Rod Tops
by
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Factory Five Mk1-3 Roadster Convertible Top System Installation and Operation Manual
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Introduction

Thank you for purchasing a Rod Top system. Rod Tops offers the enthusiast a convertible top system that was engineered using experienced automotive design knowledge. Our engineering approach is to provide a high quality assembly, drawing on a wide range of proven design solutions that result in a cost effective solution for low volume body applications. While it is very important that a top be functional, it must also be aesthetically pleasing. All of the Rod Tops built by DTS Enterprises Inc are designed to enhance the look of the vehicle while providing protection from the elements.

Our goal is to provide you with a top that adds to the usefulness and enjoyment of your vehicle for many years.

Sincerely,

Dave Draper,
President
Component List

1. Top Stack (left half/right half)
2. 2, 3 & 4 Bow Tubular Center Sections (3)
3. 3 Piece Aluminum Belt Line Bows
4. Rear Adjustable Tensioning Links
5. Header & Attachment Assemblies
6. Flush Mounting Kit With Installation Template
7. Top Canvas With Storage Bag
8. Adjusting and Installation Allen Wrench
9. (Optional) Zip In & Out Side Curtains
10. (Optional) Top Boot
Tools Needed

• 1/8” drill bit (pilot hole for body mount)
• ½” drill bit for body mount
• #21 drill bit for 10/32 tap
• 10/32 tap
• Tape measure
• Masking tape
Component Reference

LFFT & RIGHT HAND TOP STACKS
Component Reference

2,3 & 4 BOW TUBULAR CENTER SECTIONS
Component Reference

RIGHT, LEFT & CENTER
ALUMINUM BELT BOWS
Component Reference

WINDSHIELD TO HEADER MOUNTING CLAMPS DRIVERS SIDE, PASSENGER SIDE & CENTER
Component Reference

FOLDING WOODEN HEADER
Component Reference

CANVAS TOP WITH STORAGE BAG
Component Reference

FLUSH BODY TOP MOUNTING KIT
ZIP IN ZIP & OUT SIDE CURTAINS WITH STORAGE BAG
Pre-Installation Checks

To insure proper alignment between the top system and the body of the car, several critical measurements must be taken. These measurements will establish the distance between the top of the windshield and the “B” pillar or the lock pillar at the leading edge of the quarter panel (see image on next page). If the distance from the top edge of the windshield (D) is NOT the same on both sides of the car, adjustments to the windshield will have to be made, if possible.

The top is designed to allow for minor adjustments at the header clevis. This adjustment should be used to correct for minor differences in distance that cannot be completed at the windshield. This adjustment will be covered in the installation portion of the manual.

It is NOT recommended that the top installation be completed with the body off of the chassis. The measurements required to locate the top properly may change greatly with the body off the chassis.
Pre-Installation Checks

Use the picture on the next page as a reference for measuring the distance from the center of the top screw hole on the side of the windshield to the “B” pillar. This distance should be 27” on both sides of the car as a starting point. If the canvas needs to be tighter it might be necessary to move the windshield farther forward. Your measurements may vary slightly due to inconsistent shapes from the windshield manufacturer. See next page.
Pre-Installation Checks
Installation Procedures

- Installing the Flush Mounting Kit
- For installations on finished vehicles, it is recommended that the mounting area be protected with tape.

- Cut out and use the supplied templates; one for the drivers side and one for the passenger side. The mounting locations are different as the body varies side to side.
Installation Procedures

Align the template with the top forward edge of the door jamb and the inside curve of the body. Mark the center of the hole and drill a ½” hole. Repeat the steps for the opposite side using the correct template. Do not use these they are not to scale.
Installation Procedures

- Screw the clevis fully into the body mount and insert the mount into the hole that was just drilled into the body. Rotate the assembly so the slot in the clevis is pointing forward and place an orientation mark on the clevis and body.

- The area surrounding the body grommet may be reinforced on the backside using a bed of plastic filler. The wedges supplied are cut at angles to enable the mount to be square both front to back and also side to side. See image on next page.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedure

- Using a marker, make two realignment marks at the intersection of the body mount and the vehicle. Each clevis is now side specific and should be identified by the black or white washer at the bottom.

- Permanently attach the body mounts using the mounting wedges and washers. The bottom wedge can be bedded in a small layer of filler material. This material should be allowed to fully harden before finally tightening the mount in place. This will insure maximum strength at the mounting location and help prevent any surface distortion from tightening of the grommet hardware.

