

Creating custom kickpanels for front-speakers

Last couple of days I've been working on kickpanels in the front. Read on to get the full instructions..

NEWS: Just added some pictures of the final "product". As you can see the pods was just perfect behind the carpet, and if I didn't know better I would almost say it was factory installed :)

The reason I'm doing this now and not later is because they will be covered by the new carpets and I need those in place to get the seats in and then you know why..

I did some reading on the net on how other people did this, and what I did was basically exactly the same, I'll explain the steps here in case you would like to know how to make your own one day.



The final result. As you can see the speakers was a perfect fit!

What you need (..or what I used)

- Glassfibre (aprx 2 sqr mtr)
- Polyester (1 litre)
- Resin (30 ml)
- Acetone (for cleaning)
- MDF plate (10mm, 30x40 cm)
- List (round, 20cm)
- Fleece (50x50cm)
- Hotglue
- Scissors
- Brush
- Tape



One mould with MDF-ring mounted. To the right you'll see how it is out of the car (but with the extra layer of glassfibre).

Step 1 - making the moulds

The first thing I did was to mark of the approx. area I would cover with some strong tape. Then I made sure that I couldn't mess up the carpets by removing them and mask off areas I wanted to keep clean.

Then I applied a layer of polyester/resin-mix by using the brush. I had already made 10x10cm pieces of the glassfibre so I just applied them to the area I had marked out with the tape. I continued this until the whole area was covered. Make sure you soak the mats well and try to avoid any air bubble underneath the mats. After finishing up the right side I did the left side. It was a little tricky because of cables going up where I had planned to place the speakers.



Here you can see how I used the lists and hotglue to mount the ring. You'll be amazed by how solid it was!

I left it this way over the night, and the next day I could take them out by using a screwdriver and just bending carefully along the edges until it snapped out.

After letting them dry a couple of hours I applied a second layer of mats the same way as I did in the car, just to make sure they were strong enough.

Step 2 - mounting the MDF plates

I made the rings to mount the speakers in by drawing along the edges of the speaker and then using a compass saw. I was a little unsure on how I where supposed to get them mounted on the moulds but the solution was very simple! After measuring up the placement of the speakers I just used small pieces of lists and hotglue to fasten them to the mould. It turned out to be very effective and solid. I used 3-4 lists pr mould. Make sure you position them right the first time, because it's pretty hard to pull appart - I had to learn it the hard way :-)



Kickpanels with fleece stretched over them, before I applied polyester/resin-mix.

Step 3 - covering the moulds with fleece

I'm not sure how important this step is (I'm no ICE expert), but after discussing this with some guys at work I decided to cover the moulds with fleece so the sound wouldn't disappear in the carpet they will be covered with when everything is finished.

To do this I just stretched the fleece over the moulds and used hotglue to fasten it around the edges. Next step was soaking the fleece in the same polyester/resin-mix I used for the glassfibre.



Covered with fleece, soaked in polyester and hardened.

3-4 hours later I ended up with two kickpanels I am very pleased with, considering it's my first attempt at working with glassfibre :-)



Picture before carpet came on. You can see the crossover mounted under the kickpanel.