

HOW TO INSTALL A CUSTOM AUTO SOUND RADIO IN A 1963-1985 AVANTI, SO IT LOOKS LIKE IT CAME FROM THE FACTORY

I stock two custom auto sound radios; The USA 640 at \$299 and the USA 740 at \$389. You can read in my ads in the Avanti Magazine for the specs on both radios. What is so nice about these radios is they are extremely high quality, and there is no name or logo on them. What's also very impressive, is the radio size is much smaller and lighter than the original radios. Which makes it much easier to install.

If you have a 1963-1964 Studebaker Avanti or an early Avanti, the radio will have to be installed from the back of the dash.

Avanti Motors at some point, in the late 60s or early 70s eliminated the radio front speaker that was attached to the speaker grill Illust#2113-98 P#1350893 in the top center of the dash pad.



Speaker Grill, in dash with 4 screws

They simply installed four Phillips head screws down through the speaker grill. This very clever idea allows you to install the radio through the hole in the top of the dash pad. Which makes installation so much easier.



Tray

By Dan Booth
Nostalgic Motor Car

In about 1980-1985 they installed a tray part #1750585 in this opening. It's held in place with 1 screw in the tray and 2 screws in a bracket

I am not going to tell you how to wire up your radio, as the radios come with instruction for wiring. I'm going to show you how to install the radio face plates, for a factory correct appearance.

1555985 N.O.S.
Radio Bezel \$70



Radio with shafts adjusted to the N.O.S radio bezel.

Each radio's knob shaft will have to be adjusted for the correct hole spacing for the N.O.S. radio bezel Illustration #2112-20 Part #1558985 at \$70 make sure you have equal distance from the inside of the rectangular bezel hole to the edge of the radio display bezel. In this case it's about 1/2-inch on each side.

If you have a 1963-1964 Studebaker Avanti, or an early Avanti, you will not have to purchase a bezel part number #15558985 unless yours has gone missing or it was butchered up at some point.



Picture of radio end plates.

You will need to purchase a pair of radio end plates \$40 a pair. These are polished aluminum and can be painted to match your Avanti. Each end plate might have to be filled on the edges for that perfect fit.



Aluminum Overlay \$50

Walnut



Italian Ash



Oak



Black
Anodized
Italia



Wood Overlays, call for pricing and availability

These very rare, N.O.S. overlays can be installed over top of the radio end plate, to match your original wood or aluminum.

This particular 1979 Avanti has the brushed aluminum overlay. If your Avanti has any of the wood veneers or black anodized aluminum, call for availability and price. So this customer wanted the N.O.S. brushed aluminum installed



Radio with end plate and marked tape

To get the radio ready to install, put tape on the N.O.S. bezel part number 1558985.

Mark each end of the radio chrome bezel on the tape.



I thought it might be a good idea to show a picture of a N.O.S. fiberglass dash buck, Illustration #2113-1, Part #1351183 \$450, as most do not know what the dash buck looks like under the radio and bezel. This is a unmolested dash buck

The picture above shows that you don't have to modify the center hole where the radio display bezel comes through.

The radio shaft holes in the fiberglass dash buck get butchered by others. If your radio shaft holes were enlarged, where you can not nut down the radio shafts properly, you can install larger, thin fender washers on both sides of the enlarged radio shaft holes.



Place the overlay on the bezel and draw a line where it is to be cut. Turn it upside down and mark the center of the shaft holes on the back side. Drill about 1/8-inch hole from the back side for both holes. Cut the overlay as marked. Glue the cut overlay to the aluminum end plates. Drill the hole shaft holes to size.



As I stated earlier, installing this radio that no visible brand name and when installed with the proper radio bezels. It could pass for a stock factory installation