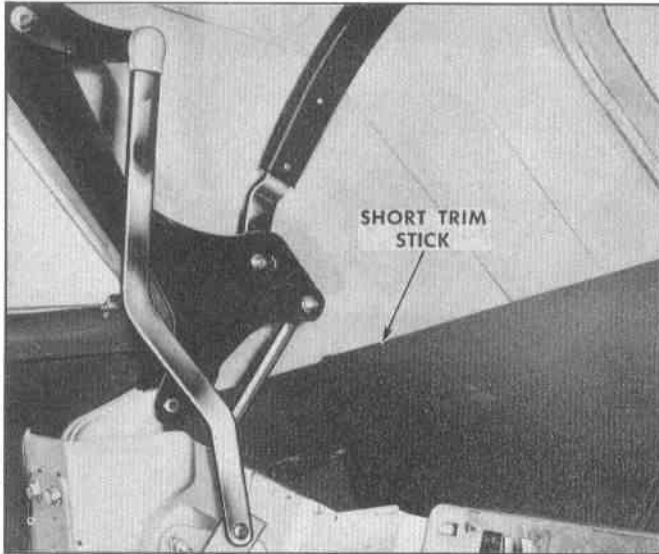
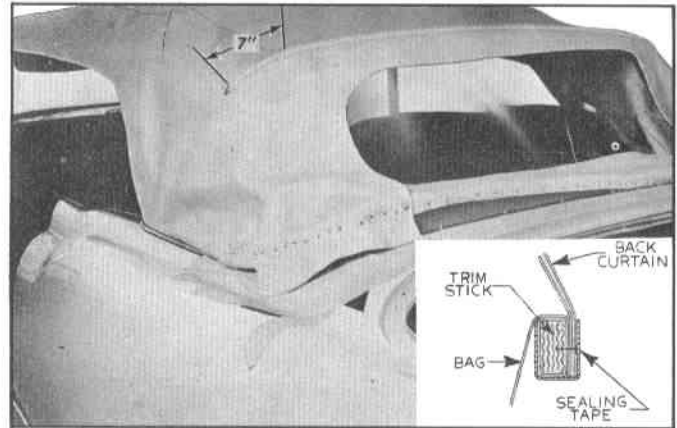
The tacks outboard of the seams should be restricted to a distance not to exceed 7 inches which is the length the wire-on-binding extends past the seam. See illustration at top of next page.

IMPORTANT: This tacked joint must be sealed with an approved convertible top fabric sealer. Sealer should be applied from the outside, as indicated at "A", in illustration opposite, and from the underside, as indicated at "B" opposite. Sealer should be applied so that it will flow around the tacks for a proper seal.

21. Detach trim stick and tack outer ends of back curtain and top material to stick, as shown in the illustration. Use marked line as locating reference.

IMPORTANT: Apply a waterproof sealing tape over the tacked edges of the back curtain and top material so that after back curtain and top material are trimmed, tape can be wrapped around to cover inside of trim stick. The inset shows final installation of sealing tape after top installation has been checked and top material trimmed.

22. Install trim stick with all screws and install wire on binding.



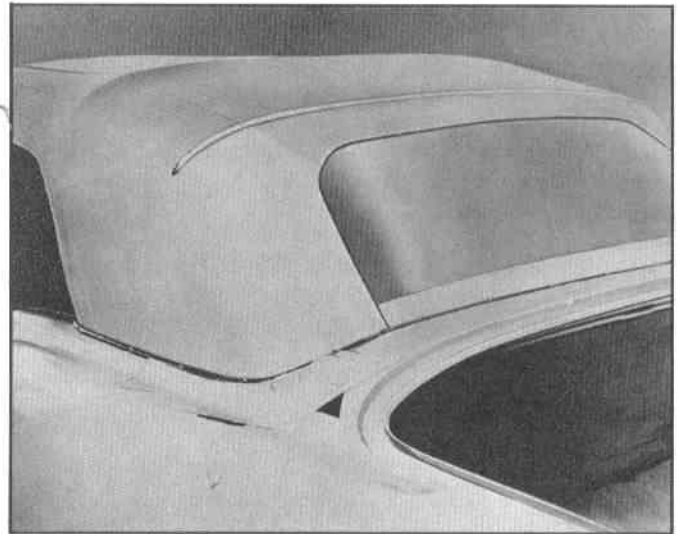
23. Inside the body, draw quarter section of top material to desired position with short trim stick held in place by hand. While holding material to trim stick, roll stick to expose tacking surface, and tack top material to trim stick.

NOTE: Apply a waterproof sealing tape over the tacked edges of the top material in the same manner as described in step 21. Then install trim stick with metal screws. The illustration indicates the location of the short trim stick.

24. When completed, the folding top should be free of wrinkles and draws, as illustrated. Check the operation and locking action of the top. Following this operational check, trim off excess material below the trim sticks. **CAUTION:** Do not cut sealing tape during trimming operation.

25. Wrap sealing tape around trimmed edges of top material and apply to inside of trim sticks, as shown in inset of illustration opposite step 21.

26. Connect dome light wires at connector. Install all previously removed trim and hardware and clean any soilage from top material, back curtain or pads.



EXTERNAL TOP MATERIAL ONLY

REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

To install the external top material only, remove the material without disturbing the back curtain or stay pads. Then reinstall the replacement top trim as outlined in the preceding installation procedure, beginning with step 9.

BACK CURTAIN ONLY

REMOVAL AND INSTALLATION

To install a replacement back curtain, it is necessary to detach the top material from the rear belt trim sticks and from the rear bow. By making reference marks on the folding top trim and on protection tape along the belt molding, the top material may be returned to its original position with a minimum of re-fitting.