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WORLD LEADER IN REMOVABLE HARDTOPS

SMOOTHLINE.COM

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

Nissan 350 Z

Thank you for purchasing 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 within certain tolerances. Sometimes these tolerances are quite large. No two automobiles are exactly the same. 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 attached to cardboard and or Hardtop are parts which are necessary in the final assembly of the Hardtop.** (See the following list)

- Rear attachment hardware (2 each) 1 for each side – black knobs, stainless fender washers, “J” hooks, 6 mm bolts, washers, Nyloc nuts, and adaptor plates (Attached to Hardtop)



- Rear center hardware- black knob, Stainless fender washer, “J” hook (Attached to Hardtop)



- Rear trailing edge seal (Attached to Hardtop)



- Driver and Pass. Side window rubber seals



A. Prior to placing the Hardtop on the car:

1. Open both doors with the windows down.
2. Fold the convertible top into the normal down position and leave the “water fall” panel open for a clear view.
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 Smoothline’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.

For installation, slip the front leading edge of the hardtop on to the windshield header, position the rear of the hardtop. If necessary, using your finger, push header rubber between header and Hardtop back into position. Secure the rear latching pull downs. Familiarize yourself with the working of the rear latching assembly.

5. The two rear side fasteners hook to the supplied adaptor plates, which are bolted to the car near the convertible pivot point under the trap doors on each side. The rear of the Hardtop is secured by passing the “J” hooks through the mounting pads of the hardtop and turning the black plastic knobs clockwise until snug.



6. The center rear fastener hook attaches to the center rear convertible latching mechanism and the knob is tightened to further secure the hardtop.



B. Attaching the Rear Adapter Plates: The adapter plates (2 supplied) are the small stainless angles with a hole in each end.



1. Viewing the car from the outside, locate the two small plastic doors that hide the convertible top bow pivot points, one on each side of the car. (These spring-loaded plastic doors are located directly behind the rear door jam and are closed when the convertible top is in the down position.) Open waterfall, open above mentioned doors, look down into opening, and find a slotted hole in the inner panel of the car. The adapter plate will be bolted to car using this slotted hole.



2. To avoid losing the fasteners and adaptor plates, stuff a shop rag in the well. Position the adapter plate over the slotted hole with the adapter plate angle bent towards the front of the car and the square end of the adapter plate towards the bottom. Insert the bolt through the adapter plate into the slotted hole, position washer, and thread on Nyloc nut. Tighten the bolt (13mm wrench) keeping the adapter plate centered in the slot and in the upright position.



3. Repeat on other side. Raise and lower convertible top to make sure the adaptor plates do not interfere with the convertible top bows or door covers when closed. The adaptor plates should remain permanently attached to the car even when the Hardtop is not in use.

C. Trial Installation

1. For installation, slip the front leading edge of the hardtop onto the windshield header, position the rear of the hardtop.



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



3. Secure the rear latching pull downs while pushing the Hardtop as forward as possible.

Familiarize yourself with the working of the rear latching assembly. 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.



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. Final Installation and Assembly

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

Reinstall trailing edge molding.

Reinstall Hardtop on vehicle.

G. Rear Window Installation

The rear window is an integral part of the structure and shape of the Hardtop. Because of this the Hardtop must be installed on the vehicle before the rear window is installed.

DO NOT LATCH CENTER CLAMP UNTIL WINDOW IS CURED

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

H. 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 door.A photograph showing a person's hand holding a US dollar bill against the top edge of a car's window. The car is white, and the window is partially open. The person is using the bill to check the seal between the window and the door frame.
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. Trim bottom of seal slightly long for a compression fit into the rubber pocket on the body.
12. Repeat entire process on other side.
13. 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 rising. When the car is not in use, initially leave the windows in the up position then close the doors to facilitate the set.

I. Maintenance of the Hardtop:

1. Periodically check the tightness of all the latches.
2. Side window rubber molding may be lubricated with a silicone base wax or Vaseline for easy opening and closing 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. If 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 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 sales department. Warranty for all components must be supported by the proper registration documentation including the original shipping invoice. At no time are Smooth Line Hardtops 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.

The above terms and conditions pertain to all orders and will be strictly applied. Please do not ask for exception.

RECEIVING

Freight Damage: Smooth Line products are carefully packaged by professionals. Delivery in good condition is the responsibility of the carrier. All shipments are insured. Because of the fragile nature of your merchandise, upon receiving, while in the presence of the delivery driver and before signing, carefully inspect contents for damage or rough handling such as dropping, stacking, etc. If damaged, refuse shipment and have the driver note “damaged” on the bill of lading. Call Smooth Line @ 1-877-368-4533 after driver leaves with the shipment. Failure to follow the above inspection procedure will void insurance and your ability to be paid on a claim.

////////////////////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//////