- Use lubricant on the threads to ease installation of the nut. Pay special attention to the alignment marks. Install the body clevis checking for proper orientation between the vehicle and the clevis slot. Adjust as needed. Installer may use the set screw in the mounting block, the nylon lock nut or both to secure the top mount.
Installation Procedures

- Locate the passenger, driver side, and center windshield clamps. Slide them into the top of the windshield using the opening in the center. See pictures on next pages. The center tab may need to be filled down for ease of installation.
Installation Procedures

- The tabs on the center clamp may need to be filled down for ease of installation.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

- Place the wooden header on the windshield and **lightly tighten** all the thumb screws.
Installation Procedures

- Take the outer belt bows and attach them to the mounts.
Installation Procedures

- Install the center belt bow to the outers.
Installation Procedures

- Install the rear adjustable links to the ball sockets on the belt bow and lay flat on the body.
Installation Procedures

- Install one of the top stack halves by first pinning it to the body mount and then to the male receiver on the header. Be sure to install pins from the inboard side. Repeat for opposite side.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

There are two quarter turn spring plungers that lock the side rails on the top stack halves.

These need to be locked by turn and pull motion they are allowed into the mating holes on the rails. Leaving them loose while erecting the top helps mate the rails to the header.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

Consider the wooden header bow number 1 and the next bow the 2 bow and the next the 3 bow ect.

Install the 2, 3 & 4 bow tubular sections. Note the spring loaded locking detent at each end of the center section.

You need to start at the 2 bow then the 3 bow and the 4 bow last, otherwise the top will not spread enough to assemble easily.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

Now install the adjustable links into the pocket on the back side of the 4 bows and lightly tighten.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

Now go back and tighten all the thumb screws on the header. It helps to apply pressure down to help ensure a good seal to the windshield.
Installation Procedures

Along the front edge of the canvas is a bead, this is slid into the track on the header from the drivers side only. Feed it all the way across making sure it is fed into the track completely.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

There is a snap on each side of the canvas that needs to be snapped to the header.
Installation Procedures

Hook the canvas over the wire loop on both sides. The wire loop is by the mounting locations.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

Start with the center snaps and work outward snapping the canvas to the belt bow.
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures
Installation Procedures

The material covering the rear window is to protect the window during shipping. Carefully cut the strings and remove.
Installation Procedures

On the inside of the top there are two listings with velcro; these need to be wrapped around the 2 and 3 bows.
Installation Procedures

Adjusting and sealing the top is quite simple. Turning the rear adjustable links until the rear belt bow seats snugly against the body. If you find it needs more length the clevis that is attached to the header is able to extend rearward. Although it is optimal to leave it in a neutral position. This adjustment is better suited to make up for windshield misalignment. Loosen both allen screws and adjust forward or back as needed.
Top System Operation

- The installation of the top is now complete.
- The top can be removed by reversing the installation process and storing the top in the trunk.
- Enjoy and remember “Rod Tops Has You Covered”
Side Curtains

- There is a snap that needs to be added to the lower windshield post on both sides. It requires drilling and tapping for a 10/32. Using a #21 drill centered on the post and 5/8” up from the body.
Side Curtains

- Sitting in your car zip the side curtain in and attach all snaps. The snaps are located on the wooded header and one on the outside windshield post. The rear Velcro strap goes around the body mount and back to itself.
- Next add the Velcro to the underside of the doors this will need to be snug as it keeps the window from buffeting.
Side Curtains

- The finished product is a nice tight fitting and functional window. Enjoy and remember “Rod Tops Has You Covered”
Top Maintenance

- The Rod Top system is designed to require little maintenance. All pivots used in the assemble of the top are stainless steel with self lubricating nylon bushings and should only need maintenance if damaged.

- If for any reason, parts should ever need to be replaced or repaired, contact DTS Enterprises Inc at 1-(888)-Rod-Tops for replacement parts.

- The canvas on the top should be washed periodically to maintain its appearance. Do not use harsh cleaning agents or stiff bristle brushes. Use a mild detergent and water when cleaning the top, Ragg top cleaner is a good brand. The top may be blown dry with a air nozzle or a wet dry vacuum. Allow top to fully dry prior to storing in supplied storage bag.

- Special attention should be paid to the welting sewn to the top in the area of the beltline bow. This is the portion of the top that contacts the body and should be kept free of dirt and abrasive contamination.
Warranty

- Your Rod Top system is guaranteed to be free of manufacturers defects. Any failures related to the manufacturing of the top up to one year from the date of sale will be repaired. To complete a warranty claim contact DTS Enterprises Inc. at 1-(888)-Rod-Tops and they will repair or replace any of the defective parts.

- If any portion of the top system must be sent in for repair, the costs related to shipping are not covered under warranty. This is a parts and labor only warranty.