

# Ford Model A front window installation

*By: Mark Lackey*

Write up on how to install front window glass as well as channel seal and exterior gasket. Also tips on how to install the gasket between the body and the window hinge.....this can be rather challenging!

## step one

- Remove the front windshield frame from the body via the overhead screws that attach the windshield hinge from overhead.
- The actual windshield frame comes apart via two screws going from the top of the frame down in to the side post of the frame. You'll now have glass with two frame sides and the bottom steel frame in place with the top part of the steel frame removed.
- Remove the glass from the remaining three (3) sides of the frame.....**CAREFULLY!! TAKE YOUR TIME!**
- Clean all 4 edge of the glass (where it's going to, once again, set in the frame) with single edge razor blades, both sides, to Surgical Clean;iness
- **IMPORTANT**.....clean the steel frame channel that the glass and seal sets in to surgical standards as well. I used my air compressor, dental picks (as needed) and sanded all the surfaces,.....only 'INSIDE' the channel the glass came out of and is going back into. Sanded with 120 grit, 220 grit, 320 grit to get that channel just as smooth as it could be. Remember the smoother the steel window channel, the easier the glass and its gasket are going to go back in. I don't think it can be too smooth.

## Step Two

Tools I used.....very successfully I might add.

1. Two (2) 2"x4" boards 48" long (as long as the windshield is. One for the bottom of the windshield frame and another used to distribute pressure evenly as you push the glass (and it's new seal) back into the windshield frame.
2. Two (2) 30" or plus, 'Laminating clamps', Harbor freight. These will be used to **SLOWLY** and **EVENLY** push the glass and seal back into the **EXTREMELY** well prepared (sanded super smooth and slicked up with Silicone spray) windshield frame.
3. Screw one of the 2"x4" across a table top to be used as a 'Backstop' for the base of the window frame. Make sure to leave enough room for not only the width of the window frame but the width of the glass going into the widow frame.
4. Install the new windshield seal before the glass and feel free to liberally lube it (the new gasket that will be in contact with the glass not the steel frame) with silicone spray.

5. Once the glass is setting in the steel window frame and new gasket (only STARTED not completely installed) set the second 2"x4" up against the top edge of the window glass.
6. Now, use both Laminating clamps to lock onto the 'backstop' 2"x4" one to the right and the other to the left of center to very, very slowly, and carefully (as needed) into the prepared window frame and new seal. Adjust and possible add light 'bumps' with a rubber mallet if needed. Although this should not be required.
7. With the glass completely driven into the three sides of the 'prepared' frame, reinstall the top piece of steel frame.

## **YOU'RE DONE.**

### **TIPS**

#### **\*\*BEST WAY TO REINSTALL COMPLETED JOB BACK INTO THE CAR**

This can be a real challenge if not approached in this way.

There is a needed and very often neglected/tossed away gasket that is installed between the window hinge and the car body. Why? because it can be very 'challenging' ( read frustrating to install.

Here's a tip that will make the proper installation of that gasket very simple and much, much EASIER for you.

1. Pick up some adhesive/glue that is made just for weather stripping (Walmart) and glue the gasket to the top of the windshield where it is to set. Be sure and trim the gasket just about 1/16" long on each end just to ensure the seal or not as you desire. This will hold the gasket in place as you re attach the hinge side of the windshield back to the body. Without gluing the gasket to the windshield frame this job is 'pull you hair out, kick the cat, yell at anyone around, FRUSTRATING!!

### **Next very important tip!**

1. When you are going to screw the hinge back into the body frame.....PUT THE FIRST (one of the end screws) SCREW INTO THE LAST SCREW HOLE ON ONE END OF THE FRAME.
2. The next screw should be the last screw on the other end thereby locating all the other screws and screw holes back into their correct position. I know this sounds super basic but I can tell you from experience this is very easy to screw up. Also feel free to silicone lube the side of the gasket that goes against the body.

## Additional Tip

With the windshield out this can, is, also an opportunity to 'fatten up' the wood overhead that the windshield attaches to. Here's how to do it.

1. Wooden dowel the diameter of the screws that came out of the hinge
  2. pencil sharpener
  3. two part epoxy.....J B Weld works great!
- Cut and pencil sharpen dowel pieces about 3" to 4" long.
  - Roll sharpened dowel piece in Epoxy (sharped end only)
  - Put one into each screw hole in the body overhead frame where windshield is to be refitted and tap into the hole until fitted tight.
  - let set over night.
  - cut off extra dowel length sticking out of the frame with a small saw blade by hand.
  - Re install window hinge screws into new uber tight fattened up screw holes

## Bottom line

All new, glass, window glass to frame, frame to body, hinge to 'overhead' seals as well as restored wooden screw holes if/as needed.

From 'the Guy that rubs Dead Cows'

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