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**WORLD LEADER IN REMOVABLE HARDTOPS**

**SMOOTHLINE.COM**

## **INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS 1994-2004 Mustang Cobra Style Hardtop**

You have just purchased the finest Hardtop available on the market today. Skilled craftsmen using the highest quality materials and modern technology have manufactured this product. **For complete satisfaction of your purchase we highly recommend that you read the following simple instructions.** Ascertain that your installer is qualified and insist that he reads and follows the instructions. By following these instructions you will have many years of enjoyment and the top will last as long as your car.

For best results, we recommend that your Hardtop be installed and finished by a professional body shop.

A point to remember, automobiles are mass-produced and built with certain tolerances. Sometimes these tolerances are quite large. No two are alike. A body man is a skilled tradesman; a skill that is not learned overnight. A “well fitting” automobile is a series of adjustments and compromises.

**DO NOT PAINT** until after initial installation and not until you are completely satisfied with the fit. After this initial installation procedure to take on/off will be as easy as placing the convertible top up/down position.

**Included in your shipping carton are parts which are necessary in the final assembly of the Hardtop.**  
(See the following list)

**Factory Pre-attached to Hardtop:**

- Rear attachment hardware (2 each) 1 for each side black knobs, Nyloc nuts stainless fender washers, “J”hooks. (Attached to Hardtop)
- Rear trailing edge seal (Attached to Hardtop)

**To be installed after painting:**

- Roof channel molding (Roll) Plastic
- One pair - Door and quarter window opening plastic trim moldings
- One pair - Door and quarter window rubber seals
- Rear window- Plexiglas

### **Prior to placing the Hardtop on the car:**

1. Open both doors with all of the windows down.
2. Fold the convertible top into the normal down position.
3. Clean the top of the windshield frame and rear deck area. Inspect the windshield rubber for excessive wear or damage.
4. This new Hardtop features Smooth Line's Patent pending "sure fit design" which is best described as an interlocking tongue and groove application. The molded shape of the Hardtop wraps under and over, the entire width of the windshield header providing an extremely secure, weather tight attachment.  
The Hardtop automatically aligns side to side and also up and down making installation extremely simple for the perfect fit. No front pin or latch adjustment hassles.

Totally eliminates loose front clamps or the possibility of forgetting to close the front clamps.

### **Trial Installation**

1. Slip the front leading edge of the Hardtop forward on to the windshield header and position the rear of the Hardtop while pushing towards the front of the car.



2. If necessary, using your finger, push header rubber between header and Hardtop back into position.



**Header rubber positioning photo**

The two rear fasteners hook to the convertible mechanism, which is bolted to the car near the convertible pivot point. The Hardtop is secured by turning the black plastic knobs clockwise until snug.



**Rear Latch Attachment Point Photo**

### **C .Rear latches:**

1. Loosen black knob on “J” hook as much as possible without removing from Hardtop pad. Insert “J” end of hook onto the convertible top frame. The toe of the “J” should face downward.
2. Turn the knobs clockwise to secure the rear of the Hardtop
3. Push forward on the Hardtop while continuing to tighten knobs. **DO NOT** over tighten. Note: The rear of the Hardtop will appear to be somewhat flimsy until the window is installed after painting and polishing.

#### **D. Trailing Edge Molding**

Carefully remove the trailing rubber seal after trial fit of the Hardtop and before prep and paint. The “U” shaped portion (NOT the rubber bulb) of this molding can be color coated to minimize the appearance of the rear gap.



**Trailing Edge Molding photo**

## E. Prep and Painting

Use normal body shop procedures for prepping and sanding surface to be painted. The factory prime coat is a water based Urethane, no sealer is necessary, and is compatible with all topcoats. We recommend dry sanding the primer verses wet sanding because of water absorption. **Caution: The factory primed surface must be top coated before being exposed to the weather.** Failure to topcoat over the prime coat can cause blisters or delamination and will void the warranty.

## F. Roof Channel



Place roof plastic moldings into roof channels for a trial fit. Cut and trim ends to fit. If desired paint molding the color coat when painting Hardtop.

Do not install Roof Moldings until after painting to avoid paint bridging.

## G. Final Installation and Assembly

**We highly recommend finishing paint and polishing before installing the following items.**

Reinstall trailing edge molding before installing the Hardtop on the vehicle.  
Reinstall Hardtop on vehicle.

