

HOW TO INSTALL AFTERMARKET FORD ACCESSORIES (And Still Stay Friends)

By Pattie Stonesifer

How many hands does it take to put fender skirts and a sun visor on a 1946 Ford? Answer: Twelve

We gathered at the Oberenders' house about 2:00 to install aftermarket fender skirts and sun visor on Joes Prechtel's Ford. Women in the kitchen – men in the garage hard at work.

When we women wonder how the men are doing, we must remember that there are three people of German decent (maybe a little hardheaded) working together. Did I say together? About every half hour, Mr. Oberender would send Mr. Prechtel into the house with instructions to drink a glass of wine and calm down. After about 5 minutes, Joe would return to the garage to help.

At 5:30 we all sat down to a delicious dinner prepared by Alice and David. They are wonderful hosts.

After a break, back to work went the six male hands. We ladies heard a little commotion coming from the garage and Joe came in to request help from the ladies. Two pheasant red brackets for the skirts were missing. Added to the six hands looking through the parts laid out on the bench, in pockets, and on the floor, were six more hands much more in tune to finding 1 x 3 inch pheasant red parts. You know girls are better at these things. Questions began to fly from we ladies: did you check your pockets; where were you standing when you took the parts from the bag; did you look on top of the tire (whereupon Alice got down on her knees and did an amazing contortionist act reaching up behind the attached skirt to feel the top of the tire); did you, did you, did you look repeated again and again. Then we ladies were under the car, in the bag, you name it, we looked everywhere. No brackets.

By now David is "manufacturing" his own aftermarket brackets. Did I mention, we six additional feminine "hands" were by now in hysterics laughing at the steam coming from David and Joe's ears? Sorry fellas. They were tired and frustrated, but couldn't help but laugh with us. Finally, David's brackets were deemed acceptable to replace the lost ones. We three ladies retired to the kitchen. After a few more visits from Joe, it was announced the fender skirts were on and beautiful.

Now comes the easy part, installing the sun visor. Calling for Pattie to come help hold one side of the visor, back to the garage we went. Four hands on each side of the car were needed to hold the visor in place until the proper bolts and nuts were in place. Joe and Pattie on one side, David and Stoney on the other, two sets of appropriate

tools, nuts, bolts etc. at the ready. Now comes the easy part, installing the sun visor. Calling for Pattie to come help hold one side of the visor, back to the garage we went. Four hands on each side of the car were needed to hold the visor in place until the proper bolts and nuts were in place. Joe and Pattie on one side; David and Stoney on the other, two sets of appropriate tools, nuts, bolts etc. at the ready.

Joe: "David, move your side higher so I can line my side up."

David (after many unsuccessful tries by Joe to bolt it up): "You hold your side up so I can line mine up." "Oh ___t, I dropped the (fill in the blank)"

Alice: "I'll get it."

Janet: "I got it."

Joe, "No, that's not the one I dropped."

Janet, "Then why is it here where you dropped it?"

Pattie, "It's by my foot."

Whomever: "Which foot?"

Pattie: "The other foot."

You get the picture. Meanwhile, tired eight hands are trying to hold, screw and adjust while (by now laughing hysterically again) four hands crawl around on the floor looking for dropped nuts, bolts, screw drivers or whatever.

With only a few scratches and a very small crack in the windshield, at 9:30 PM Joe had one good looking '46 ready for the Icicle Run. Twelve happy hands felt like clapping for a job well done (if a bit delayed) and a friendship that is a great part of the antique car hobby.



Stoney, Pattie, Janet, Joe, David, and Alice After Finishing the Successful Fender Skirt Installation