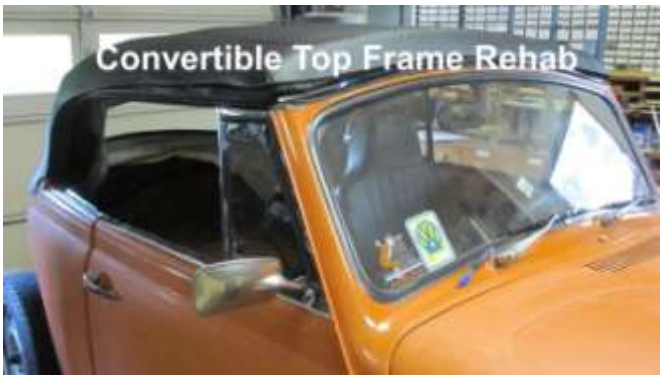
Chapter 26 - Convertible Top Frame Rehab (Video Clip 26)



964. Remove the canvas top, padding, liner, rear window and the front & rear bow as discussed in Chapter 15.

965. Move the frame outside and with a wire brush on a portable electric drill go over the entire frame assembly and remove all rust spots, flakey paint, and glue from the prior top then sand the frame with 120 grit sandpaper then with a medium grade steel wool. Remove the tacks and staples from the wood and sand both metal and wood with 220 grit sandpaper.

966. Wipe the frame down with wax and grease remover and hang the frame to make it easier to paint.

967. Prepare the rear window metal frame and new wood insert for painting.

968. Get all items that need to be painted together including the windshield wiper frame and the rear deck spring. These items will be painted the original color, gloss black.

969. Prepare the bumper brackets for painting. This will also be painted gloss black.

(This Section - 8 Hours)

970. Vic painting the top frame, gloss black.

971. Vic, painting the windshield wiper frame.

972. The top frame painting complete.

973. The rear window metal frame and wood insert painting completed.

974. The new rear body bow also painted black.

975. While painting items black, go ahead and paint other items that will be black, such as drain pan for the deck lid.

976. The bumper brackets also painted black.

(This Section - 2 Hours)

977. Paint the top catch silver and when dry reinstall the catch and rubber bumper on the frame.

978. Test fit the bow on the window frame.

979. Mark the pin locations on the wood bow.

980. A view of the new wood bow as purchased from M & T Manufacturing and the bow I made in 1984 from treated lumber. Mine worked fairly well, but I decided to go with a new one this time. The new one is slightly smaller.

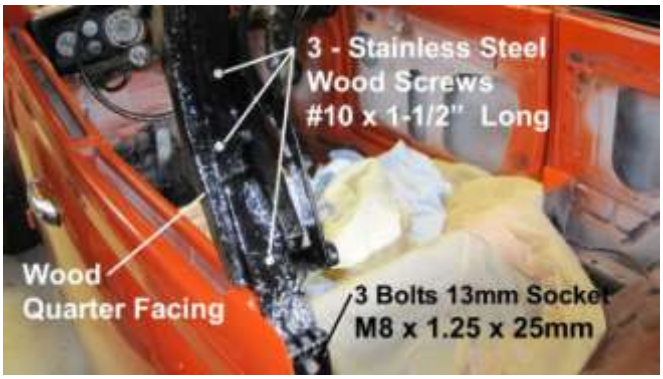
981. Paint the new oak bow with Cabot sanding sealer.

982. Paint two coats of sanding sealer waiting overnight for the second coat. Sand each coat lightly with 120 grit sandpaper.

983. Sand the bow with 220 grit sandpaper then make a test fit again and mark the locations that need trimming. Trim with a saw blade on a portable hand grinder after a final fit.

This Section - 2 Hours

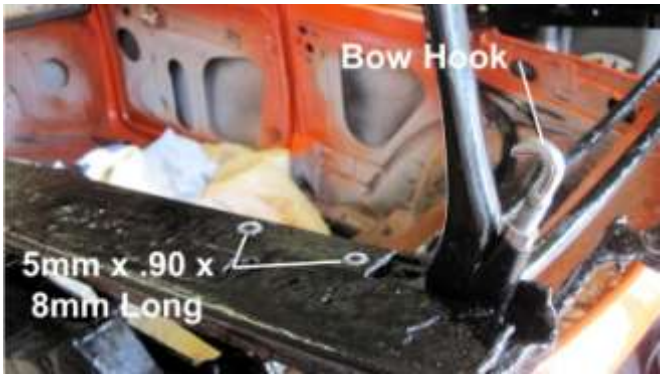
984. Place the frame on the body and make sure it is sitting square in order to correctly set the bow.



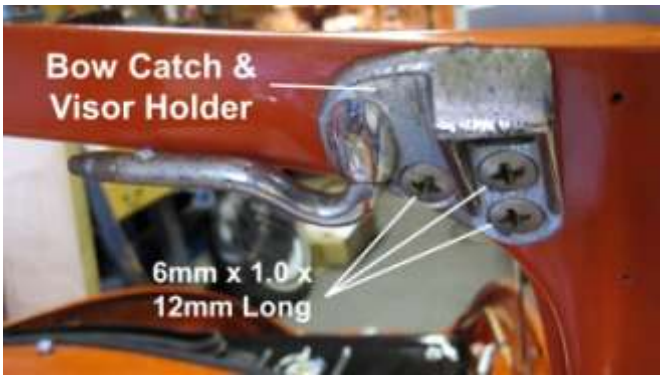
985. Place the 3 bolts, M8 x 1.25 x 25mm long, on each side of the frame to the body, but do not tighten. Then go ahead and secure the 3 stainless steel wood bolts #10 x 1-1/2" long to the wood quarter facing as shown.

986. Use a 10mm socket for the side bolt to install the front bow latch.

Note: Later I changed out these bolts back to the original pan head type.



987. Use a Phillips screwdriver for the bottom bolts to the front bow latch, then install the chrome bow hook to the bow latch lever, as shown.



988. Install the two front bow catches on the front window, as shown.

989. Oil all of the moving joints or connections on the frame.

990. Drill an attachment hole for the front bow through the existing holes in the metal frame.

991. The new bow was not as high as the previous, so Vic, used a straight edge to mark the trimming location on each side of the front frame.

Note: The top is folded back.

992. Vic, trimming the top of the frame, slightly, with an angle grinder.

993. A final check of the bow for fit, again, prior to installation.

994. Attached the bow to the frame with two stainless steel bolts #10 x 24 x 2 -1/2 " long. Countersink the bow for the bolts head.

995. From the back side attache 3 additional stainless steel wood screws #10 x 3/4" long. After all is tight and you are satisfied with connection & fit, cut off the excess bolts length as shown.

996. Carefully paint the wood bow and front frame bracket, especially where the sliver was cut off with Rust-Oleum gloss black enamel paint.

997. Convertible top frame rehabilitation is now complete. Luckily the original frame is in pretty good shape.

Work on this section - 8 hours
Work on this chapter - 20 hours
Total hours - 421