## H. Rear Window Installation

**The rear window is an integral part of the structure and shape of the Hardtop. For a proper fit the Hardtop must be installed and positioned on the vehicle before the rear window is installed.**

Use normal window installation techniques and procedures for mounting the rear window. We recommend the dam method using a combination of butyl tape and urethane windshield installation adhesive. Clean all surfaces with alcohol before

bonding. **Position rear window using spacers around perimeter of glass. The outside surface of the window should be slightly below the surface of the hardtop.**



**Butyl Tape Dams**



**Urethane Adhesive**



**Positioning Window**

## **I. Side Window Rubber Seal Installation**

1. Close each window and gently close each door for any interference between hardtop, door or window.
2. Ascertain that the Hardtop is adjusted satisfactorily front to rear and side to side, before installing side window rubber seals.
3. Clean the fiberglass bonding surface of the Hardtop with alcohol.
4. Identify the driver side vs the pass side weather seal.
5. Starting on the front of the weather seal. Remove the red tape backing from the adhesive.

6. Position the front portion of the side window seal into the windshield weather seal pocket and against door window for perfect compression fit.



7. A crisp dollar bill can be used to check for proper window seal. Open door with the window in the up position. Place the bill between the window and the seal and close the door. The bill should drag but not rip while pulling it out. Proceed back and downward towards the rear.
8. Compress rubber – Do not stretch.
9. Check the entire length of the seal. Press firmly for a bond.
10. The adhesive does not become a permanent bond for 48 hours to allow for repositioning.
11. Repeat entire process on other side.
12. Water test and road test for wind noise. Set adhesive with heat gun while pressing firmly into position.

**Note!** Initially when raising the window it may follow the wrong track in the rubber until the rubber seal takes a permanent set from the window. Make sure that the rubber is properly lubricated with silicone based wax or Vaseline. To avoid this, push outward on the window while it is raising. Initially when the car is not in use, leave the windows in the up position then close the doors to facilitate the set.

#### **J. Maintenance of the Hardtop:**

1. Periodically check the tightness of all the latches.
2. Side door window seal molding may be lubricated with a silicone base wax or Vaseline for easy winding of the windows. Similar lubrication may be used on the deck rubber seal if squeaking occurs.
3. If painted, keep surface waxed to preserve the gloss finish. On vinyl tops, clean periodically with a vinyl cleaner and coat with a vinyl top sealer.
4. The rear window is Plexiglas. **Caution should be exercised to prevent scratching. Don't wipe when dry.** Clean with water and mild soap using a sponge or soft cloth. Dry with a chamois or a micro-fiber towel. Keep dirty rags away from the window. A Plastic wax such as "Mirror Glaze" can be used to wax the window.



**Warranty:** All Smooth Line Hardtops are warranted to be free from defects in material or workmanship and are warranted for one (1) year from date of purchase. Smooth Line will, at its discretion, repair or replace at its factory, without cost, any part that fails in service, upon our inspection, within the warranty period. The warranty does not cover freight, labor, failure of related components or failure resulting from alteration, misuse, accident damage, faulty installation, color coating, or faulty repair. For warranty service for a Hardtop purchased from a distributor you must make all arrangements through that distributor. If purchased directly from Smooth Line, contact Smooth Line's sales department. Warranty for all components must be supported by the proper registration documentation including the original shipping invoice. At no time is a Smooth Line Hardtop returnable for credit or refund for any reason.

**Returned Goods:** Written authorization must be obtained from Smooth Line and the distributor before merchandise may be returned for warranty service. All merchandise must be properly packaged in non damaged condition. An itemized packing slip, showing invoice number and date, with full explanation of reason for return must be included. All returns must be sent freight prepaid. All costs relative to a return are not reimbursable.

**Freight Damage:** Smooth Line products are carefully packaged by professionals. Delivery in good condition is the responsibility of the carrier. All shipments are insured. Upon receiving your merchandise, while in the presents of the delivery driver, before signing, open package and inspect merchandise for damage or rough handling. If damaged, refuse shipment, have driver note damaged on bill of lading. Call Smooth Line after driver leaves with the shipment.

The above terms and conditions pertain to all orders and will be strictly applied.

## **WARNING**

This product is designed to enhance the appearance of the vehicle and to shield the occupants from ordinary weather conditions. Do not rely in any way on the components of this product to contain occupants within the vehicle, or to protect against injury or death in the event of an accident. This product will not protect the occupants from falling objects.

**WEAR SEAT BELTS AT ALL TIMES.**